

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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The English farmer's alliance has adopted a resolution stating that to avert the ruin of the present race of farmers, land owners must forthwith reduce the rents of farmers, and the government must formulate a measure which will prevent the raising of rents on the improvements of tenants.

If half of the suspicions respecting the practice of smuggling, now going on in Nova Scotia, be correct, it is not surprising that our wholesale dealers find themselves outbid in their own markets. Such dishonest competition is ruinous to the honest importer, and should be put down, no matter who the sufferers may be.

The deepest ocean caverns are believed to be as far below the level of the sea, as are the summits of the highest mountain peaks above it. Deep sea soundings have been taken in the Pacific, in which the line reached down 4,575 fathoms, and off the coast of Japan, where a depth of 4,600 fathoms was reached.

The rage for old chinaware is now on the decline. Queen Ann placques and our great grandmother's tea cups, jugs, and tea pots may now be relegated to their proper place in the pantry. With this change in the fashion, the drawing-rooms of our "upper ten" will no longer present the appearance of china shops.

The volume of trade on the Upper Lakes has been much greater during the season just closed than was generally expected last spring. Some idea of its extent may be formed from the fact that, during the month of September, the freight carried through the St. Marie Canal, between Lakes Huron and Superior, exceeded by 30,000 tons the amount which passed through the Suez Canal during the same period.

England has an area equal to that of the Maritime Provinces, but her population outnumbers ours, thirty to one. Jamie the Scotchman is said to have had no faith in the future greatness of England, but England became great, notwithstanding. We have our Jamies in this country also; they may not have faith in the future of Acadie, but the country will be developed, despite the many croakers.

The mantle which must soon fall from the shoulders of the "Grand Old Man," is being eagerly clutched by Mr. Chamberlain, but if we read aright the signs of the times, the British public would prefer its being worn by Mr. Goshen, who has proved himself to be a moderate Liberal of the truest type, not ready like Mr. Chamberlain to spread his sail to every popular wind, no matter if they blow from opposite points of the compass.

The "tale" of the Manx cat is easily told, but not so the story of the Island in which they are produced. The Isle of Man in the Irish Sea is virtually a little republic, paying a tribute of £10,000 per annum to the British Government. During the past year the Manx authorities, in addition to the custom duties, raised £1,750, by the levying of a tax of one penny per head upon all persons visiting the Island.

The loss sustained by the fishermen of Nova Scotia during the present year is estimated by a correspondent, whose communication appears in another column, to amount to \$4,000,000. If this be the fact, it accounts, in a large measure, for the unusual depression of business in the city and country during the past few months. We invite correspondence upon the subject, believing it to be one in which all classes in the Province have a direct interest.

In Mexico, there is no royal road to marriage, indeed the Mexican youths pursue their courtships under difficulties, such as would consign nine out of every ten Nova Scotians to a state of celibacy. Matches may be made in Heaven, but the Mexican youth has no more reason to believe in this popular fallacy, than had the Scotch parson's cook, who upon finding that her husband was an idle, dissolute man, on applying to the minister to untie the knot, was told that he could not do so, as matches were made in Heaven, to which Jenny dissented, by saying that it might be so with ministers, but poor folk, like Donald and herself, generally did their courting in the kitchen by a blazing fire, and she never read of fires in Heaven.

The Queen has consented to celebrate the jubilee anniversary of her reign by a royal progress through London. This will be followed by a monster volunteer review in Hyde Park, and banquets and illuminations of the most elaborate description will succeed the review and fill out the night with general rejoicings. The special and grand observation of the jubilee will not be confined to the metropolis, but similar means will be taken in all the larger cities to celebrate Her Majesty's ascent to the throne, and even in the smaller towns every available means will be utilized to render the affair a notable one. The day will be a holiday all over the country, and special exertions will be made to bring the people of the entire nation into harmonious action.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Darwin lived before his time. Had his life been prolonged but a few years, he would have been able to point to the tribe of Indians in Paraguay, known as the Guayacugans, who, it is now found, form the missing link which he sought. These Indians it is said have tails like monkeys, while in every other respect they resemble the Aborigines.

The honor of being the youngest soldier taking part in the late American war, is now claimed by Mr. Alfred Taylor. He entered the service of the United States at the age of ten, took part in seven engagements, was shot three times and captured once, and was discharged at the close of the war, he being then thirteen years of age.

The "Woman's Suffrage" movement in Britain has many ardent supporters among the men, but it lacks the support of the great majority of British women. In Ontario, the Municipal Franchise has been extended to the ladies, but the ladies stay at home; there must be something out of joint in the movement. The leaders ride their hobby horses, while the great mass of the poor down-trodden women look indifferently on.

The "short hour" Association in Britain is making itself felt, and it is time that it did so, seeing that many large corporations, notably railway companies, do not spare their employees. frequently obliging them to work fifteen hours per day. Labor may be sweet, but labor under such circumstances is but slavery in disguise.

According to Leonardo Aretime, the new Italian Prophet, the world is to be destroyed upon the 15th of November next. The Prophet goes into the minutest details as to the manner in which this is to be accomplished, but leaves his hearers in ignorance as to the source from whence he drew his inspiration. When Christmas comes round he will probably, like storm-wiggins of Canadian notoriety, be fully prepared to prove why his prophecies were not fulfilled. Somehow these terrible happenings are always being indefinitely postponed.

The Mexican authorities have expelled the pioneer Mormon missionaries, and the much married apostles of Salt Lake city will have to look elsewhere than on Mexican soil for the refuge they now seek. The iron hand of American law has been laid upon the throat of the Mermon apostasy. The disciples of Brigham Young are casting about them for a sequestered spot, in which the tree of bigamy, may take root, grow and flourish. A San Francisco wag suggests the Arctic regions as a place in which they might enjoy to the full their liberty. Possibly, the Mrs. Youngs and Mrs. Smiths may not be prepared for a stampede on snow-shoes.