

# 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.

**WE WILL NOT NEED THEM**—Halifax is certainly greatly blessed in having so many and beautiful "breathing places" for the citizens. The park, the public gardens, the common and various open squares all tend to make our city life both healthful and enjoyable. There is perhaps not another city of the size either in Canada or in the United States where similar advantages are enjoyed. In New York the play grounds or squares are few and far between, and owing to the exorbitant prices demanded for city lots, the creation of parks in densely populated sections of the city was long ago deemed as impossible. Several blocks of houses were lately erected in New York, and in order to make a pleasant park, the back yard lots were united into a common field, and ornamented at the expense of the proprietors of the houses. Although there are certain inconveniences attending the absence of a back yard, it is thought that the new mode will be exceedingly popular. After a little, but a return to the common Eastern method of building each home around a pleasant open court. The ancient idea has been somewhat modernized—six story brick tenements replace the low stone dwellings, and in this respect at least it is doubtful if the old idea has been improved upon.

**WELL EARNED POCKET MONEY**—An interesting series of letters in one of the Canadian weekly papers treats entirely of the various methods by which girls and women may, by light occupation, earn the spending money so necessary and so dear to their hearts. So far there has been no hint of advertising complexion powders, "by exhibiting one's own beautiful skin" as a circular thoughtfully states, but sensible money making work is outlined. Among the different practical schemes is one which could be followed by many of our provincial girls who live in the country. The occupation is the raising of celery from the seed. A bit of swampy land will answer for the purpose, or the celery may be planted on land from which nearly vegetables have been harvested. There is a ready demand for this crisp and palatable vegetable. Of course the celery raiser will need to consult with some wise head or book as to the special care of the plant, but the time would be well spent, and it is probable that a good profit would be realized. Another suggestion is the saving of seeds of good varieties of plants. Onion seed is especially in demand each year, and as it retails at from \$2.75 to \$3.00 per pound, there is also money to be made in this branch of the seed business. Special kinds of beans and sweet corn are so in constant demand for the seed market. It is admitted by all that girls are quick to take a hint, and we know of many who would have liked more pocket money than they have had this year. Who will be the first to try one of the above occupations?

**A FAIR EXHIBIT**—A handsome "cod-fishing boat" has been built at Port Hawkesbury, C. B., by order of the Marine and Fisheries Department at Ottawa, for exhibition at Chicago. The craft is 23 feet keel, 8 feet 4 inches beam and 4 feet deep, is beautifully finished and is valued at \$500.

**ON INTEREST TO WATER COLORISTS**—Many of our Canadian artists we trust will take part in the competition now thrown open in the pages of the Cosmopolitan. Four prizes have been offered to the artists who send the best four water color paintings of scenes from the life of Christ. The idea is to secure four suitable designs for stained glass windows. As the competition will not close until December, 1893, there is ample time for elaborate and careful work to be done, and the prizes, in value from \$100 to \$1000, should tempt many of our best workmen and women into the contest.

**GOOD AND CHEAP**—More attention is being given each year to the proper preparation of food for family consumption. Almost every week some new self raising or ready prepared food is placed upon the market, thereby lightening the labors of the house-keeper. But the most complicated problem is not the proper feeding of the middle and upper classes, but the providing of food for the great mass of poor in every city. In the case of the very poor, the ready prepared foods are found to be too expensive, and the time requisite to prepare proper food from raw material cannot be afforded. A rich Boston woman, with the aid of some scientific assistants, has solved the problem for Boston at least by establishing a "New England kitchen" in the heart of that city. The kitchen is a commodious shop with store rooms and all thrown into one large room. It is provided with gas stoves and numberless quart kettles and dishes in which the cooked food may be carried away. A master and a small staff of assistants manage the entire business of cooking and selling. A regular bill of fare for each day in the week is prepared, every dish being made of cheap but good material and prepared according to scientific methods. Many families, laborers, factory hands, etc., find that the nourishing food—the soups, stews, chowders, which are prepared are both better and cheaper than any food hitherto supplied. Strong beef tea is constantly on hand for invalids, heated breads, simple puddings and wheat porridges are constantly served to customers. As the project is not intended to be money making, the kitchen, outside the philanthropic attempt to supply good foods to the earners of small wages, being to clear the necessary expenses, the success of the undertaking has been great. The New England kitchen has probably come to stay, and will in future be a marked feature of many American cities.

**TO SECURE IDENTIFICATION**—In this age of new ideas it behooves us to speak respectfully at least of any novel scheme which will tend to improve the condition of mankind. The most unpromising schemes have turned out well, while some of the most plausible have been found utterly impracticable. A few gentlemen in St. John have formed a Dominion Identification Company, through the working of which they hope to protect travelers or residents in foreign countries by establishing their identity swiftly and surely, should need arise, and to establish the identity of persons who are injured in the streets and thereby rendered unconscious. More than this the scheme provides for the after identification of those who perish in burning buildings or otherwise meet an untimely end. The idea is that each person who desires the protection which the Company may give him shall invest a dollar in procuring an identification badge made of a metal which can be affected by neither fire nor water. One side of the metal is marked "This badge will identify me." The other contains the identification number with instructions to telegraph to the Identification Co. It is certain that the wearers of these badges might be easily identified so long as the Company continued to exist, and it is equally true that a speedy method of identification would be beneficial to most of us or to our relatives after our death. We all know the difficulty of establishing sufficient identity to cash a check in a city in which we are little known, many of us have known what it is to be sick in a strange city, and can remember the haunting possibilities of the result of the illness which tormented us. Some have been unable to demonstrate to the satisfaction of insurance companies the deaths of relatives in foreign countries, although we may have had, morally speaking, proof positive on the subject. There are of course some objections to be raised to the new scheme. The badge will be but a gruesome thing at the best, and there will be a superstitious fear on the part of many against its adoption. And again there is the chance of an exchange of badges purposely or otherwise, which might lead to some Gilbert and Sullivan consequences. On the whole we recommend the scheme to our readers as a possible solution of an often troublesome question.