

# 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.

A New Brunswick contemporary says:—"The common assertion that intoxicating liquor is the cause of nearly all crime, is scarcely susceptible of proof. Few, if any, of the recent murders in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and P. E. Island, are even indirectly traceable to the use of intoxicants, and some of the most brutal murders of the day are reported from the rural districts of Maine, where the liquor traffic is supposed to have been stamped out."

The Joggins affair is, it seems, a raft in spite of Mr. Robertson's assertions that it was a ship. Indeed it would appear to matter little what they call it; a compact mass of timber cannot be called a ship under any circumstances. The timber men are evidently quite unscrupulous in the matter, and apparently the wreck of a dozen ships, and the loss of their crews, would not cause them a moment's uneasiness, so long as they made profit out of their rafts. This is only one phase of the Dollar cult! This thing ought to be legislated against.

The Austrian Consul-General in London adverts to the popular notion on the continent that the United Kingdom has reached a period of commercial decline. He considers this notion erroneous. Continental people, he says, look to the success of certain countries in regions where England has been supreme, but the calculations are on a false basis. British merchants have been thoroughly aroused by the persistent representations of our consuls abroad, and have not failed in efforts to improve and regain their position in various ways with considerable success. Last year showed an increase in the export of metal manufactures and textile fabrics of about £7,000,000 stg. over the previous year. This, the Chevalier Von Kraff observes, shows anything but a state of decadence. He considers, however, that the country is on the high road to protection, and that a protective tariff is becoming a necessity. The resumption of protective duties in England would have an important bearing on Imperial Federation. England, under Free Trade, has no advantages to offer to the Colonies, with a protective tariff she would be in a position to discriminate in their favor against foreign countries.

If the Salvation Army behaves, as it is reported in a Miramichi paper to have done recently, it goes far to justify the Quebec Courts in deciding it to be a nuisance. Having frightened a horse to the extent of wrecking the carriage to which it was attached, throwing out the lady and gentleman driving in it, and seriously bruising and shaking them, the valiant Army is reported to have gone on drumming without the slightest regard to the mischief it had caused, in fact more vigorously than before the accident. Of course the injuries received might easily have been fatal.

A new and terrible era in the science of warfare is foreshadowed by a torpedo shell, which has lately been manufactured at Waterbury, Connecticut, for the dynamite gun invented by Captain Zalinski. This shell is made of seamless three-sixteenth inch brass, and has been drawn out cold by means of hydraulic pressure. It represents a cylinder nearly seven feet long, with a conical end, with an inside diameter of fourteen inches, and weighs two hundred pounds. This metal case is destined for the reception of six hundred pounds of explosive gelatine. The complete projectile will form an explosive mass of awful power, and one which no ship or fortification on shore could possibly withstand.

An article in the Philadelphia *Ledger* is headed—"How most people wrong their digestive organs in hot weather"—i.e., by eating too much, and of the wrong kind. It certainly seems doubtful whether we are to have any real hot weather this summer. Nevertheless, the mildest summer heat is a very different thing to the cold of winter, and we ought not to over-bank our internal furnaces with the solid fuel which properly counteracts the expenditure of vital heat in cold weather. Most of us probably eat more meat in hot weather than is good for us. A much more general attention to fruit as a regular article of summer food, would keep our systems more healthy, and our heads clearer, than a heavier diet. But fruit ought to be a good deal cheaper than it is.

Among other rumors concerning Stanley, is one that he is the Great White Pasha, whose arrival in the interior is agitating the Mahdi and his followers. It is feared that the first effect of disturbing the Mahdi's tranquility will be to make the lot of the unhappy Khartoum European prisoners worse than it is. Two letters (about the size of postage stamps) have been received by Dr. Junker, the great African traveller, the bearers of which risked their lives in conveying them. The cruel sufferings in which these poor people pass their miserable lives under every species of insult, should awaken the liveliest remorse in the wretched politicians who composed Mr. Gladstone's Government, caused the death of Gordon, and the misery of the survivors of the massacre. One of them is the widow of an Egyptian officer, who was killed. Four are Austrian and Italian Nuns, who have not been so badly treated beyond having been compulsorily married.

Both the Republican candidates, but especially General Harrison, are of historic family antecedents, a circumstance likely to be very much to their advantage in the Presidential campaign. Mr. Morton, the candidate for the Vice Presidency, is descended from Geo. Morton, one of the Puritan Fathers who landed at Plymouth in 1623, but General Harrison's ancestry is still more noted. He traces his descent from Major General Harrison, who, as a colleague of Cromwell, signed the death warrant of Charles 1st, and was duly hanged therefor by Charles 2nd, in the spirit of vindictiveness for the death of kings which in those days seemed the proper thing to carry out. Another ancestor was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and thrice Governor of Virginia; and his grandfather was that General Harrison, who, attaining the Presidency in March, 1841, died the following April. The present General Harrison, who served with distinction in the Civil war, has also been Governor of Indiana.

The Queen has intimated her intention of visiting Glasgow, in order to inspect the International, on her way to Balmoral in autumn. Nearly 40 years have now elapsed since the Queen paid her first and only visit to Glasgow. In the summer of 1847, along with the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess-Royal (Empress Dowager of Germany), Her Majesty made a tour round the West Coast of Scotland, and sailed up the Clyde as far as Dumbarton, where the Royal party landed and paid a visit to the Castle. Two years afterwards the Queen and Prince Albert made a second tour to the West of Scotland, having previously visited Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and the principal Irish ports, a visit never repeated, which has always impressed us as the most regrettable circumstance in H. M. reign. If the Queen had seen fit to establish a residence in Ireland, and stay there for a period every year, it might, and probably would have, made a very considerable difference to Irish feelings.