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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 exercising their own judgment, and after exercising the same as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is not considered probable that Lieut. Stairs will visit Halifax this year, owing to the difficulty of obtaining long leave. Lieut. Stairs has been appointed Adjutant to the Engineers at Aldershot, a post hitherto not held by anyone under the rank of Major.

One of the numbers of our staff, who has just returned from a vacation trip to Boston, had the pleasure while there of being a guest at the meeting of the New England Woman's Press Association, held in the Parker House on Wednesday, May 21st. In another column may be found an account of the proceedings, which will be of interest to many, more especially our lady readers, in whom we would like to arouse an interest in what women are doing in newspaper work.

Some alarm is felt as to the manner in which working men would spend their leisure hours, should the eight hour movement be generally adopted; but it must be remembered that the reduction of labor hours from twelve to ten per day has led to a steady improvement in the mental status of the working classes. Even with the longer hours great intellectuality has been attained, as witness the achievements of Burritt, the blacksmith, and Hugh Miller, the stone mason, and who will dare say that with greater leisure there will not be a still more marked uplifting of the toiling masses.

The irrepressible Mr. Wiman has appeared at Waterloo, Ontario, where, if despatches are to be relied upon, he made a speech advising the electors of the Dominion to vote the Liberal ticket as the best means of securing unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. If the Liberals are so foolish as to adopt Mr. Wiman as a champion they are likely to meet with a Waterloo defeat, as the arguments used by him to advance his pet scheme in Canada are the opposite in many respects to those used for the same purpose on the other side of the line. The Dominion Government has done all that it honorably can do to secure reciprocity, but all its overtures have so far been rejected by the ruling powers in the United States. The outcry in a portion of the press of the Dominion for reciprocity at any cost only weakens the chances of obtaining it, as it strengthens the opinion in the States that the advantages are entirely on the side of Canada, and furnishes the opponents of the measure with a strong argument against negotiating any reciprocal treaties with the Dominion.

It appears to us that the European war cloud which has supposedly been hanging about ever since the Franco Prussian struggle, is a sensational myth, and is likely to disappear without serious damage. At least this is the opinion of Von Moltke, who, at the ripe age of four score and ten years, declares that the next European war will be a war of the people against Emperors, Kings and Statesmen, which being interpreted, means the setting up of European Republics. Von Moltke may be able to look back for nearly a century, but whether he is far sighted as to what is yet to take place will have to be left to posterity to decide.

Very many references have been made in our daily contemporaries to the new City Hall, in which some irresponsible nameless persons have come in for a large share of blame, owing to the alleged unsuitability of the building for the purposes of Civic government. Last week the City Hall was formally opened by an extensive "At Home," given by His Worship Mayor McPherson, and the public were given an opportunity of sitting in the Aldermanic chairs and testing the comfort of the wooden lounges in the cells of the Police Station; and the public have come to the conclusion that, notwithstanding the adverse criticism of faddists, Halifax has now a commodious and elegantly furnished City Hall, of which any city might justly be proud.

The citizens of Halifax united in August of last year in carrying out a most successful Summer Carnival, and every Halifax citizen felt a justifiable pride in the result. The attractions of Halifax were made known to many thousands of strangers, and the reputation of the city was changed from one of supposed sleepiness and inactivity to one of wide-awake enterprise. So far, so good, but when we dance we should pay the piper. \$1,500 of unpaid bills from the Carnival account are now in the hands of the committee, and the treasury is dollarless. For the credit of the city an earnest effort must be at once made to settle all outstanding, and whether this be done by private subscription or by the City Council, it should be done promptly and heartily.

Stanley's protest against the aggressive attitude of the Germans in Africa has drawn out a reply from the Marquis of Salisbury, who treated the latter's remarks "in a bantering manner," and gave assurances that the interests of England in the dark continent were being looked after. Care had to be taken that injustice should not be done to the various trading companies now operating in Africa, and due respect paid to treaty rights. All these matters require time to enquire into, but a satisfactory solution of the difficulties would soon be arrived at. The Marquis of Salisbury's prompt reply to Stanley proves the great popularity of the latter in England, where his utterances have put the leader of the Government on the defensive, and forced him to "rise and explain."

Nova Scotia's freedom from destructive storms is readily becoming noteworthy. Not since the Saxby gale has there been a storm of any magnitude, while our less fortunate neighbors to the south are continually suffering from blizzards, floods, water-spouts, electrical storms and hurricanes, and the loss of life and property from these causes alone is simply appalling. Our fortunate situation in regard to the great air currents constantly circulating around the globe is the easily explained cause of this immunity, as storms frequently start from our coasts, or have spent their fury before they reach us, proving, as far as atmospheric disturbances are concerned, that we are in a pleasantly neutral position. Not the least of the blessings of life in Nova Scotia is the feeling of perfect security from loss or damage by any great convulsion of nature.

The rumor that Prince Albert Victor of Wales has returned from India with a determination to marry his cousin, Princess Mary of Teck, in defiance of the Queen, who says very positively that he shall never have his wish while she lives, seems to be bringing things to a climax in the Royal family. It is stated that the belligerent Prince has made a suggestion as to a settlement of the important question, which his perplexed relatives eagerly welcome. It is to the effect that if he be allowed to marry the lady of his choice, he will waive his right, as eldest son of the Prince of Wales, to the Throne of England, provided ample allowances are settled upon him. In view of the fact that Prince George is much stronger, mentally and physically, than the heir presumptive, it would seem to be a good idea that he should have the preference, but if reports are true, the Princess Mary of Teck does not reciprocate the affection of her Royal lover, in which case, if the lady has a will and a wont of her own, Prince Albert Victor may prefer to keep possession of what he already has, rather than transfer his right of succession to his brother. The Princess of Wales is said to take the part of her eldest son in this matter.