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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is not so long ago that Emperor William of Germany publicly approved of and advised the drinking of beer, thereby rather shocking those who believe the unlimited use of that beverage to be injurious. Recently, however, the Emperor has awakened to the evils of intemperance, and intends to place checks upon the liquor traffic. The German government contemplates the enactment of a law which will greatly mitigate the abuses that have grown up. By taking hold of this matter Emperor William shows genuine concern for the welfare of his people. The change in the views of his monarch since his first utterances startled the world, must be great, for now it would be difficult to find a ruler who expresses more peaceful propensities, or shows more solicitude for the progress and continued well-being of the land over which he holds sway.

It is not expected that everyone will approve of the departure Rev. Canon Partridge is making in delivering a course of Sunday afternoon lectures, or will agree altogether with the substance of them, but that the Rev. Doctor will enjoy the commendation of all broad-minded Christians is well assured. No one in Halifax is better fitted to handle the questions under discussion—questions of import to nearly all classes of our people, dealing as they do with everyday affairs, touching the moral and religious life of the day. It takes a broad-minded man, who is sufficiently posted on the facts, to be able to speak justly on such social topics, and this we opine Dr. Partridge has shown himself to be. What we people stand greatly in need of is a stirring up, an awakening out of sleep, a strong wind to blow off the lethargy of our minds with respect to many important matters, which we are taking little or no notice of, and which by timely discussion may assume a very different aspect to our opening eyes. Dr. Partridge is doing the citizens of Halifax a service by undertaking the work he has, and we wish him every encouragement and success in it.

Last week was made notable by the passing away of no less than three prominent members of the British House of Commons. The Rt. Hon. Wm. Henry Smith, First Lord of the Treasury, died on Tuesday, and on the evening of the same day Charles Stuart Parnell, the man who up to the disposure of his relations with Mrs. O'Shea was the darling of the Irish people and known as the "Uncrowned King," finished his earthly career at the same time that one of his political opponents, Sir John Pope Hennessy, was dying, it is said from the effects of anxiety during the political campaign of September last.

The Rt. Hon. Wm. Henry Smith was universally popular, and was one of the representative business men of England. His wealth, which he inherited largely from his father, the founder of W. H. Smith & Son, railway station news agents and book sellers, is said to amount to \$50,000,000. He was born in 1825, and was educated at the grammar school, Tavistock. The letters "D. C. L." sometimes attached to his name, represented an honorary degree conferred upon him in 1879 by the University of Oxford; he was not a graduate of any learned institution. He represented Westminster in parliament from November, 1868, when he defeated John Stuart Mill, the eminent philosopher and political economist, until 1885, when he was returned for the Strand. He has been Financial Secretary, First Lord of Admiralty and Secretary of State for War. In 1886 he was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, and was afterwards First Lord of the Treasury and leader of the House of Commons. The peerage which he had several times refused would probably have been bestowed before the meeting of another parliamentary session, and this would have translated him to the House of Lords.

Mr. Parnell has filled a much larger place in the eyes of the world than Rt. Hon. Wm. H. Smith ever did. As leader of the Irish National Party he was kept constantly before the public, and Irishmen the world over put their trust in him. Mr. Parnell was in the prime of life, having been born in 1846, which made him 45 years of age at his death. In 1874 he made his first attempt to enter political life, but was defeated, only to be returned for Meath in the following year. He served in the ranks of the Home Rule Party silently for some years, and his ability was scarcely guessed at. Michael Davitt, however, the father of the Land League, saw it, and made a compact with him, under which Parnell was to manage the work in parliament, while Davitt was to have control of the organization of the people. In 1879 Mr. Parnell entered upon the most important era of his career by becoming President of the Irish National Land League, and his subsequent work for the League, in America as well as in Britain, is matter of history. When Mr. Gladstone changed his hostile front for one of sympathy, and announced himself as a convert to the views of the Irish Party, carrying a large part of the Liberal Party with him, it added tremendously to the force of the Home Rule movement. Of late years the most notable and exciting of the many stirring incidents in connection with the dead leader's life was the publication in the *Times* of the articles "Parnellism & Crime," and the subsequent libel suit which proved the letters, alleged to be written by Parnell, to be forgeries sold to the *Times* by Pigott, who subsequently went to Spain and committed suicide. This trial cost the *Times* over \$500,000. After this ordeal Parnell's name shone forth clear and clean, but last year when he was convicted in open court of having committed adultery with the wife of his friend, Capt. O'Shea, it was hopelessly soiled, so that even his legal marriage, after divorce had set Mrs. O'Shea free, failed to restore in any degree his lost prestige. Since that event he lost ground constantly, and his health, for years not robust, continued to fail. It was not at all expected, though, that death was near, and when it was announced that Parnell was dead, the idea of suicide was the first to arise—probably because of the recent suicides of Balmaceda and Boulanger. Mr. Parnell's remains were interred at Gasnevin, near Dublin, on Sunday, immense crowds lining the way.

The effect on politics of Mr. Parnell's death will probably be to draw together again the split factions of the Irish Party. General regret for the calling away of the man whose personality has been so deeply impressed upon British politics, has been expressed by his friends and opponents alike, and the damaging events of the past two years will be largely overlooked in viewing the career of Parnell. It is regretted by Irishmen that death did not come to the leader two years ago, when his name was untarnished, and would have gone down to posterity as that of a patriot and a remarkable man. The mother of Mr. Parnell, who resides in New Jersey, is overcome with grief that she was not with her son at the last. She is seventy years of age and quite feeble. Parnell's wife was so prostrated by grief that she could not accompany the remains to Dublin. In all probability the strain of nursing her husband through his illness proved severe, added to which the shock death always gives, was too much for her. Mr. Parnell's last hours were full of suffering, and, although the exact complaint of which he died is not specified, it is thought that a cold contracted a fortnight before was the cause of the fatal result. The Dublin branch of the League sent messages of condolence to both the mother and widow, and every mark of respect to the dead has been shown.