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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.

The report that the ex-President Balmaceda of Chili has shuffled off this mortal coil by shooting himself at the Argentine Legation, Santiago, on Saturday last, will not be likely to cause any regret. According to all accounts his life was one that could easily be spared, and his death will, it is thought, hasten the restoration of peace in Chili.

We have received from Appleton & Co., New York, four pamphlets belonging to the series called *Evolution in Science and Art*, being lectures and discussions before the Brooklyn Ethical Association. They are respectively entitled "The Evolution of Chemistry," by Dr. R. C. Eccles, "The Evolution of Electric and Magnetic Physics," by A. E. Kennelly, "The Evolution of Botany," by F. J. Wulling, and "Zoology as related to Evolution," by J. C. Kimball. As Mr. Herbert Spencer says, "They are admirably adapted to popularise evolution views." The rate at which such combinations of thought, paper and print, are dropping from the press, seems to be increasing day by day. A reaction may be expected within a century, and the pounding at what we consider an impassable wall, which our scientists now indulge in, will but strengthen the muscles to grapple with the gate to knowledge which is in another direction; we can see no opening in the dark corner where most of them now labor.

The season of fairs and exhibitions has set in with its usual severity. On Wednesday "Canada's International Exhibition" opened at St. John, and next week our own fair will be held. We have received an official programme of the former which is well got up, but we noticed an error or omission in the list of principal fairs and exhibitions to be held in Canada in 1891 that should not be allowed to go unnoticed. There is no mention of the Provincial Exhibition of Nova Scotia, and we are of the opinion that it is entitled to a place among the "principal" events of that kind. Taking into consideration the jealousy that is supposed to exist between St. John and Halifax, it looks as if this were done with malice prepense. If so, it is a thing the compilers of the exhibition programme ought to be ashamed of. It is a small piece of business, which we would scorn to imitate; we would have everyone know that St. John is having an exhibition, and probably a very good one too. It opened on Wednesday and will continue until October 3rd.

We often hear Nova Scotians speak of "going to Canada," when they mean the Upper Provinces of the Dominion of which we form a part. We must not allow ourselves to be insular in our ideas, but should always make a point of claiming our nationality as Canadian. To be sure, there are those among us who love this land of Acadie so warmly that it appears disloyal to it to claim the larger home, but the fact remains that we are Canadians, and that we ought certainly to take quite as much pride in it as we do in the fact that we claim this Province by the sea as the land of our birth. The pride of country is strong in most of us, and the oft-quoted lines of Scott—

"Lives there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself has said
'This is my own native land?'"

can almost be answered in the negative by our people as a whole. The singers of Canada, from Prof. Roberts, who is conceded to be the foremost, down to many comparatively unknown versifiers, have done a great deal toward producing a Canadian national feeling, but we, at least in this Province, seem still to lack the sense of oneness that should govern our speech and actions.

The Dartmouth Ferry Commission has raised the prices of all commutation tickets, the advance to come into effect on October 1st. This will not be relished by the Dartmouthians, who thought over a year ago when they boycotted the old Ferry Company, that they were going to get a better service without a corresponding increase in expense. It appears to us that the greatly increased traffic should make the receipts meet the expenses, but it seems that this is not the case. A few years ago two of the old boats were able to manage the entire business, Saturday as well as other days, but now the two large new boats do not more than meet the requirements, especially of market day, when the country people come into town with their "garden sass" and other wares. It is greatly to be regretted for the town's sake that the Commission finds it necessary to increase the price of commutation tickets. It will inevitably have the effect of driving people away from the place. A young man on a moderate salary will find \$5.50 a quarter too much to pay for the privilege of crossing in the ferry, and unless the inducement to live in Dartmouth be very great, will sooner or later come to this side to reside. Eleven dollars a quarter for a man and wife and five unmarried children, being minors, is also a charge that will be much felt. We are inclined to favor the establishment of a free ferry, just as some places are provided with free bridges. Until this is done it is probable that the question will continue vexed.

Some of the English medical journals have been discussing the subject of the uses of music as medicine, and several instances in which it has proved efficacious have been brought out. That the idea is not new we feel sure, for Mrs. Browning in one of her "Sonnets from the Portuguese" speaks of "Antidotes of medicated music answering for mankind's forlornest uses, thru pour from thence into these ears," although in all probability these "forlornest uses" were not physical but psychical in their nature, still here we have the suggestion, and do not know how old it may be, for the Poet's guesser writer of the sonnet is unknown to us. So far as we can learn from the examples cited, music as medicine has been employed with marked success in cases of sleeplessness. A story told by the late Dean Ramsey in his "Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character" is recounted in connection with the subject under discussion. A certain country laird was taken ill with some affection which produced marked sleeplessness. All sorts of remedies for the insomnia were tried, but in vain. The laird had a son who was what is called in Scotland "daft," that is, he was somewhat weak in the upper story. When the other members of the laird's family were in a state bordering on distraction, the lad suddenly burst out, "Feyther aye sleeps i' the kirk." The suggestion of getting a minister to preach to the sleepless man was acted upon immediately, and with the best results. Hardly had the reverend divine got well into the second head of his discourse, before the patient was sound asleep and snoring like the drone of a bag-pipe. The peculiar monotony of the preacher's voice had acted as an irresistible soporific, which is a phenomenon not unknown in our own country. There can be no doubt that monotonous reading, or soothing music, either vocal or instrumental, has the effect of inducing sleepiness, but since the time when lullabies were crooned over our infants' shoulders we have not experienced much of the effect, in fact it would be deemed highly improper to go to sleep in Orpheus Hall, for instance, (even though it were possible in those chairs) when the Club and Ladies' Auxiliary sing one of those hush-a-bye arrangements we are all so fond of and so accustomed to. It is suggested that there is a field for the musical author in preparing bedside music, and that nurses and young ladies, and even matrons, would be the better if, in the course of their education, they had a little instruction in music of the sleep-inducing kind.