

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 his journal. Our readers are capable of judging or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after receiving due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

When the Maori chief of New Zealand was in England he promised the friends of temperance that he would, upon his return, cast in his influence against the devastations of strong drink. He has kept his promise so well that 11,559 of his people have become teetotallers, and now wear the blue ribbon.

It will indeed be good news to thousands of people if the report that a cure for consumption has been discovered, prove true. Dr. McLaughlin, of the Philadelphia Hospital, claims that the disease may be overcome by means of rectal injections of carbonic acid gas. Thirty patients in the last stages of consumption have already been cured, but whether the cure will prove permanent, time alone can prove.

The Russian catechism teaches the young Muscovites their duty towards the Czar. That duty as subjects of the Emperor includes—worship, obedience, fidelity, the payment of taxes, love and prayer. There are evidently many sinners in Russia who fail to carry out the precepts laid down in the national catechism, and these are being Siberianized by thousands; each year their number appears to be on the increase.

The British residents in India fear that the agitation for home rule now being made by the Hindoos may become widespread, and ultimately destroy British supremacy on the peninsula of Hindostan. They can, however, rest assured that for several generations to come, no British government will be prepared to endorse such a policy, as the Mohammedans in India would never consent to be governed by the Hindoo majority.

A new invention, called the graphophone, seems likely to overshadow the utility of its predecessor with the revised name of phonograph. Its construction is the work of Mr. Sumner Taintor, Prof. Alexander G. Bell, the inventor of the Bell telephone, and Dr. Chichester A. Bell, a prominent chemist. The graphophone is very simple, receiving the sound waves from the voice on a small preparation of wax and paraffine by means of a small point attached to the diaphragm of the machine. This wax and paraffine cylinder can then be utilized at any time to grind out a repetition of the songs, laughs, whistles, or speeches stamped upon it. It is reported to have worked very satisfactorily, and stenographers think that it will work a revolution in their business by doing away with the need of amanuenses. Two people miles apart in business or social connection, by possessing each a machine, can send the wax cylinder through the mail, and so converse with each other, while the probability of the price being low will make the graphophone easily obtainable.

The young Chinese Emperor, Kuang Hsu, who is only sixteen years old, formally assumed the reins of government on February 7. The same day that saw him installed in power also witnessed his marriage. From his time he is almost a prisoner of state, as etiquette forbids that he should venture outside his palace, or be looked upon by vulgar eyes.

The Times of India is responsible for the following:—"A little story comes to us from afar which shows how deftly modern science and modern appliances lend themselves to carry on rites and customs celebrated on the Ganges a thousand years ago. A sepoy died a long way from his home and country, and his caste fellows duly cremated him, and having done this, they went to the telegraphic office and wired as follows to his parents:—"Binda Persad died last night. Bones by post."

The minister of customs has relented, and has agreed that a traveller entering Canada by railway shall not have to swear that his wearing apparel is six months old, or that his trunks contain no dutiable goods. As heretofore the inspection of baggage will be left to the customs official but the traveller who comes by water will still be required to make oath that his boots are not new, and that his watch belonged to his grandfather. If the old method of examination did not prevent smuggling, the new method certainly will not.

So far the railways in this province have been of little practical benefit to the counties along the Atlantic sea-board, and we therefore heartily endorse the efforts being made by Mr. MacCoy, M.P., to have the great post roads east and west of Halifax placed directly under the control of the provincial government. A large portion of the money expended upon these roads is now practically wasted, owing to the incomplete manner in which the work is done, and hence their being placed under the control of the government should not involve a largely increased expenditure. Good post-roads, in the absence of railways, are absolutely essential.

The ladies of Halifax who are interested in the proposed Art School are certainly indefatigable. They do not intend to lose a single opportunity for obtaining funds for this memorial. Concerts, balls, and art exhibitions are on the tapis, and already a battalion of art-full matrons and maidens are soliciting subscriptions—"you must give something, you know, even if it is only five cents; but of course I would like to put your name down for a much larger sum." Is this a school of design? We are afraid so—but nevertheless we wish it success, and trust that every lady collector will have no trouble in filling her card with donations bearing this mark, &c.

The jubilee fever in England is just now at its height, but the tradesmen have no idea of the hospitals and other charitable institutions monopolizing all the benefits. Manufacturers of textiles are introducing jubilee dress material, the color being between flame and old gold. Jubilee biscuits are put up in palace-like tins, and jubilee brooches are very generally in demand. But the enterprise of these manufacturers is thrown into the shade by a London undertaker, who advertises neat jubilee coffins, and a grocer who offers for sale jubilee eggs. Coffins and eggs are well enough in their proper places, but what they have to do with the jubilee of our beloved Queen, would puzzle even Her Majesty.

Many are the anecdotes which are now being told about Henry Ward Beecher. The following is one that the famous preacher was fond of telling: "Speaking of clever things," said Mr. Beecher, "did you ever hear that good poem written twenty years ago on my name? Here, Ma (he always called Mrs. Beecher Ma), you read it to Perkins; I've forgotten the words." Mrs. Beecher smilingly put on her glasses, went to a drawer, took out a bit of paper, and laughingly read:—

"Said a great Congregational preacher
To a hen, 'You're a beautiful creature';
The hen, just for that,
Laid three eggs in his hat.
And thus did the hen reward Beecher."

In a letter written by Philip Gilbert Hamerton, occurs the following strange story: "Here is something new. A rich French count—Count de Chardonnet, who lives at Gergy, on the banks of the Saône, near Chalons, has recently perfected a most wonderful discovery. He replaces the silk-worm by a machine which digests certain common substances and afterwards gives off real silk in great quantities—sixty threads at once. The silk so produced can be treated in all respects for manufacture exactly like worm-silk, from which it is indistinguishable. It can be manufactured into velvet, etc. The food of the machine includes rags of different kinds, old newspapers, and even sawdust. The digested solution is forced by hydraulic pressure into a tube, out of which it issues by a number of invisible orifices in India-rubber nozzles, and thence, after passing through water, it is wound off upon a reel. I have examined specimens which have all the gloss and all the strength of worm-silk. My wife says it is not an imitation of silk at all, but real silk produced in a new manner. A peculiar advantage is that it can be dyed while in a liquid state before it becomes a thread."