

# 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 to prevent its appearance in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Lieutenant-Governor McLelan, whose death was recorded in our last issue, was a striking example of success in life. Intellectually Mr. McLelan was not remarkable, nor was he blessed with fortune's smile at birth; but he had indomitable perseverance, great energy and good judgment, and these enabled him to occupy many distinguished positions, the most distinguished being the gubernatorial chair of this Province.

General Middleton has tardily accepted the inevitable, and has sent in his resignation as Commander of Canada's Local Forces. The story of the appropriation of Bremner's furs will assuredly become historical, and it is to be regretted that in this connection Sir Frederick Middleton will not appear to advantage. To have retained the General in the public service of Canada would have been equivalent to offering a premium upon stupidity if not upon cupidity.

Of the three hundred and fifty-seven colleges in the United States, one hundred and forty-seven admit women to equal privileges with men, and besides these there are two hundred and seventy colleges for women only. This gives women access to four hundred and seventeen colleges, while men have access to only three hundred and fifty-seven. There seems to be no good reason for excluding women from any college or any branch of study, and they are making good use of the advantages open to them.

King's College is to be opened to women, and a girl's school in connection with the Church of England is to be established. These two moves, resolved on at the meeting of the Governors of the University in Windsor last week, are most commendable. That women are able to stand on equal ground with men in the higher branches of learning, has been amply demonstrated this year at several Universities, the most notable case being that of Miss Fawcett, of Cambridge, England. The girls' school will do useful work in preparing the young women for college, and old King's will doubtless do as well by her daughters as by her sons. The young men will have to look to their laurels now, for if, as the President announced last week, King's hopes to welcome her first lady student in October next, the race will probably be a close one, for women, when they enter on a college course, generally go in to win. Four years hence King's College Encenia may have the additional attraction of "sweet girl graduates." The college is to be congratulated on the change.

The last Leary raft has gone the way of the first one, or at least some of its sections have done so. Mr. Leary's scheme for taking timber to the United States does not appear to work satisfactorily. Experiments are all very well, but when it has been demonstrated that such experiments are to be a source of danger and anxiety to mariners, who do not like to run the risk of encountering such ponderous driftwood, it is time for those in authority to interfere. Mr. Leary's rafts are dangerous, and for the sake of safety on the seas should be put a stop to.

The McKinley tariff bill has been so altered and amended in the Senate of the United States as to make it a totally different bill from the one that the Congressman from Ohio introduced into the house. Great disapproval of the present state of the bill has been manifested by all parties. A Democratic paper says that Mr. McKinley has one thing to be thankful for, and that is that the Senate Finance Committee didn't remove the duty of five cents which his bill put on foreign eggs. Except this and the item of tobacco, the bill now differs from that passed by the house in every particular. The debate on the bill was to begin on Tuesday last.

The little town of Hautsholm, Denmark, can boast of the most powerful lighthouse in the world. The tower contains two steam engines, each of 35 h. p., for driving the dynamos that supply the current for the gigantic beacon. The lamp, which is constructed on LeBaron's system, sheds a constant light of about 2,000,000 candle power, and is so arranged that the keeper can watch and control its working from his room on the ground floor by means of a system of prisms and mirrors, and needs only to ascend to the lantern in case of accident or to renew the carbon. Besides the lamp, the tower contains mighty air-pumps, which actuate two powerful fog signals. The next strongest light in the world is probably that at Sydney, Australia, which has an illuminating power equal to 240,000 candles.

The ferry war, which for the past few months has been raging between the Town of Dartmouth and the Halifax and Dartmouth Ferry Co. has at length been amicably settled, the stockholders in the old Company having agreed to transfer the property to the Town for a sum which will bring them 90c. on the dollar. We believe that this arrangement is in the best interests of Dartmouth, but we doubt whether legislation which enables a Town, City, or Province, to compete with private individuals, or with existing Incorporated Companies, is justifiable or in the public interest. If such legislation were common, private enterprise would be seriously checked, and the Government, Municipal or Provincial, would have to inaugurate a new order of things, which to the free born Nova Scotian would be intolerable.

Messonier, the celebrated painter, pursued an entirely original method of study for his picture "1807." First of all, in the autumn of the preceding year he had a large piece of ground near the city sowed with rye. In May, when it stood in green stocks, by permission of the commandant, he had a battery of Artillery driven over it. Of the crushed and trampled stalks Messonier made large and sufficient studies. He then asked and obtained leave from the Military authorities to have a battery in garrison ride over it, and directed the soldiers to swing their swords and trumpets and shout "Vive L'Empereur!" So, by repeated observations of these cuirassiers and horses, he impressed upon his mind the whole scene, at the same time making the most complete studies of single horses and men, and of every part of their figures, in the uniforms of the French cuirassier regiment in the time of Napoleon.

The last vestiges of Pleuro-Pneumonia in the United States cattle are said to be almost destroyed. This will be a matter for rejoicing in Canada as well as across the border, as there must always be a risk of infection even with strict quarantine regulations. Pleuro-Pneumonia was introduced into America about fifty years ago by the importation of a cow having the disease into the city of Brooklyn from England. The disease spread and gradually forced its way west, notwithstanding many determined efforts to suppress it. A systematic effort was made by the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1886-7 at Chicago to stop its advance. Precautions have been taken whenever the disease has appeared, with the gratifying result that now the disease is almost stamped out. The quarantine laws of England have been almost prohibitory of the importation of American cattle on account of the danger of spreading the disease. This exclusion of United States cattle from the English market has been a benefit to Canadian trade. Should the regulations compelling all American stock to be killed on arrival at port of entry in England be removed, now that danger of contagion is past, it will bring a serious element of competition into the Canadian cattle trade with England.