

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Philadelphia has established a home for aged couples. This speaks well for the longevity of those who have entered the matrimonial state.

France has 2,000,000 single men, who have the means to marry, who ought to marry, but do not. Even Leap-year fails to level up the average.

Innoculation for yellow fever has been successfully performed in Rio Janeiro. The physicians of that place have every faith in the efficacy of this new discovery.

The best markets for Nova Scotia fish are in Spain and Portugal, and along the shores of the Mediterranean. When will our fish merchants avail themselves of these marts of trade?

A little more enterprise on the part of our leading fish dealers, and a little more carefulness in curing fish on the part of our fishermen, will secure for us a share of the European fish business.

It is estimated that Montreal has lost in trade, owing to small pox, upwards of \$6,000,000. Vaccination may have its drawbacks, but compared with small-pox, its direct effect is trifling.

The hat manufacturers are endeavouring to introduce a head-gear for sales, which much resembles an antique bonnet. Connecticut men will have to rummage the attics for the veils worn by their great grandmothers.

Gen. Wollseley, at a recent public dinner in London, states that the British navy, army, and auxiliary forces numbered, in all, 1,000,000 fighting men, made up of the best material that the country could afford; such a force, he declared, was sufficient to hold in check upon land and sea the most powerful nation upon the continent.

A new Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and the United States is now being framed, and it is expected to be far more general in its scope than any similar treaty hitherto drawn up. Under its provisions, defaulting officials from the United States will not find in Canada that haven of rest so much appreciated by their predecessors in high-toned theft.

The old-fashioned dinner-party has gone out of date, and has been replaced by its modern rival, in which the stylishness of the entertainment is judged of by the number of courses set down upon the "menu." The result is, that dinner-parties, are, on account of their costliness, rare occurrences. We are pleased to note that London ladies have resolved upon returning to the old-fashioned, but less pretentious means of entertaining their friends.

In the light of recent events, the proclamation of King Thebaw, which we re-publish from the British *Statesman*, will appear somewhat amusing to those unfamiliar with the bombast of Eastern potentates. To crush the fanatical barbarians (the English) and annex their country, may have appeared to these a trifling undertaking; if so, the sequel must have proved a great, but surprise.

Parliamentary honors in New South Wales have, heretofore, had no attractions for the man with a slender purse, but the all-absorbing question with which the electorate have now to deal is, whether or not the members of Parliament should serve their country without remuneration. The advocates of payment for members have evidently caught the popular ear, and New South Wales will shortly enter upon that advanced era of civilization in which salary grabs are made possible.

The estimated cost of Captain Ead's Tehuantepec Ship Railway is \$75,000,000, upon which a guaranteed interest of 5 per cent. is to be paid. The Mexican Government have already agreed to pay their share of the guarantee, namely \$1,250,000; and a Bill is now before the United States Congress, having in view the guarantee of \$2,500,000 upon the part of the United States Government. Captain Ead proposes to demonstrate the practicability of his ship railway by transporting from water to water a vessel of 3,000 tons.

Sir H. Barnaby, British ex-director of Naval construction, receives a handsome annual pension from the British Government, and at the same time is employed by the United States Government to draw out plans for the new war-ships shortly to be added to the American Navy. The question naturally arises, whether a retired British official, still in receipt of an annual stipend, can, in justice to the Government by whom he has been employed, and by whom he is still, aid, devote his energies to the building up of the Navy in a Foreign State.

A bachelor residing in Bordeaux, having received a snub from a Marseilles gentleman, challenged the latter to fight a duel. The Marseilles man declined, upon the ground that he was married and had five children, and that their fight would not, therefore, be on equal terms. Not many years later, the Bordeaux gentleman called upon his enemy, in Marseilles, accompanied by his wife and five thriving youngsters. Monsieur," said he, "we can now fight upon equal terms." "Not so," said the other, "as I now have three more children, and have buried my wife." The duel was postponed indefinitely.

Those who have listened to the florid utterances of Lord Dufferin will be able to understand the delight of France Scindia upon having returned to him by Lord Dufferin the famous Fort Gwalior in the cantonment of Morar. This fort has remained in the hands of the British since the rebellion against the Maharajah, and Prince Scindia, in replying to the address of India's eloquent Governor General, stated that its restoration had been the dearest wish of his life, and that the Empress Queen would, in case of an emergency, find himself and his subjects grateful for the mark of confidence in their loyalty which the restoration of this fortress indicated.

At the January meeting of the Historical Society, Sir A. G. Archibald read the first of what promises to be the most important series of original Papers as yet contributed to the Society. The expulsion of the Acadians, always a subject of pathetic interest, has been lately brought into special prominence by the works of Parkman, ("Muncalm and Wolfe,") and of Philip Smith, ("Acadia"), the greater historian combating, and the lesser championing the French version of the story, which Longfellow had adopted in "Evangeline." Sir A. G. Archibald has evidently given much study to this sharply criticised measure of the colonial authorities, and has had access to some provincial sources of information apparently unknown to Parkman. In his second paper, Sir Adams will discuss the causes of the expulsion, and will endeavor to vindicate the British against the strictures of certain chroniclers and the indignation evoked by the legendary woes of Evangeline.

Prince Edward Island has a railway from one end to the other, and has a prospect of getting submarine connection with the mainland. If Cape Breton were a separate Province, there is every reason to believe that it, too, would enjoy the boon of railway facilities. This is the chief reason why so many people in Cape Breton wish L. Cameron, of Inverness, to press his resolutions, demanding separation from the Province of Nova Scotia. Surely, however, if one Local Government is enough for two millions of people in Ontario, the half-million in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia proper can be managed also by one body. It is clear, however, that unless justice be soon accorded to Cape Breton, the day of secession is not far distant. We respectfully advise our friends in Cape Breton to have patience yet a little; but at the same time, we advise the "powers that be" not to delay unnecessarily legislation that will give that island the advantages to which it has long been entitled.