

# THE CRITIC:

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## 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.

What is our Knightly Minister of Militia doing towards the end of having such an amount of proper equipments at every divisional head quarters that at least two battalions should be enabled to take the field serviceably equipped at three days notice?

Says the *Canadian Trade Review*. "The Canadian Pacific road is preparing, it is asserted, to build wharves and elevators at Portland Me., in anticipation of making that city its Atlantic seaboard port." If this be true, is it not because no strong and united effort is ever made on behalf of Halifax that she is always passed by?

The movement of the Mormons towards Mexico is assuming large proportions. They have bought from private persons large tracts of good agricultural lands in the valley of Casas Grande River, and are negotiating for more. Several flourishing villages exist in the neighborhood already, the principal one being called Porfirio Diaz.

At a meeting of the City Council last Friday Alderman Mosher gave notice of a resolution that the Recorder prepare a bill for submission to the legislature enacting that the government of the city be placed in the hands of a Mayor and six commissioners, one for each ward. This movement is in the direction indicated in THE CRITIC some weeks ago, and we consider it would be a great improvement, and might put an end to the unseemly squabbles that discredit the present confused and unnecessary representation.

Politics in France are evidently approaching a crisis. The action of the Cabinet indicates the imperfection of the constitution, and it seems likely that Boulanger's plan to propose no plan of revision, but convoke the electors to return a special Congress to deal with the whole situation, will find favor, especially among the peasantry, who will kick at the disguised income tax foreshadowed by M. Floquet. Meantime French finances are in a discouraging state, and the Navy has been by no means kept up to the increase accomplished by the British and Italian admiralties. A political crisis is quite on the cards, and it seems altogether probable that General Boulanger will come to the front as the most prominent figure whenever it comes to a head.

The *Dominion Illustrated* gave us last week a charming portrait of Lady Stanley. We hope this new departure will be followed up with a long series of likenesses of ladies prominent in the various centres of society in the Dominion. We have had an extensive assortment of masculine portraits. Let us have some ladies to brighten the series. We are glad to notice an increased clearness of engraving in some of the landscapes, which for a time were a little blurred. But the *Dominion Illustrated* is a most valuable effort of journalism.

The educated Hindoo of Bengal is suffering to an extent which excites alarm from diabetes. Climate, food, and his daily avocations are against him. The present generation is altogether too sedentary. Their forefathers were much given to horse exercise, walking and wrestling, and an authentic story is told of a young man who purchased a fine horse which threw him several times. His septuagenarian father said "That lad must be very lax not to be able to keep his seat on a horse; I will try him." The old gentleman rode the horse for a week and then returned it to his son, saying "it was but a little neighing—a pleasant hack to ride, as tame as a lamb." There is in fact nothing like esquetrian exercise for keeping the liver in order.

When the Persian Satrap Mardonius, about 480 B. C., formed a plan for detaching Athens from the interests of the other Great States, the Athenians returned to his emissary the manly answer that, "so long as the sun held in its course, Athens would never become the ally of Persia." Athens was but a small republic, a city more noted for culture than for population, with a territory no larger than a good-sized Canadian County. Yet Athens kept at bay, and routed in two great battles, one by land and one by sea, the mighty power of "the great king," besides dominating all Greece for nearly 100 years. In her greatest contests Athens, despite her generally glorious patriotism, was continually baffled by self-seeking traitors among her own sons, and received the blow at Syracuse, which crippled her supremacy, through the machinations of Alcibiades. Is there any resemblance between Athens and Canada?

Mr. Sumichrast's letter in the *Chronicle* of Monday is unusually interesting (which is saying a good deal) from its comprehensive grasp of the moralities (or want of moralities) of the Great Election. It is pleasant to find it stated that "the one voice raised in the press in strong and earnest condemnation of the rascality of the republican plotters in the Sackville episode, was that of an Irishman" who, though opposed to the British administration, was too honorable to condone the disreputable electing dodge. But, says Mr. S., "the standard of American morality is singularly low. The successful rascal is looked up to, is honored, is applauded. An American resident in Halifax told me he admired a successful thief on a large scale, for a man must be smart to steal a lot of money." Of course thousands of honorable Americans are as disgusted as ourselves. Nevertheless Canadians had better stick to Canada.

There is a good deal more patriotism manifested by Canadians living in the United States, and by the Press which worthily represents them, than by a section of the Canadian Press proper (or improper.) This is what that excellent paper the *Chicago Canadian American* has to say about the proposition to give up our birthright without even the consideration of a mess of pottage.—"The proposition of the western journals (in which the *St. John Globe* joins with its usual alacrity to recommend any new surrender to the Republic) is that the United States shall keep the price we paid them while we retain them what they sold out to us. The advocates of the surrender argue charmingly in behalf of this course. 'There were no railways on the continent in 1818,' says the *Hamilton Times*, and because there are railways now they should be free. But, as we have shown, the railways are free to American citizens and their fish on payment of the usual tolls. What the *Times* fails to remember is that there were fishing vessels, and the treaty prescribes the conditions under which, and for what purposes, American fishing vessels shall enter such harbors."

## CANADIAN OR AMERICAN?

It is to be presumed that the *St. John Globe* does not find the open advocacy of Annexation so popular as it would desire; at least that is the conclusion pointed to by the specious tone of its leading article of the 3rd. inst., an article marked by a plainly veiled desire to present British and Canadian ideas in an unfavorable light. In pursuance of this predilection several points are exhibited under a false aspect. We are by no means so sure, for instance, that "almost the whole tribe of American protectionists ardently desired the success of Mr. Blaine," but that is a point of little consequence. The "deep