

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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Henry M Stanley allows no newspaper correspondents to accompany his expeditions for the relief of Emin Bey.

Sixty-six wealthy men, members of the Commercial Club of Chicago, have purchased Highland Park, close to the "city by the lake," and donated the same to the United States government, with the proviso that it be used for military purposes, and that a regiment of United States troops be quartered there. Perhaps the Anarchist riots will account for the desire of the Chicagoans to have available an adequate force in the event of a similar disturbance.

Virginia is just now suffering from a novel effect of the war. It seems that early in the struggle ink gave out, and for the purpose of keeping the local public records the people had to fall back upon the manufacture of a domestic article. It is now discovered that the records written in it have faded out, and as they validated deeds, private proceedings, and many other important things, their restoration becomes a matter of great consequence.

If a seeker after truth, wishing to obtain an unbiased account of the great political meeting at the Drill Shed, were to consult the party papers, he would be forced to the conclusion that partyism had driven the papers on one or both sides of politics to publish that which they must have known to be false. Small wonder is it that respectable journals are daily breaking away from the shackles of party, seeing that it reduces them to mere hurdy-gurdies.

Sir Francis Hastings Doyle has publicly expressed himself as in favor of conscription, and severely condemned Mr. Gushen for his criticism on that method of raising an army. However excusable conscription is in times of war, it should not, in times of peace, have the sanction of the law. Men who are not willing to take up arms in defence of their country when she is in danger should be forced to do so, but when no danger threatens, the liberty of the subject in the choice of a calling should not be interfered with by the State.

The opinion is frequently expressed in medical journals that popular excitement has an unhealthy tendency. Some of these M. D. editors should express their views as to how far below the normal the condition of public health falls in times of political excitement. Perhaps this accounts for the number of sick men we always meet after the close of an election. For the sake of your party, your leaders and yourselves, go in and work to win, otherwise on Tuesday evening next you may be numbered among the invalidated from political excitement.

Lord Herschell, in a recent address, made an assertion which we think lacks backbone. He said that "nothing is more notable at the present day than the large amount of leisure possessed by those who pass what is called busy lives, as compared with what used to be the case about half a century ago. Time was," he observed, "when long hours of toil and dearth of holiday left men and women with but little time for anything but eating, drinking and sleeping." The leisure which most busy men find we fancy is stolen from sleep or snatched from half hours of recreation. It is not that there is more leisure in this age, but that people have become more systematic and can overtake a greater amount of work in a given time than could their forefathers.

Longman's Magazine for February contains an article entitled "Melody in Speech," written by F. Weber, a London organist. Mr. Weber claims that all animate creation speaks habitually in musical phrases, capable of being written out in the ordinary method of musical notation. "Man beings generally speak in B flat, B, or C, pitching their voices on the prime, third, fifth or octave at will, and rarely using any other interval in the scale. According to Mr. Weber, dogs howl in fourths or fifths, donkeys bray in perfect octaves, and cocks crow in the diminished triad and seventh chord. Mr. Weber has probably never heard a Halifax coal-hawker; had he done so, he would probably put his strange cry down as an illustration of augmented fourths, or possibly a major seventh. Our musical readers should at once locate their voices, so that they may know whether their pitch is to B natural, B flat, or B sharp.

## UNACCOUNTABLE CONCESSIONS.

The action taken by the City Council with reference to the Dry Dock has, despite politics, formed one of the chief topics of conversation during the past ten days; and, so far as we can ascertain, the public are still at a loss to know why our city fathers agreed so cordially to make the concessions asked for by the company. We are assured that there exists good and sufficient reasons for the Council's action in the matter, but the public, who have a right to know all the ins and outs of the negotiations, are left hopelessly in the dark as to what these good and sufficient reasons are. As an independent onlooker we have nothing to do with the comparative merits

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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 his 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.

Baltimore is the oysteropolis of America. Over 1,500 boats are engaged in the oyster business, and the industry is worth to the city \$10,000,000 a year.

Organs are usually turned by a crank, hence it is that the items given as facts by some party organs have to be taken with a grain of salt. They are the evolvings of an excited and overwrought brain.

A savant now states that the eye of a venomous snake is elliptical, while that of the harmless species is circular. It will be well to keep this in mind, and the next time you encounter one of the reptiles mind his eye.

The elector who will sell his vote for a barrel of flour is nothing better than a political doughboy. Citizenship is a sacred trust, and no man has the right to sell it for a mess of pottage. Honest electors should remember this, and should not sell their manhood for ground wheat.

Our correspondent's letter on "Safety Heating for Cars" deals with an important subject, but the method of heating proposed by him is open to several serious objections, one of them being the impossibility of heating a car in the event of a blockade on the road taking place between the furnace stations.

The Boards of Trade in New York and Washington have adopted resolutions favoring a reciprocity treaty with Canada. This is all right, cousin, your political and commercial capitals are sound on this important question, but, alas, your Senate has the exclusive power of making treaties, and that body is controlled by Measts, Frye and Ingalls, and these gentlemen go in for jug-handled reciprocity.

The great victory which is to be scored on Tuesday next is already claimed by both parties. We will discount in advance the disappointed note of the party that comes in second, and assure them that under the circumstances it could not have been otherwise, that we knew all about it beforehand, but postponed expressing an opinion, fearing that by so doing we might influence those jolly fellows who always like to come in on the back of the winning horse.