

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.

Hip Lung, the wealthiest Chinese merchant in Chicago, together with several influential Chinese of Canton, San Francisco and New York, have applied for space at the World's Fair for a big tea house.

There is much food for thought in the consideration of the ways of Nature in protecting many animals, fish, birds and insects from the ravages of more powerful creatures of their kind, or from man. In the polar regions the bear, the fox and the hare vie with the icy plains in the whiteness of their covering—the ermine, the ptarmigan and the grouse are almost invisible in their white coats against the snowy ground. The great deserts of the Sahara teem with animal life, but reptiles, birds and insects are alike indistinguishable in color from the gray sands. Sea weed which the dredges have brought up will be found alive with minute organism who copy to a shade the color of the weed to which they cling. In our own latitudes we have many birds, such as the wood-pecker, whose form is so often lost against the bark wall on which he taps, and many caterpillars, moths and grasshoppers, who find their protection in the coloring which Nature has bestowed upon them.

We congratulate the artist who designed the illustrated circular letter which is now being sent around by the Salvation Army. During this week of Thanksgiving self-denial instead of feasting is the suggested order of the day, and the savings effected in this way are to be applied to extending the practical work of the army in the rescue, shelter and other departments. The artist deftly introduces in the margin many suggestions as to what may be done without during the week. Plump geese and turkeys, hot-house grapes, plum cakes, preserves, candy, ginger-beer and horse-car fares are demanded. The concluding clause of the letter will, however, we think be more popular with our Provincial people, who are in circumstances which allow them the good things of life as well as the pleasure of giving. "I have also added the further sum of \$0.00" reads the pregnant line. Let us not be satisfied with a selfish family thanksgiving—let each one of us give some fellow-being, less blessed than ourselves, some cause of thanksgiving. There are needy families in our midst—there is the *Herald* fund for the sad case of Mrs. Marks to be contributed to—there are lonely young men and women in our city who will be the better for a little personal interest, there are the many charitable and philanthropic institutions of the city, and there is the earnest plea for the Salvation Army. Surely there are few of us who cannot benefit some of our neighbors this happy Thanksgiving time.

There are few of us, no matter how hard-hearted we may pride ourselves on being, who can read with any equanimity of the prisoner "Buck" at Dorchester, who is to be hung at Moncton on December first. At a time of the year when peace and good-will and cherry happiness should prevail, one of us, for we are after all but one vast brotherhood, will be forced into eternity. A hard, reckless man, a man utterly unprepared to appear before his maker—and yet there are many who feel that in Buck's place, with his bringing up and surroundings, that they too might have committed the crime for which the prisoner must pay the life penalty. Had the trial been conducted away from the scene of the shooting of the popular policeman another verdict might have been rendered, and the prisoner who, without malice, but simply with the idea of self defence, fired his pistol at the man who was endeavoring to prevent his escape, might have received a milder punishment. There is an old proverb to the effect that it is never well to kill those who only need correction, that applies well to the case in hand. Buck is not a murderer in the sense that Neill, the famous London poisoner, is. Buck took a life in great excitement, or it may be that the fatal shot was a random one, and, in either case, his crime does not for a moment compare with Neill's. Very, very many who are rigorous on the subject of the punishment of crime regret that the recommendation to mercy which even the Moncton jury, composed of the friends of the dead man, advised, has not resulted in a commuted sentence of imprisonment for life.

We Canadians will do well to profit by the experience of European countries on the subject of the destruction of trees. In Great Britain, although the conservative spirit of the people has prevented the destruction of many historic forests, it has been found necessary to encourage the planting of trees. Scotland has been well stripped of the woodland monarchs, and the impoverished soil on which they once grew has been given over to sheep-grazing. Within the last three years, however, an intelligent idea of the value of trees has been disseminated by the Government, with the happy result in Scotland of transforming 31,000 acres of pasture land into a woodland area, while in England 96,000 acres have been again handed over to Nature. The forests of Norway and Sweden are rapidly disappearing. France, Italy and Switzerland have recklessly allowed the hill-side forests to be destroyed to the ruin of many vineyard districts. In the United States strong objections are raised to the exportation of lumber, and South American and Canadian forests supply the demand to a great extent. In Canada the wanton use of young trees for fire-wood is much to be regretted, and should be prevented by legislation. The state of the woods should be carefully looked into, and every effort should be made to secure the preservation of our immense forests. The penny wise and pound foolish policy of cutting down and selling cheaply what it will take a quarter of a century to duplicate should not be tolerated in a civilized community. Let us husband our native wealth until an adequate return is assured for it.

There are always a few discontented people who feel little thankful, no matter to what extent they are blessed by Providence, we recommend to these as well as to our more optimistic readers the consideration of the great strides for the better which Canada has made in the past ten years. A cool half-million of settlers have in that time made their homes in Canada, and for the most part they have been practical workers. Even emigrants who have made their homes in the North-Western portion of the United States are moving to Canada. During the present year 57,400 acres of C. P. R. property have been bought in by them alone. In 1881 there were but 33 cities and towns that could boast an output of a million dollars of manufactured goods, to day 47 manufacturing cities and towns can make a better showing. The number of cities with an output of two millions of manufactured goods has doubled. Montreal and Toronto have increased their output by twenty and thirty six millions respectively. The condition of the farmer has been much bettered, a good home market has been established for all kinds of produce. The agricultural export to the United States is greater by a million dollars than our import of American food-stuffs. The improvement in mining industries has been enormous, the export has grown from four millions to five millions in the last two years alone. The fisheries make a good showing with an increased export of some thirty millions, while the total trade of Canada has expanded from one hundred and fifty-three to two hundred and twenty five millions. Savings banks and loan companies report an immense increase in their deposits. It is quite possible that under another administration Canada might be yet more prosperous; but for our own part we are satisfied with the steadily growing prosperity of to day. We have faith in the future of our great Dominion, and we call on every true-hearted Canadian to render heartfelt thanks at the close of this prosperous decade to the Almighty, who alone can give the increase.