

# THE CRITIC:

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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.

We regret to notice a description of a regular match for \$50 a side in the shape of a fight between two noted dogs at Buffalo. As the fight lasted an hour and seven minutes it is to be hoped the worse brutes who organized and witnessed it had their disgusting instincts fairly gratified. We congratulate ourselves that we no longer bait bears and bulls, and that we abhor Spanish bull fights, but these are no whit more brutal than dog fights and cock-fights. Surely the animal creation suffers enough from its own nature, and from unthinking and passionate human cruelty, without mankind adding to the sum of misery by deliberately planned exhibitions of brutality transcending the worst of animal instincts.

For some years the public attending the Public Gardens on Saturday afternoons through the summer had the pleasure of listening to music by one of the Military bands garrisoned here. This has been discontinued this year, to the disappointment of many hundreds of citizens and outside visitors. An arrangement, it would seem, might be made with the three Military bands to play alternately for the few weeks of summer that we enjoy. The pleasure could not be great, while the enjoyment afforded to promenaders would be much enhanced.

Passing by our citizens, there are probably a thousand strangers sojourning with us, for whom we make no exertion to provide amusement. It is true there are picnics, so called, occasional excursions, and two or three times in the season a public concert in the Gardens. We believe that it would be a wise idea to arrange for a series of weekly concerts there, at which a small entrance fee might be charged. The receipts would, doubtless, suffice to pay the necessary expenses. The Gardens are now closed every evening at an early hour, consequently those engaged at their various labors all day have no opportunity of enjoying the pleasures of either sight or sound.

We observe that a band stand has been erected in the grounds of the Province Building, we presume by the Department of Works and Mines. It is to be hoped that advantage should often be taken of it, and we do not doubt the necessary arrangements will be made by the Commissioner.

We are somewhat amused to learn that the *Toronto Mail* is fulminating against prayers for rain, and indeed as we gather, against prayer in general, as futile to influence the course of events determined by the laws of nature. About eight years ago the *Mail* was seized with an alarming fit of orthodoxy, which was very ably, tho' very ostentatiously, paraded by a gentleman whose studies were known to have been heterodox as well as orthodox, if not more so; and whose college career had not been exactly one of "fasting and prayer." It is pretty well known that this gentleman's clever and versatile pen is as readily available for King Stork as King Log. About the time mentioned it reaped much cheap glory from the unread orthodox, by the aid of Bishop Lightfoot, at the supposed expense of Dr. Newman, the author of "Supernatural Religion," and it is quite possible that it is the same pen which is now trying it on, by way of a new sensation, on another lay.

The *Chronicle* of Monday has a wholesome article on the punishment by the cat of "one of those human beasts" for whose outrages that instrument is the only fit punishment. As usual the miser-able hound yelled and screamed, yet we would be bound that his 25 lashes were not laid on as they used to be in the Army and Navy, in the latter by stalwart Boatswain's Mates, and in the Cavalry by muscular and vigorous farriers, for far less outrageous offences. We recently saw allusion to this case as "the awful punishment." We do not consider it at all "awful," but just fit and proper. Let us as the *Chronicle* says put aside all maudlin sentimentality. Old women of both sexes can bestow their compassion on its proper objects, the victims of these ruffians, etc., and in cases of murder, on the murdered, not on the murderer. If the sensual orang-outangs who assault young girls once realize that the goddess Bast is the inexorable Nemesis this dastardly crime will cease out of the land.

It is probable that the rumors about the Behring Sea trouble are by no means correct. We trust the American Government really has consented to refer the claims of Canadian Sealers to arbitration. As regards its alleged withdrawal of American claim to exclusive jurisdiction it is as well to remember that no such claim has been specifically put forth. The action of the U. S. Government has been one of reticence and delay rather than refusal, and there may be good reason for it, both in the exigencies of the present political situation, and in the limit of time of the Alaska Company's agreement. On the other hand it is not easy to believe that the British Government would at this stage complicate matters by threats of recapture of vessels seized by American revenue cruisers outside the three mile limit. Such a course would only embarrass the President while it may be pretty safely assumed that the seizures have been corruptly made in the interests of the Company without sanction by the U. S. Government.

The great Globe which is to be constructed for the Paris Exhibition of next year, and is to be placed in the Champ de Mars, is commonly spoken of in the press as if it were a novelty. It is not entirely so. Thirty years ago there was erected a great Globe in Leicester Square in London. It did not exceed, so far as we remember, within some ten or more degrees of the South Pole, and not quite up to the North. The lands, etc., which were raised, with fiery tips to the volcanos, etc., were delimited on the inside. On the ground floor you walked round a little below the latitude of Cape Horn, and there were two balcony galleries of considerable height above, one taking the spectator round a little below the equator, and the upper one above the middle of Europe. Its height must have been about forty feet. The diameter was perhaps not quite so great as that of the proposed Paris Globe which is to be about thirteen yards, but it could not have been much less. Cities, etc., were distinctly discernible with some proportion as to size. It did not turn on its axis as the Paris one is to do, but it was extremely interesting and the visitor was much struck with the enormous expanse of the Southern Ocean. It was eventually pulled to pieces, which we always thought was a great pity.

## THE FARM AND THE FACTORY.

"The farming population of Canada represents millions; the manufacturing population represents a few thousands," is the broad statement contained in an article in the *Chronicle* of the 19th ult. ("The Farmer in Politics.") Much that is advanced in that article is not to be disputed. Inasmuch as no man, manufacturer or otherwise, and no beast, manufacturer's horse or merchant's horse, or his ox, or his ass, or anything alive that is his, can live and work without food, no one will be found to deny that agriculture is the basis of the body politic. The drift of the contention is of course to promote the creation of a sentiment in favor of "unrestricted reciprocity" with the United States. The chief objection, and it is a very