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EDITORIAL NOTES.

A new method for ventilating railway carriages and preventing dust from entering with the air has lately appeared in France. The air is made to traverse a receptacle containing water, which cools it and relieves it of dust, after which it goes through another filtering before entering the carriage.

The United States evidently believes that one good turn deserves another. No sooner has Britain ceded Heligoland to Germany than we begin to hear that it would be a friendly act to transfer the Bahamas to the United States. Yes, yes, brother Jonathan, and it would likewise be a friendly act on your part to cede Alaska to the Dominion. It would settle the Behring Sea difficulty, settle the boundary dispute, and develop in Canada a strong feeling of continent fellowship.

While Germany has been rejoicing over the ceding by Britain of that morsel of red sand stone, Heligoland, the British standard has been raised in another section of the Dark Continent and upwards of a million of square miles of fertile territory has been added to the British Empire. Stanley's reproach that Britain was letting slip a golden opportunity has not been unheeded, and late, but not too late, Britain steps forward and now British Africa constitutes an important part of the greatest empire the world has ever seen.

Mr. Swinburne has written an ode, "Russia," which in plain English means that it is a righteous thing to assassinate the Czar. By doing this he has probably settled the question of whether the laureatship shall be given to him after Tennyson, inasmuch as it would be an insult to the Czar to appoint his enemy court poet. The ties between the younger members of the two royal families are too close to allow of such a thing. Sir James Ferguson, when questioned on the subject in the House of Commons, said, representing Lord Salisbury, that the Government could not undertake to be responsible for Mr. Swinburne's ravings. While common humanity makes us all resent the barbarities practised in Russia, yet we are not all so fierce as Mr. Swinburne and do not advocate assassination as a cure for the ills from which Russia is suffering. But Mr. Swinburne's outbreak ought to do some good, by arousing in Britain and Europe so much opposition to the Czar's cruelties that the censure of nations might be brought to bear upon the tyrant.

Even the Indian, the "poor Indian," is being corrupted by Mormon practices in the North West. The people are therefore taking a decided stand against allowing polygamous Mormon settlers to come into the country. It is said the Government has been deceived, and not only is polygamy practiced, but owing to the proximity of the settlement of Lees Creek to the Blackfoot Indian reserve, the influence upon the Indian population has been demoralizing. The polygamists will have to stop the practice or go. The better way for Canada would be for them to go.

The St. John Globe, in suggesting that the question of precedence should be settled by the ability and willingness of the church dignitaries to entertain and give big dinners, puts the last touch of ludicrousness to the affair. Perhaps now that the idea has been presented to them, Presidents of conference, and others who wish this matter settled, may exert themselves and entertain and make jolly the lives of "the great persons who occasionally float across the social path of Canada." This would indeed be edifying to the hard-baked sinners of this world who might be called upon to decide as to the merits of the feast and award first place to the best provider.

Another cherished illusion gone! A recent despatch says:—"The authorities of the Swiss Canton of Schwyz have issued positive orders prohibiting the oft-told and generally accepted narrative of William Tell from being taught in the public schools as a part of Swiss history. The order treats the narrative of Tell and Gessler as pure fiction, for which there is not a suspicion of historical foundation." If this kind of thing goes on much longer there will be no history left to teach or learn, except the history of how history was sent to join the stories of gods and heroes who disported themselves on Mount Olympus, or whose wondrous deeds are related in the Sagas of the Norsemen.

The Pictou News quotes a portion of a note from THE CRITIC, and claims the right of any party to make political capital out of the exodus of our young people. We have more interest in the country than we have in the success of any political party. While on this question of an exodus we may say that much might be done to keep our young people at home. We have wonderful mineral wealth lying undeveloped at our very doors, and yet we are almost entirely dependent upon foreign brains, skill and capital, in working our mines. Give our boys a practical training in mineralogy, and our capital would soon be employed in profitable mining enterprises, and our young men would find that it would pay to stay at home. As matters now stand there is scarce a banking institution in the Province that will advance a single dollar on a mining enterprise, and yet this is not the case in other countries. The reason is not far to seek. Our own people have not been trained, and our capitalists have no confidence in mining; and when they do invest, it is for the purpose of speculation in selling, and not for legitimate working. Give our boys a training and many a property which to day is held to sell will give employment to bluenose brain, muscle and capital, and turn the exodus from Nova Scotia to the West into an exodus from New England to this fair land.

Dr. Barnardo was recently examined before the Ontario Prison Commission in reference to his system of bringing boys and girls of the pauper and criminal classes to Canada, in order to give them a chance in the world. Mr. Jury, of the Commission, is represented as condemning the whole system, and much opposition is felt in many quarters against the Doctor's work. If it is true that the record of Dr. Barnardo's proteges shows the conviction of only ten boys and no girls since 1882, the arguments of those who say that these waifs of the city streets go to swell the number of our criminals, can have little weight. The demand for these boys and girls is said to be greater than the supply; and although there is every objection to importing children physically afflicted, there can be no really valid excuse for refusing to open a career of usefulness to those who are able to work in our broad Canadian land. Kept in England, these children are exposed to the same conditions which kept their parents in poverty, or led them into crime, but once removed from these associations there is every reason to hope that environment may prove stronger than heredity, and good citizens made of those who under other circumstances would have little opportunity or inducement to reform. That Dr. Barnardo is doing a good work, despite some of his peculiar and arbitrary methods, cannot be questioned, and one of the factors in making the work successful, is the possibility of providing homes in a new country for those he has rescued. If there was no demand for these children, if the country could supply all the laborers of that class that it needs it would be wrong to allow them to be brought here, but as the case stands it can do little harm to the country and much good to the children to grant them the opportunity to do their best in Canada.