

If we blue-roses only had a little confidence in ourselves, a little confidence in each other, what a paradise we might make this Acadia of ours. It should delight the heart of everyone of us to hear of the success of new enterprises, each one of which means the employment of our people at home. But most undertakings in this Province are pronounced to be failures before they have had a chance to succeed; and when they do succeed, everyone is ready to swear that he predicted it long ago. We want patriotism in business as well as in politics, and what is more we must have it.

It has become a trite remark to say that the Japanese are an extraordinary people. According to a Yokohama journal the native Japanese press is well represented by correspondents in London, and the character of the letters has greatly improved of late years. There is no branch of newspaper intelligence which is not ably dealt with. It is further remarked that "there appears to be no demand at all in Japan for stories of 'crime,' 'scandal in high life,' and similar stuff." If this be the case the Japanese are to be envied their culture, superior in this respect to that of English-speaking peoples.

The sinecure office of Master of the Royal Buckhounds is to be abolished, by which tardy measure a saving of some \$70,000 per annum in the household expenses will be made. The office is at present held by the Earl of Coventry, but it certainly seems rather "previous" than—as asserted in a paragraph which is going the rounds of the press—considering Lord Stanley has served but little more than a year of his Governor Generalship of Canada—Lord Coventry should be already designated as his successor, by way of compensation for the ornamental billet he will be called upon to relinquish. It has, in fact, since the first report, been rumored that the Governorship of Bombay is to be a solace to Lord Coventry for his loss of the court-office.

We have seen a very considerable number of criticisms of the press on Mr. F. Blake Crofton's stories of Major Mendax. They are, for by far the most part, as favorable and appreciative as the genuine-fun and extravagance of the book deserves. There are, however, a few who seem to think it necessary to display a super-conscientiousness of hyper-criticism on the score of the stories being simply untrue, which strikes us as exceedingly ridiculous. We suppose the same objection would lie with these "unco guid" folks against the Arabian Nights. Had Mr. Crofton used the least *vraisemblance* in his stories, and given the least occasion for their being regarded otherwise than as yarns too extravagant to do the slightest harm, there might have been some slight ground for such criticism, but this Mr. Crofton of set-purpose avoided, and we are unable to conceive any possible harm to healthy young minds from laughing over them. They are undoubtedly far more wholesome amusement for the young than the meretricious and really mischievous dime novel. Moreover, every newspaper teems with similar extravaganzas, only mostly of a somewhat inferior type.

It is scarcely fitting that so truly great a man as the late Dr. Silas Rand should pass to his rest without a larger tribute in the columns of THE CRITIC than a mere obituary notice. The character and career of the late Divine were unique, or if they bear any analogy it is to those of Elihu Burritt. Without college training his aptitude for study and literature, aided by a phenomenal memory, enabled him to master Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian. In Latin he thought, and Mr. Gladstone in writing to him, frankly acknowledged that his translation into that language of the Hymn *Rock of Ages* was superior to his (Mr. G.'s) own. His acquisition of the Mic-Mac language and legends was a marvel of literary power, and his translations of parts of the Bible into the language of that tribe was to him only a means and an accessory to a life devoted to their interests and spiritual advancement with utter self-denial. To dress or personal appearance he was sublimely indifferent; yet with hardly means to live by, and dying in absolute poverty, colleges showered their degrees upon him, and he commanded the universal respect of the country from the Catholic Archbishop to the most obscure member of his own faith. All honor, however, was borne by him in the quiet spirit of a Christian gentleman. Such a man may well live in the memory of his countrymen as one of the truly great of the world.

Speaking of the Active Militia Force of Canada, the *New York Herald*, in the article to which we alluded last week, begins its observations by a probably purposely absurd remark, that Canada is bent on fight unless reparation is made for the mock (sic) seizures in Behrings Sea, and that Canadian papers declare that 150,000 men could be put in the field at once. We have certainly not seen these alleged declarations, but the *Herald* continues:—"But on diligent search I find that instead of 150,000 heroes armed with every provision and appointment of modern warfare, the northern host dwindles down to a poorly disciplined and imperfectly appointed force, numbering on paper 36,474 men." Now, though we have every confidence in the stuff our men are made of, should emergency arise, there is yet no inconsiderable amount of truth in the *Herald's* account, and it is well that in all things we should look truth boldly in the face. The *Herald* goes on to say that the city corps "present a fairly smart appearance," and of course alludes to the fact of their only receiving "a week's training" every second year. The period is understated, but that does not make much difference. "In arms the Canadian Forces seem to be provided from the discarded weapons of the British Militia"—this is also an exaggeration, but it is true that the "rifle in use is the old-fashioned Snider, with a few Martini's for prize-shooting. There is, so far as I can ascertain, no single corps armed with magazine guns." Then follow a number of quotations from the reports of staff and other officers as to the condition of the arms in use, some of which we shall give in another issue.

