

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 Notes, 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 reading due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The California papers are strong against the abominable principle of clotting.

Canadian 3½s. stand at 103½, and 4s. at 109. There is no index surer in the money market.

The Sandwich Islands seem to be for sale, and the States perturbed Germany should purchase!

The St. John "Sun's" description of the elaborate military ceremony "Trooping the Colors" is as correct as, and more graphic than, the "old exercise" under that heading.

At a meeting of the Imperial federation league, held last week at Ottawa, Chas. Tupper and Mr. Freeman, M.P., stated that they intended forming such leagues in this Province.

Miss Machar, the well-known "Fidelis," has taken the \$100 prize offered by the "Week" for the best Jubilee poem. Readers of the old "Canadian Monthly" will remember much of her charming writing.

The Ottawa "Evening Journal" remarks with some justice that "it is fortunate that the Liberal papers of the country from Halifax to Winnipeg are not up to threats of rebellion whenever the Dominion Government, in guarding the interests of the country at large, happens to tread on the corns of one portion of it." We have expressed our regret at the exasperating nature of the Canadian Pacific authorities; but it remains true that too much talk is inexpedient.

Is there nothing new under the sun? Sometimes it seems there may be. An interesting and decidedly novel incident marked the last trip of the "Flagship" to the tropics. This was nothing less than the meeting of the British Admirals of the Atlantic and Pacific at the central point of the city of Mexico, Admiral Lyons being at Vera Cruz, went up to Mexico by rail. Sir Michael Culme-Seymour happened to be in his flag-ship at Capulco, and travelled 250 miles over land (not by rail for there is none in that direction) to meet his brother commander-in-chief in Mexico. The Mexicans, of course, fancied there was some deep political significance in the meeting. Equally, of course, there was really none. But the occurrence was remarkable.

Toronto has an anti-street-car crusade. The "Week," while thinking that much may be said on both sides as regards taking folks to church, opposes the crusade on common sense and humane grounds, in the interests of hard-worked people who want to get out to the suburbs on Sunday.

The new universal language, Volapük, has found favor in the eyes of Count Von Moltke, and has been extensively taken up and studied. Two thousand pupils are said to have received instruction in Vienna alone. The name of the paper which is its organ, the *Volapükajased*, has, however, a rather daunting appearance.

The St. John "Globe" seems inclined to depreciate the Dominion expenditure on public works and buildings in that city, and desires permanent remunerative employment for surplus labor. "Confederation"—the "Globe" says—"was to develop our natural resources . . . and to build up our city." Well, the developing of natural resources is a large, and perhaps rather vague, subject; but surely, by the "Globe's" own shewing, something has been done towards building up the city, and the "Globe" admits that while works are in progress the spending of the money is "of some service."

The bad taste of the baser sort of American is becoming phenomenal. General Fairchild dishonors himself, his profession, and his great country by his blasphemous ravings about the southern flags. And now, one O'Reilly roars, "May my tongue cleave to my mouth if I ever speak a word for man or cause in Faneuil Hall again!" all because a few Englishmen met to shew their respect for a venerable lady who, as the "Herald" says, "has borne herself becomingly for fifty years in a position of stupendous cares and responsibilities." Undoubtedly there are men born into the world without capabilities of shame or decency! This gentry succeeded in breeding riots in Boston.

A Birmingham paper reports a novel experiment with the telephone. A letter was received by a firm of music dealers, asking them to send an organ to suit a pianoforte to a room where a concert was to take place that night. The firm was totally at a loss to know the precise tone of the piano, and consequently despaired of being able to comply with the demand in time. However, much to their surprise, they found that they could communicate through the telephone. Forthwith the firm asked that one of the notes of the piano should be struck. When this was done the sound could be heard in their store, and by reducing the pitch pipe the exact tone was obtained, and an instrument of the correct pitch was then easily selected.

We have to thank several contributors for articles for which it has lately been found impossible to find space—for poetry we had none at all last week, and, with all delicacy, we feel bound to tell kindly-intentioned poetical contributors, that we cannot insert verses of patently unscannable make. Mr. F. Blake Crofton has an article in the "Week" on "Some Striking Terms," characterized by his usual research, a good deal of his usual wit, and a pleasant spice of national assertion. The title is itself a play on meanings. Amongst many hard-hitting words Mr. Crofton gives us "b-sh," now dictionaryed, and illustrates it by the west-country version of a familiar proverb:

"A woman, a whelp, and a walnut-tree,
The more you bark them the better they be."

The article is well worth reading, as is also a recent one in the "Herald" on the future of Canada. We wonder if this latter will serve as another illustration of our opinion that the independent thinker is more or less muzzled?

It is very painful to those (whose name is legion) who have for years cherished the profound conviction that Mr. Gladstone was pre-eminent among politicians for lofty conscientiousness, to observe the growing distrust of the sincerity of his professions manifested by men of the highest rank. A recent weekly issue of the "Times" contains three letters from the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Bright, and Professor Tyndall respectively, which only too forcibly confirms the opinion which is inevitably forcing itself on impartial observers, that the venerable statesman's craving for power and popularity has really overbalanced his higher instincts. Mr. Bright's last letter is more severe than any which have preceded it, and none can doubt how painful to him, as a consistent friend of Ireland, it must be to differ so seriously with Mr. Gladstone as to the mode of redressing the grievances of that country. Mr. Gladstone's recent course of proceedings in Wales does not tend to reassure his well-wishers. We are inclined to believe that some kind of Home Rule might not be a bad thing even for that principality, but her population is only about 1,300,000, and there is no really strong sentiment among them on the subject. Mr. Gladstone, however, endeavors to create, not a moderate one, but one tinged with the bitterness which his demagogic appeals and perversions of history are well calculated to inspire. The predictions of some eminent men many years ago, as to the firebrand Mr. Gladstone would probably prove himself to be, are certainly in course of being justified.