

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.

Apropos of the fruit prospects, the caterpillar seems to be getting in his work early this year, and if efficient means are not speedily employed to destroy this pest the fruit crop may be short after all. Let us hope that our farmers will not put off taking precautions against the danger until it is too late.

The Toronto *Globe* of last Saturday contained the alleged portraits of several members of the Nova Scotia Government. The *Globe* artist has used them very badly, and certainly the gentlemen whose names were printed under those pictures—we cannot call them likenesses—will not feel flattered. Oh, save us from our friends!

Halifax is now no longer a city of electric dark after nightfall. The lights are now run in a very satisfactory manner, and the streets are quite brilliant. On Monday evening the new works of the Halifax Illuminating and Motor Company were inspected by several members of the Local Government and Legislature, City Council and civic officers, some of the directors of the Halifax Gas Light Company, and many prominent citizens. A tour was made of the city, and great satisfaction was expressed with the service. After the drive and inspection of the works on Moren's wharf was over, the guests partook of refreshments, and made speeches congratulating the Company on the efficient way in which the city is lighted.

The protest of a prominent Methodist minister, during the recent annual Conference at Montreal, against the order of official precedence established in Canada is worthy of consideration. There does not appear to be any logical reason why a bishop or archbishop should take precedence of the President of the Methodist Conference or the Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly. No doubt an established rule in matters of this kind is an assistance to the Master of Ceremonies at any function, but that seems to be the only excuse for it. It is not probable that there will be much controversy over it as the spectacle of spiritually minded men scrambling for place and precedence would be anything but edifying. The better way would be to do away with distinctions in Canada altogether, instead of trying to follow the custom of Great Britain, where it is necessary on account of church dignitaries being state officials.

"The prospects for our fruit crop now appear to be excellent. The trees are one mass of bloom and present a beautiful appearance, while the air is laden with the sweet perfume of the blossoms. Let those who will rave about the beauty of the orange groves of Florida; for our part we do not believe that anything could be more perfectly charming than a drive through our beautiful Annapolis Valley at this season of the year. It is a wonder to us that we do not have more visitors at this season. Our city friends would find the country particularly pleasant just now, and we feel sure if they knew how beautiful it was we would have plenty of them with us to enjoy it." The Wolfville *Acadian* contained the foregoing remarks, and we quite agree with it in thinking that the valley is lovely at this season, and would add that while the gulf ice hovers around the coast, making the air chilly, that it would be a beneficial change for anyone who can find it convenient to go inland.

Higher education is a fine thing for a country, and it is encouraging to see our high schools and colleges turning out young men and women well equipped for the battle of life in the particular sphere they have chosen, but this does not do for everyone. It will not do for all to press forward to the height of their ambition, some must look down—down at the fruitful earth and our rich mines, and devote their attention to cultivating the soil and bringing the treasures of gold, coal, iron, etc., forth from their hiding places. Children at school should be often reminded that all the wealth that is obtained in this life is drawn from the bosom of mother earth. The school-books should impress this more upon the minds of the pupils, and they ought to be taught especially the capabilities of our own country, and urged to study the practical sciences rather than dead languages and other branches of "higher education," which, although they are of value to literary and professional men, are not necessary elements in the education of a farmer or a mining engineer.

We have frequently had to defend ourselves from the charge of being a Tory paper, which some of our contemporaries are in the habit of denominating us when they do us the honor to quote our remarks. That this is unfair anyone who reads our pages must acknowledge, and we are glad when we see our fair-minded contemporaries quote from "THE CRITIC, an independent newspaper," which is as it should be. The Liberal press have recently been crying out against the injustice done them by many Liberal-Conservative organs in styling them "blue ruin" and "country going to the dogs" papers. This is quite on a par with the papers which call THE CRITIC a Tory newspaper, and we wish our friends would take notice. We are sorry to see one section of the press abusing another, with no result but the multiplying of words and gratifying their quarrelsome propensities. We have been pleased to notice for some time past that Liberal papers, at least all those worthy of the name, have been doing all in their power to influence young people to stay at home and use their abilities for the benefit of Nova Scotia. Most of them have the right ring about them, and we are glad to see the "blue ruin" element conspicuous by its absence.

The recent outbreak against foreigners in Japan has been quite a painful surprise to those who looked upon the Japanese as a progressive people. They have been so ardent in their admiration of European habits and customs that they have adopted many of them in undue haste, as for instance, the introduction of European dress. An amusing story about the Empress has been going the rounds of the newspapers recently. It is said she had a complete set of garments, such as worn by Parisian ladies, put up and sent to her in the order in which they were to be worn. Unfortunately the address was put on the bottom of the case, and consequently the last came first, and *vice versa*. The Empress was delighted, and proceeded to array herself in the Paris gown, *etcetera*, the *etcetera* going on outside. In this get up she drove out to call on the wife of the ambassador, who had been kind enough to order the dress for her. This is probably untrue, but many things quite as ridiculous have occurred, and it has seemed as if they could not get Europeanized quickly enough, so anxious were they to adopt all western customs. The Rev. Dr. Summers, who occasioned the outbreak recently, by a fancied lack of respect as the cortege of the Empress passed, has been obliged to leave the country, and Mr. Imery, a teacher in a Japanese school, was seriously injured in the scuffle which took place because he tried to save time by scrambling over a bank in order to see a ball game between his scholars and those of another school, instead of going in by the regular entrance. In this case his own pupils defended him. If Japan really wants to take her place among nations, as it would appear she does, such treatment of foreigners must be put a stop to at once.