We have in the Maritime Provinces a population of about one million persons, while in Ontario the population is over two millions, and yet we have three Lieutenant Governors receiving \$25,000 annually together, while the Governor of Ontario receives \$10,000 per annum. Maritime Union would effect a saving of \$15,000 per annum, which would enable us to make a capital expenditure of \$2,500,000 upon railways and other public works. This fact is well worthy of consideration.

With the steady increase in the mileage of our railways may be observed an equally steady increase in the values of contiguous lands which is most encouraging. Any man of sense can easily understand that when the great western portion of this continent was thrown open to settlement the values of farming lands in the east dropped to a very low figure, and hence we hear of lands once under cultivation now-being overgrown with fair-sized timber. Fortunately, the sweep of emigration has to a great extent filled up the prairies, and both in Quebec as well as the Maritime Provinces are to be seen signs of an advance in the values of farming land, and a desire upon the part of the people to remain at home and engage in agricultural pursuits.

We find ourselves every now and then freshly and strongly impressed with the disagreeable fact that absolute perversity and wrong-headedness are among the most frequent and prominent of the traits that ill-conditioned humanity develops. Mr. Dalton McCarthy is reported to have intimated his intention of making an effort in the next session of Parliament to secure the abolition of dualism in language for the Dominion. If this idea were not an impossibility it would be rank injustice to Quebec. As it is, it is wantonly irritating and insulting to that Province. If, therefore, this proposition be not a useless piece of hypocrisy it is most strange that a man of ability should be unable to draw sound distinctions between different cases on their merits. In the case of Manitoba an immense majority is English-speaking. In the case of Quebec the immense majority is French-speaking. Herein lies the whole case.

The *modus vivendi* will expire on the 11th February next. The Cape Ann *Advertiser* is prompted by this fact to take time by the forelock, and makes some very moderate and sensible remarks on the forthcoming situation. It frankly acknowledges, not only that American fishermen have for the last two years been spared much annoyance, that a source of international irritation has been temporarily allayed, and that the privilege of purchasing bait has been of high value to them; but, though it slightly depreciates the advantages for which American fishermen have been willing to pay a round sum of license fee for two years running, the worth of the concession is, tacitly and by implication, practically acknowledged. "The fact must be admitted," says our contemporary, "that in certain branches of the fisheries, at certain times of the year, it is an advantage to secure bait at Canadian and Newfoundland ports, though by no means to the extent which the Canadians claim as an offset to the freedom of our markets. Fortunately, so far as this agreement is concerned, it has been as difficult this season to procure bait in Nova Scotia or Newfoundland ports as in our own waters, and next to impossible to secure ice, so that with the loss of time and other incidents connected with the trip the privilege has been of no great value." Of course the Cape Ann *Advertiser* ignores the important facts that both bait and ice—especially the latter—have been phenomenally scarce this year, and the almost entire absence of friction speaks for itself. But with the expiry of the *modus vivendi* will again arise if no steps are taken to promote a substantial amicable arrangement. While, therefore, our Government and Legislators must not for a moment lose sight of American ingenuity in placing international matters in new lights, and in the sudden springing of new claims, it behooves us to make every effort consistent with national spirit to put an end to relations that may at any moment again become strained.

If there is dissatisfaction in Lunenburg County at the non exemption of the LaHave River from the operation of the Mill-refuse Act, there appears to be dissatisfaction elsewhere in the opposite direction. The Montreal *Witness* has the following on the subject:—"The Ottawa is not the only Canadian river that is being converted into a sawdust dump. In both Ontario and New Brunswick the people are being roused to take action for the preservation of their streams. But the Ottawa is the only large river in Canada that is being thus ruined legally. By the law of Canada it is illegal to dump sawdust into any stream under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, but that Government by an Order-in-Council expressly abrogated the law so as to permit the Chaudiere and Gatineau sawmills to continue to get rid of sawdust by throwing it into the river instead of making use of it, because, according to the Order in Council granting them the privilege, the public interest is not injuriously affected thereby, in the face of the facts that mill refuse which can be made to yield many valuable products, equivalent in bulk to five hundred thousand pine logs, is under this privilege thrown into the Ottawa to form bars and shoals that prevent the free navigation of the river and restrict its usefulness as a medium of transportation, to poison its waters so that no fish can live in it, thus shutting off a valuable supply of food, and to destroy its beauty, and so inflict injury upon every man, woman and child who looks upon it. There is not a beach, an island, or a bay on the Ottawa from the Chaudiere to the Lake of Two Mountains that does not bear eloquent testimony to the injury done the public by this privilege. Why, therefore, should it be continued? What possible reason can there be for the enforcement of the law as far as the Otonabee or the Au Sable is concerned, and its abrogation in the case of the grandest river of them all, the noble Ottawa." It is evident, in the face of such conflicting opinions, that the matter is ripe for a thorough and competent investigation.