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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 sort of criminal," says the *Empire*, "who succeeds in going over the Falls in a barrel should be severely punished for the sin of returning alive in a world that already has more fools than it knows how to get rid of, but no mercy need be shown to the wretch who fastens in a barrel a creature as much more intelligent and valuable than himself as a Newfoundland dog, and sends him to his death."

One Alexander Sweet has been arrested at St. Croix, Nants, for maliciously destroying 71 young apple trees, belonging to David Scott of that place. We do not know at the time of writing whether the charge is proven, but the offence is of that dastardly nature that the perpetrator should be dealt with with the utmost severity the law will allow. Such a crime almost ranks with assaults on women, and the maiming of animals, and ought to be punished with the cat as well as imprisonment.

Prince Bismarck is said to be endeavoring to bring about a meeting of the three Emperors and their Chancellors with a view to the renewal of the Triple Alliance. It is, if the statement be correct, an endeavor to ensure peace, for which the Czar is probably at heart as desirous as any other European potentate, only that there is a turbulent element in Russia which it is difficult even to the autocrat of that country to hold in check. A renewal of the Triple Alliance would doubtless strengthen the hands of the Czar in his own dominions, it would keep France absolutely in check, and it is to be hoped that Prince Bismarck's endeavors may be successful.

We have always regarded the terse and condensed sentences of Macaulay as the model of style, which to approach should be the aim of every writer. We will not say to attain, for none save they who have tried know how difficult is even the endeavor. It was therefore with some pleasure that we recently noticed in the *Chronicle* the subjoined allusion to the subject: "Of the multitude of articles in the eighth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, most were re-written, and all were changed. In the ninth edition, with the sole exception of five articles on the lives of five eminent Englishmen, written by Lord Macaulay. Could a higher tribute be paid him as an author? And yet we have not lived the past year without hearing this author severely criticised, nor shall we probably live through this without witnessing some repetition of such imputations. Thus do vile flies bite the noble lion while other lions do him honor."

This machinery for "mobilizing" the fleet which assembled at Spithead in honor of the German Emperor was very complete and comprehensive, and resulted in an extraordinarily rapid commissionery and fitting for sea of a very large number of vessels. The review itself was calculated to convey a strong impression of the naval greatness of England.

If Confederation is looked at askance at one end of the Dominion it is regarded with a very different feeling at the other. The people of British Columbia have been celebrating the eighteenth anniversary of her entrance into confederation with much enthusiasm. Confederation has certainly been a great thing for British Columbia, and our friends of the Pacific province have good reason to regard it with favor, as have the eastern provinces if a section of their people could be persuaded to set aside the sullen dissent to an accomplished fact, which they have so unworthily and carefully hugged and cherished for two and twenty years.

The spell of Morpheus is broken, and Halifax has fairly shaken itself loose from the state of lethargy which for some years held it in thralldom. Halifax has this week taken a grand step forward, which has placed it a score or more years in advance of what it would have been had there been no summer carnival. Old Halifax is dead, and young Halifax has taken over the management of the affairs of the city, and now our citizens are alive to the necessity of standing shoulder to shoulder in advancing the interests of this Atlantic port, and in making Halifax not only the winter port of Canada but the ocean port for the greater part of the continent.

It has been long asserted and believed that the jury system would be improved by selecting "good" men to sit in the box, but this theory has received a severe blow in Trenton, Missouri. At the trial there of a man accused of a peculiarly cold-blooded murder, a "good man," a minister of the gospel was put in the box. The murder was proved clearly and beyond a doubt. Immediately after retiring eleven of the jurymen voted to convict the accused. The "Good" minister held out. He did not deny that the prisoner was guilty, but wanted to acquit him so that he could be reformed. It is safe to predict that no more experiments will be tried in that locality with "good" men on the panel.

Speaking of the evil enthusiasm with which the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec lashed themselves into a race and creed agitation fraught with mischief to the country, the North Sydney *Herald* aptly stigmatizes it as "the madness of the hour." Fortunately it is, as we believe, but for an hour. Yesterday was the date by which the Jesuit Act of Quebec should be disallowed if at all. Since we expressed the decided opinion that the Dominion Government would not for a moment entertain the idea of a veto, the opinion of the English Law Officers of the Crown has been received, and is in favor of the constitutional nature of the Act. The matter is therefore finally settled, and we hope we shall have heard the last of it.

With the view of keeping the subject before both the Educational Authorities and the Militia Officers of the Province, we extract the following paragraph from the *Militia Gazette*:—"Lord Wolseley is one of the most active promoters of the cadet movement in England. He considers the military training of boys to be of enormous advantage to them, and of the greatest possible use to the army. Such endorsement will be encouraging to those of our volunteer officers who have, as noted recently, been devoting themselves to training the boys of the high schools and other educational institutions." We have seen the working of the High School Cadet system in Ontario towns, and know it to be beneficial in every way. It is an aid to the habit of discipline, and lends a variety to scholastic pursuits, which is all the more desirable since the pupils like it and become thoroughly interested in it.

It is becoming more and more evident as time goes on that General Boulanger is not put together with quite the material of which heroes are made. The estimate of him formed by his countrymen is significantly indicated by the return of Boulangerist candidates in the recent elections for twelve constituencies out of twelve hundred. It is impossible to predicate what chances the whirligig of time may bring about, but it would at present seem to be almost certain that the rider of the black horse has almost irretrievably lost that prestige among his countrymen which is the imperative condition in France of political success. Indeed one of the most remarkable features of the day in that country is its apparent inability to produce, we will not say a great man—but even one of the moderately sterling character and ability to command the respect and adhesion of any considerable section of his compatriots.