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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.

We have been fortunate enough to secure the services in aid of the Agricultural Department of THE CRITIC of Prof. H. W. Smith, Lecturer on Agriculture at the Provincial School of Agriculture at Truro, and it will, no doubt, be satisfactory to our agricultural friends to know that our Home and Farm Column will in future be edited by that gentleman.

Whom the Gods doom they first make mad' The lower house of the Nova Scotia Legislature, which has done itself much credit on several points, completed a very fair record this session by relieving the province from the anachronistic disgrace of imprisonment for debt—at least it wishes to do so, when lo! the fossil miniature senate arises in all the might of stupidity, and condemns the province to this obloquy for another year at least.

The details of the execution of Millman given in portions of the daily press, are, as usual, superfluous, sensational and disgusting. Who cares to know whether an atrocious criminal shuddered a little more or less, or breathed hard at a particular moment, or whether the posts between which he hung were "rough" or smooth. One point made by the purveyors to a morbid and despicable curiosity, however, is suggestive. The minuteness of the reporters prompted them to time the interval between the drop and the extinction of life, which seems to have been eleven seconds and a half. It is no great length of time, but there is no reason why the death penalty should not be carried out by the instantaneous action of electricity.

In a short time the new Dalhousie College will have its great "house warming," when guests from all sections of the Dominion and distinguished men from abroad will meet within its walls, and while indulging in festivities suitable to the occasion, will no doubt give the institution a wide publicity. The occasion should be commemorated by some suitable act, and public spirited citizens could not show their philanthropy or zeal in the cause of education in a more suitable manner than by endowing a chair of Astronomy, and providing a fund for the erection of an observatory that would not alone benefit science, but would also redound to the credit of the enterprise of our people, while furnishing a great additional inducement to students to make Dalhousie their *alma mater*. We merely make the suggestion without comment, trusting that "a word to the wise" will prove sufficient.

The Provincial Legislature was prorogued on Monday with the customary honors. The guard of the 66th not only looked well, but marched well and easily, but there is yet room in this corps, as well as in the Rifles, for a more rapid and swinging gait.

One of the men bitten at the Mueret's ranch, Brownsville, Texas, by the mad wolf that bit Mr. Chamberlain, who is now in Paris under M. Pasteur's treatment, has become wild and fled to the woods. It is reported that he appeared near the Asadore ranch, entered, and seizing a six-year-old child of Manuel Canter, bit and tore it to pieces.

We note with satisfaction that the Legislature has not failed in its duty to the public in regard to the proposition to alienate a portion of the Public Gardens and bestow it upon the Art School. We have the kindest feelings towards the Art School, but there should be no great difficulty in finding another suitable site for it, and had the legislature endorsed the proposed encroachment on the gardens, it would have sanctioned a breach of faith with the donors of the land, and an unwarrantable infringement of the rights and pleasures of the citizens.

The New York State Assembly has passed Mr. Crosby's High License Law by a vote of 66 to 61, and the *Philadelphia American*, writing in Republican interests, says: "The township and municipal elections in Michigan furnish fresh evidence of the advantages which accrue to that party from moderate but firm legislation with regard to the liquor traffic." It is evidently an entirely party matter, but it appears certain that the stringent requirements of the law as to the endorsers and bondsmen of licensees, even more than the large sums to be paid for licensees, will have the effect of largely reducing the number granted.

We have no more ludicrous exemplification of the worthlessness of party advocacy than the treatment by the opposed sections of the political press of the Fisheries Treaty. Either party, in Canada and the States alike, denounces it in well-nigh unmeasured terms of ferocity. Canadian journals, whose more consistent cry is for reciprocal good offices with the Republic, go into agonies over the surrender of Canadian rights; the others indulge in unseemly braggadocio as to what America has been compelled to relinquish. One-sided is the mildest term applied by either party; while people of rational judgment see in it only a fair and earnest endeavor to settle a seriously vexed question, as all such questions must be settled, by reasonable mutual concession and compromise.

A very "bright particular star" in the literary firmament has suffered extinction in the death of Matthew Arnold, the apostle of "sweetness and light." We cannot here either enumerate his works or analyze his genius, but he was one of those for whom the world has been distinctly the better. His "Literature and Dogma" has perhaps done more than any work that has been written to free man's minds from the shackles of a narrow literalism, while it has probably saved many a thinker from crude forms of agnosticism. His breadth of culture was very great, his nature essentially poetic, and his style most charming. A peculiar interest has always attached itself to the deceased author, independently of his own genius, as the son of the celebrated Dr. Arnold, who, as head master of Rugby, stamped an indelible impression of high christianity on many of the rising generation of his day of the "Gentlemen of England," an impression of which most readers have gathered the nature from "Tom Brown's school-days" and "Tom Brown at Oxford," Mr. Hughes, as well as the late Dean Stanley, having been among his pupils. Mr. Arnold was only 66 years of age. He was from 1859 to 1869 Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and himself produced many poems and critical works of a very high order, among others "Empedocles on Aetna," "Balder," "Merops, a Tragedy," "On Translating Homer," "Essays in Criticism," "Study of Celtic Literature," "St. Paul and Protestantism," "Culture and Anarchy," etc.

CHESS AND CHECKERS.

In starting a Chess department we were fortunate in securing the services of an editor who is not alone a skillful player, but a true lover of the noble game. So far his efforts to rouse interest in the game have been most successful, as is proved by the number of solutions and attempted solutions of the different problems published that have been received. One thing has been proved beyond a doubt, and that is, that there are a large number of good Chess players in the Province, enough, in fact, to warrant the editor in making up a thoroughly original Chess Column of problems, games, etc., all by individuals in the Province and contributed especially for THE CRITIC. If our readers will make a note of this and will endeavor to