

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 sentiment expressed in the articles contributed to his 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.

Usually people shake the dice at Monaco, but recently the earthquake did it for them.

According to the decision of Judge Blodgett, of Chicago, it isn't libellous to call a man a crank.

A Western editor says he could write columns of fun if he could think of it. So could most of us.

A California young man recently thrashed a clergyman because the church would not receive his mother as a member.

The Laureate has written a morning hymn and also an evening one for the boys in the Gordon Home near Portsmouth, which is prospering greatly under the management of General Tyndall.

Our valued contributor, "Snarler," calls attention to the approaching celebration in England of the centennial year of the first colonial bishopric. As this first bishopric happened to be that of Nova Scotia, we cordially endorse our contributor's suggestion that the junction of this anniversary with the Queen's Jubilee would be fitly and gracefully commemorated by the appointment of a Nova Scotian divine as chaplain to the Queen.

The alliance which has recently been entered into by Germany, Austria, and Italy, is merely one for defence. Should either one of these powers be the aggressor, and make war upon some other power, it will not have the support of the other two powers within the alliance; but should any foreign power attack either Germany, Austria or Italy, it will have to count upon combatting the combined armaments of these three governments. Prince Bismarck says there will be peace in Europe during 1887. We should think so, at least so long as this defensive alliance continues in operation.

The International State Commerce Bill provides that no representative of the people, either in Congress or in the State Legislature, shall receive a pass from any railway company, and the corporation which issues any pass to such representative is liable to a fine of \$5,000. This is a fair and just provision. Congressmen, as well as members of Parliament, have mileage allowances provided for them by law, and these they have hitherto pocketed as one of the perquisites to which they were entitled. Under the new order of things in the United States, the great railway corporations may have fewer friends in the legislature, but the travelling public are not likely to suffer on this account, nor will they have to pay higher mileage rates because Congressmen travel on *bona fide* purchased tickets.

Among the latest announcements of new publications is that of the *American Magazine*, publishers, Bush & Son, New York. The new publication will supplant the *Brooklyn Magazine*, which has been so favorably received that its promoters now propose making the magazine national in its character. The *American Magazine* was the name of a monthly periodical published in Philadelphia in 1741. It purported to be a monthly view of the political state of the British colonies. It is not probable that its namesake will in this respect follow its lead.

Mr. George Stewart, who is among the best known of Canadian writers, has made the suggestion that the Premier of Quebec, when arranging for a new distribution of seats, should have due regard for the higher interests of education by allowing each of the Universities of Laval, McGill and Lennoxville a representative in the Provincial Parliament. In Britain, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, London, Trinity College, Dublin, and others, elect members to the House of Commons, and there is no good reason why it should not be done on this side of the water. We have heard the matter discussed among prominent educationists and believe that University representation has its decided advantages.

The public were indeed shocked that in this quiet Canada of ours, bomb throwing should have been indulged in; but they were more surprised to learn that the dastardly act should have been committed in the old city of Quebec, the fortress city beside the ice-bound St. Lawrence. In the quiet of the evening after the main audience had dispersed, and while a few of the members of the Salvation Army were holding a prayer meeting in their barracks, a bomb was thrown in at the window, and almost immediately exploded, wrecking the front of the building and seriously injuring several of those present. The man who could perpetrate such an outrage, and jeopardize the lives of peaceful men and defenceless women, was a mean, cowardly villain, and we sincerely trust that the social influence of his friends will not prevent his being brought to the bar of justice and condemned for an act which would cause even a savage to blush for shame.

A second Alabama case has recently been tried before the Court of Queen's Bench, London. It appears that Sir William Call and a Mr. Baird who were interested in gold mines in Venezuela, purchased a steamer which they christened the *Justitia*, and that under the direction of General Sandoval, a Venezuelan rebel, the ship was loaded at Antwerp with boxes of firearms labelled "starch." The *Justitia* left for Venezuela in June, 1885, and having run up the Venezuelan flag, attacked a government gun boat, but was obliged to draw off disabled. The *Justitia* was subsequently seized in San Domingo as a pirate, and charges having been made against Mr. Baird, Sir William Call and General Sandoval, these gentlemen have been tried before the Court of Queen's Bench, the jury acquitting Mr. Baird of complicity in the affair, disagreeing as to the complicity of Sir William Call and convicting General Sandoval of a criminal breach of international law.

The Hon. David Wells, in an address delivered before the Merchants' Club of Boston, held up to the American view the reverse side of the shield as respects the question of the fisheries. Mr. Wells is of the opinion that if the citizens of the United States were residents in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, or in Newfoundland, they would follow precisely the same course that is now adopted by the people of these provinces in defending the fisheries against all comers. The liberal views of Mr. Wells were the result of an extended tour through the provinces, in which he saw for himself the true aspect of the question. By all means let us invite the members of the American Senate to visit us during the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. If, by doing this, we could convert the Hon. Senators to our view of the question, the outlay for free passes, free board, and lodging, even free jolifications, would be a mere trifle as compared with the mutual benefits that would result from the Senators getting their eyes opened.

A tale of quiet heroism, unique in its way, is now going the rounds of the English press. The step-daughter of Joseph Ball, a London cabinet maker, died of consumption in the Brompton Hospital, and requested that she might be buried in Little Hockesley, some fifty miles distant. The stepfather, although weak and ill at the time, made her coffin, and then, not having money enough to use the railcars, he placed it with its contents upon a handcart, and started to perform the journey on foot, taking with him his little boy to give him a lift up the hills. On his way, a village Bumble undertook to hinder his further progress, but Joseph overcame his scruples. He thus plaintively describes the interview:—"We had a bother, and he would have forced open the coffin, but my master is always stronger than the devil, and he gave me strength to struggle with the man and put him out of the house." Joseph buried his step-daughter in the village churchyard, and having strewn her grave with wild meadow flowers, sorrowfully trundled his handcart back to London. The story has got into the press and Joseph has been lionized for what he must have regarded as a simple, natural act. We have merely given the facts, having no wish to mar the simple beauty of the incident by a single word of comment.