

# 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.

Now Blaine has been weighed and found wanting, and Harrison has tipped the scale of the Republican convention, people are beginning to make forecasts as to the chances of the Democratic nominee. Harrison's four years of office have given him an opportunity to make many friends, but he has likewise created many enemies, and it is thought that upon the whole he has rather lost than gained in public opinion.

We hope that many of the ladies of Halifax will enter heartily into the course of lessons to be given here under the auspices of the Ambulance Association. Everyone should know how to act in case of an accident which may endanger life or limb, and the useful information as to treatment and care, which will be given during the short course of lectures, should be taken advantage of by all who have the necessary time and the small fee at their disposal.

The Bishop of Durham has been using all his personal influence in bringing about a reconciliation between the striking coal-miners and the Durham mine-owners. The misery caused by the strike has been widespread, much valuable trade has been diverted from England on account of the scarcity of coal, which is required in almost all factories, and hundreds of laborers at various crafts have been thrown out of work on account of this strife between labor and capital. The highest praise should be given to the worthy Bishop, who has mediated so successfully between the parties at variance, and who has used his personal popularity and his clerical authority to such good advantage.

The question as to whether the World's Fair shall or shall not open on Sunday is still agitating the more Puritanic-minded of our friends across the border. A large signed petition has been forwarded to Senator Vest, in which the signers pledge themselves not to vote for any member of Congress who supports any plan of opening the exhibition on Sunday. The petition represents a narrow-minded section of the American community, and the threat conveyed is a contemptible one. We do not see what objection can be made to the suggestion of throwing open the beautifully ornamented grounds, the art galleries and in fact any portion of the gigantic exhibit in which labor would not be required. A Sunday spent on the Fair grounds, within hearing of sacred choirs and bands, might in all probability be more beneficial to the thousands of sight-seers than the same day spent in "wicked Chicago."

In our last issue we referred to the death of Captain Stairs, the brave young Halifaxian, whose fame has already become world-wide and whose future bore promise of such brilliancy. The immediate relatives of Captain Stairs have not accepted the report of his death as being absolutely correct. According to his letters it would seem a practical impossibility for Captain Stairs to have been at the mouth of the Zambesi at the time of his reported death. When we recollect the false reports which have reached Europe and America with respect to Livingstone, Stanley, Emin Pasha and other penetrators of the Dark Continent, it would not be surprising were a similar report circulated about Captain Stairs. We sincerely trust that the hopes of the relatives of this young officer may be realized, and that Stairs may yet live to do honor to his name and to his native city.

Within a few days the stream of American travel will commence in good earnest, and the land will be overrun with the pleasure-seeking tourists. These annual visitors will mean a great deal to this Province, and we should vie with each other in trying to impress our visitors with the beauties and resources of our country. These American tourists are free handed, they are accustomed to good accommodation and are willing to pay for them. If this travel is to continue to grow year by year our transportation companies and our hotel keepers must see to it that the travelling facilities and hotel accommodation are up to the mark. The immediate cash value of a tourist is small as compared with the character of the impressions he receives, and if these be favorable who can say what limit is to be placed upon the effect of his report. We have plenty of advantages which wide awake Americans will not be slow to appreciate, and our latent resources need American push and American capital to develop them; they should be developed.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling now appears as the apostle of the British soldier. The woes of Tommy Atkins have been ably portrayed in his "Barrack-Room ballads," and he will probably succeed in directing some consideration to the treatment of the red-coats. A pithy line will sometimes do more than an eloquent essay in catching and holding the attention of the public, and Kipling gives not a few crisp epigrammatic touches to the social side of "soldiering," which cannot be without effect. A good instance is:

"It's Tommy this and Tommy that,  
And chuck him out, you brute!  
But it's a saviour of his country,  
When the guns begin to shoot!"

And rarely has as sarcastic a pathetic jingle been written as,

"It's Tommy this and Tommy that,  
And Tommy, how's your soul?  
But it's the thin red line of heroes,  
When the drums begin to roll!"

Sir Edwin Arnold has expressed himself with critical freedom as to the moral make-up of the women of Japan. He declares that they are wonderfully developed spiritually, and that they are more susceptible to culture than most women. In fact, viewed through the poet's rose-colored glasses, the slim, almond-eyed Japanese maiden seems almost an angelic creation. Strangely enough the father, brothers and husbands of these divinities are represented as being a most reprobate lot, and altogether unworthy of these fair creatures. Sir Edwin's criticism has not passed without comment. It has aroused the missionaries to Japan, who protest that there is great need of improving the morals of these idealized women, who have but slight reverence for the matrimonial tie, and whose behavior is neither better nor worse than that of the men. A Japanese lady-writer hotly resents the patronage which is vouchsafed her countrywomen—and as for the much-slandered Japanese men—since Sir Edwin has decided to make his permanent home in Japan—he will have to fight his own battles with them.

Brazil is enjoying the full privileges of an enlightened republic. Many of her people look back with regret to the summary deposition and consequent death of the aged Dom Pedro, under whose guidance Brazil was at least a united kingdom. For the last year or so one despotic ruler has succeeded another, and the longed-for freedom has been removed a degree at each accession. Senor Jose Carvalho, a prominent naval officer, summarizes the reasons which have caused the change from a monarchy to a republic to be so disastrous. He says that the people have no proper conception of a republic, that they have neither political education nor republican ideas, that they have too little patriotism and too much personality and mercenary feeling, and that the lack of discipline in both army and navy is a disgrace to the State. The direct cause of this outburst against authority is to be found in the fact that Vice-President Perollo has just transported a large number of the most distinguished, cultured and wealthy citizens of Brazil to Amazonia, a forsaken spot, where the bad climate will abruptly end the lives of these political offenders.