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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Notes, 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 judging or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after taking due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A paper by Mr. W. Harry Watts of Windsor, on "Music in the Public Schools" is worthy of the most careful and serious attention. It is remarkably definite and practical, and the points made in favor of universal musical instruction are so clear as one would think to preclude controversy. We commend the perusal of it to all our readers, but especially to those connected with our public educational institutions.

It is curious to observe the new tone of Nationalist utterances of late. Mr. Parnell gives up the impossible idea of depriving Ireland of representation at Westminster, and Mr. W. O'Brien is reported to have said "the deepest desire of the Irish was to forgive and forget the miserable past." The past mainly owes its misery to Mr. W. O'Brien and his like, this moderation is affecting. The fact is the resolute enforcement of the law and the action of the Pope are having their due effect.

Dr. Goldwin Smith has been again enacting the roll of the seer at Woodstock, Conn., and fulminating the "burden" of Canada, which is, of course, that sooner or later she is to seek admission to the Union. If it were not for the fact of Dr. Goldwin Smith having committed himself to this particular prediction, and feeling bound to sustain his persistent endeavour to undermine the integrity of the Dominion, it would be as much matter of surprise as it actually is of regret. The people of Canada will no doubt place Dr. Smith in the position of a false prophet.

The heart of the humane man or woman is penetrated with distress at the unnecessary sufferings of animals. Two or three terrible holocausts of horses have occurred in Canada within the last few months. Notably one at the Cavalry stables at Quebec, and one at the Street Car stables at Montreal. It is said that horses have so strong an antipathy to goats that it is possible to turn three or four of them into a stable on fire, the horses will overcome their panic at the flames, and flee by any exit from their crowded aversions. We are not speaking from personal knowledge, but our informant actually witnessed in England the flight of a large number of horses from a great stable on fire, whose escape was due to the introduction of goats at a critical moment. Is not this worth attention and trial.

The death of Mandeville in prison is an unfortunate occurrence, and the suicide of Dr. Ridley has an ominous appearance, but it will be quite impossible to form a judgment on the merits of the case until we are in possession of full particulars.

We are glad to notice the "Rossney Gas Saver and Purifier" brought forward by Mr. E. F. Clements, of Yarmouth. Nothing is more required than a check upon Gas Companies. We have little faith in them and could give numberless instances out of a long experience to justify scepticism. It is certain that no effort on the part of the consumer to keep down his bill is ever in the slightest degree successful. Some ten years ago there was but one Gas Company in London, Ont. A second was started and immediately the first, without prompting, reduced its rates one half! Note it well.

The Duke of Aosta, brother to the King of Italy, and late King of Spain, is to be married to the Princess Letitia Bonaparte. We are not sure, without going into the "Napoleonic" genealogy to a greater depth than we have time for, but we think the lady is a descendant of Lucien, from whose family the irate Emperor cut off the right of succession, has been more prolific, and has accomplished higher alliances than any other branch. The fact is that Napoleon and Lucien were the only really remarkable men of the family. Lucien was never a soldier, but in every other way he was the superior of Napoleon.

The Salvation Army while at St. Foye, Quebec, were recently stoned by a French mob and several severely injured. Several revolvers were drawn by the Salvationists, and five shots were fired in quick succession amongst the crowd, which caused a general stampede. It would appear that the Salvationists do not confine themselves to the "sword of the spirit" but use carnal weapons as well. It is obvious, if the Salvation Army or its friends forsake the heroic attitude of non resistance, its career would ultimately degenerate into a mere succession of street fights, for which it would be held responsible.

The United States House of Representatives has placed wool on the Free List by a small majority. Whether the Senate will acquiesce remains to be seen. If they do, another step will have been gained towards freedom from tariff restrictions. The *Chronicle* commenting on the advantages of the measure alludes to "the tendency of a very numerous body of people to buy a foreign made article in preference to a domestic one, no matter how good the quality of the latter may be, and irrespective of the difference in price." This tendency is probably as strong in Canada (certainly in Halifax as in the States, and it is much to be wished it were otherwise.

In Colonel Lane, who left for England in the *Caspian* on Monday, Halifax has lost the most genial soldier she has known this many a day. Mostly soldiers, however pleasant, are little but soldiers, but Colonel Lane's sympathies were active in every direction. Colonel Lane is not, as stated here and there, a Lt. Colonel. In his Regiment, the Rifle Brigade, he is, unless some recent promotion has occurred of which we are not aware, a Major, but he is a full Colonel in the army of some years standing. A city contemporary alludes to a rumor of his speedy promotion in terms of well merited good feeling, but the list of Colonels is of formidable number, and Colonel Lane is not more than half way up it. It will we fear be some years yet before he becomes a Major General. In common with our contemporary we earnestly hope the list above him may clear off quickly.

Professor Elisha Grey, of Highland Park, near Chicago, is reported to have patented an invention which is destined to displace the telephone for many purposes. The new instrument is called the Telautograph, and by its use a man of business will be enabled to take up a pencil or pen, write a message, and as his pencil moves, so will a pencil move simultaneously in the office of his correspondent, reproducing a fac-simile the same letters and words. The mode of using the telautograph is as follows: The person wishing to communicate with another pushes a button which rings an annunciator in the office he desires to communicate with. Then the first party writes his message on a roll of paper. As he writes, so writes the pen at the other end of the wire. In writing the pen or pencil is attached to two small wires, which regulate the currents that control the pencil at the other end. But these wires give no trouble and the message may be written just as easily as if they were absent. The writer may use any language, shorthand, or a code or cypher is fully reproduced. The artist of an illustrated paper may thus transmit a sketch with as much facility as a reporter telegraphs his description in words. It is said there is no reason why a circuit of five hundred miles should not be as easily worked as ten. It will be noiseless, little affected by induction, and no misunderstanding can arise in its use.