

# 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.

Charles Frederick Fraser, Superintendent of the School for the Blind and Editor of THE CRITIC, was married on Monday morning by the Rev. Goddridge Roberts in Christ's Church, Fredericton, N. B., to Miss Ella J. Hunter, of Fredericton. The bride is well known in Halifax, and has hosts of friends to welcome her as a permanent resident in the city. Congratulations are in order, and the staff of THE CRITIC joins with the Halifax Printing Company in wishing life long happiness to the Editor and his wife.

It should be most gratifying to our citizens to learn that Col. Montizambert considers the 1st Brigade Halifax Garrison Artillery the most satisfactory corps of men he has inspected. They were up to the mark in every way, and are a credit to themselves and to their city. Bravo, H. G. A.: the inspection but proves that you are ready for war's alarms as well as able to give a magnificent ball.

To have a good show and advertise it plentifully is the sure way to achieve success for it, especially if you ever wish to repeat the experiment. A minor degree of success may follow plentiful advertising of a poor exhibition, for people will go to it expecting something good, but they will also, where they find themselves disappointed, be wary of the next time. A first-class exhibition may be held, and for lack of advertising, or for some bad management, may come in for but a small share of public attention. Now, it is whispered that "Canada's International Exhibition" at St. John has not "fulfilled the promise of its spring," and that visitors were rather disappointed in the special features that have been so liberally advertised during the summer. Certainly the St. John exhibition must have been the best advertised show on earth, and the management deserves all credit for it, but the public is exacting and wants to have its expectations cashed to their full value. Our own exhibition, on the contrary, has not been as well "boomed" as it deserved, but we are satisfied that it is a success notwithstanding. The accommodation has been taxed to the utmost, and if the building were twice as large the public would have reaped the benefit of having wider passage ways and seeing the exhibits to greater advantage. We usually find that when things are undertaken in Nova Scotia they have the support of the people generally, thus showing what a solid, clannish lot we are when occasion arises.

It is a pity the exhibition committee decided not to issue season tickets for the fair. Many people who would like to attend often would have purchased them, who would only go once under the single ticket plan. We are thorough believers in season tickets for all continuous shows; there is every probability that those who purchase them will not use them more times than if they paid each time, and they are a great convenience and inducement to visitors.

It is extremely exasperating to any one possessed of a grain of common sense to see the poultry exhibit placed over the dog show at the exhibition. Fowls are very much afraid of dogs, and it is nothing short of cruelty to place them in such close proximity to their natural enemies. The dogs keep up an incessant barking and yelping, and many of the birds are in a constant state of terror. Surely such a piece of gross mismanagement might have been avoided.

Exhibitions, in spite of their sameness and frequency, have a deep hold upon the public, and no matter how often people may say they are tired of them, they make a point of attending at least once. The educative influence of an industrial, agricultural and art exhibition is great, and all the young people who can possibly manage it should spend a good deal of time there. Having a children's day is a good idea, but we think it a pity that the hours, 9 to 12, were so limited. Many of the "children" taking advantage of the reduced price are old enough to behave themselves in a becoming manner and absorb a great deal of information from what they observe, and they ought in fairness to be given every opportunity. It is a gratifying thing to find the attractions of bird and other music liberally provided, so that visitors when tired of looking may find a seat and listen. An exhibition, as it used to be, without any trimmings of this sort, would most likely be a failure.

Have we not yet reached a stage in our history when the practice of offering prizes for patch-work quilts might be allowed to fall into disuse? It is a commendable thing for a woman who is not overworked in other ways to make use of scraps of cotton, woollen or silken material in this way, but it is not unusual to hear of good whole cloth being cut up in order to be secured together again in the ordinary crazy, imbecile, idiotic or maniac pattern, varieties of which we sometimes meet at exhibitions and elsewhere. We highly commend the economical housewife who sews her scraps together and makes a quilt for family use, but we cannot class such productions as either artistic, or strictly speaking, industrial. There are a few exceptions to the rule, and we know it is possible for pretty bits to be testefully put together, but they are rare, and we find the monotony of this class are in the majority. The only reason we can imagine why prizes should be offered for these things is that the farmers' wives appreciate it, but we would suggest to these ladies that they might turn their abilities to something else with better results to show for so much work. Patch-work quilts, whose only recommendation is the enormous number of pieces taken to construct them, should be suppressed. There is work enough to be done by women in these busy, rushing days without their undertaking such tasks as these. If half the time so consumed were devoted to improving their minds, or even in health-giving out-of-door exercise, we would have fewer women with little interest in life and poor health.

The Scotchmen of Toronto are going to organize a kilted regiment, and the scheme meets with the approbation of the Globe. That paper says:— "From a citizen's point of view there is no attraction like a kilted regiment, and the experience of the Royal Scots of Montreal shows that the corps will add to the success of public demonstrations. The picturesque costume is always admired, and is thus unconsciously an advertisement for the city." *Globe*, on the contrary, pokes fun at the idea, or rather a correspondent of that comic journal does, and says he admires the gall of the grab of an appropriation of \$5,000 by the Dominion Government to equip a Highland regiment in Toronto in the airy and fantastic costume known as the "garb of old Gaul." The correspondent, who signs himself "Modern Briton," thinks an ancient Briton regiment would now be in order. The historical costume is a coat, or two, of blue paint, and native modesty. "Why," he says, "should the laudable, time-honored and economical habit of bedecking the person in azure pigments be suffered to fall into disuse? . . . The striking and picturesque display afforded by the parade of such a corps could not fail to excite public appreciation. The Highlanders, in comparison, would not be in it. The expense to the country would be but trifling, as paint is much cheaper than tartans, phillabegs, cairngorms, pibrochs and other essentials of the Highlander's costume." We hold the humble opinion that a Highland regiment is picturesque enough and not too picturesque, as the ancient Briton costume would undoubtedly prove.