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EDITORIAL NOTES.

A WISE RESTRICTION.—The Board of Health of Philadelphia have set an example to the whole continent on the rather gruesome subject of death certificates. In the place of the all embracing term of "heart-failure" the physicians of that city are requested to enter on the death certificate the name of the disease from which the patient was suffering prior to the heart failure. This term has been so abused that it has come to be an equivalent to the common expression "died from want of breath," and it is essential to the safety of the community that a definite cause should be assigned on every death certificate.

STOOD THE TEST OF GRATITUDE—A well-known New Brunswick gentleman has set an example to the community which, if followed by others, could not fail to be of great benefit to the widows and orphans of the clergy and ministers of Canada. The gentleman was the son of a clergyman who died suddenly, leaving his wife and children unprovided for. At that time there was no provision made by the church for the help-less ones thus suddenly thrown upon their own resources, but a number of benevolent gentlemen made up the sum of \$3000, which they invested for the benefit of the family who had been so suddenly deprived of their sole means of support. A portion of the money was reserved to be spent in lump sums as occasion should arise. A promising lad in the family on attaining a working age was given sufficient of the principal to enable him to purchase a share in a dry goods business which was then in its infancy, and owing to his efforts and to the timely aid which had been given, the family were placed in independent circumstances. The event took place many years ago. The clergyman's son is now one of the most prosperous men in St. John, and it has been one of the objects of his well spent life to return to other families placed in the same position as his own the timely help which was then vouchsafed to his. Owing to his active work and to his generous aid the society for the aid of widows and orphans of clergymen has been organized, and the fund has lately been increased by the handsome contribution of \$3,000 with the accumulated interest of more than two score years. It is needless to state who the donor was. Suffice it to say that one man has been more just than either the law of our country or the unwritten moral law would command. A deed such as this should be widely known. The knowledge of the action cannot but give one greater faith in humanity and greater hope for the future of our people.

NOT REASSURING TO MUSIC TEACHERS.—A curious case recently settled in the British courts is not reassuring to music teachers. The defendant argued that as he was an infant in the eyes of the law he was not responsible to the teacher for the amount due for lessons received. The plaintiff, while admitting the infancy of the defendant, argued that the instruction had been suitable to infant at time of contract and that it was a necessary debt. The judge, however, decided that as the pupil had been a fustian cutter, the art of singing was not a necessity to him, and that in his opinion the lessons given were to be regarded in the same way as if the defendant had purchased (without paying for) articles not necessary to a person in his humble condition. It is an easy way out for the pupil, but to us it appears rather hard on the teacher.

NAVAL OPINIONS.—The decision of the court martial will set at rest many of the theories which have been promulgated with respect to the collision of the *Victoria* and the *Camperdown*. The responsibility for the accident is laid entirely on the dead Admiral, and many witnesses have sworn that the Admiral admitted and deplored his mistake when it was too late. Captain Maurice Bourke and the Admiral who obeyed the signal are both exonerated from all blame, and we cannot but feel that the decision is a just one. The British Admirals are not, however, unanimous in agreeing with the decision of the court-martial. Many naval men protest that the signal which caused the fatal collision did not call for an impossible movement, and no less an authority than Admiral Hornby declares that had "a celerity of individual movement" prevailed and "a spirit of mutual assistance" been shown, the evolution might have been performed with safety.

COMING TO HALIFAX?—Kansas and Colorado, two of the great Western States, are in political as well as financial trouble just now. The Governors of both States are hot headed Populists and firm believers in free coinage. Governor Waite, in addressing a public meeting at Denver the other day, appealed to his people to get up another revolution and "send the British Tories back to Halifax" but by British Tories he appears to designate only the men who do not think in all things as he does himself. As Governor Waite is unwise enough to endeavor to precipitate a civil war because of his private opinions, we agree to welcome the strong minded men whose actions are based on principle rather than on impulse to whom he refers. Men of that stamp are always welcome to our city. In Kansas, however, the situation is more serious, "a sprouting Cromwell" presides over the State and he has a ready shown marked though misdirected ability. He has a National Guard of some thousands of men who receive commands only from him, and he has secured the stiff esteem of the criminal classes by pardoning great numbers of them who were under sentence, and by ignoring all appeals from citizens attacked by robbers or mobs. There may be some Tories in his State who would also prefer life in Halifax.

THE COMING TRAMPS.—There are still a few vagrants from the once great army of tramps on their way through the country, and it will be strange if the army of idlers is not speedily supplemented by hundreds of American workingmen who have been thrown out of work because of the great recent financial crashes. It was hard times that started the last great army of tramps on the move. The majority of them, were once reputable workingmen who were suddenly deprived of their means of livelihood, and when the financial situation brightened and the mills and factories were again at work, a large proportion of them resumed their normal life, while the vicious, depraved or losing men among them continued the life which they began on the road. Each day brings word of factories and mills shutting down, thousands of the American laborers are being turned adrift each day, and unless speedy measures are taken another great army of tramps will overspread the land. The German method of dealing with this nuisance is vigorous and efficacious, and might be followed to advantage here. A national society was formed for the relief of the tramp and for the suppression of the tramp nuisance. Anti beggar societies were organized in all cities, towns and villages, the members of which fastened small metallic discs to their doors. This was the token that no alms would be given by the inmates, and an address below gave the tramp the direction to a house where he might by a few hours work earn food and lodging for himself. At these houses every effort was made to secure permanent employment for deserving men, and the vagrant was comfortably housed and fed in return for his labor. In this way the tramps were provided for in every town or village at little or no expense to the people, who were spared the financial drain and relieved of all forms of mendicancy. The Government officers were soon able to place all dangerous men and exercise a surveillance over them, and safety was assured to both life and property. If, as is natural, a great army again is set marching, it may be necessary to protect ourselves by this method against the more vicious of that class.