

improvement at least be made. Let the asylum at Dartmouth be enlarged, or even let a new one be built in the west of Nova Scotia, but by all means let those horrible insanity-aggravating holes—the gaols and local asylums—be cleared of their insane inmates, and the efficient care of our insane be extended to all who need it. H. E. K.

FACTS ABOUT CAPE BRETON.

It is not true, as lately stated in a Fiction paper, that work has been entirely suspended at the Lingan Mine, C. B. The mine is still being successfully worked, and will be until exhausted.

The railway connecting the old Victoria Mine ("Hove's seam") Low Point, C. B., with Sydney Harbour, is very shortly to be extended back to a new and promising seam which has never been worked. Next year, Low Point will probably be a lively place, as the new colliery bids fair to become the foremost, on this Island of mines and minerals. If the new mine were in any part of the province other than Cape Breton, the proposed extension might be built at public expense. But mark how things have been done in Nova Scotia. Companies open coal mines in C. B.; all right; the coal sold here pays a handsome royalty to the provincial treasury; all right;—the companies have to build railways or they cannot ship from some of the best seams, and they do build them here at their own expense; all right;—if, however, a coal mine is to be opened in some other direction, say in Cumberland Co., then public monies are granted to "facilitate the development of a home industry"—\$125,000 in such an instance not being considered anything more than a trifling item; all right—*perhaps*—then up comes Cape Breton, saying: "We have built railways and opened our mines at our own expense; we have paid you royalties from our profits; with these royalties you have helped to open up elsewhere mines that compete with ours. Now we ask you to do something for certain mines in C. B. that we cannot well develop without your assistance—we ask you to do something to help us, but this, if done, will be of direct advantage to the whole Province." To this the Local Government says it cannot see how it can do anything—it has no precedent—nothing like it ever before in the country;—all wrong, wrong, WRONG. Gentlemen of the Local Government, do try for once to look soberly at this state of affairs. If you do not, we will remember to do so.

A CAPE BRETONIAN.

RANDOM ARROWS.

Your respected contemporary has shown great promptitude in appropriating what was by no means intended to refer exclusively to itself. However I have no reason to regret my solemnity in saying "an undisputed thing" as it has produced a very sensible and well written article, with far the greater part of which I agree absolutely.

I have certainly a higher opinion of Mr. Gladstone than of the personality of the Tory leaders; but the *Herald* cannot explore, or indeed be more disgusted with, the wretchedness of his foreign policy than I. But I am not green enough to ascribe the conciliatory attitude of the new government towards Ireland to any sound principle inherent in Conservatives. They have learned from Lord Beaconsfield the easy *compromis* of taking, when in power, the wind of reform out of the sails of the Liberals. England boasted at the time of the Phoenix Park murders that she did not lose her head. In point of fact she did. Had it not been for that disastrous crime, Mr. Gladstone would have seen his way to a more liberal and lenient treatment of Ireland, for no one can doubt that he has that course more at heart than the Tories, whose sympathies are the other way, and who are only carrying out the bargain for Parnellite support, and acting a part. Yet I think the result good, and the defeat of the Gladstone ministry a fortunate occurrence, if the new government can only rid itself of Russo-phobia.

The word "stuff" has been printed for "stuf," in the paragraph to which the *Herald* refers.

But why, dear friend, should a man tell a thing "soberly" only if it is "new"? May there not be truth in what may have been said before?

I did not charge the Press with "laboring under mistakes," but with an "affectation," and I did not presume even to hint at ignorance of English politics.

And, dear friend, (I like that term and am grateful for its suggestion) I know "there should be no horror of the word liberal in this country," and quite agree that it belongs as much to the Conservatives of Canada as to any other party in the State.

I do not know the nature of the discussion to which *THE CRITIC* refers as going on in England as to "Square" and "Line." Without further insight one would be apt to think the relative merits of those formations scarcely a subject admitting of much discussion. The application of tactics is eminently a matter of the adaptation by common sense of formations to circumstances, and the quickest perceptions of the necessities of the hour win the game. Arms of precision have not altered tactics very much, beyond forbidding masses, and lending encouragement to loose and extended formations. Strategy they have not touched.

Where armies are equal or nearly equal, especially where their flanks are protected, steady troops can fight with advantage in line. Where a civilized force of small numbers (as is almost always the case) is opposed to savage tribes, reckless in courage, and of greatly preponderating numbers, a battle can only be fought in square.

