

# 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.

**NIAGARA FOOLS.**—Why is it that Niagara cranks are allowed in our Dominion. We cannot hinder those possessed of the suicidal mania from leaping into the current, but it is quite possible to prevent the playing with self-destruction which is tolerated each year at the Falls. The present incumbent of this criminal-lunatic position is a rope-walker who, attired in scarlet, gambols over the Falls, hurls suspended by his toes over the abyss, sits himself on a chair and smokes a cigar at the most thrilling moments in his misdirected career. Energy, nerve and skill such as this should not go unrewarded, but a special department either in our penitentiaries or our lunatic asylums should be reserved for such performers. They should be happy in each other's society, and the country would be well and cheaply rid of them.

**BREACH OF CONFIDENCE.**—There are hundreds of young Provincialists who are just branching out into business life. They have begun their careers as clerks, type-writers, secretaries or book-keepers, and they mean to be both faithful to their employers and energetic in the work which they undertake. There is, however, a rock upon which many of these promising young people wreck themselves, and upon which a good proportion of the failures in commercial and business life have stranded before them. That rock is *breach of confidence*. The young employees are attracted by the novelty of the work into which they are thrown. They speak unreservedly of it to their friends and acquaintances, and are apparently quite unaware that they are betraying the trust of their employer. Occasionally the employee duffers with his employer on some moral question involved in a business transaction, and, forgetting that if his conscience or principles do not allow him to do his work with ease he should at once leave his place, he goes about talking the matter over with his friends, perhaps, which is worse, he assumes a mysterious air of "the things I could tell if I would," and by look and cowardly insinuations endeavors to damage his employer. Yet in the long run this breach of confidence does not injure the firm half so much as it injures the employee. His measure is soon taken by those who have to do with him, and when his dismissal takes place there are none to offer him employment. The employee who is faithful to the duties assigned him and is loyal to his employer's interest is the man who will make his mark in business life and who will have won the respect and esteem of all, when the unfaithful employee will be found in the perfunctory performance of the simplest duties of mercantile life.

**THE APPLE AGAIN.**—Popular medical science must be the funniest thing in the world to physicians. It conduces to their welfare financially, and perhaps it does little actual bodily harm to its devotees. Some strange and wildly differing ideas are promulgated at the same time, and it is probably on that account that the creed of "every man his own doctor" is so frequently shaken. We now learn that bread is a mistake. Bread that has nourished our grand-sires and has been our own staff and stay! The eating of bread (combined with the lapse of years) conduces to old age. He who would be perennially young must eschew bread and eat only juicy fruits, especially apples. No more savory dishes and tasty broths, no more cups of tea with crisp slices of buttered toast—only apples an unmitigated diet of apples. The apple, it should be remembered, is responsible for all of suffering of this world, and it is strange that it should be again brought forward as the one thing to be desired.

**JUMPING AT CONCLUSIONS.**—The action of the general public press in reference to the collision between the *Victoria* and the *Camperdown* is most discreditably. Until an official investigation is made no prejudice should exist against the persons who are responsible in greater or less measure for the collision. It is not manly to revive the skill and intelligence of the dead Admiral until some proof is made of improper action on his part, nor is it just to blacken the character of the Hon. Maurice Bourke at the present stage of affairs, nor should Rear Admiral Markham be hastily condemned. The daily reports are but the surmises of correspondents who wish to send taking telegrams, but who feel no responsibility concerning the formation of public opinion. The despatches bristle with absurdities which, though obvious to navy men, are not discernable by the general public. It is but fair and just that judgment should be withheld until the investigation is made in the proper spirit by the proper authorities.

**THE BURNT CHILD SHOULD DREAD THE FIRE.**—It is not yet too late for many of our smaller towns and villages to learn a lesson from the fate of the little town of Fairville, N. B. About a year ago the whole town was swept away by fire. As there was neither a fire service nor an adequate water supply little could be done to check the progress of the flames. There was little insurance on the burned buildings, and the loss fell heavily upon those who could ill afford to lose. Still the lesson of precaution was not learned. Early this week the town was again swept by fire, and a serious loss sustained by the very people who had suffered most severely last year. An attempt had been made to form a fire brigade and to obtain a water supply, but the efforts aroused no general interest and finally fell through. Owing to this state of affairs the insurance companies put rates up to three and four per cent., and few felt able to protect their property at such a cost. The second fire, therefore, found the people in a worse plight than before. Those who were recovering from the put back of last season felt the blow severely. And yet is the fault not with the people themselves? Had Fairville learned the meaning of her last year's lesson she would not have to mourn over burned homes to day.

**EVERY-DAY COURTESY.**—Why is it that we are not a more polite race? Why is it that there is proportionately more rudeness in the lives of average men and women than there is politeness? It is not caused by the lack of kindly feeling, for when emergencies arise our people are ready and willing to do for others. They are generous in private life, good citizens in public life—and yet, on the whole, we are not a courteous people. It seems to us that the chief cause for this lies in the family life. The father of the family, usually a hard working man, is probably gifted with as much affection as most of us. Perhaps he is ashamed of it, but at all events he masks his feeling with a show of indifference that soon amounts to brusqueness. His wife does not resent his manner—when he tells her gruffly, to "hurry up," she hurries. If he allows the door to fall back in her face as they leave the house together she makes no demur, but in turn she reflects the gruff treatment which she receives on her family. Her sons copy their father's manner to her, and treat their sisters in the same summary manner. The daily courtesies of life are ignored, and in time there are open ruptures between the members of the same family. To their shame be it said, that there are not a great many husbands who treat their wives with the same deferential attention which they bestowed upon them during the term of their engagement. It is the little courtesies of life that make or mar the whole—and to a woman the little things are frequently the great things of life. If our young married men would but look the matter plainly in the face they would admit that they have often failed in this respect, and if each one of them would but make up his mind that in his family he would set an example of courtesy, an improvement would speedily be noticeable. Kind words and courteous actions cost nothing, but they do much towards making life pleasant and agreeable.