

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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The editor of *The Critic* is responsible for the news 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.

The nickname John Bull, given to Englishmen, is said to have been derived from Dr. Arbathnot's satire, "John Bull," published in 1712.

We are asked whether the authoress of the breezy sketch entitled "To the Far North," concluded in our last issue, was writing under her real name, or an assumed one. Mrs. Rolland is her own name. She is widow of the late Major Rolland, R. A., and sister to Mr. F. Blake Crofton of this city.

The New Hampshire Legislature should submit its bills to a competent supervisor before enacting laws and placing them upon the Statute books of the State as monuments of the illiteracy of the legislators. A bill was recently carried in the New Hampshire Legislature, providing for the protection of the soldier's grave, the occupant of which is referred to as "the party buried there."

Some of the American Railway Companies have organized a system of time inspection, whereby the employees are obliged to have their watches examined and certificated by the company's watchmaker. This is not a bad idea. Many a life has been lost in consequence of the incorrectness of time pieces, and it is only fair to the public that Railway employees should be obliged to carry reliable time-keepers.

There are those who argue that a surplus is quite as objectionable as a deficit, but for our own part we fail to see the force of such a statement. The Government surplus of \$300,000 for the past fiscal year simply means that the expenditure has been kept within the revenue. If it is commendable in an individual to keep his expenditure within his income, it is equally creditable for a Government to follow the same practise. We trust that the day of large surpluses and heavy deficits has gone by, and that in future Canadian Governments will cut their cloth according to their means.

One of the newest and most popular books which has recently appeared is Bret Harte's "Millionaire of Rough and Ready." The story, which is told in Bret Harte's inimitable way, relates to the discovery of a gold-bearing lead by one Slim, who is crazed by the thought of his prospective riches, and conceals from his partner, Masters, who is about leaving the country, the fact that he has struck it rich. Slim loses his reason, and his property falls into the hands of a man named Melrady, who grows potatoes on the hill side. After many years, Slim returns and makes known to Melrady his wonderful find. The story is full of interest from the prologue to the close, and is destined to be widely read.

Now that the mosquitoes are coming off the low lands, and making themselves heard and felt in our houses by night as well as day, it will be well to remember that a bottle of pennyroyal uncorked in a room, will drive those unwelcome visitors away. The pennyroyal, which is an aromatic herb, gives forth an odor which mosquitoes dislike, it disagreeing with the constitution of these marauders.

To those who have found military life unbearable, and who have taken advantage of the main chance and deserted from the Army, the Queen's proclamation, offering pardon to all deserters, would indeed be a message of peace, were it not that there is a proviso that all deserters should report themselves to the proper authorities. This is simply impossible, and limits the benefit of the pardon to those who may again be willing to assume the role of Tommy Atkins.

We are recommended to eat fruit, and at the same time warned against the ill effects of eating fruit. The recommendation and warning are both needful. Ripe fruit vitalizes the energies, and gives tone to the system. It is in short a most palatable tonic, and its health-giving qualities are beyond question, but unripe or over ripe fruit should never be eaten, as when unripe it is indigestible, and when over-ripe contains the germs of decomposition, which are injurious to the system.

Poor Gordon has gone, and the Soudanese slave trade has again assumed frightful proportions. Hundreds and thousands are annually driven to the coast, and at a favorable opportunity are smuggled across the Red Sea into Arabia. At Mecca, the slave market is brisk, young men and women who have cost the dealers \$25 in transit, are sold in the Mohammedan capital for ten times that amount. The British war ships patrol the Sea, but a glance at the map will show it to be very long and very narrow, and the slavers, watching their chance, cross when an opportunity offers.

The Winnipeggers are evidently doomed to be disappointed in obtaining a north east outlet through Hudson's Bay for Manitoba and North-West wheat. Lieut. Gordon, who has visited the Bay during three successive seasons, reports that the navigation is dangerous, owing to fog and ice, and that the season during which shipments could be made does not last more than two months. The fisheries of the Bay are said to be excellent, and are at present monopolized by our American cousins, there being no Canadian cruisers in that region to keep the Americans outside of the three mile limit.

Labouchere, in *Truth*, has struck a blow at lawn tennis, which is weighty indeed. He asserts that lawn tennis being a one-handed game, tends to abnormally develop the right shoulder and arm, and that ladies who play the game always lean to one side in walking. Men having harder and stronger muscles do not show the effects of the game in the same marked degree. As lawn tennis is one of the most social and healthful summer games in which ladies can participate, we would recommend any of our fair friends who show signs of being leysided to exercise the left arm daily while holding a pound and a half dumb bell in the hand.

Mrs C. B. Lemuels, of Allegheny, Va., offers to lend any of our readers that may be skeptical as to the truth contained in the Bible, a little book that will lighten their darkness and drive away the cloud of unbelief that obscures their vision. We give Mrs Lemuels the benefit of this free advertisement, although we do not anticipate that many of our readers are willing to rank themselves as skeptics, while those who are, are not likely to take advantage of the lady's kind offer. We have on more than one occasion heard distinguished divines preaching against skepticism, assert that its ugly form was now stalking through our fair land. Our observation leads us to believe, that among our people there may be many sinners, but there are fortunately few skeptics.

## CAPE BRETON.

It is said that it is sometimes good to "make haste slowly," and this seems to be the only consolation that can now be offered to Cape Bretonians for the scant governmental assistance they have received in the past. Although its insular position, its numerous harbors and great inland lakes, make Cape Breton one of the most easily accessible places in the world during the summer months, when winter grasps it in its icy hand and seals its harbors (with perhaps the exception of Louisburg) and interior water-ways, closing navigation, the absence of railway facilities virtually debars it, for some months of the year, from free intercourse with the outside world. As a result, one of the richest portions of the Dominion has made very slow progress. Westward, the "star of empire has taken its way," and while the resources of the Dominion were being strained to their utmost to build the Canada Pacific, other sections had to wait. That great highway having been completed to the Pacific, the country was in a position to turn its attention eastward, and patient Cape Breton will soon be crossed by a railroad, that will greatly aid in developing its vast natural resources. All