

The Jester,

A COMICAL AND SATIRICAL RECORD OF THE TIMES: ILLUSTRATED: WEEKLY.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

Contributions to appear the same week must be handed in not later than Tuesday morning.

A SCIENTIFIC SNUB, AND NO MISTAKE.

"I propose to make arrangements this year by which the Inspectors of Artillery will be left free to make their inspections of batteries at times most convenient, and that the District Staff shall assist them by remaining absent upon the occasion of special scientific inspections, of which they are incompetent to judge. I regret it should be necessary for me to notice that inconvenience has arisen from this not having always been observed."—Report of Lieut.-General Sir Selby Smyth for 1878, p. 20.

(The italics are ours.) There is such a thing as having a just cause for complaint, and making it in a manner best calculated to promote discipline and the good of the service. This might be done in various ways: by private circular addressed to the officers against whom complaint should be made; by friendly admonition; by pointing out the errors complained of; in short, by the use of gentlemanly tact (which may also be in perfect harmony with the requirements of the service), and in a dozen other ways which should present themselves to an accomplished Commander. But there is also such a thing as a cruel, deliberate insult from a superior to an inferior officer, which may be made a perfectly safe thing to do by the fact that the stern rules of military discipline prevent full satisfaction being obtained. To comment upon the extract above quoted is almost needless, further than to remark that had Sir Selby Smyth contemplated the thorough demoralisation of those officers under his command to whom he refers, he could not have adopted a surer way of effecting his object. It is not always a practicable thing to resign an appointment—even though it should appear that the officers complained of, who have the right to expect to be treated as gentlemen, are incompetent. But even supposing they are willing to resign, they are prevented from doing so by the anonymous character of the language employed. No names are used, and the complaint is made still more offensive from that fact. Thus a stigma rests upon the officers of the District Staff throughout the Dominion, and there is no way open to them by which they can obtain redress. To take such a course as the Commander-in-chief has chosen to follow will not tend to popularise himself with the Canadian officers at large. In England there is such a thing as sending an unpopular officer "to Coventry," but although not wishing to create, even by mere suggestion, any expedient of this kind, there remains the uncomfortable fact behind that this cruel stab at a particular class of Canadian officers will rather reflect upon the officer who has made it, and which must of necessity result in a dignified contempt for the accuser.

LOGICAL TO THE LAST.

For some days past a cast in *terra cotta* has attracted much attention in a shop window in St. James street. The figure represents a boy being washed. It is a copyrighted trademark of an advertisement of a celebrated London soap-maker. In drawing attention to this excellent piece of work the *Herald* says:—"There is nothing new under the sun, and it is equally true there is nothing under the sun that is not new." What connection this sapient remark bears to the figure is not made clear. But it is a pity the writer did not enlarge upon the thought. For instance, he might have said: There not being anything new under the sun, there is a great deal that is not new that could be made new to many people. And if it were made new to many people, it would be very, very difficult to persuade them that what was not new to them, was not new under the sun. Or, for the sake of variety: There is nothing new that is not under the sun; for that which is not new under the sun can never be new, anyway. Again: Under the sun, as everybody knows, nothing is new, and if you should be told when you ask "if there is anything new?" don't let on that you don't know, until your informant has got through, then you can safely say, "old," "old;" for it is equally true that although there is nothing new under the sun, the newness of what may appear to your informant to be exceedingly fresh and startling, is merely nothing more than the pre-existence of so many facts, of which he was formerly in ignorance, and which does not in the slightest degree affect their apparent newness, for the simple reason that they are under the sun, and being under the sun, are not new. To further enlarge: A man may be "under the weather," the consequence of which on a hot day may end in his being under the sun. A great many men would require a sunstroke to appreciate this remark in all its entirety. And, then, in conclusion, you can't get

around old Sol by pretending to know more than he does, or by laying claim to any original discovery, for there is nothing under his benign influence which is new, so it's no use trying to blind him with soap-suds, even if it does bring in 20 cents a line. 'Pears to us that's business. You can't get more light in that way.

