

THE CRITIC:

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DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

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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.

A pamphlet, being a memorial of the late John Robert Willis, the first Nova Scotian conchologist, has just been issued by W. F. Ganong, A M., Professor of Botany at Harvard University, and Mr. Harry Piers, of the Legislative Library, Halifax. The little work comprises an introductory page by Ganong, the life of Willis by Piers, and a bibliographical and critical notice of Willis' published papers, with a list of Nova Scotian shells, by Ganong. It is carefully edited and will prove very interesting to all students of natural history.

The harvest moon is the full moon on or nearest to the autumnal equinox, and is so called because it rises more nearly after sunset for several evenings than any other full moon of the year. The moon, which will be new on the 14th of this month, and fulls about the 27th or 28th, will thus prolong the light to the best of her ability for the benefit of harvesters, but we fancy the idea is more poetical than practical, because farmers now-a-days seem to make a point of getting their garners filled in the day time. Nevertheless, a harvest moon is very delightful, and is duly appreciated by young people who have a fancy for meandering off together under the silvery or rather almost golden rays of our satellite.

In the course of an article on "The Christianity of the Future," in the Forum for September, the eminent and venerable Professor Blackie observes:—"Say what we will, abstinence is the despair of virtue. I abstain because I am too weak to be temperate; I retreat because I dare not face the adversary; I commence my virtuous career by a public confession of the most unmanly of all vices, namely, cowardice. No doubt it is wise in some persons to play the coward; and self-denial in some exceptional style, like the amputation of a limb, may be the only safety to a man for whom a large freedom cannot be claimed. For this we have the highest authority (Matthew v, 29); but neither our Lord nor his apostles ever taught that the abstinence prescribed for the moral diseases of the few was to be laid down as a rule of health for the many. On the contrary even drinking at marriage feasts and elsewhere receives a sympathetic recognition from the same God-man by whom the sour faces, the formal fastings, and the severe sabbatic practice of the pharisaic respectables was condemned; and meals and drinks, according to the great apostle, were to be wisely used and moderately enjoyed, just as we enjoy the universal brightness of the sun and the universal fragrance of the flower."