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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.

Honolulu advices say that the Hawaiian Ministry refuses to resign, and Queen Liliukalani has appealed to the Supreme Court of Hawaii to oust them. Affairs otherwise are progressing quietly.

The election agony is now over. We regret being unable to give the returns this week, but as we go to press on Thursday, and we were not consulted as to the advisability of holding the elections on that day, our readers must pardon our inability to serve them as we would wish.

A German statistician says that there are 3,985 paper mills in the world, and that of the 1,904,000,000 lbs. of paper turned out annually, half is used for printing, 600,000,000 lbs. being used for newspapers alone, the consumption of which has risen 200,000,000 lbs. in the last decade. He alleges that on an average, an Englishman uses annually 11½ lbs. of paper, an American 10½, a German 8, a Frenchman 7½, an Italian or an Austrian 3½, a Spaniard 1½, a Russian 1½ and a Mexican 2.

The Critic is steadily growing in favor with those who read it. Our circulation has increased to 5,800 copies a week, and we are frequently told how well appreciated are our efforts to provide a comprehensive, impartial and unbiased account of the uppermost questions of the day. This is very gratifying, especially at this time, when by keeping out of the election turbulence we have been like an oasis in a desert to those who wanted something agreeable to read. A valued subscriber said to us last week, "Well, I always liked *The Critic*, but it is indeed refreshing to read it now," and many others have expressed the same opinion.

Every one knows that our elections, which will be of course over by the time this appears, have attracted considerable attention in the mother country, because of the issues upon which they were run, but it is not so generally known that all the colonies are interested to a large extent. Hon. Cecil Rhodes, Premier of Cape colony, who is now in London on business connected with the Portuguese boundaries as well as, it is said, having in view the forming of a South African Federation, holds that Sir John Macdonald, in the position which he has taken up, is not fighting the battle of Canada alone, but of all the colonies. The result of yesterday's battle may have some effect upon the Cape Premier's federation scheme.

The mental collapse of Sir James Fitz-James Stephen, the eminent judge who tried the Maybrick case, is much regretted by the Bench and Bar of England. For some time it has been noticed that his behavior was peculiar, but as he had always been a morose man it did not attract special attention; recently, however, his conduct has been most disconcerting, and some of the law points he has laid down have been almost farcical. He has not been removed from his position yet, nor can he be forced to resign or be removed without an address to the Crown from parliament, but this will of necessity have to be attended to shortly, as his remaining in his position is rapidly becoming a scandal. It is thought the friends of Mrs. Maybrick will make renewed efforts to obtain her liberation on the ground of mental incapacity on the part of Judge Stephen. This, however, will not avail, for the judge was perfectly sane at that time.

There is some resentment felt in South Africa against Mr. Arnold's White's proposal that some of General Booth's proteges should be introduced into the South African States. Some of the African papers state most emphatically that the scum of London is not wanted, and *Di Afrikaanse Patriot* says: "We ask are we to acquiesce, yes, actually co-operate in getting this class of people here? Are there not South Sea Islands enough on which to make an experiment? Why must Africa risk it? Australia is the loyal colony, pre-eminently, and Canada also. Let them be strengthened with this pure English blood, and let our poor country remain excused." Canada is loyal, of course, but surely that is little reason why she should be cared less for by Britain, and the experiment of sending Booth's Proteges to green fields and pastures new be turned from South Africa to this country. We rather approve of the South Sea Island suggestion; however, and we do not wonder at South African protests against such undesirable immigration as that proposed. The constant influx of the Asiatic element must prove sufficiently annoying, to judge by the voice of the press.

Count Leo Tolstoi certainly has a facility for seeing the worst side of our poor humanity. In an article on the Ethics of wine-drinking and tobacco-smoking in the *Contemporary Review* for February he says, "the real reason for the extensive use of these stimulants and narcotics is, that they stupify and deaden the conscience, and conceal from one's self its records." He proceeds to prove this by citing some horrible examples where men have taken drink deliberately in order to nerve themselves to commit crime. It is true that excessive drinking and smoking does deaden the conscience, but to our mind evil deeds are ninety-nine to one the result of this over-indulgence, and not the over-indulgence the result of a desire to commit crime as Tolstoi sees it. There are perhaps some debased men and women who resort to stimulants to deaden their consciences, but it is hard to believe that the evil is as extensive as Tolstoi's article would indicate, and Tolstoi almost convinces one against one's will too, so powerfully are his facts and arguments put forth. In spite of this though, we believe that three quarters of the intoxicating liquors drunk and the tobacco smoked is consumed by those who simply like it. It leads to a certain amount of crime if it is true, and excessive drinking is the cause of more than half the misery in the world.

Sir Edwin Arnold's "Light of the World" has made its appearance, and the interest with which it has been awaited is shown by the lengthy reviews given it by the critics. In England and pretty generally in America the poem has been pronounced inferior to "The Light of Asia," which had the advantage of novelty in subject and treatment. "Asia" was seized upon by many people who felt an intellectual contempt for Christianity, and who did not know exactly what they did believe or what they wanted to believe, and made a sort of sacred book; but these people will be rather upset in their calculations by Sir Edwin's latest literary achievement. "The Light of the World" is designed to show how much better is Christianity than Buddhism, although it is by no means probable that the author wrote it to prove that he was not a Buddhist. The poem, of which we have so far only read reviews, follows closely the events of the life of Christ. They are described by Mary Magdalene to one of the Magi who visited her to learn what happened after the mysterious birth which drew him and his companions from the East. Before his arrival Pontius Pilate is introduced in a brief interview with Mary, but this briefness is not a feature of the narrative as delivered to the Magus, which occupies six books and six days. The consensus of opinion is that the poem will be, although widely read, not a lasting piece of work. The Gospel story, as given by the Evangelists, is so familiar to us that to make a great success of its re-telling is a difficult matter. The reader still harks back to "the sweet story of old" so simply and so beautifully recounted in the *New Testament*.