

# THE CRITIC:

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## THE CRITIC,

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

**A QUIET DEPARTURE.**—A natural instead of an artificial emigration is usually a successful move, and in a quiet way the people of Japan have been botking themselves to a clime beyond the seas. The new move is to the Queensland sugar plantations where, until recently, the entire labor has been performed most unsatisfactorily by Kanaka laborers. During the past year 42,000 Japanese sailed for Queensland and even this large band of emigrants had no difficulty in securing work. The wages of the plantation laborer amount to about \$200 per year, and there is a steady demand for domestic servants of both sexes. The climate of Queensland is a healthy one, and there seems to be no reason why this emigration, which has had no unnatural stimulus, should not be continued indefinitely.

**DOUBTFUL FRIENDSHIP.**—There is something not a little amusing to the student of history in the efforts which have recently been made to prove that there is nothing but the most cordial love and sympathy between France and Russia. At the recent review at Toulon the sailors of both nations marched in threes through the town, each French sailor having his arms linked in those of two Russian marines. The novel state of affairs is typical not only of peace between these long-opposed peoples but it is also typical of the situation of France in the peace compact. She is and will be dominated over by Russia and the pinioned French sailors is a not unfit emblem of her limited power. There are some memories which Russia and France have in common which are hard to obliterate, and the sound of Moscow serves still to call up a flush of hatred on the faces of the pledged friends.

**CONTEMPT, EXPRESSED OR CONCEALED.**—Mr. J. V. Ellis, the imprisoned editor of the *St. John Globe*, should have remembered the example of Rufus Choate, the famous lawyer. On one occasion when it was but too evident that justice was to be denied his client, the great pleader forgetting the respect due the court spoke with a curt decision which at once antagonized the judge. "Mr. Choate," he said, "are you endeavoring to show contempt for the court?" Like a flash came the cutting reply, "No, my Lord, I am endeavoring to conceal it." If Mr. Ellis had but concealed the contempt which was only natural that he should feel towards the loose conduct of the Queen's County electioneering matters he would without doubt have been still at large, yet in our opinion the man who dared to show the contempt which he felt was perhaps a less diplomatic but still the braver man of the two.

**EDUCATING FOR THE FARM.**—Any word on educational matters which that veteran scholar, Sir William Dawson, gives utterance to, should be carefully considered by our authorities on matters of instruction, for there is no man who has labored more intelligently, more satisfactorily, and with such beneficial results as Sir William. In addressing an association of teachers the other day, he gave his opinion on the matter of technical training in the public schools. While he is an earnest advocate of technical training for young people, he does not consider that instruction in such subjects should be introduced into the already over-crowded school courses. There is however one technical department which he thinks should receive a share of attention, and that is the study of agriculture. He argues that if that study were but temptingly brought before impressionable young people, the calling of the farmer would speedily rise in public estimation and our young men instead of being lured into the cities by the commercial part of their training would as a natural consequence turn their attention to country life.

**MRS LUCY STONE BLACKWELL.**—The death of Lucy Stone, the famous woman-suffragist, will be heard of with regret by many who have not been in sympathy with the movement to which she devoted the best energies of her life. Mrs. Stone, or more properly Mrs. Blackwell, has for the past thirty years been closely identified with the advanced women's movement, yet in sharp contrast to many of her comrades, she has been essentially a domestic woman, a beloved wife and a devoted mother. Lucy Stone was one of the most constant abolitionists at the period preceding the American rebellion. She espoused an unpopular cause and though scorned, hooted at and mobbed she clung to her principles, and with her eloquence, her womanliness, and her sweet decision of character, she hoped to stem the tide of popular opinion. For the last score of years she has spoken but on one topic—"Woman Suffrage"—and there is scarcely a law on the American statute books relating to the rights of women to their own children, to the management of their own property or to the freedom of the ballot which has not been either compiled or amended by her. Her death leaves a gap in the ranks of her fast aging comrades which it will indeed be hard to fill.

**THE DEAD MAHARAJAH.**—A curious and romantic chapter in Anglo-Indian history is closed by the death of Maharajah Dhuleep Singh. The late Maharajah was the son of the noted Runjeet Singh. At the time of his father's death he was a mere infant, and owing to the popular dislike of a regency the British Government was compelled to interfere and to depose the young Maharajah. As an offset to this deprivation an income of \$200,000 was set off on the child, and every effort was made to bring him up as a loyal British subject. A most ambitious match was proposed for the Prince, the chosen bride being no less a personage than the Princess Victoria of Coburg, but Dhuleep preferred to select his own wife and in 1864 he espoused a young Protestant lady of Alexandria. The son of this union is well known in Halifax. Then follows a long, bitter and unseasonable quarrel with the British Government, the Prince claiming an increase of income, the payment of vast personal debts, or in lieu of this, the restoration of his kingdom. Such a struggle could have but one end. The Prince was not permitted to reinsate himself in India nor was his residence in England considered desirable. For the last four years the Prince has lived in Paris with his second wife, also an Englishwoman, and his pretensions to Oriental greatness descend to the young Prince Dhuleep.

**AULD SCOTIA'S HEATHER.**—A practical joke appears to have been perpetrated upon the sons of old Scotland who are domiciled in Canada, and as a consequence there are wrathful sandy-headed Scotchmen to be met with in Montreal. A large quantity of heather was imported by the Caledonian Society of that city for the annual Halloween concert. It was intended that a sprig of the cherished plant should be given to each person attending the concert and that boquets of the emblematical flower should be presented to Lord and Lady Aberdeen. Heather has no proper mercantile value, and when the members of the society were carelessly requested to set a value upon their importation they were at first inclined to name a magnificent sum which should in some faint manner indicate the esteem in which the "purple dyed" product of Auld Scotia's soil was held. But the Scotchman is nothing if not canny, and when it was realized that the custom house officers stood ready to collect a duty of twenty percent, the fabulous value straightway declined. The duty is still unpaid and the heather still lies in bond, but it is gradually dawning on the Scottish mind that there has been more mischief than serious intent in the demand and that the surgical operation, which tradition states is necessary before a Scotchman is in a state of mind to enjoy a joke, has been performed with a cruel and unnecessary publicity.