

# 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.

The Militia Report contains some complaints from General Middleton which should, but probably will not, receive attention. They are mostly as to inefficient equipment. In the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry Schools of lack of horses, in the hospitals of hospital clothing, and generally of shortness of ammunition, targets, &c., while the weakness of the School Corps operates to render the service unpopular.

Senator Frye treats the *modus vivendi* with the scorn natural to the haughty and fiery spirit of a tail-twister, because, as it seems fit to him to assert, Canada has no rights worth paying for, yet he threatens all sorts of things because the privileges which he contemns as valueless are withheld from the United States without a *quid pro quo*. This is the sort of logic which commands the plaudits of a considerable proportion of our neighbors of the Great Republic.

A certain amount of sincerity may underlie the German Emperor's rescript affording a certain recognition to some of the tendencies of socialism. The Emperor may be more sincerely enlightened than many will give him credit for being, but it is a question whether the majority of socialists will appreciate a manifestation made at a critical moment when the Government finds itself menaced with an inundation of socialism which may displace the balance of power. Some, however, seem gratified, and come what may the rescript is an ineffaceable tribute to democracy.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* gives some very interesting details of the intercourse between Emin Pasha and General Gordon, which go to show that though both were enthusiasts of the highest order, Emin possesses on the whole a greater sobriety of mind. We intend when space allows us to give one or two illustrative extracts. Meantime it is satisfactory, in view of the hinted differences between Emin and Stanley, to be told that the latter speaks of Emin in the warmest terms, dwelling on his administrative ability, his tact with the native tribes and the peculiar gentleness of his nature. In many respects he was like Gordon, but, when his officers deceived and betrayed him, it is remarked that he was easily reassured by empty professions of penitence, whereas "Gordon would have hanged the rebels first and have felt needlessly contrite afterwards."

There is queer reasoning current among Canadian would-be Americans as well as among American tail-twisters. A Toronto contemporary sets down the Canadian emigration to the United States as due to the ruinous rate of taxation. Yet the annexation press is doing its best to subject Canada to the higher tariff of the United States, or, according to its own theory, a still higher and more ruinous rate of taxation.

All who know Toronto, and indeed hundreds who do not, will rejoice to hear that the University Buildings so seriously injured by the recent disastrous fire can be restored to their former beauty, which has, as it has been well put, "been an inspiration to all Canada." The loss of the splendid library is to a certain extent irreparable, but the legislature of Ontario will vote \$160,000 towards the restoration of the institution, and it is certain that all that can be done by the liberality of the citizens of Toronto will be successfully accomplished.

It is perhaps to be regretted that ex-champions of the ring and the oar do not always see when it would be to their credit to decline further contests of a serious nature. Jem Mace has recently suffered defeat at the hands of Mitchell, and Hanlan is said to be couraging a renewed experience of probably a similar nature. When men like these have accomplished a brilliant record, and have passed the hey-day of their strength, it would be wiser to rest on their laurels. The old champions of the ring never thought of returning to the arena after they had once fairly retired.

The *Empire* of the 12th instant publishes in full a translation of a remarkable document which, it says, was found among the papers of Riel after the battle of Batoche. The *Empire* being authority and seeming to have no doubts in the matter it is impossible to disbelieve the genuineness of the paper. It is exceedingly well worded and composed, and displays no trace of a mind in the slightest degree disordered, but the sweeping strictures on the Catholic church which it embodies will probably cause the people of Quebec to wonder how they could ever have been duped into regarding the unhappy man as a champion or representative of their faith.

The *Toronto Globe* is spreading itself *con amore* on the exodus. As, notwithstanding certain statistics of an approximative character, its real extent is as yet enveloped in mist and haze, it is naturally one of the pet grievances of the pessimists and lovers of the United States. The *Globe* says:—"The returns from the public lands have been insignificant, and, instead of a population of half a million or more, the official census shows that the Territories contained only about 125,000 souls, of whom not more than 50,000 were immigrants from foreign parts. Turning from the Northwest to the Dominion at large, we find that we have, at the best, scarcely succeeded in retaining our natural increase in population. Mr. Charlton's carefully prepared estimate places the number of native Canadians in the United States at 1,047,000. In addition to these, Canada has lost over 250,000 immigrants, who undoubtedly went across the border. Counting the children born to parents who have left Canada to settle in the States, we have suffered a total loss of three and a half million souls." This is no doubt delightful reading to faint-hearted, weak-kneed and unpatriotic Canadians. The figures may, or may not, be more or less correct, but it is satisfactory to know that we have now not much more than a year to wait before the actual census will give us reliable data.

Greek is far from being, as is popularly supposed, a dead language. Not only has it both survived and dominated Roman supremacy and Turkish conquest, but the ancient spirit of the magnificent tongue survives in modern Greece, and the desire for education there means a desire for a purified Greek language. The press of Athens is conspicuously active; small as the city is, it supports some first-class journals. Romain-Greek, or Neo-Hellenic, bears a very close resemblance to the Hellenic, or classical Greek, in fact, does not differ more, if so much, from the Doric. Great efforts have been made in recent years to purge the Neo-Hellenic of barbarisms and foreign terms, and it is now written with such purity, that good scholars in ancient Greece will have little difficulty in understanding Tricoupi's history, or an Athenian newspaper. The modern literature of Greece abounds with historical and biographical works, and especially with popular and patriotic ballads. If the works of its best authors are not better known, it arises partly from the extremely conceited superciliousness with which scholars in general are accustomed to look on every product of Greek literature not within a certain artificially circumscribed domain called classical. In reality there is very little difference between ancient Greek and modern Greek, and every day that difference becomes less.