

# THE CRITIC:

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While, in the opinion of some English conservative journals, the Parnellites are in some danger of overdoing their Pigott, who has been an immense god-send to them, and while the *Daily News* and others are rejoicing in the opportunity for attacks on the *Times* so violent and bitter that they are certain to produce reaction, it is curious to find the *New York Herald* coming to the support of the great journal with no uncertain note and on the highest grounds of newspaper spirit and public morality.

The letter of our Ottawa correspondent this week is especially good, and hits the peculiar snobbery of Ottawa (not unshared by Halifax) with a sledge hammer. But our correspondent does not apparently perceive that the discussion of the "aristocracy" of this city was, in this case, in no way promoted or provoked by the 300 victims of the sensationalism of a journal, to which the undue invention of the "List" evidently suggested itself as a source of profit, and a text for letters—as a correspondent last week put it—"to keep the ball rolling."

## THE CRITIC,

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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.

Lieut Gordon, in mentioning the increased employment by the Americans of steam scine-boats, points out the greater difficulty of protection by sailing schooners. We should be inclined to suggest application to the Imperial Government for two or three of the old class of gun-boats which are now being superseded in the Royal Navy by larger craft. We should think it probable that they might be had for the asking, but even if not, vessels sold out of the navy go at very low figures.

Mr. F. B. Croston's "Haliburton: The Man and the Writer," the appearance of which has been somewhat delayed, is, we understand, to be issued in about a week's time. It is the first of a series to be published under the auspices of the Haliburton Society of Kings College, and will be prefaced with a brief introduction by Prof. Roberts. It is said that No. 2 of the series will be a compendious treatise on the literature of Canada, by Prof. Roberts. The enterprise of the Society in this direction is most commendable, and there can be no doubt that, numbering in its ranks some of the prominent literary men from all parts of the Dominion, its publications will take rank as household words. We believe their get-up will be commensurate with their literary value.

Mr. Charles Dudley Warner shows considerable acumen in his account of the Canadian people themselves which occupies the third part of his article, the second being taken up with an interesting account of his trip from Montreal to Vancouver. Mr. Warner is able to discern that Canadians are not second-hand Englishmen, but a distinct type. "The Canadian girl," he considers, "resembles the American in escape from a purely conventional restraint, and in self-reliance, and she has, like the English, a well modulated voice and distinct articulation. But she belongs to a distinct Canadian type of woman." With regard to racial diversities Mr. Warner notices that not only is the Frenchman of Quebec separated by the widest range of national characteristics from all other classes, but "the man of Nova Scotia is not at all the man of British Columbia or Manitoba." Mr. Warner thinks, with regard to the "future of Canada," that there is "a growing feeling for independence; very little, taking the whole mass, for annexation."

"Whatever," says the *New York Herald*, "the verdict of the Parnell Commission, credit is due to the *Times* for having alone, single-handed, with no possible motive but high public duty, entered upon a costly, harassing, and thankless task. If he (the director of the *Times*) believed that he could make good the charge that a revolutionary party in English politics had descended to worse than revolutionary methods—had made assassination a weapon and an argument—it was surely courageous to spare neither money nor pains to prove his case." It is pointed out that the *Times* had nothing to gain by controversy, and nothing to lose by silence, but preferred the former, and "made a stern, lavish, honorable, heroic contest, to be remembered, as it surely will be, to the honor of that journalism which, in the sense of duty to the people, finds no labor a sacrifice."

Mr. Charles Dudley Warner's "Comments" may possibly tend to dissipate to some extent the ignorance of Canada—transcending even that of Englishmen—which prevails in the United States, and to which are probably partly due the annexation impertinences of the last few months. Appearing in *Harper's Monthly* their large circulation may produce a beneficial effect. Canadians who are desirous of seeing their country as it appears to a keen-eyed, fair-minded, and highly intelligent foreigner, should read Mr. Warner's article, the style of which is simple, easy and graceful. Much misapprehension as to the narrowness of the fertile and habitable belt, which originated before it was known that isothermal lines and parallels of latitude do not coincide, is corrected. The superiority of our political system is not directly admitted, but the grounds of Canadian belief in that superiority are fairly, frankly and clearly given.

The excellent *Monthly Journal of Education*, published at St. John, is doing good work in the publication of star tables, and in awakening interest in astronomical knowledge generally. Is not, however, "the first point of Aries," mentioned as coincident with the vernal equinox, now a merely technical expression? Sayce tells us that this coincidence began in the year 2450, B.C. We believe "Precession" carries the real equinoctial point backward one sign in 2151 years. Consequently it would, we suppose, have retrograded to the sign Pisces nearly 300 years before the Christian era, which accounted for the prevalence of the Fish on Christian tombs in the Catacombs of Rome. If this be correct, the sun's place at the vernal equinox would now be in Aquarius, as it was in Taurus before 2450, B.C., which accounted for Bull worship among the Chaldeans and Egyptians. Will the *St. John Journal of Education* tell us whether or no we are right?

Thirty-six licenses to American vessels were issued under the *modus vivendi* last year, their aggregate amount being \$3,831. Those whose apt vocation it is to embarrass their own government by false charges of unfriendly treatment of Americans will find but little material to their hands in last year's operations, there having been but one seizure, that of a small sloop-rigged boat in the Bay of Fundy, which was subsequently given up to the owners on payment of the expenses incurred in her safe-keeping. A better understanding is reported on the part of masters of United States fishing vessels as to just what rights they had in Canadian ports, and the following appears in the instructions to commanders of Canadian protective cruisers:—"You will, therefore, be careful in no way to hinder the access to Canadian ports of any United States fishing vessel whose master or owner declares his intention of procuring such license, nor to interfere with any such vessel whose master or owner procures such license, in so far as the carrying out of the purposes of such license are concerned," nor are such vessels seeking to purchase bait, etc., required to enter or clear at the Customs, provided they do not remain over 24 hours.