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We have received from the Rev. Dr. Hole a letter in reference to a statement quoted in THE CRITIC of the 13th inst., relative to the reported action of clergymen in influencing the Jury in the Preeper case. We have much pleasure in giving Dr. Hole's vindication verbatim:—"So far as I am concerned," the Rev. gentleman says, "the statement is untrue. I made no reference whatever to the trial, and did not even know that the Jury had been present until after the service was over."

It is evident from the following opinion of "Eli Perkins," in the *Buffalo Express*, that we do not—some of us at least—"see ourselves as others see us":—"I have never seen the Canadians more prosperous. John Macdonald's tariff policy has benefitted Canada. There are now ten cotton and woollen factories where there were one. Ontario is making all her own stoves, and all her own musical instruments. Large piano and organ factories have sprung up all over the Dominion. The people are prosperous and happy. Prices are higher in Canada than formerly, but labor is higher and money more flush."

Messrs. Hubbard Brothers, of Philadelphia, have purchased the right to publish Mr. F. Blake Crofton's juvenile stories. These comprise "The Major's Big-Talk Stories," and a further series entitled "Majora, or Bigger Exploits of the Major," which have not as yet been issued in book form. Some of this latter series were printed in THE CRITIC a couple of years ago. The title of the forthcoming book has not been yet decided upon, but the publishers contract that it will appear within a year "with ample illustrations." It will be sold "by subscription" only, as are all of Messrs. Hubbard's publications, and it may therefore be a year before the volume is offered for sale in Canada.

The *Militia Gazette* has the following:—"Few will be disposed to cavil at the choice made by the Minister of Militia, in appointing Lieut. Archibald Cameron Macdonell to a lieutenancy in the Mounted Infantry Corps, at Winnipeg. This gentleman is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, having completed his course there in 1886, taking second place in the graduating class, and thereby becoming entitled to a commission in the Imperial Royal Artillery; which, however, he thought fit to decline. Since graduating, Mr. Macdonell has been practising civil engineering, making Montreal his headquarters. He is, however, a native of Windsor." Thus does the Dominion become more and more bound together.

Scarcely any possible question can be started but what it is caught up pro and con by the parties. To originate ever so indirectly with one, secures its being at least looked at askance by the other. It might be supposed that the entry of Newfoundland into the Confederation might be a purely national question, especially as the advantages or disadvantages of the Union do not appear very prominent on either side. It certainly ought to be discussed irrespective of party and above all things, if it ever come to pass, it should be only at the unquestionable wish of the "ancient colony" herself. At present we seem to see more clearly defined out of the mist than any other probability, that of a new source of raids on the Dominion Treasury.

The French people are a curious race. If they sometimes challenge our admiration, they seldom command our respect. We are accustomed to ridicule Hayti and the South American Republics, yet within 100 years France has revolutionized herself to the number of three Republics, two Empires, and two dynasties of Kings. It seems to be a periodical necessity to them to set up a hero, consequently, in the old country they are now experimenting on Boulanger in that line, while in Montreal they have elected to be Chief Executive Officer of the law (Chief of Police) a man (Lt.-Col. Hughes) who ostentatiously defied the vaccination law when Montreal was scourged with small-pox, and lent the weight of his name to the ignorant who fermented riots at that time.

The Home Rule idea has fairly, at last, taken hold of the cannie Scot, whose native pluck, shrewdness, and pushing industry, has, for nearly two centuries, inclined him to Dr. Johnson's doctrine, that the form of Government a man lived under was of small moment. The development of the notion among Scotchmen runs, of course, at first into exaggeration, one count of the indictment being that Scotland has become the happy hunting ground of the English carpet-bagger, of course it was generally supposed to be the other way. A list of Scottish grievances, newly discovered, in contravention of all history, is, as published, ludicrous enough. Nevertheless, the principle is sound, and when even a crank says that Edinburgh is "sinking into the position of a provincial town," one feels that the centralization of power in London does really draw talent and genius into the vortex, and we should be sorry to think of Edinburgh as a "provincial town."

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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.

The hostility shown by the Italians for everything French increases every day in ridiculous proportions. The Italians go at and say that in the next war France "will be beaten out of her boots." The Italian press has been let loose, and the so diery are much excited against the French, without there being the least cause to explain this access of Galliphobia.

A paragraph has been going the rounds to the effect that the Queen is studying Hindostanee. The statement may or may not be true—just as likely the latter as the former—but it strikes us, that if Her Majesty had tried her hand at the study of Irish a good many years ago, and purchased an estate there to pursue the study "on the spot," as Mr. Micawber said, it would have been study to a much better purpose.

Great Britain has added three Polynesian islands to her possessions. They (Christmas, Fanning and Penrhyn) are not large but, situated at varying distances, nearly due south from Honolulu, may form convenient coaling stations between British Columbia, Australia and New Zealand. The first two of them lie within about 200 miles of each other, but the third is some 900 miles distant from either, and therefore somewhat exposed to the operations of hostile cruisers.

We have received the handsomely got up *American Newspaper Directory*, (New York, Geo. P. Rowell and Company,) the information in which as to the newspapers published, and the localities in which they are issued, is most compendious. In so comprehensive a work it would be wonderful if some slight errors did not occasionally appear. Thus the circulation ascribed to THE CRITIC is below the mark. We are rated at "over 3000," whereas our actual circulation should be "exceeding 4000," (really 4800)

We have on our books the names of large numbers of subscribers, whose subscriptions have remained unpaid for some years. We have now to notify all those whose subscriptions are two years or more in arrears, that unless their accounts are paid on or before the 1st DAY OF JUNE next, we shall be compelled to hand the same to our Solicitor for collection. Remit by P. O. Order or Registered Letter to A. MILNE FRASER, Manager.