

Journalistic Criticism.

The re-appearance of *The Citizen* with the verbal prefix "Canada" is no improvement, from the point of view of grammatical requirement. A Post Master-General may scatter "Canada Post Cards" over the world by the million, but in so doing, he blunders no less than the post master of St. Petersburg would, were he to issue cards of the kind under the designation of "Russia Post Card," but of course, we know that the school-master may be abroad as much as he pleases, on this side the globe, and considerations of grammatical inaccuracy are conveniently beneath his notice; our own "Education Department," to wit. We will hope, however, that the nature of the "Temperance Herald" will be an improvement on its name; the aims of the journal are high, and that ought to count for something in a day when such a production as "Peek-a-Boo" can find readers.

We cannot help remarking however that a schoolmaster ought to avoid such conventionalisms of style as "strictly in advance:" it is to be hoped that the Editor of *The Citizen* will not visit this stricture on his style by saying "positively no admittance," in the event of the Editor of THE CRITIC putting in an appearance at his sanctum. The latter Editor observes that "*The Canada Citizen*, as a whole," promises to be "a complete armory of argument, fact and suggestion, indispensable to those who would prove themselves fully equipped warriors in the terrible conflict that now so certainly impends."

The Editor of THE CRITIC, in his consciousness of need of complete equipment in his own line of warfare, may possibly avail himself of the *Citizen's* armory; he is not without misgiving however that the weapons of *The Citizen* may need proving before they are wielded in war; he observes among the earliest of the new journal's oracular utterances, the statement that "mis-directed mental power, is often the cause and sometimes the fact of a great wrong;" and again, he learns that "when we might discriminate better than we do, we allow our opinion of a fact or an idea to be affected by our feelings towards other facts or ideas with which the former has become associated." Inasmuch as the Editor of *The Citizen* makes public confession of the undue influence of "other facts or ideas" over his opinion of a previous "fact or idea," we are led to entertain doubts that the lack of mental discipline illustrated hereby may not be, in his case, "the weakest point of his moral enterprise;" it is therefore probable that we shall leave him to "crusade with iconoclastic zeal against such prejudices" as he may find, and we trust he will not "waste his strength in making the said prejudices blinder, etc." We hope he may desist from "vainly and foolishly fighting the flood, when he might seek out its source and close the sluice-gates, etc." For our own part, we aspire to avoid such Canute-like folly as that of "fighting the flood," and shall be content if the judicious public allow us to paddle our canoe upon it.

TWO DEMOCRATIC COFFEE-HOUSES.

Some two years ago, a philanthropic Presbyterian minister bestirred himself to give a practical thrust at the drinking system in Toronto, which platform declaimers would do well to imitate; this gentleman was instrumental in bringing together a sufficient number of capitalists to organize a Coffee-House Association; the scheme may be presumed to have commended itself to these associated citizens on the ground of its philanthropic aspect, and possibly not less, on the score of the prospect it afforded of yielding a good return for the capital invested. Whenever capital is

ostensibly in league with philanthropy, they who represent the capital are unlikely to neglect its claims, and as a consequence, philanthropy is apt to play the part of second fiddle; in view of the permanent benefit accruing to the community from this by-play however, it is bootless to *diagnose* the motives of the originators of the project minutely, we will therefore content ourselves with a glance at the practical bearings of these nutritive institutions; the designation which we have attached to the coffee-houses indicates that their most prominent feature consists in their comprehending all classes among their frequenters; the least exalted in the land (if such a description may be applied to the street-vendors of newspapers) may be said to jostle with judges and other persons of more or less prominence, the bare feet and legs of some of the boys may possibly suggest to the association the propriety of adopting the oriental custom of washing the feet before meals; the boys themselves appear to have been somewhat surprised at finding themselves in the same room with persons whom they have been accustomed to see in carriages, and to have their orders executed with that impartiality which a cash basis is prone to ensure—their sentiments on the subject are probably not incorrectly expressed by the following distich—

A ten cent meal!
The fruit of zeal
For the public weal!
And fish too, on a Friday!
"I'll go," says Bill,
"And have my fill,
And brush me clean and tidy,
And then I hope
I'll gladden the Pope,
When he hears I've fish on Friday.
It would please me well,
If it suited hisself,
To make each day a fry-day—
And I guess I'll bless
His Holiness,
If 'cos I wish,
He'll order fish
Each holy day and high day."

One obvious result of the humbler classes being brought into such close contact with their social superiors, is indirectly to soften their inanners; they must also be struck with the contrast between the absolute cleanliness of all the appointments and what they are accustomed to in their several homes; even the engravings on the walls, and the taste displayed in connection with the announcement of the "ice-cold lime-fruit cordials," are not likely to be lost on them; nor is the superiority of the coffee and other viands, to that which is provided in their own homes.

One of the most important bearings of the coffee-houses of the order of the St. Lawrence is that of their tendency to multiply; this is illustrated by the fact of the St. Lawrence having become the parent of that at Shaftesbury Hall, of another having been opened at Brockville, and of correspondence having been commenced with gentlemen in other places, who contemplate originating similar establishments.

The average attendance at the St. Lawrence Coffee House, for some time past, has been 750 per day; the classes frequenting the house are supposed to be divisible in the following fashion:—

Merchants, lawyers, judges, bankers, etc	125
Clerks in stores and offices	200
Ladies (supposed to be shopping)	40
Mechanics	225
Girls from stores	40
Lads under 15 years	50

The idea of extending the facilities of such a coffee-house, to those who would probably avail themselves of one, to the Esplanade, is, we believe under the consideration of the directors.