

# 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.

**THE FIRST COLD WAVE.**—For the past three or four days the mercury has been hovering round about zero, and the air is sharp and frosty. A comparatively light fall of snow on Tuesday made fairly good sleighing, and Halifaxians feel that the winter has begun in earnest.

**THE KODAK AND THE "TELEGRAPHER."**—A knowing Winnipeg voter has succeeded in securing poisonators from the polls by means of a simple device. He stationed at each poll an unofficial person who, without making any fuss about it, quietly snapped a kodak photograph of every doubtful citizen. The examination of the proofs from all the voting places soon revealed the fact that there were not a few "telegraphers" who had voted two or three times under assumed names, and with this evidence from the never-lying camera it was not difficult to prove the charges brought against the poisonators. There seems to be no good reason why the Government should not take advantage of the idea and protect the polling booths of the whole Dominion by the means of cameras. The certainty of the detection of fraud will deter many who, though ready to face the scrutineers, would yet not dare to challenge the retentive memory of the cameraic eye.

**VERTICAL HANDWRITING.**—There is a general feeling that the day of slanting handwriting is about over and that vertical handwriting will shortly supersede it. To this there can be no serious objection for the new writing is quite as slightly and more legible than the old-time slanting hand. Some Vienna experts, who have been studying the matter, state that the frequency of spinal curvature and nearsight among public school children has been caused in great part by the improper position which the bodies and eyes of the pupils have had to assume in following the sitting rules necessary for the production of slanting writing. The sideways position at the desk which it entails, leads to the elevation of one shoulder and the bending of the spine. The neck is usually twisted for the simple reason that the pupil is endeavoring to use the same amount of seeing power from both his eyes. This movement of the neck is generally condemned by teachers although it is Lauro's remedy for the over straining of the eyes, and as a result the sight of one eye is shortened while the sight of the other is correspondingly lengthened. The friends of vertical writing claim that none of these disadvantages are entailed upon the pupils who discard the old in favor of the new style of writing.

**A PRACTICAL CHARITY.**—A very sensible and novel form of charity is that which has been instituted at New Trinity House, Boston, where a reform pawn-shop has been started. In this shop money may be raised on goods of all description and a charge of but four per cent. per annum will be made instead of the usual exorbitant rate of interest. The scheme is an excellent one, for the poor who are driven every winter to the pawn-shops are completely at the mercy of the unscrupulous proprietors. The goods which they wish to pawn are valued cheaply by the pawn-broker and such an unreasonable rate of monthly interest is demanded that the sellers can in few cases redeem their goods, which is exactly to the pawn broker's mind. By means of the Trinity House pawn-shop, the poor, when hard-pressed, will be assisted and not swindled in obtaining immediate relief.

**A MAN OF MANY PARTS.**—John Tyndall, one of the greatest of modern scientists, has passed away and unless he has left some disciple worthy of carrying on his investigations, the students of natural philosophy the world over will find that in losing him they have lost their leader. Tyndall's treatises on both heat and light have stamped him as being a man of signal ability and of careful thought. It is to be regretted that the dead scholar was not content with the honor and fame which these works easily obtained for him and that he saw fit to enter on the field of religious controversy using all his scientific knowledge in his attack on the scriptures. Prof. Tyndall was also a marked man in another life which is little known to the scientific investigator. He was inspired with a bitter hatred of Mr. Gladstone, and many a time he has held a political audience in rapt attention, as with his Irish wit and impetuosity he condemned the policy, the actions or the character of the Grand Old Man.

**THE DEAD GOVERNOR.**—The character of the late John Boyd, the recently appointed Governor of New Brunswick, is one that will delight the student of human nature; the kindness, the geniality, the justice and the shrewdness of his general make up are scarcely to be found in equal proportion in any noted public man. The general public outside of the people of St. John know John Boyd best as a gifted lecturer. In the days of his earlier manhood he had always deep at heart the needs of his suffering Irish kindred, and with this spur to his feelings, he read and lectured through the Provinces until he had, by his own personal efforts, raised the sum of \$30,000 to promote the emigration of his starving compatriots. As an educationist he was practical and far-seeing. The amiable feeling between the Roman Catholic and Protestant schools of New Brunswick which has been undisturbed for a score of years, has been due entirely to his solution of that ever present educational difficulty. As a politician he has been active and earnest. His voice, his pen and his purse were ever at the service of the Confederationist party and although he held no public office until two months ago, it was not because he had not had appointments in plenty offered him. John Boyd was essentially a man of the people, a natural gentleman with the abilities of a laborer and of a statesman in close connection. As an earnest Christian, who under all circumstances was constant to the trusts confided to him, he has won a respect and reverence which the death of his mortal body cannot affect.

**THE DEEP SEA MISSION.**—To most of us the existence of a Deep Sea Mission is a source of surprise, and the question naturally arises as to what is the object of such an organization. For those who were privileged to hear Dr. Grenfell's lecture in Orpheus Hall, this question has been most satisfactorily answered. The work of the mission is to carry medical attendance, medical supplies, clothing and good literature to that much overlooked class of people—the deep sea fishermen. Off the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador there are probably 30,000 fishermen toiling in the deep. They are continually exposed to accident, to the rigors of severe weather and the ordinary comforts of life, which even the poor laborer may surround himself with, are denied to them. The chief interest taken in these men has been shown by a low class of tradesmen who are always ready to make money by taking advantage of the infirmities and labor of others. Small schooners are fitted in the North Sea ports to ply a vigorous trade in poisonous liquors and in literature of a similar nature. The fishermen grasp eagerly at this connection between themselves and civilization and while the pockets of those who set the base enterprise on foot are speedily filled, a fearful wrong is being done to the minds and bodies of the men. The deep sea mission aims to correct this evil. The officers on the mission steamers and the excellent trained nurses which they carry, are soon able to obtain an influence over the fisher-fleet—to induce the sick to accept proper treatment, to give clothing to the needy, and to uplift the whole moral tone of the floating community. We are glad to note that a branch of the mission has been started in Nova Scotia and we trust that it may be enabled to do much in this most excellent humanitarian work.