

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

1 50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 3 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 19, 1886.

{ VOL. 3.
No. 8.

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THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,

BY

CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 3 cents.

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to C. F. FRASER, MANAGER.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

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.

The New York *Witness* says that there are now in the United States 150 black editors. We were under the impression that a much larger number of editors looked black, but we presume the statement in the *Witness* is somewhat colored.

The Czar of Russia has awakened to a realization of the results which are likely to follow the annexation to Burmah by Britain. An Anglo-Chinese Alliance he evidently regards as most undesirable, and it is said that his Russian emissaries are already at work among the Chinese to frustrate its accomplishment.

A Scotch minister, in descending upon the evils growing out of the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few, endeavored to enlighten his congregation as to the whereabouts of the late Mr. Vanderbilt, stating that he had no hesitation in concluding that Mr. Vanderbilt had not reached Heaven, seeing that railway kings could find no employment in the "home of the blest."

During the late campaign in the Soudan, it was alleged that the bayonets supplied to the troops were of an inferior quality of steel, being so soft that they were practically useless in an engagement. In a recent test of 3000 bayonets, upwards of 600 were rejected by the military authorities, as worthless.

Between Saxony and Russia is a little strip of land, 960 feet in length, by 400 in width, the owner of which pays no taxes, is exempt from the laws which hold good in the adjoining Kingdoms, and acknowledges allegiance to neither Prince nor Emperor. Were this "no man's land" more accessible, it would soon become the fashionable resort for American bank cashiers, who use the funds of their banks to speculate in stocks.

The weight of royalty rests heavy on the brow of at least two European princes. The King of Bavaria is in serious financial embarrassments, his debts amounting to \$4,000,000; and much discontent has manifested itself among his creditors. The King of Greece finds the duty of ruling over the present inhabitants of the land of Solon, Plato and Pericles, so uncongenial that he purposes abdicating the throne, and retiring to Denmark.

At length, after many years of weary search, the source of the Amazon has been discovered. In a recent paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, London, Mr. Thum, the discoverer, made a graphic description of his perilous clamber up the steep face of Mount Rovainia, upon the opposite declivity of which he discovered a small lake; from this a little rivulet flows down the mountain side, which is the source of the world's greatest river. We can imagine the feelings of satisfaction of Mr. Thum, as he stood beside the tiny stream, which finally entered the sea by a magnificent estuary 180 miles wide, after a course of nearly 4,000 miles.

For grand scientific schemes, the Frenchmen of to-day can compare most favorably with any other people. Witness the Suez and Panama Canal undertakings, the use of inoculation as a cure for rabies, the project of converting the Sahara into an inland sea. And just now we read of a proposition made by French astronomers to construct maps, shewing in their exact positions the twenty millions of stars included in the first fifteen magnitudes. The undertaking, as novel as it is gigantic, and requiring the co-operation of the astronomers of all nations, is to be accomplished by means of photography. Such maps, preserving for the study of future astronomers the present aspect of the heavens, will be of immense importance to their investigations.

The growing disregard of the Sabbath in American cities, so noticeable to foreigners, is leading to a reaction. In Philadelphia, a proclamation has been issued by the Mayor to the effect that the old existing laws against Sabbath desecration will be put in force. In Cincinnati, the Law and Order League have presented Governor Foraker with articles of impeachment against the police authorities for culpable neglect in not having enforced the laws bearing on Sunday theatrical performances. The minority, who are believers in Sabbath observance, may call this the tyranny of the majority; but, after all, a government's duties are largely of a paternal character, and the freedom of action of one of its children must sometimes be restricted in the interests of the family.

A special despatch to a New York paper gives an account of a most striking incident, said to have occurred at a place called Millersburg, Pa. A crowd of carousers at a hotel were going through, with mock solemnity, the form of partaking of the Lord's Supper, when their horrible impiety was interrupted by the appearance of "an immense ill formed beast with great cloven feet, pointed horns, and eyes that flashed fire." All fled in terror, and the man who was administering the sacrament soon died a maniac, declaring that he had seen the Evil One. But then, men who have imbibed too freely have had glimpses of His Satanic Majesty before, even without the aid of such impiety or the imagination of a New York reporter.

A most important movement has just been inaugurated by committees of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Canada. At a conference held in Ottawa, the two committees decided on a plan of co-operation in mission work, which will obviate the necessity of maintaining two missions in a poor field. They recommended that a joint committee of the two churches be appointed to consider the wants of such mission fields, and to report to the proper courts of both churches on the advisability of one church giving way to the other. The idea is certainly a liberal, apparently a practicable, and if so, a decidedly beneficial one.

The broadest as well as the most delicate question, to-day, in European politics, is the ownership of the soil. Communistic ideas, in some modified but none the less decided form, shew themselves in the utterances and the measures of some of the leading European statesmen. It is by out-bidding communists that Bismark controls communism. In the newly-formed British Cabinet there are at least two ministers, whose theories are communistic in their tendency, Mr. Morley and Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Gladstone, too, is strongly suspected of having similar leanings; but Mr. Gladstone's opinions on great and dangerous questions are generally matter for conjecture. The Irish Land Question will afford this Cabinet, if it is so disposed, an excellent opportunity for inserting the thin end of the wedge into the present system. The Crofters of Scotland, the tenant-farmers of Wales, and finally the farmers of England, will furnish fresh openings.

The contributions of the Island of Cape Breton to the revenues of Nova Scotia and the Dominion, since 1867, amount to almost ten million dollars. The expenditures of the two governments on the Island since that year, for lighthouses, breakwaters, roads and bridges, &c., &c., do not amount altogether to even a fair moiety of that sum. If both governments, or either of them, were using the unreturned monies in paying off public debts, Cape Breton might find some consolation in the reflection that she was being treated as well as the rest of the Province. The fact is, however, that both governments have, since 1867, incurred heavy liabilities in making elsewhere public improvements which have been denied to Cape Breton. This is neither equitable nor politic. It is a stigma upon the reputation of our public men, and it gives the lie to the contention that our public affairs are administered with perfect fairness and impartiality.