

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## THE CRITIC,

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hundreds, yes thousands of Nova Scotians have relatives living in the Canadian North-West, in the United States, and in other parts of the world. To all such we would suggest the advisability of making the absent ones happy at Christmas, by sending them as a present, THE CRITIC newspaper for one year, INCLUDING THE CHRISTMAS EXTRA. Imagine the delight of the absent sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, upon receiving their first regular copy of such a home journal. THE CRITIC will be mailed direct from the office to the address of any person in Canada or the United States at the regular subscription rate of \$1.50 per annum.

Writing paper of a reddish hue is now fashionable in New York. The craze, however, is not likely to become popular, as people do not care to have their letters red before they are written.

The present Minister of the Interior of the United States, like his predecessor, thoroughly believes in hastening the development and advancement of a country by means of encouraging railway and manufacturing enterprises. So do we.

It may be right, but is it not somewhat anomalous to find so many millions of dollars annually spent in Foreign Missions while thousands of poor heathens at home are neglected, to find thousands of missionaries to foreign lands paid remarkably comfortable salaries, while thousands of clergymen at home are sorely stinted?

As already noted, St. Paul, Minn., and Ottawa, bid fair to snatch the honey flowing from the frequenters of ice-carnivals from pock-marked Montreal. Was it never, is it not now, possible for Halifax to be a competitor in this business? It is believed by some that the rush to ice-carnivals is only beginning, and is likely to become greater year by year.

Our cousins over the border have a bad habit of chewing tobacco, which is said to account for their lack of flesh. The women of the Southern States are said to be inveterate chewers of gum, which has a tendency to fatten those who use it. Such habits, however, are exceedingly vulgar, and only serve to increase the cheek of the man and the jaw of the woman.

Clemenceau is no doubt one of the most eloquent and energetic of the men that to-day figure in the politics of France. He is, however, a radical of radicals. This was clearly shown when he insisted upon an amnesty being granted to the leaders of the communistic insurgents of 1870. His action in this connection may be yet productive of important undesirable results, for fourteen of these amnestied enemies of law and order are among the recently elected French deputies.

The deposits in the Post-Office and Dominion Savings' Bank, now amount to \$33,000,000. The fact is creditable to the people of Canada, but it is doubtful whether it is advantageous to the business of the country. The Montreal *Journal of Commerce* believes that the high interest offered by the government has reduced many capitalists to use the Savings' Banks, who would otherwise seek investments in commercial channels.

The pretty town of Truro aspires to become the Guelph of Nova Scotia. Truro has made a good start, but she has many competitors in the race, and if she does not look sharp, Windsor, Antigonish, or some other enterprising place will be carrying off the laurels she covets. The Truro people must first decide definitely as to their preference for the long or short horn. Why do they halt between two opinions?

Khartoum, upon which the attention of the civilized world was centred for many months, is now deserted, and the grass now grows on the streets of the city which the noble Gordon so gallantly defended. Its inhabitants have all removed to Ondarman, in which are buried the remains of the prophet El Mahdi. Ondarman has already been visited by thousands of pilgrims, and promises ere long to become a second Mecca.

The London *Figaro* is writing down the game of foot-ball as being one of the most brutal and inhuman pastimes of the age. Success in foot-ball matches appears to depend more upon the brute force of the individual members of the clubs than upon the skill of the players. Perhaps some of the young men who have been bruised, or mayhap seriously injured during the present season can, from experience, speak feelingly upon this question.

Sir Frederic Roberts is recognized to be Britain's most brilliant military commander. His generalship has been acknowledged in the most flattering manner by the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Napier, Lord Wolseley, and the Lord Mayor of London. General Roberts will have the command of the Indian army during the next five years, and this fact will be regarded by Britishers with satisfaction the wide world over.

The meanest man on earth is said to reside in the North of London. Not many months since, his only child, a daughter, visited the paternal mansion with her husband and remained for several days. Before leaving, the old man presented his son-in-law with a bill amounting to three pounds for board and lodging. The young man paid the account, but in future he will spend his holidays elsewhere.

Previous to 1867, British Honduras was regarded as an unknown land. Its mahogany and logwood timber areas were in the hands of monopolists, and the country was generally considered of little value. During the past few years a number of retired soldiers have taken up lands in the interior, at the nominal price of one dollar per acre; these lands are said to equal in fertility the favored uplands of Jamaica, and the colony now promises to attract a large number of settlers.

Halifax girls are not, as a rule, accused of pedantry, but when one of them stated that she was as shy as a Kubu, she laid herself open to the charge of having blue-stocking proclivities. If the young ladies of this class desire to act in all respects like the Kubus of Sumatra, they must be prepared to announce their willingness to complete all their bargains, matrimonial and otherwise, by the beating of the tom tom. How many of our readers have ever studied the habits of the Kubu tribe?

Exporters of American wheat are considerably alarmed at the increasing competition of Indian wheat growers in the European markets. On the same day of last September, Indian wheat sold in London for 89 cents, and American wheat brought 97 cents in New York. This year's Indian harvest yielded 286,000,000 bushels of wheat, and the average is being constantly increased. Add to this the fact that labor costs only half as much in India as in America, and you have probably enough to offset the difference in the carriage and in the quality of the wheat.

Thanks to her brave Hovas, and the fever-stricken climate of the coast, the Queen of Madagascar has so far been able to keep at bay the French dogs of war. Now, however, a new danger arises. A retired French officer living in the Transvaal, offers to raise an army of Boers and Africans to continue the war, provided the French government supplies arms, ammunition, and pay. If the pay were in advance, the Christian Queen might rest content. As it is, it is doubtful whether a force sufficiently large to cope with the Hovas can be gathered in the Transvaal district.

It must be admitted by every right-thinking mind, that it is the bounden duty of all heads of families to have, at least, a small amount of life insurance secured to their dependent families. We have no doubts as to our line of duty in earnestly recommending all who may have pressing responsibilities resting upon them, to secure a small amount of life insurance in some good and reliable company. We have known scores of cases in which families and dependents have been rescued from want, and perhaps poverty, by making a timely investment in life insurance.