

# 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.

A great sensation has been made in England by the discovery that hundreds of tons of old, emaciated, and probably diseased horseflesh are exported to Antwerp, and made into extract of beef.

It affords us sincere satisfaction to learn that the Halifax Street Railway has passed into the hands of a Nova Scotian syndicate. The new company consists of the following gentlemen:—President, B. F. Pearson; Treasurer and Secretary, Chas. Annand; Directors, Geo. E. Forsythe and C. F. Fraser, Halifax; W. Curry, and Alex. Forsythe, Windsor; and John F. Zebley, New York. The new trustees of the Bondholders is Mr. Allen Haley, of Windsor. It gives us the greatest pleasure to observe such enterprises passing into native hands, and to notice many instances of late of a rising spirit in this direction. Truly, Nova Scotia is waking up. We are additionally glad to understand that the new syndicate will give its early and serious attention to the substitution of Electric motive power for that of horses.

An interesting discovery was lately made at Ticonderoga, N. Y. In digging a sewer in that town a tombstone was struck, and under it was found the coffin containing the remains of George Augustus, Lord Howe, who was killed in a skirmish with the French at that place in 1758. There were three British officers of this family, more or less connected with American history, the one here mentioned; Admiral Richard, Earl Howe, and General William, who commanded the Light Brigade of Infantry under Wolfe at the Plains of Abraham, and subsequently commanded at Bunker's Hill. The first was an officer of much promise, and what makes the discovery of his remains of more particular interest is the expressed and recorded opinion of Wolfe that "he was the noblest Englishman that had appeared in his (Wolfe's) time, and the best soldier in the British army." First-rate soldiers were by no means too plentiful in the British Army at that period, but coming from such a soldier as Wolfe this was high praise. The young nobleman was only in his thirty-fourth year, but was already a Major-General; was known as a scientific soldier who had studied foreign warfare, shared all hardships with his men, and made them throw off all useless incumbrances in campaigning, cut their hair close, and wear leggings. He was deeply lamented throughout the army by all ranks.

The Gladstonians have recently scored successes in bye-elections which are substantial enough to be significant. Out of five elections lately held the net result is that where the Gladstonians formerly held two seats against their opponent's three, they now hold four to their adversaries' one. This of course is only an absolute gain of one, which is in itself a very trifling weakening of the Conservative majority, but if such gains continue to be made in future bye-elections—and there are some indications that matters are tending that way—the balance may be appreciably altered at no very distant day. In this connection the forthcoming Brighton contest, where the Liberals have an exceptionally strong candidate in Sir Robert Peel, will be looked for with strong interest.

It has been our endeavor to give in our columns from time to time what we find worthy of notice on both sides of the vexed "sawdust" question. In pursuance of this design, we quote below another editorial remark from the Montreal Witness.—"Although the Order-in-Council, under which the law of Canada forbidding the throwing of sawdust and mill refuse into rivers and streams is abrogated for the benefit of the Chaudiere saw mills, says that this is done because 'the public interest is not prejudicially affected thereby,' the result of the dumping of sawdust into the Ottawa by these privileged millers is that the channel leading to the mouth of the Rideau canal has been so silted up that dredging is necessary, and this dredging is, of course, to be done at the expense of the people of Canada. It is, in the mind of the Government, no injury to the public interest that a navigable channel, thirty feet in depth, should be silted up, involving a heavy expenditure in dredging, in order that a waste product that might be used for many purposes may be got rid of cheaply. Our Government exists to grant privileges to individuals and make the people pay." The strongly conflicting opinions entertained on this subject only emphasize the necessity of a commission of some sort that may be likely to elicit truth.

A striking instance of the contemptible sensationalism which seems to have such peculiar and irresistible charms for the American press appeared in the New York Herald recently. With the usual blare of big-letter heading it appeared as follows:—"A Hint of War—Great Britain calls on Canada for Military Mobilization—A Hostile Movement Feared—No Satisfactory Reason Discovered for a Very Sensational Order." This lively and sanguinary intelligence purports to have been telegraphed to the Herald from Montreal, wherefrom we infer that Ottawa is not the only city in Canada that maintains a subsidized "liar." The whole foundation of this piece of absurdity rests on the fact that the Imperial Government is in the habit of periodically (once a year, we believe) calling on the Militia Department of the Dominion for information regarding its military strength, and as to the facilities available for transporting troops from one Province to another. The order is of regular recurrence, no information beyond what is customary has been asked for in this instance, and the enquiries possess no special significance. Moreover, no excitement has existed—as implied in the mendacious telegram—in Montreal or anywhere else in Canada concerning the matter. We wish the Herald joy of its little sensation, though what possible good the publication of such rubbish can do is, considering that it will be clean forgotten in a week or less, quite beyond the ken of common sense people.

We commend the following somewhat abbreviated extract from the Toronto Globe as an example of ingenuity in discovering a new attribute wherewith to invest the equally ingenious Mr. Erastus Wiman:—"When Mr. King, of the Montreal Bank, went down to New York a good many years ago, and 'scopped' Wall street, Canadians did not exactly approve of one of their great bank managers playing that game. Still, we fear that they had a certain nascent satisfaction in the thought that the Canadian financier had been considerably smarter than the habitual speculator of Gotham. Something of the same patriotic exultation may be aroused by the last public performance of Mr. Erastus Wiman. We cannot approve of his Sunday dinner giving and his speechifying, which were not works of necessity. Nevertheless a more or less wintry smile illumines the Canadian countenance at the thought of how the Canadian New Yorker captured Washington's guests, gave them a good dose of information regarding the Dominion, showed them the importance of this country, centered the attention of the Continent on his own scheme, and knocked endways Uncle Sam's plan for keeping his visitors as ignorant as possible of the fact that Johnny Canuck is a very big boy and owner of the largest part of America north of Mexico." It is perhaps no bad thing that Mr. Wiman's guests should have had the opportunity of learning a little more about Canada, but we must be allowed to entertain some little doubt as to whether that gentleman's motives were quite such as the Globe, by implication, credits him with.