

THE DAILY EXAMINER

JUNE 2, 1898.

AS IT STANDS.

We are unable to answer the question propounded by "An Observer." There is, so far as we can ascertain, no official record of the visits of Dr. Blanchard to the Hospital for the Insane. He goes there when he wishes to do so; and he comes away when he is ready. There is no one to call him to account except the trustees, and the trustees are manifestly unable to check the doctor or to know anything about the condition of the patients from the medical point of view. They might require him to sign a record of his comings and goings. But we doubt if this would be of any practical use. The doctor ought to be placed in a position in which he should be able to give special attention to curable cases and be ready to afford assistance to patients at any moment, day or night. This cannot be so long as he remains a resident of Charlottetown or Holland Cove, and his patients are three or four miles away at Falconwood. We must, first of all, provide the additional room which is needed at the hospital. Then we shall be in a position to deal with the doctor. Certainly the doctor ought to give the patients something more than a perfunctory service. His position is one of the highest responsibility. Interests of more importance than those involving life and death are committed to his care,—interests connected with the mind of man, that which distinguishes the man from the beast, the ruler of creation from the most helpless of God's creatures. These demand his constant sympathetic care; and the people of this province are in duty bound to assure themselves that he is exerting his ability to the utmost in the circumstances, as well as that the conditions shall be as favorable as they can reasonably be made. The doctor and his patients are, at all events, entitled to ample room at the Hospital. This is denied by reason of the incompetency and pigheadedness of the Government. Not even an attempt has been made to defend the conduct of the Government in regard to this matter. Upon their own showing, a new building was a necessity two years ago. It is admitted that they borrowed \$25,000 for the purpose of erecting the building and that the money has been spent. It is admitted that they entered into a contract that could not possibly be carried out by the contractor, and that they have refused the contractor the authority which the contract demands, to go on with the extra work required. It is an undoubted fact that they have taken possession of the contractor's materials and that they refuse to pay him for them. It is a fact that they allowed the Legislature to be prorogued without obtaining the means needed to prosecute the work. All these facts have been established. Neither the Government nor its organs have seriously attempted to controvert them. But an excuse for them has been offered. It is said that the contractor is a very bad man. This excuse will not, for one moment, be accepted by anyone who recognizes the fact that the Government had power, according to the terms of the contract, to take the work out of the contractor's hands if he were in the wrong. The fact that they did not promptly exert this power may be taken as conclusive evidence that the contractor was in the right. It is true that the Government took possession of the premises and the material—which they decline to pay for—in December last. But what were the circumstances? The Commissioner of the Public Works had previously written to Mr. Lowe the following letter:

Charlottetown, October 19th, 1897.
Walter Lowe, Esq.,
Contractor, New Wing Hospital for the Insane, Charlottetown.

DEAR SIR:—We have decided without prejudice to the rights of the Government, to pay for the extras required as follows: namely:

Extra Excavation, Back filling and Grading per cub. yd. .40c
Stone Masonry, per perch.....\$6.00
Brick laid, per thousand.....\$17.00

I have submitted the plans and specifications drawn by Mr. C. B. Chappell to Mr. R. P. LeMay, Architect, and Mr. Hector C. McMillan, Government Engineer, to investigate and find what extra work is required to construct the building thoroughly. When I receive the report of Messrs. LeMay and McMillan, I will notify you of the changes required and the price set by those parties for such work.

In order to remove any complaint that you may have about any delay, we are satisfied to advance you \$250 for the purpose of securing the material you have on the ground from exposure to the weather during winter.

The time for the completion of the contract will be extended until the 1st day of October, 1898.

All this is submitted without prejudice and is only to be considered as an offer if the sureties consent. You will require to

have the consent of the sureties before I can make any definite bargain with you.

Yours truly,
(Signed) JAMES R. MACLEAN,
Commissioner of Public Works.

In this letter there is a distinct promise to notify the contractor of the changes required; but no such notification has yet been given! In this letter, also, the time for the completion of the contract is extended until the 1st of October 1898; and the Government took possession of "the premises and all the material there placed for the purpose of said construction" on the 8th of December 1897!

It is not wonderful that the Patriot cannot find ground of defence in this case. It is a bad case—a bad case for the Government—as it stands.

A LESSON TAUGHT.

In view of the narrow and miraculous escape of the Misses Foster and Lawson from a sudden and awful death, particulars of which will be found elsewhere, we sincerely trust that persons who have fast horses will refrain from speeding them on such public thoroughfares as the Park Roadway and Brighton Road; and that if they do not refrain in this regard the law will be put in operation against them. We punish with a heavy fine the boy who dares to go upon the sidewalk on his bicycle, even though the sidewalk has no one else on it and he cannot possibly harm anyone. But we permit men to drive at full speed through our streets and roadways, even though the lives of children and deaf and infirm persons are thereby constantly endangered. Thoughtfulness and care on the part of horsemen, and consistency and discrimination on the part of those who execute our laws and ordinances, would be appreciated by the public.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—Had Mr. Gladstone lived another day he might have learnt news which would probably have given him livelier satisfaction than any other public event. On the morning of his death the first zone in Thessaly was evacuated by the Turks, and recaptured by the Greeks. By July 10, the Turks will be gone, bag and baggage from the last bit of Greek territory. The Sultan, with a sense of humor peculiar to himself, is reported to have ordered forty new suits of clothes, for himself and forty for one of his favorites as a memorial event. Greece now has a fresh start. Lord Salisbury may at last count one diplomatic victory in the Far East.

