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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.

While Mr. Parnell declares his party to be entire strangers to the "Plan of Campaign," forty members of the party meet and specially justify it.

Party feeling is running so high in England that the Duke of Westminster recently rescinded an invitation to dinner to Mr. Spencer and his wife, on the grounds that he could not receive at Grosvenor House a man who had sat at the same table with the Irish leader, Mr. Spencer having previously dined with the Eighty-club. We are bad enough in Canada, but we have scarcely reached this point of bitterness and discourtesy.

M. Mercier is doing an unfair thing in leading the French Canadians to believe that Lord Stanley is coming out to promote Imperial Federation. Lord Stanley has publicly repudiated any such object, and there is not the slightest cause to believe that he will be anything but a constitutional Governor. It is, however, evident, from M. Mercier's pronouncement in favor of Independence, how distasteful Imperial Federation is to the French Canadian national sentiment.

It is very much to the credit of Canada that so few divorce bills come before Parliament. Nevertheless, Mr. Jones is right in advocating a Divorce Court, instead of the appeal to the Legislature. Nova Scotia has her own Divorce Court, but it would be better that the law in all the Provinces should be alike, and organized as are the Courts for other branches of adjudication. The existing appeal to Parliament is what the law of England was before the establishment of the Divorce Courts.

The rather sudden acceleration of emancipation in Brazil is largely due to the decisive action of Dona Isabel, daughter and heiress of the Emperor, and Regent during her father's absence. Dismissing her pro-slavery notions, she called in Senhor Alfredo, an abolitionist, who procured the passing of the necessary Act. Brazil owed the initiation of abolition to the right-mindedness of Dom Pedro, but no doubt its rapid consummation has been aided by the honorable encyclical of Pope Leo recommending emancipation as the fittest mode in which to honor his jubilee.

"Volapuk," says the healthy and excellent *Acadia Athenaeum*, "is designed, we believe, to be a sort of universal language, simple in structure and easy to learn. Its universality, we think it likely, will probably extend in the end to four or five ingenious philologists who will monopolise its use and advocate its claims." Some more sensible remarks follow, and we go with them entirely. But how can an Academical monthly allow such a solecism as "most" for "almost" to slip into an article in its columns?

Yesterday, Her Majesty the Queen entered on her 70th year. The death of the Emperor William leaves two European Sovereigns only her seniors in age—William 3rd, King of the Netherlands, who is 71, and Christian 9th, King of Denmark, who is 70. There is one potentate whose reign has been longer even than the Queen's, but his Empire is not of Europe. He is Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, who is 63 years of age, but who has reigned 57 years. We trust to see many more celebrations yet of Her Majesty's birthday.

After the fashion of Mr. E. Gordon Clark, in the *Cosmopolitan*, in his article, "The Bacon Farce a Tragedy," Mr. Labouchere now tries his hand at ridicule by inventing a correspondent who writes to him that the "Paradise Lost" was in fact written by Cromwell. Mr. Labouchere's "correspondent wisely refrains from telling" him "all he knows on this point," "but," says Labby, "it will set people thinking, I fancy, to hear that there is not a page of the 'Paradise Lost' in which every letter that forms the name of Oliver Cromwell is not to be found."

An exchange has the following:—"The present Empress of Germany was very ill twenty five years ago. Discussing her chance for recovery, she said 'I let me be but Queen of Prussia for one hour, and I will die happy.' She has lived to be far greater than Queen, but the honor comes to her with a clouded and sorrowful life." It goes without saying that this is penny-a-line gush. In the first place, the Empress has a well-regulated mind, and is very unlikely to have expressed a crude and vulgar wish. In the second place, she is an educated lady, and would not have said "will," but "shall."

Antagonistic politicians will use any argument, however much they may disbelieve in it, that will tell *en passant* against the policy of their adversaries. The opponents of Federation in Newfoundland probably care very little about the duties imposed by Canada on English goods, but they make a point against surrendering "her" (Newfoundland's) "free government, her open markets with the world, and her independence under the British Flag to Canada, who has built a tariff wall against the mother country to destroy Commercial intercourse with her."

The evidence obtained by the committee investigating the frauds practised on farmers by travelling agents of bogus lightning rods, hay-forks, seed wheat, etc., discloses a very serious state of matters. A private banker of Brantford, deposed to having shaved notes amounting to \$34,000, thrown away by farmers in this manner. If this amount was extracted from one locality, what must be the aggregate amount throughout the Dominion lost to the country to fill the pockets of Yankee swindlers? Drastic measures are surely called for, though the facility of the farmers shows an incredible amount of gullibility.

Senator Frye has introduced a Bill in the Senate to improve the United States Mail Service to the West Indies and South America by subsidizing American Steamship Lines. Great Britain has subsidized her Lines regardless of the postal income derived from them, which has been comparatively small, and we think Canadian money might be much worse spent. What has become of our Bermuda and West India facilities since the "know-nothings" succeeded in stopping the subsidies, and what is our course of post with England under the wretched Allan regime? We received letters on the 18th inst., bearing the English post mark of the 4th—fourteen days!

Imperial Federationists are continually being flouted by the annexationist press with the want of a definite policy. The reproach is, as they well know, invidious. The Empire, generally speaking, is in the matter of tariffs divided against itself, and it is precisely in the matter of tariffs that that series of difficulties impossible to be taken in the stride. Sir Rawson Rawson, chairman of the Commercial sub-committee of the League, has taken the first practical step to clear the ground by preparing an elaborately detailed statement of the various tariffs existing throughout the Empire. No great project can be entered upon without a full knowledge of the difficulties to be faced and the obstacles to be cleared away. This essential preliminary Sir Rawson Rawson has supplied in the completion of his stupendous task.