PROGRAMME OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE ALTITUDINAL SCHOLASTICON, MONTREAL, PREVIOUS TO THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, 1879.

1. Opening Chorus, by the Junior Classes,
"We'll study hard, we'll study hard, we'll study all the day."
2. Essay by Miss Winchleman—On the obliquity of the Ecliptic and its possible connection with the obliquity of vision known as *strabismus*.
3. Reading by Master William—a few thoughts on the value and force of the Greek roots combined with the Latin *supine* and *gerund*, and their practical application to custom-house entries and book-keeping.
4. Music by scholars of the higher classes, assisted by Signora Musicaire—Recitative in B major (*Twangi*).
5. Remarks by a classical Teacher, on Ancient Coins, illustrated with specimens of silver and copper oboli presented by Charon—received for passage money.
6. Report on the Teachers, by a freshboy, with supplement by Miss Emily.
7. Recess for the audience, during which the juveniles are drilled for the afternoon's performance.
8. Sympathetic piece spoken by Miss Elmira Paleface—On an imprudent companion who injured her spine by playing at recess while her school-mates were studying their lessons.
9. Essay by a Teacher—On the comparative merits of the Pestalozzian and the Associationist systems of mnemonics, especially in their application to the dates of the reigns of the shepherd kings of Egypt.
10. Debate as to the advisability of introducing the differential calculus into the junior classes so as to lighten the labours of those teachers who are exhausted by the toil of hearing the lessons which the parents have taught the children at home.
11. An Address on Drawing and Perspective, by Miss Wackford Squeers, teacher of the blackboard art, illustrated with sketches of ancient structures. A highly finished picture of the *pons asinorum*, with actual surrounding scenery of the locality where so many fatal accidents occur, will be handed round.
12. Notes by Mr. Ernest Strauss—On the deficiency of carbonic acid gas in the external atmosphere, with hints as to the best mode of increasing it so as to bring it up to the normal state of our scholastic establishments.

N.B.—Parents supplying lunch on examination day will please have it sent in jolly good time, nice and hot, at twelve o'clock. Recess of half an hour.

By order,

CAHORUS.

CAUTION.

Should any young law student be ambitious of seeing his photograph supplemented by a "condensed history" of his academic career, published in an illustrated paper, or should any journalist also wish for similar distinction in the future, don't send it on the First of April. Of all the days in the year "original contributions" are received on *that* day with peculiar suspicion, and it is just possible that disappointment and vexation of spirit will be the only satisfaction obtained. Don't you wish you hadn't done it?

EXPLANATION.

In connection with the article "Shopy—Very" in last number, we regret that its authorship has been placed—for a purpose, no doubt—upon a Dentist. We have to say that no Dentist wrote the article, and that neither by conversation, by letter, or hint, or suggestion of any kind from any Dentist was the article written. We exonerate any and every Dentist in Montreal or elsewhere in the matter. We hope to cure the "cheap John" style of advertising so common among professional men over the lines. This poking of one's business into our very teeth is unprofessional.

"SIBYL" ON OLD MAIDS.

"Sibyl" wants to know why so many people are opposed to old maids? She thinks they are "just splendid." And she thinks so, because when they come to see her they don't bring two or three horrid spoilt children who want "a piece" the moment they are in the house, and while they eat wander around, and are easily tracked by the crumbs that mark their way. Then with soiled hands they handle your choicest and best books, leaving marks of every finger, and persist in rubbing the same soiled hands over the faces of your dearest friends in your album. And their mother's "come, dear, you must not do so" often amounts to about as much as it would to try to change the current of the St. Lawrence with a straw. "I sometimes feel so nervous and exasperated," she says, "over these little wretches, that I am filled with an almost uncontrollable desire to shake them (for their mothers) till their shoes fly off. Perhaps after that performance they might keep still for a short space of time. So you see one of my reasons for such unbounded admiration of old maids. Their children never act in this manner, and in this respect, at least, even the idiosyncratic of a pet dog or cat are preferable to the obnoxious behaviour of 'smart' children."