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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.

We are much indebted to the *Baddeck Reporter* for its advice to Dr. Cameron to "notify THE CRITIC to shut up," but THE CRITIC, advocating what it considers right and true, is not a paper to be "shut up."

We much regret that a paragraph in the News column of our last week's issue, relating to the 66th P. L. F. Battalion, escaped supervision. Had it not accidentally done so, it would certainly not have been inserted. We are informed, on the best authority, that the regiment is not only quite full, but that it has never been in better condition or working order. We observe that no fewer than three captains and four lieutenants of the 66th have passed the new Infantry Schools. Having a very great regard for the reputation of the Militia, we emphasize our regret at the annoyance inadvertently caused to Col. Macdonald and the Regiment he commands.

Mr. F. Blake Croston's second paper on "Haliburton, Thinker and Writer," was admirably read on Friday evening before the N. S. Historical Society by Mr. S. Harrington, Sir Adams Archibald in the chair. Those who were unable to attend missed a high intellectual treat. It would be impossible in any space we can command to do justice to it, but we earnestly hope that both lectures may be put before the public in some form accessible to all, for it is certain that no reading Nova Scotian ought to be ignorant of what has been so admirably done by Mr. Croston for the reputation of Nova Scotia's greatest writer and almost prophetic thinker.

It seems quite unlikely at present that the combined Conservative and Liberal Union majority in Parliament will suffer any material reduction this session. Nevertheless, the foreshadowings of land legislation for Ireland indicate the progress of the revolution in land tenures which is fast altering the position of landlords, whose properties are being reduced in value to an extent which cannot but pave the way for their extinction. Mr. Parnell's bill would reduce arrears where tenants are proved to be unable to pay, and to avoid it, the Government will, it is said, adopt Mr. T. W. Russell's, which would also reduce the arrears, and spread them over an extended period.

Considering that the ultimate effect of the Treaty concluded by the Fisheries Commission depends on the success of the President's policy of placing fish on the free list of the American tariff, we fail to discern the wisdom of some of our party organs in heading their articles on the subject with taunts and insults to a section of Americans, in type of a prominent size. There is neither ground for, nor expediency in, this course; and, although the rancor of the violent opponents in the States of any American concession, is probably not to be mollified by any forbearance on the part of the Canadian press, they are not likely to be rendered more amiable by this sort of endorsement of their position.

The *Dalhousie Gazette* for February contains various well-written and interesting articles, especially one on "Journalism," and one on Professor McGregor's lecture on "Shooting Stars," appropos of which we do not think the theories that meteorites have come from extinct lunar or old-time terrestrial volcanoes adequate to account for their multitude. It must be remembered that the whole Solar system moves through space, and it is more probable that the meteoric bodies exist in space in enormous numbers, and that the earth, both in her orbit and the advance of the whole system, encounters clouds of them. The *Dalhousie* heads its February number with an altogether fearful and wonderful looking sonnet in Volapuk. May we be spared the success of this portentous language!

There can be little doubt that a great change is being quietly worked in India by European educational influences, especially at the very root of morality and enlightenment, among the native women, as is indicated by the following from the *Church Guardian*:—"A young Parsee lady named Sorabji has succeeded in rivaling Miss Ramsay's brilliant 'first' in the Cambridge Classical Tripos of last year. Miss Sorabji has had a very distinguished University career, having won the Havelock prize, the Hughlings exhibition, and ultimately graduated in the first class with only five persons similarly honored, who are all of the sterner sex. She is a daughter of Mr. Sorabji, a native honorary missionary of the Church Missionary Society, and her mother conducts a successful high school for girls at Poona, in which Europeans, Eurasians, Parsees, and Hindoos, are all received, and find a first-rate education."

Mr. Millikin, the contractor for the erection of the new city hall, lately sent a petition to the Council asking that arbitrators be appointed to adjudicate his claims for extra work; setting forth at length what those claims were. The Board of Works seem determined not to endorse his petition and recommend that the contract be now voided and relet, or that the building be completed by days' work. It would seem that Mr. Millikin's request for an arbitration was a reasonable one, which, if not granted, is sure to involve the city in costly litigation with the possibility, in the end, of the taxpayers being called upon to pay heavy damages. It evidently is the part of wisdom in this case "to make haste slowly," and to weigh well the consequences before making any decided move. Mr. Millikin's tender was a low one, and any extra work he was called upon to perform should have been promptly paid for. Instead, it would appear that he has been hampered financially by delay in these payments, and that the architect and he have disagreed largely in the amounts to be allowed. Under the circumstances arbitration seems the only method of arriving at a peaceful solution of the difficulty, and it certainly should be granted. In his *Dalhousie College* contract Mr. Millikin seems to have given entire satisfaction, and he now claims that if his extras are settled for, he will be able to carry the city hall contract to completion. As his tender is an admittedly low one, it would be far better to facilitate his operations, even to the extent of straining a point or two in his favor, than to adopt the costly and dangerous expedient of the Board of Works to complete the building by days' work. Of two evils it is better to choose the least, and unless Mr. Millikin is financially so hampered as to render his completion of the contract an impossibility, which he states is not the case, the sooner his claim for extras is settled by arbitration, the better for all concerned.

THE STRAWS WHICH SHOW THE WIND.

The speeches incident to the opening of the several Legislatures of Canada, though almost perfunctory and briefly reported, are not destitute of indications of the state of parties in relation to questions of moment. Never was it more apparent how serious is the loss to the Opposition in the Dominion Parliament of their late leader, and we can only trust that the easy confidence which marked the tone of the Government may not be the forerunner of too "light-hearted" a treatment of national affairs. If the Government desires to neutralize the force of criticism, often