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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.

A new departure by the government at Dunolly, Victoria, has resulted in the establishment of a great perfume farm, and it is hoped that similar farms may be established throughout New South Wales. It is thought that this new industry will give employment to many who are unfit for more severe manual labor.

Many of our Nova Scotia fruit growers will be interested in an experiment which, for the last five years, has been tried at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Mr. Craig, the horticulturist, has found that the Morello cherry will grow in our orchards even in the colder parts of the Dominion. The young trees will be distributed upon application to Mr. Craig, and it is hoped that a new and valuable fruit will be the result of his years of patient application.

A telephone expert who has been comparing various languages with the view of finding the tongue best suited to telephone purposes, has discovered that the Chinese language is by far the most suited to the wire, as it is made up of monosyllables and of rising and falling inflections. The guttural though musical Welsh is his next choice, French and English are about even in the test, while even the German language with its polysyllables is found not at all impracticable for long distance telephoning.

Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria, has just sanctioned a decree which will be exceedingly beneficial to many of his provincial subjects. Formerly the custom of villein-socage has been in vogue—that is the tenants of farmers were compelled by law to pay rent to their landlord by ploughing, sowing and reaping for him at such times as he should desire their service. The Emperor has wisely decided that the age has outgrown this custom of the middle ages, and henceforth villeinage is to be abolished.

During the present year there has been a great number of volcanic and electrical disturbances. The descent of the avalanche in Switzerland, the destruction of the island Saugir, and the heavy earthquake shocks throughout Germany, have been but a few of the untoward occurrences. Scientists have been searching for the cause of these upheavals, and they have arrived at widely different conclusions. The only theory which is broad enough to accommodate all their ideas is that the earth is unsteady on its axes, and that its irregular movements are responsible for the late series of disturbances.

The city of Montreal has produced a Simson who is now wearing the laurels of the strongest man in the world. Louis Cyr is a "temperance athlete" who has contested with the strong men of many countries. In Great Britain, in the United States and in Canada he has taken part in many exhibitions, and has disconcerted all local strong men. His fellow citizens considered that some recognition of his prowess should be made, and therefore have presented him with a beautifully designed solid gold medal, seven inches long. The inscription proudly attests that it is the property of *L'homme le plus fort du Monde*.

President Pellegrini of the Argentine Republic believes in plain speaking. He has just published a document in which he makes many statements which are not in the least complimentary to his fellow countrymen. He says that the Argentines are not yet fit for self-government—that they do not distinguish between anarchy and freedom—that the mob-power is the ruling power of the Republic. The President does not believe in resorting to "repressive measures," but in the present state of affairs he finds it necessary to play despot occasionally. It remains to be seen what effect this plain speaking will have upon his popularity with the people.

Circulars have been recently sent to teachers in many parts of Canada requesting that the 12th of October, the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, should receive a fitting celebration. The idea is an excellent one, and will do much to popularize the studies of geography and history with the pupils. But there seems to us no reason why there should not on the proper occasions be essentially Canadian celebrations. For instance, October 12th is also the anniversary of Brock's victorious defence of Canada at Queenston. In celebrating the achievements of the great navigator our young Canadians should not forget the gallant defender of their country.

Since it has been known that the great Althorp library was to be sold the newspapers of Great Britain have been raising a great hue and cry. It was thought that some wealthy American would take the almost priceless volumes to his native country, or that the great collection might be sold piecemeal. There was indeed a little bad feeling raised at the suggestion that one of their own Canadian cities might secure the prize—presumably Montreal or Toronto. It is now known, however, that the books were sold by private sale to Mrs. Ryelands of Manchester, and that it is her intention to present them at once to her townsfolk. This benefaction is delighting the reading public, and much and well-earned praise is being bestowed upon the munificent giver.

The Bald Eagle, the emblem of the neighboring Republic, is to be brought into a still more prominent position. It is now proposed to crown the tips of the flag-staffs of the army of the United States with representations of the bird of freedom. Heretofore the American Standard has terminated in a simple pike, though both Rome and France have borne the eagle above their colors. The American eagle is, however, misnamed—it is not bald, but has a glossy white head. Many cavils have been made at the prominent position given to the King of Birds. Benjamin Franklin argued that the bald eagle was an evil disposed bird, getting his living by violence and rapine, and was therefore an unfit symbol of the country where even high-handed justice was to prevail. But the counter traits of the great bird, his dignity, his keen sight, his care for his young were the arguments which led to his adoption as the emblem of his country.

The Cahensly movement which is now attracting the attention of Roman Catholics throughout the world seems to us very much behind the times in its scope and purpose. Mr. Cahensly is the secretary-general of the St. Raphael's Society, the announced object of which is the care of the material, moral and religious interests of Roman Catholic immigrants of all nations in the United States. The society estimates that 16,000,000 souls have been lost to the church by reason of the absence of proper priests, etc. A petition has been sent to the Pope begging that the various nations sending immigrants shall be represented by bishops in the American hierarchy. These bishops would also have the material advantages of immigrants at heart, and would strive to keep alive the mother-tongue, the former customs and traditions. Cardinal Gibbons ably combats this. He states that the total loss to the church has been but three instead of sixteen millions, and that the preservation of language and customs are not possible in the United States, where all varieties of peoples are so quickly assimilated. Although the Pope has sided with His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, the St. Raphael Society has not lost hope, and its members persist in regarding the United States as they do the territories of Africa—as proper missionary fields.