

# 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.

Notwithstanding that we have been having disagreeable weather, we Nova Scotians ought to feel thankful for our privileges. In England and Spain they have been almost flooded out, and in Russia the people are starving.

Illness, requiring change of air, short memories, ignorance of what was going on, and many other excuses have been employed by persons connected in various ways with the boodle inquiries at Ottawa and Quebec, but un- Messrs. Robert McGroarty and Owen E. Murphy fled the country the other day not one of them took refuge in running away. If they have really gone, it will probably be for good—the good of their country.

In our peace-blessed land the rumors of European wars scarce create a ripple of excitement, but if we could to-day visit Vienna we would find the people of the Austrian capital excited to fever heat. The action of Russia in sending her transports through the Dardanelles has revived the Austrian fears of a Russian occupation of the Balkan Peninsula. Austria has long had her eyes fixed upon Salonica as a Mediterranean port, and now that this place instead of Brindisi has become the terminus of the overland route to India, she more than ever covets the prize, and hence the Dardanelles incident is in the estimate of the Austrians fraught with threatening dangers.

Just think of it! An inventive American proposes to water the arid districts of Texas and other States at the rate of ten cents per acre, and this, he confidently asserts, he can do periodically by the exploding of dynamite and the shooting of rockets. American presumption and American credulity are no doubt large sized, but it appears beyond credibility that the authorities in several counties in Texas should have absolutely closed a contract with the inventor to supply rain at given seasons throughout the year, and should have made an advance payment upon the same. It is a well-known fact that in a rain storm after a severe clap of thunder the rain will, for a few seconds, fall more copiously than at other times, but the effect is only temporary. If a clap of thunder produces such small results what can be expected of a few pounds of dynamite exploded very close to the earth's surface. The truth is the invention wont work, and patented periodical rain-falls are not likely to be produced, in our time at least.

Last week the City Council decided that the Halifax Industrial School and St. Patrick's Boys' Home are suitable places for the incarceration of boys who habitually play truant from school. Full arrangements for their reception at these institutions are not as yet completed we believe, but a resolution to the effect that such arrangements be made was passed. We cannot but think that this is a mistaken move. Boys of any spirit are naturally inclined to play truant, a practice which we do not deny is bad for the boys and annoying to the teachers, but it should be borne in mind that by taking this action the Council places boys whose faults are venial, on a plane with those who may be deemed incorrigible. There are some cases of playing truant which ought to be severely dealt with, but we fear no good can be accomplished by such a measure as sending the boys to the Industrial Schools. The proper education and care of the young is a problem not yet solved by our educationists.

Mr. Walter Blackburn Harte, who, we are informed, has served a long apprenticeship on the press of this country, has written an article, entitled "The Journals and Journalists of Canada," which is to appear in the *New England Magazine* for December. It will undoubtedly be a good thing for Canadians to be well-informed on this topic, but Mr. Harte is undertaking a large task, and may possibly not be sufficiently qualified for it, even by his long apprenticeship. To distinguish among the numerous journals and the journalists who conduct them, and select some as representative, requires a nicety of discrimination possessed by but few writers. We hope, however, that Mr. Harte's article will deal out even-handed justice to all our journals, and will give Canadians a great deal of information on the subject. We are quite anxious to see the *New England Magazine* containing this article, which will not only interest a large circle of readers in this country, but will be instrumental in showing the people of the United States what progress has been made in Canadian journalism.

"'Twas ever thus from childhood's hour;" whenever people have their sympathies awakened for the distressed and suffering, and hand over their hard earned money liberally for the alleviation of the trouble, they are almost sure to be sorry for it when they find that their liberality fails to affect those for whom it was meant. A case in point is the Springhill relief fund, to which Halifax contributed upwards of \$12,000, but so difficult was it found to properly distribute, that the widows and orphans have not yet got the benefit of it. The money was withheld by the Mayor of Halifax on account of dissatisfaction with the management of Springhill of the money paid in by other places, and he placed it at interest here at 4 per cent. Last week a delegation from Springhill interviewed the Mayor with a view to having this money transferred to the relief fund, and it is understood that when the Springhill management of the fund have accomplished certain changes in the control of the fund to the satisfaction of those in charge of the Halifax contribution that the latter will be paid over. It is a great pity that such a difficulty should have occurred over this fund, for should ever such a misfortune as the great explosion occur again, people will be loath to assist.

We have received a reprint of an article from the *Brooklyn Eagle* of September 26th entitled "Impossibility of Canadian Annexation," containing the sentiments of Mr. Erastus Wiman on the subject as expressed to an *Eagle* reporter in an interview. It is by way of being an answer to the arguments of Mr. Francis Wayland Glen, of Brooklyn, who recently had an article advocating annexation in the *Eagle*. Mr. Wiman points out many reasons why Canadians will not be annexed, and why annexation would be no benefit to us. He says: "My position in this matter is simply this: That annexation is unnecessary, is undesirable and is impossible." Mr. Wiman concludes: "In the anxious desire for Reciprocity, however, it may not be wise in the impending negotiations at Washington to yield to the blandishments of the Tory party, and be seduced into a partial measure of reciprocal trade. If the fullest advantages of a continental union in trade are to be gained, it would be better to await the advent of the Liberal Party to power, which in Canada now seems extremely probable. The latter party is entirely friendly to the United States, and is ready to yield every point which this country can demand consistently with honor and a maintenance of British connection. Any attempt to force either party to concessions in the hope of annexation, will be simply postponing the enormous advantages which to both countries would flow from unrestricted reciprocity." This is partizan writing of the worst type. Mr. Wiman's only object in thus expressing himself must be to prevent, if possible, any satisfactory results from the reciprocity negotiations of the Conservative Government, and postpone whatever benefits might result until the Liberal party is in a position to control affairs.