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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.

Ex-President Cleveland is showing much quiet good sense and good feeling in refusing to participate in the dedicatory exercises at Chicago. He declined his pressing invitation on the ground that a trip to Chicago at this time would be construed to be a political move, and that as the other candidate for the Presidency was detained by the bedside of his sick wife it would be neither seemly nor just to take so unfair an advantage. Mr. Cleveland's letter does him much credit as a manly statement of a considerate and worthy sentiment.

The elections in New Brunswick on Saturday last have resulted in the Government being sustained by an overwhelming majority. For each member elected upon the side of the Opposition the Government can show two members. This is certainly a brilliant victory, and the Government would have reason for unmixed satisfaction had it not been that their leader, Attorney-General Blair, has been defeated in the very hour of victory. Mr. Blair is a strong, able man, and can ill be spared from the Provincial Parliament of our sister province. It is probable that a seat in Westmorland or elsewhere will be vacated in his favor, in which case his election would simply mean a walk over.

The question of military drill in our public schools aroused much attention last year. The drill was found to be thoroughly beneficial to those who participated in it, but the regulations prescribed by the Militia Act prevented many companies from being formed. The stipulation is first made that in the event of any company being formed the university or school with which it is connected shall become directly responsible for the care of all arms and accoutrements entrusted to the young lads, and secondly, that a suitable room fitted with "lock-up arm-racks" shall be provided. The authorities of the school are also made responsible for the appointments of the young officers, and they are to see that each member of the company is supplied with uniform clothing of pattern and color approved by the Government. Owing to these regulations few companies have been formed, the school authorities in many cases not caring to assume the financial responsibility connected with the loan of the rifles, and many parents objecting to providing out of their own pockets the requisite uniform. Physicians have also taken exception to the weight of the rifle provided by the Government, stating that it is too heavy for lads of from twelve to fifteen years of age, and that in their opinion a lighter one should be substituted. It is hardly likely that even the most obliging of authorities will remove all the difficulties in the way of school drill by lifting the responsibility from the teachers, supplying tailor-made uniforms and by manufacturing miniature fire-arms.

Not only have the telephone subscribers made things lively for the Electric Car Company of Montreal, but the great army of house-holders have also arisen in arms. They complain that their houses are being shaken to their foundations by the jar of the passing cars. That the pictures and mirrors sway on the walls whenever a car passes, that the china dances on the pantry shelves, and that the kitchen tins rattle incessantly. A servant girl claims to have been badly scalded by a tin of boiling water which the vibration from a car obligingly over-turned, and threatens to bring a suit for damages—or repairs. House property is depreciating in the districts where the cars are running. The fault is of course not due to the electric service, but to the narrow, cramped streets of the city.

The religious census of Victoria may well set our missionary societies a thinking, for a more remarkable set of statistics has seldom been given on the subject. The Episcopalians number 417,000, Roman Catholics 248,000, Presbyterians 167,000, Methodists 158,000, while the Baptist denomination tapers down to 27,882. Then the variety show begins; the "Judaists and Confucians" number 5,000 and the "Spiritualists" over 700. The "Hindoos" number about 40 and the "naturalists," whatever they may be, 13. The "Cosmopolitans," "Positivists," "Communists," "Nihilists," the "Peculiar People" and the "Theosophists" have all obtained a foothold, notwithstanding that over 16,000 inhabitants profess no creed whatever. One man enters himself as a "Go-as-you-please," while four individuals describe their creed in truth probably as "L. s. d." The Mormons seem also to be creeping into our Canadian territory, a fact which is much to be regretted. That there should already be representatives of more than a score of denominations in so young a country is not only a matter of wonderment but of pity also.

Notwithstanding all legislation to the effect that "the Chinese must go" it is almost impossible to prevent them from stealing into America. Many of the Celestials regard the tax of \$50, which our Canadian Government is endeavoring to enforce, as an investment which will bring a sure return in prosperity. The admittance fee seems so those who can afford it rather similar to the price paid for a opera ticket where one is sure of getting the worth of one's money back. Unfortunately it is not because of too great prosperity that we are giving the cold shoulder to the brethren of the pig-tail. During last week it is probable that a few Chinamen crept into the United States through the Province of Quebec, and while public attention was being called to this international leakage, a grand smuggling business was being carried on on the Pacific Coast. A dapper little steamer had been hovering about Victoria for some days, sometimes she flew the English sometimes the American flag, but she never ventured into the harbor. Collector Mine grew suspicious of the tug craft, and had her tugged into port. No less than 50 Mongolians were on board gloating over the prospect of settling in America without passport or fee. During the past few weeks 135 of these Asiatics have been landed at St. Quentin and near San Francisco. Something more powerful than ordinary legislation, and more potent than the stipulations of the Geary Bill, will have to be devised if the wily Chinese are to remain in the Flowery Kingdom.

Mr. Erastus Wiman, of New York, who is a Canadian by birth, addressed a large public meeting in Masonic Hall on Monday evening last, presenting his views upon the question of unrestricted reciprocity between Canada and the United States. Mr. Wiman is a forcible and argumentative speaker, and those who heard him were delighted with the manly, straightforward manner in which he handled his subject. Political union, or annexation, Mr. Wiman considered as impracticable and undesirable, but unrestricted reciprocity he regarded as the most natural policy for both countries to adopt. In his opinion such a policy would make Nova Scotia blossom like the rose, would result in the development of her great natural resources, and would make her people contented and prosperous. Mr. Wiman's arguments were certainly brought out in a strong light, and his opinions are worthy the calm consideration of every man who desires to advance the natural welfare of this Canada of ours. Honest discussion and straightforward expressions of opinion are always worth hearing, and he must be a biased partizan indeed who does not accord to the speaker's remarks the thoughtful consideration they deserve. If Mr. Wiman is right it is time the people of this country should know it; if he is wrong let his arguments be disposed of by argument. Ridicule is not argument, and the journal's which essay to overwhelm Mr. Wiman with ridicule must regard their readers as milk-sops. Is unrestricted reciprocity feasible, practicable and attainable, and if so will it bring about the prosperity promised; or if not, why not.