—Mrs. Gladstone's devotion to her husband was quite pathetic. She had no thought outside of him. She was his nurse, his companion, in the highest sense of the word. Mr. Gladstone's thoughts were at times very much in the clouds, but Mrs. Gladstone was very practical. She saw that he was properly wrapped up, and looked after him generally with a vigilance that the mother of an only child is supposed to possess. Lately, Mr. Gladstone suffered from "nerves," and the soothing influence of Mrs. Gladstone was all for good. She never allows herself to be hurried, and the calm way she looks at troubles was in direct contrast to the attitude of the illustrious statesman.

—Referring to the letter from "A Lover of Music," we have to say that THE EXAMINER has no intention whatever of conveying, by implication or otherwise, the idea entertained by our correspondent. On the contrary, we desired it to be understood that the singing and acting of all who took part in the opera was in a high degree creditable. With reference to Miss Amy Earle and Mrs. O'Reilly we admit that the notice was not adequate to the ability displayed by these ladies, and we greatly regret that the demands of time and space prevented extended remarks. As for Mr. Arthur Peake, to whom reference is made, we agree with our correspondent that his characterization of Carlos was capital and that he ought to feel encouraged to go on and practice for the opera as well as for the drama. Indeed we trust that all our young ladies and gentlemen of musical ability will be encouraged by the eminently successful rendition of "The Doctor of Alcantara" to pursue the cultivation of their several abilities in this branch of art.

DR. ANDERSON'S LETTER.

DEAR SIRS,—In reference to Dr. Anderson's letter, in yesterday's issue, and in justice to the young men of Charlotte town, 'tis only fair to say that it is positively known that the most outrageous act of the evening was perpetrated by a student of Prince of Wales College. We have no doubt that Dr. Anderson is perfectly honest in his opinion; but the majority of the people present know that the disturbance was largely, if not wholly, created by the students themselves. When the whistling was stopped they used their batons as an accompaniment to the proceedings. While some allowance may be made for slacking the reins of discipline, justice compels me to deprecate the placing of the blame for such conduct on those who are possibly, if not entirely, innocent.

Yours truly
"ONE OF THE GODS."
Charlottetown, June 1, 1898.

A CRITICISM.

SIR:—As one of those present at the production of "The Doctor of Alcantara," on Tuesday evening last, I would like to give expression to the pleasure this opera afforded to those who were so fortunate as to hear it. We had so much of the same in the shape of concerts during the past winter that it is refreshing to get a change, especially when it takes the form of a well executed opera.

In reading your report it seems to me that, unintentionally, I am sure, you do injustice to some of those who took part. I am aware of the difficult position of a reporter, and do not write in the spirit of fault-finding; but Miss Earle, for example, had the longest and hardest part, and her friends feel that in view of the splendid way in which she performed it she should have received more than a passing notice. Again Mr. Arthur Peake is credited to have done some of the choicest acting in the piece; and yet you say "with practice will do." The interpretation and impersonation of his part were faultless. "A sweet flower of innocence who lived on the distilled dew of flowers" did not certainly give opportunity to the impersonator to use his voice to full advantage.

Again assuring you, Mr. Editor, that my only object is to encourage the beautiful in art, I thank you for the space accorded me.

A LOVER OF MUSIC.

American's greatest medicine is Hood's Sarsaparilla, which cures when all other preparations fail to do any good whatever.

Baron Lyon Playfair, the distinguished chemist, political economist, civil service reformer and parliamentarian is dead.

She who Dyes Once

with MAYPOLE SOAP makes the discovery that after all there is a very great difference between the work of ordinary dyes and that done by MAYPOLE SOAP, which cleanses and dyes at one operation. She has learned that common dyes do common work, but that MAYPOLE SOAP imparts newness, freshness and beauty to the goods dyed. The result is she

Dyes Often,

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| 2—Running Broad Jump. | |
| 3—100 Yard Dash. | |
| 4—1 Mile Bicycle Race, (open). | |
| 5—Putting Shot. | |
| 6—Pole Vault. | |
| 7—1/4 Mile Boys' Race, (under 16 years). | |
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| 9—Sack Race. | An Address will be delivered by one of Canada's most prominent men. |
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| 12—Running High Jump. | |
| 13—1/4 Mile Flat Race. | |
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W. T. PAYNE,
SECRETARY COMMITTEE.

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