The military aptitude of savage leaders, or the traditional formations, of powerful tribes, often amount to instinctive genius for war, and lead them

to the formidable half-moon formation for attack. This can only be resisted in square. It would have been impossible for Lord Chelmsford to have fought the battle of Ulundi in any other way. The same conditions apply to recent actions in the Sudan. Waterloo, a typical hard-pounding battle, curiously enough, illustrates both formations, and their necessity according to circumstances. With flanks protected, it was essentially a "Line" battle, but the powerful French cavalry necessitated a frequent resort to Square. The French had the same experience again at the Mamelukes at the Pyramids.

But no great army could fight another great army in *any* great square, if that idea enters into the discussion. Army Squares can only be efficient against an inferior enemy. And then probably the army must be small, as at Ulundi. Moreover, unless a Square can be *surrounded* on three sides of a Square would do as well—better indeed, because the fourth side men would be to spare. The strength of a great army driven to square, is in squares of its units (as Battalion.) Waterloo is an illustration, as is also Arbela. The Macedonian Phalanx was a shallow square capable of any movement, as are our modern battalion squares, and Alexander's line at Arbela was, in fact, a line of regimental squares, with the interstices filled by light armed troops—skirmishers if necessary. As regards Line the tactical nationality has the advantage. We have never seen our equals at that formation. The Russians stand high for the stolid pluck which makes it possible to fight cheerfully in line. Probably the Germans of to-day are superior to them. At Gravelotte, a regiment of French Hussars stole round a hill and attacked the German skirmish-line fairly in its rear. The French cavalry was splendidly handled, but the Germans turned their flank about, and shattered the Hussars with a perfectly cool and deadly fire. The gallant Frenchmen lost a third of their number in killed, many more were taken by the advancing German supports and reserves, and a very small remnant only succeeded in getting back the way they came. None but perfectly trained and cool infantry could have performed such a feat.

The formations of Square are now clear enough. The Field Exercise of 1870 was a grand simplification. A number of the old showy but useless battalion formations were dismissed for ever. Previously it was necessary to form Column from Line before forming Square. Now Square can be at once formed from Line. Previously Square was formed on a front, on a central, or on the rear, company of a column, and the details were abominably complicated. Now Square is formed only on the leading company. I have never actually timed the movement, but I should think two minutes would suffice to throw a fairly-drilled battalion into square.

I am averse to an increase of Canadian Knighthoods, but it is impossible not to feel that, so long as such honors are current, Sir Adolphe Caron and Sir Frederic Middleton have both earned them by conspicuous merit. Sir Adolphe's management under so sudden and heavy a pressure, and General Middleton's solicitous care for his men's lives, as well as his general conduct of the campaign, are deserving of every recognition—some great military critics of the Press notwithstanding.

A friend of mine who has been denounced in an unscrupulous manner for corruption and malfeasance in office and has had an extensive vocabulary of abuse launched at his devoted head, meekly submits that he differs from the "Unjust Steward" in one respect—he certainly has not made friends of the mammon of unrighteousness. The unjust Stewart k'illy says he has, but it is evident that he has not.

According to the *Week* there appears to be an intimate connection between the Pall Mall's revelations and the Salvation Army—in fact that Mr. Stead has been "the tool of the astute Mr. Booth, who is in sad want of money." An appeal for funds appears in the *Gazette*, to be entrusted to one of the secret commission, to be left "unreservedly to his sole discretion," and no audit, accounts, or explanation are to be vouchsafed.

FRANC-TINKER.

COMMERCIAL.

SUGARS.—The market keeps quite steady. Prices are the same as they have been for the past two weeks, and there has been a steady demand, especially for the lower grades. Both the Halifax and Nova Scotia refineries appear to be working full time which should indicate a good trade. Porto Rico is comparatively higher than the refined, and the best of the preserving season having passed, there will not be so much demand for this kind.

MOLASSES.—The demand continues light, and stocks are rather heavy, but as soon as the cool weather comes—and that won't be long—much larger quantities will change hands. The favorite kinds are the Demerara and Trinidad, and the latter especially is turning out very satisfactory.

TEA.—Although the market here is quiet, there is quite a stir in the more important centres on account of the new crop. The finest cargo that arrived in London was immediately sold off, and we understand that the supply there, until lately, was hardly sufficient for the demand. Small lots continue to arrive by every freight steamer, and stocks here are comparatively light.

FLOUR.—The market is very quiet, and there does not appear to be any excitement whatever. Prices appear to have settled at last, and we don't anticipate any change for some time.

BUTTER continues to come in the market in small lots, and as the Canadian is still out of competition, good prices are maintained.

CHEESE is dull and has declined again lightly. We think this is a splendid time to lay in a supply, as prices are lower now than they likely will be for some time.