

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

The Board of Charities have commenced a new feature in the Civil Service reform by appointing the defeated candidate in a competitive examination to the position of House Surgeon in the hospital. In consequence of which the medical men of Halifax have resigned their positions as consulting surgeons and physicians. Well it is about time there was a reform somewhere in Halifax. I presume the doctors are about as good "grit" as any other class of people, and they can stand the "reformatory measure" as well as the patients in the hospital.

Perhaps if Dr. Grant of Queens College, Ont., (who is just now so much troubled about the bad treatment of the "noble red man") would go out to the North West Territory and take charge of the "spiritual affairs" of the savages who have been murdering priests and innocent settlers, he might, like Harriet Beecher Stowe on the "Negro question," see fit to change his opinions somewhat in regard to the treatment of the Indians by the Dominion Government.

If our Local Legislators would spend as much time and money in advocating and building good common roads to the various "gold-fields" of the Province, as they do in such nonsense as "Repeal Resolutions," "Sham Railway Surveys," and other useless projects, they would aid very materially in building up the country. The "Cariboo," "Moose River," "Killag," and "15 Mile Stream," gold-diggings, employ at present some three or four hundred men. These valuable mines are reached by "paths" that would be a disgrace to the "trails" of the Aborigines, and only in the winter season can a respectable load of produce or anything else be hauled to or from either of the places above mentioned.

According to the *Morning Herald* the villages of the Province of Nova Scotia since Confederation have outstripped Halifax in commercial and manufacturing enterprises. It seems that there is a tide in the affairs of cities as well as of men, that if taken at the flood leads on to fortune. After the Confederation of the Provinces, Halifax had a splendid opportunity to have built up not only a large city, but to have secured and concentrated a large share of the trade of the North Atlantic to her wharves—to have made the city the great entrepot of the Dominion. Unfortunately, the wealthy men of Halifax lacked enterprise. They would risk nothing. They had accumulated their "little pile" from their trade with the West Indies and from the "British Garrison," and they could not be induced to risk even a few dollars in the scheme of building a railway through the fertile valleys of Musquodohit and Stewiacke to Halifax, direct from the great coal fields of Pictou. This of itself would have given an impetus to the growth and prosperity of the city that would have astonished even its projectors. Cheap coals and cheap provisions would have induced most of the North Atlantic steamers to have made Halifax a port of call. This would have secured a permanent trade to the city long before the Intercolonial and Pacific Railway could have been completed; then, too, various manufacturing establishments should have been erected, all of which have been left to be built in other parts of the Province. It is useless now for our "old fogies" and "fossils" to cry out against the "National Policy" and charge all of the woes of Halifax to "Confederation." It is their own fault that the city has not kept pace with other places, whose commercial and manufacturing advantages are inferior to those of Halifax.

VETERAN.

PLAGIARISM.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

During the absence of Rev. Mr. Simpson, who was one of the delegates from the Halifax Presbytery to the General Assembly, his pulpit was supplied by the Rev. H. A. Nelson, who has received a call from Windsor congregation. Mr. Nelson on the first Sabbath that he preached in Park Street Church took for his text one which had been taken by the pastor the week previous. From this coincidence a telegram was sent to the St. John *Telegraph* stating that the reverend gentleman had preached exactly the same sermon. Charges of Plagiarism were telegraphed to two of the leading New York papers, and by this time probably a score or more of papers have published the slander. It is intended to publish both discourses, and the public will then be able to judge for themselves. Mr. Nelson has taken legal proceedings in order to vindicate his character. On Sunday evening last Mr. Simpson referred to the charge that had been made against him. From the *Chronicle's* report of his address I condense the following: He said that the charge in plain terms was sermon stealing, and the inference to be drawn by the reader was, that he had sustained himself as the minister of Park Street congregation for years, not by honest work but by persistent literary theft. He said he owned to sensitiveness, but if he were less sensitive than he was, he could not but feel deeply with such a charge preferred against him, and circulated all over the country. When the matter went further he would be prepared to maintain his innocence. He did not want to speak of his sermons. No one was more sensible of the poverty of most of them than himself, but as God was his witness he worked for them with all the application and ability that he possessed. He characterized the charge as unmanly and unjust. No man however bad, is to be branded in the journals of the country until he had an opportunity of defending himself and until there was some reasonable evidence of his guilt. This charge was preferred against him in his absence,

and without any effort whatever to ascertain the truth or falsity of it. He thanked the press of the city, which had always shown much kindness, for not publishing the charge. He said the charge was wicked as well as unmanly. It was intended to injure him, to pull down and destroy any reputation as a gospel minister that he had. It was an easy thing to blacken a man's character and tarnish his reputation. Call a man a thief and there are always some who believe it. A grievous wrong had been done him. He had been rudely awakened to the fact that there was some one in this city who sought his injury, if not his ruin as a gospel preacher. He cast himself upon God, whose servant he professed to be, and upon the people of his charge, whose sympathy and support had never yet failed him. With forgiveness in his heart for those who had done him wrong, and true thankfulness to God for the support that they had given him, and expressing the hope that somehow or other good might come out of what was to him a sore trial, he closed the words that were so painful for him to speak, but which in his humble judgment were necessary to be spoken. M.

We are pleased to note that the editorial management of the *Critic* has fallen into the hands of Frederick Fraser, Esq., Professor at the Blind Institution, Halifax. The Prof. has been a valuable contributor to its columns from the first, but with him in full control we expect our contemporary to take a boom that will delight the hearts of the stockholders. In its new form of sixteen pages, and with its varied matter it cannot fail to interest all classes of readers; and we wish it the success that is deserved by the establishment of a paper pure in tone, independent in its utterances, and provincial in the interests which it advocates.—*Western Chronicle*.

The city of Montreal has been somewhat inaptly styled the Canadian beast of burden, the citizens of that commercial metropolis claiming that they are called upon to pay an undue share of Customs duties. As soon as the short line railway shall have been built, Halifax proposes to relieve Montreal of a large portion of the burden, in doing which she will also relieve her of a large share of trade. Halifax would willingly become the Canadian beast of burden, provided the burden was in all respects similar to that of Montreal.

KIND WORDS FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR PUTTNER'S EMULSION.

Dear Sir,—The bottle of PUTTNER'S EMULSION my wife ordered of you last month, was duly received. You wished to know the effect it had on the patient, and I very cheerfully give it to you, as it saved my little one's life.

The child to whom it was given, aged one year, had been very sick with bowel complaint and teething for about two months, seemed to receive little or no nourishment from milk, beef tea, or any other kind of food. As a last resort, the attending physician prescribed a bottle of the Emulsion, giving him first a sample bottle which you had sent him. That sample bottle had wrought a change for the better within twenty-four hours after he had commenced taking it, and has gained rapidly ever since, and to-day is well.

Please accept our hearty thanks for the bottle of Emulsion you so kindly sent and have no doubt it saved my little one's life. Wishing you success, I remain, PUTNAM, CONN. Yours truly, L. M. WILLIAMS, Druggist

The Laid Readers of the *Critic* will please observe that "Smith's Freckle Lotion is a perfectly harmless preparation for removing Freckles, Tan, Moth Patches, and all undue Roughness and Redness of the Skin, leaving the complexion fair and velvety. And gentlemen, try a Bottle of "Smith's Pimple Wash," if you are troubled with Pimples, Eczema, Tetter, Barber's Itch, etc. These preparations are sold at the London Drug Store, 147 Holles St., J. GORMAN SMITH, Dispensing Chemist, Proprietor and Agent for B. Laurence, the London Optician, whose Glasses and Spectacles have benefitted so many.

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