

THE CRITIC:

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The unpleasant tone of voice in which Americans, and especially American women, make known their thoughts to others has often been commented upon. One critic in speaking upon the subject was severe enough to characterize it as "a mixture of whim, twang, affectation and acridness." While this is rather over-shooting the mark, it contains nevertheless much truth. It would appear that the offenders are conscious of their shortcomings and are anxious to improve themselves. In some of the eastern cities classes in "speech culture" have been formed, where an attempt to render the voice soft and musical will be made, as well as an attack made on provincialisms, which will be combatted until they are overcome. This is good news for all those who consider that a low soft voice is a great harm.

We learn from an exchange that a gentleman who bought largely of Annapolis Valley apples last season found some curiosities in some of the barrels marked No. 1. Among other things he mentioned one piece of trace six feet long, one clevis without bolt (he wants the bolt put in next time,) one piece of old buffalo robe, two sheep skins, one old curry comb, one old horse brush, with divers and sundry other articles too numerous to mention. It is also stated that he has all these hung up on the wall of his ware-room. "The apple packer" should beware. As the packing season approaches he should endeavor to lay in a store of grace for that time of temptation. It will never do to mix such articles as are mentioned above with apples, or the patient consumer will in time lose his taste for that fruit.

An over-enthusiastic admirer of Lieut. Stairs, who signed himself "New York," some days since contributed to a city contemporary a most delightful specimen of hyperbole. Charging Halifax rather unfairly with undue neglect of her distinguished young explorer, this ecstatic writer concluded as follows:—"Let not England, Germany and the United States reproach Nova Scotia for her indifference and neglect. Boston, New York, London and Berlin are envying the chance you do not seem to value." We were really quite unaware that we were risking the reproach of empires and the envy of great capitals in this matter. Mr. Stairs has been dined and wined, and is about to be gifted with a sword by his native city. Still we agree with "New York" that "Stairs is greater than an oarsman or ball player," and yet some oarsmen and ball players have met with greater applause. There are, however, some living Nova Scotians eminent in science or literature who would perhaps deserve a public reception quite as much as the gallant young explorer—Sir William Dawson, for example, or Dr. Bourinot, or Principal Grant, who by-the-bye is at present visiting Halifax.