

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## THE CRITIC,

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The report of Engineer Menocal to the Secretary of the Navy, United States, estimates that the Nicaraguan Canal will be completed in six years, at a cost of \$64,000,000.

Several practical electricians are now at work in New York State, with a view to utilizing the water power of Niagara Falls. The electrical transmission of this power, it is claimed, will yet be accomplished.

John Bull says that wheat-growing in England does not pay. No wonder, seeing that upon an average, it costs \$42 per acre to cultivate wheat, and the product rarely yields over \$41.50. Somebody loses 50 cents in the transaction; and John Bull, who is a free-trader, wants to know who it is.

A bronze statue of Sir Walter Scott is shortly to be unveiled in the Thames Gardens, London. It occupies a position opposite to that of the poet Burns. Sir Theodore Martin and other eminent Scotchmen have resolved to make the ceremony of the unveiling a most imposing one.

It is now well understood that the hostility of King Theobaw was prompted by French intrigue. France had evidently determined upon the annexation of Burmah, but her efforts in that direction have only served to place the prize within the grasp of perfidious Albion.

The many friends of THE CRITIC will be pleased to hear that our circulation at present is four times greater than it was at the beginning of the past year, and that it still goes on increasing. If we continue to find favour with an intelligent public, we shall be able to improve THE CRITIC so as to make it one of the best journals of its class published in Canada.

When a farmer, by frugality and careful management, saves a sufficient sum to defray the cost of building a comfortable house, and commodious barns and out-buildings, he finds, as a result of his industry, that his poor rates and other taxes are greatly increased. This taxation upon the product of labor is a serious evil. It may be a knotty problem to solve, but solved, sooner or later, it must be.

The incandescent form of the electric light, according to Dr. H. Van Hewick, affords the illumination *par excellence* for the micographer. By means of it, the observer is enabled to see details which are invisible, or but imperfectly visible with ordinary light. The reason he gives for this is—first, because the electric light contains more blue and violet rays than that of lamps or gas; and, secondly, because it has a specific intensity considerably greater than other artificial light, and, therefore, permits the use of more oblique rays.

The County of Cumberland well illustrates the progress that will follow the building of judiciously located railways, and the loathing everybody, even in Halifax, feels at the thought of going to eastern Cape Breton, in winter, in part exemplifies the disadvantages resulting from an entire lack of railway facilities.

The daily papers of this city do not always fairly represent public opinion. So long as they remain so strongly partizan it is almost impossible that they should. We doubt very much, however, whether they will gain by refusing to encourage salutary and needed changes in the method of civic government.

The Provincial Government has, we understand, formulated a policy for the consolidation of the Western Railways of the Province, and for the building of the Missing Link between Annapolis and Digby. Should it be carried out, with due regard to the rights of existing corporations and the interests of the Province, the government would go to the country with a certainty of support that it cannot now entertain.

There was a time in this Province when soldiers of the line were looked down upon with contempt, and regarded as an inferior species of the *genus homo*. It is satisfactory to note that this feeling no longer exists, our regiments are no longer composed of hireling foreigners. They are now formed of stalwart Britishers, their deportment and general demeanour is quite on a par with that of their brethren in plain clothes, and they deserve the respect and esteem in which they are held.

The classic hills of Wolfville and the broad meadows of the Grand Pre have undoubted charms to the visitor during the season when the air is perfumed with the odor of the apple blossom, or when the summer breeze is fragrant with the smell of the sweet-scented hay; but when these localities are afflicted by such a storm as that of Saturday last, when the pretty country roads are blocked with snow, and the blinding blizzard sweeps ruthlessly over hill and dale, then is the visitor tempted to sing in piteous strain, that song of the old Scotch bard, "Why left I my hame."

The learned Lord Fry, when lately addressing the Birkbeck Literary Institution in England, said that whether study was pursued for its own sake or for an ulterior purpose, one passion should chiefly hold sway in the mind of the student—the passion for truth. It is a pity that students, young and old, do not fully realize this. The true student must love truth. He must follow it wherever it leads, even though it destroy some long cherished illusions. He must cultivate self-discipline, patience and a willingness to take pains, and above all he must remember if his study of things seen be pursued unseen, knowledge will be purchased at a ruinous price, for while study is good, and knowledge better, firm and reasonable faith is best of all.

"The life of a British Soldier" is a work now being sold by the author, Thomas Faughnan. The name of the book, in which the author tells of battles, sieges and dangers that he has seen, is certainly no misnomer, for we are given descriptions of "Stirring Accidents by Flood and Field," and the multitudinous chances and changes of a soldier's career in peace and war. The writer is a man of keen observation, and by no means deficient in dry Hibernian wit, for the book, besides containing vivid accounts of his own personal adventures in various parts of the world, is full of story and anecdote, picked up around the camp fire, or in the barrack-room, and related with considerable force and humor. The author's style is not always marked by high literary merit; and we think the original poetry might have been eliminated without loss to the work; but any little eccentricities of composition may be forgiven in a very interesting and amusing book.

The following reference to Miss Caritte of Amherst is culled from the notice of Mr. Goldbeck's recent concert in New York, which appeared in the columns of the *News Letter*: "The interest of the evening centred in the appearance of Miss Nita Caritte, a young lady who is well known in Canada, but who sang before a New York audience for the first time. This lady possesses a veritable soprano voice which is delightfully fresh and true, and is heard at its best in the upper register. She takes her high notes without any painful straining and grimaces, and is entirely free from conceit or mannerisms, and has the advantage of a very charming and bright presence. She sang the Sancta Maria, of Faure, and earned a double encore, which she took with much grace and modesty. Hitherto, Miss Caritte has had only such teaching as a country town can afford, but under the guidance of Mr. Goldbeck she has developed a promise of future fame. Her maestro expects great things of her." The musical advantages of Halifax may not be all that could be desired, but for a country town they are evidently above the average. Miss Caritte has for several years been receiving instruction from Mr. C. J. Ross of this city, and we think that gentleman may reasonably take to himself the credit of Miss Caritte's brilliant success, seeing that the lady has as yet been under training in the great American metropolis less than three months;