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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 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.

Some twenty years ago Herr Falb, an Austrian scientist, first suggested the possibility that the moon may act upon the great ocean of molten matter beneath the earth's crust exactly as it acts in producing the tides of the external ocean of water. He now considers that the reality of such action is proven, and that the earth's crust is severely strained, more or less warped and broken, at the times the theory would indicate. It is during the periods of greatest strain resulting from the moon's attraction that earthquakes appear to be most likely to occur, and the gases seem to be forced into coal mines to such an extent as greatly to increase the explosions.

The question of the supposed extraordinary increase of the French-Canadian population is dealt with as follows in a recent issue of the *St. John Evening Gazette*.—"The Quebec people talk lightly of the hundreds of thousands of French Canadians in the United States and claim at the same time a great increase in their own province, yet we know that, owing to the morality which prevails among their children, the Quebec French do not increase more rapidly than the British Canadians. It has been stated that 40,000 French from Quebec have emigrated to the United States this year, a larger number than the net increase of the French population of the Province for the year could possibly be. If these figures are correct and if the French of Quebec have filled up New England as rapidly as their orators claim we shall expect to see this shown in the census returns of 1891. The Quebec French in 1881 numbered 1,073,820. The extreme limit of natural increase, even among the French, is put down by the best authorities at 2½ per cent a year, but allowing an increase of 30 per cent. for ten years, the natural increase of the Quebec French who were enumerated in 1881 would amount to 322,146. This would not admit of many annual emigrations of 40,000 unless the population of Quebec Province itself was to remain stationary. We believe that if an accurate census of Quebec is taken in 1891, the preposterous claims of the French to an abnormally rapid increase of population will be exposed, and it will be seen that their numbers have been greatly exaggerated. With regard to the population of all Canada at the next census it will probably be found that we number about 5,500,000 representing an increase of about 1,200,000 in ten years. Considering the rapid growth of the Dominion since 1881 this estimate cannot be regarded as too high and it will be probably exceeded."

Some of the politicians of Quebec are glorifying themselves, it is said, in high notes of triumph over what seems to be a particularly shabby affair. A Miss Maybee from Ontario was, it appears, appointed a type-writer in the Quebec Post Office, and a number of chivalrous French Canadian gentlemen set to work to get the appointment cancelled and the lady returned to Ontario. In this endeavor the gallant Quebecers have succeeded, but it is the general verdict of the English press of Quebec, that if they are proud of their spirited conduct they will certainly find no one to envy them their gratification.

The *New York Herald* recently published a letter from a ship captain recounting the manœuvres by which he edged his vessel out of the range of a cyclone into which he found himself entering. When his ship first entered the outer storm circle she was about 400 miles northeast of St. Thomas, bound for Barbadoes. The storm centre was apparently southeast of his position and was moving slowly to the westward. By wearing ship to the north the master ran in a few hours into clear weather. Had he stood on to the southward when the cyclone was first discovered his vessel would have been seriously imperilled. The incident is no doubt worthy of the attention of shipmasters, but it is no new experience. The movements of the cyclone have been well-known these forty years, ever since Colonel Sir William Reid, then Governor of Bermuda, published his famous Law of Storms, a work with the principles of which every shipmaster ought to be conversant.

The testimony recently given before the United States Court at Salt Lake City, though it only reveals what was already known to many as to the infamous practices of the Mormons in the past, emphasises the warnings we have more than once given to the Dominion Government, that it is its duty to exercise an unsleeping vigilance over any settlement of those people which may be tolerated in our North-west Territories. It is remarked that though the church is now so far suppressed in the United States that murderous deeds could not again be ventured on, there is only too much reason to believe that other unlawful practices are still kept up. The Mormons are a people to be unceasingly watched. The word or oath of a Mormon is of no value when dealing with the interests of his church, and treason and assassination are parts of his creed. It has been well suggested that the Government may rightly refuse to grant to these people a large block, or blocks in close proximity to each other, of Government land, and so prevent their forming a solid community. This suggestion ought to be borne in mind and acted on, but it is further strongly asserted that the Mormon Colony in the North West is rapidly increasing, that polygamy openly exists, and that Parliament is to be asked next session to enact a law prohibiting polygamy. Bigamy being illegal this would seem superfluous; nevertheless legislation may be required to keep these people in order, let Parliament look to it.

In the preface to a recent translation of a number of French stories, Mr. Andrew Lang alludes to an American version in which "Romuald does not go to bed, but retires, and in which nothing begins, but everything commences." The reviewer (in Lippincott) acknowledges that he can only join the crusade against the word "commence" in a "half hearted way." As a rule, he says, "begin" is the better word, just as "tweedle-dee" is on the whole a homelier, simpler, and less affected locution than "tweedle-dum," with its suspiciously Latin termination. Nathless a man is not ostracized from respectable literary society because he chooses to make his hero commence rather than begin. And as to the Americanism "to retire,"—that might well sound *gauche* and mock-modest to unaccustomed ears. But, on the other hand, is not going to bed a humdrum and prosaic vocation? The Lippincott reviewer's illustrations do not seem to us very happy ones. No doubt the use of Latin words is no literary crime, and the most fastidious taste is fain to admit that the English tongue is enormously enriched by its large debt to that language, nevertheless there remains in the minds of cultivated persons the intuition that there inheres in the common use of words of Latin derivation a suspicion of pedantry which is absent even in words derived from the Greek. That "well of pure English," the Bible, deals in few but Saxon words; most of the greatest writers who charm by the simplicity of their style follow in the same line, and we need only cite Macaulay, whose style and taste were alike unexceptionable, in confirmation. His rule was to use a plain Saxon word wherever it could be used, and the most touching poetry bears it out. Latin was the language of lawyers, not of colloquialism, poetry or folk-lore, and we adhere to our preference for "beginning" rather than "commencing," and for "going to bed" rather than "retiring."