

# THE CRITIC:

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In a recent notice of the doings of the School of Science at Pictou, a contemporary tells us that "Dr. Alexander Primrose will lecture Wednesday on respiration." Is it permitted us to ask what Wednesday has been doing to deserve lecturing? Is Wednesday a thing or creature that respire? Has Wednesday wilfully declined to respire, with a view to suicide? Who or what, in fine, is Wednesday? Among all the detestable Yankee vulgarities of the Press there is scarcely one so irritating as the omission of the word "on" before the day of the week.

The death of General Sheridan leaves the veteran Sherman almost the last name of note connected with the great civil war. As has recently been remarked, the early ages at which the American Generals have died presents a singular contrast to the general longevity of European Commanders. The late Commander-in-Chief of the American Army was undoubtedly a soldier of high capacity, though he perhaps owed the confidence of his troops more to his indomitable pluck, than to his generalship. General Sheridan may fairly be added to the list of notable Commanders who have been cavalry men.

The Council of the Royal Colonial Institute has urged upon the Home Government the exemption from legacy and succession duty of personal estate abroad, belonging to persons dying domiciled in the United Kingdom. The council desire to substitute, for the principle of the domicile of the deceased, that of the locality of the estate. Of course, the action of the council is intended to bear on the case of Colonists. The Lords of the Treasury, after careful consideration, do not see their way to adopt the suggestion, alleging loss of revenue and complication with foreign Governments. It is difficult to see why any arrangement made in the interests of Colonial British subjects should have any bearing on the case of foreigners.

It is the *metier* of THE CRITIC to make a firm stand for justice and humanity. It is one of the misfortunes of Halifax that every one is afraid of treading on somebody else's toes. A conscientious journal cannot condescend to this moral cowardice. If it plainly discerns an abuse, it must tackle it, no matter who is displeased for the moment. We have the friendliest feeling for the Street Car Company, which we have expressed a dozen times over and it is in no inimical spirit, but quite the reverse, that we again insist there should be an extra horse for the lighter feet hill. Times out of number, when the cars are heavily laden in the evening, the two horses attached to them break down in their endeavor to pull up that hill. We again, therefore, urge upon the company the putting on at that spot of an extra horse, and we feel sure it would be to their interest in the general saving of their horse-flesh to do so.

Mr. Labouchere circumstantially accuses the Queen of showing temper about German affairs in receiving the special Ambassador, General Von Winterfeldt in a very uncomplimentary manner. Mr Labouchere is far from reliable when he wants a sensation—which is always; but if there is any truth in it, Her Majesty is much to blame. There is something in the atmosphere of a court which is inimical to the sound principle of judging matters on their own merits. The cast-iron rules about the reception of divorced women where they are the aggrieved parties, and are themselves entirely blameless, speak ill for the discrimination of the Sovereign, and for the courage, which in that high position is a duty, to set the highest example of what is due to the unfortunate by no fault of their own. We should like to know if Lady Blandford, the victim of the Duke of Marlborough's ruffianism, is among the ostracised?

Our summer this year has not been an altogether unpleasant one to healthy people, though we have had perhaps more than a due proportion of moisture. But we are not alone in our grievance, if it be one, as the sub-joined remarks of the *Canadian Trade Journal* suffice to show:—"Such a summer as the present has not been known in fifty years in England. There have been only four days of undeniable sunshine since last November. Allegorical painters are considering a picture of July as a symmetrical maiden, with a mackintosh and an umbrella, sarcastically presenting to Jupiter Pluvius a hothouse bouquet, and recent arrivals at the American Club declare that the true reason why the sun never sets on the British Empire is that it never rises. Shop-keepers have suffered seriously. They have had neither a spring nor summer trade. Their stores are filled to bursting with dress goods, bonnets, sunshades, fans, etc., for which there have been no purchasers. Every trade dependent upon summer and sunshine is losing money. Along the Rhine, in Paris, and at all watering places there has been the same persistent down-pour, and the complaint of travellers from all the popular resorts of the continent echoes the same disgusted cry."

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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 insert in our "contributed" column a letter on Halifax, from a lady who has just left for England. The bearing-rein abomination we have frequently deprecated, but we are quite aware that running the street cars with three horses all the way would be a tax on the company which they could not in justice be called upon to undergo. We have elsewhere, however, indicated a third spot where we think an extra horse up a hill would be desirable.

Mr. Haggart, the new Postmaster-General, was, it seems, honest enough to vote, in 1887, in support of Mr. Cargill's proposition for the total repeal of the Canada Temperance Act. This, in the eyes of the *Montreal Witness*, is so completely identified with the "unpardonable sin," that it gives, in a sort of *Index Expurgatorius*, the entire list of the thirty-eight members who had "sufficient hardihood to support such a proposal." This is sheer pharisaic insolence. Is Canada a free country, or are we at the mercy of every combination of pretenders to superior virtue?

The *Montreal Witness* has the following forcible paragraph:—"Woman's honor counts for nothing in our courts. A married man in Toronto, representing himself as single, infamously arranged a mock marriage with a young girl, and lived with her until she learned that he had already a living wife, when she left him. He was arrested, and allowed out on bail. Had he been guilty of the smaller crime of stealing her watch, very probably the Magistrate would have refused any bail for him." Is it possible that no legislative enactment exists which rates this dastardly sort of crime at its proper enormity? The law urgently requires amendment for the protection of women. We are under the impression that, as regards seduction, Canadian law is based on the English, which, ignoring justice, regards the seduction of a girl in the light of the loss of her services to her parent. We believe American law regards the individual right of woman to protection against the crime of which she is the victim. Every sort of seduction should be dealt with as a direct crime.