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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.

SIX IN ONE.—A movement is on foot having in view the union of six of the ten republics of South America. Economy and better trade relations are the motives which have stimulated President Baptista, of Bolivia, to outline the proposed union, and the manner in which it has been received by at least six of the republics would indicate that a consolidated South American republic might take definite shape within the current year.

A NOVEL OCCURRENCE.—A rather peculiar incident occurred the other day at a large ball which was in progress in one of the towns of central Russia. The ballroom was very warm and the dancers becoming overheated "perspired freely, a large quantity of moisture being thus given off into the air." At last a Russian officer threw open several of the windows, thus admitting the freezing outside atmosphere. The moisture was immediately precipitated in the form of snow, and the gay dancers soon found them selves in the midst of a miniature blizzard, which lasted until the offending air was again excluded.

THE ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—We in Canada are fortunately free to a large extent from the homicides so common in many of the States of the neighboring Republic, but we still occasionally, under the laws of our land, enforce capital punishment and take away the lives of our fellow human beings. The old doctrine of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is inapplicable to the civilization of the age, and those who imagine that capital punishment acts as a deterrent in preventing crime are laboring under a fearful mistake. The Howard Association of London has made a careful study of the subject, and its investigation has shown beyond a doubt that death as a punishment for murder has the only effect that might be expected, that it hardens instead of softens the emotions, and prepares men to commit murder by contemplating it. The Dominion Government and Parliament should take steps to abolish capital punishment, and thus by showing their own estimate of the sacredness of life teach the people to respect it. Owing to the existence of the present law many criminals escape deserved punishment, for there are but few jurors who like to take upon themselves the responsibility of pronouncing a prisoner guilty, knowing that this involves death, whereas these same jurors would unhesitatingly pronounce an adverse verdict provided that the punishment did not involve the life of one of their fellow-beings. Timid persons may imagine that the abolition of capital punishment might render life and property less secure, but reliable statistics prove that instead of this the opposite is the result.

A GREAT PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION IN 1894.—The very general effort that is being made throughout Nova Scotia to have the Province well represented at the World's Fair must be gratifying to every true bluenose. It will be a source of pride to everyone from this section of the country visiting the World's Fair to see that we have put our best foot forward, and that in many departments we are well abreast of the times. The exhibit, taken as a whole, will greatly exceed in excellence and variety any provincial exhibition that has been held in Nova Scotia. If this be true, why should an effort not be made to have the exhibit shipped directly from Chicago to Halifax and placed on exhibition here, so that the ninety and nine who have not the time or means to visit the World's Fair may for a comparatively small sum see at least Nova Scotia's contribution toward it.

WHAT DO THE PRESS SAY ABOUT IT.—In another note we have referred to the idea of having Nova Scotia's exhibit at the World's Fair exhibited in Halifax before distribution. To our mind, if such an exhibition were made during the months of July and August during 1894, it might prove of very great advantage to the Province. Thousands of tourists would no doubt take advantage of the opportunity to visit Halifax, and the exhibition would do more to make them familiar with the Province from every point of view, than all the guide books and other advertising mediums could do in a decade. Here is a definite work for some of our public-spirited and energetic citizens to take up and successfully carry out. We trust that our contemporaries will endorse the idea, and will by all the means in their power assist in giving it definite shape. Now is the time to be up and doing in the matter.

EXCITEMENT IN ULSTER.—The people of Ulster are growing very excited over the Irish Home Rule Bill, and they openly threaten to oppose its introduction by force of arms. This state of affairs is indeed a sorry one. Men of supposed intelligence and loud in their manifestations of loyalty talk of flying to arms rather than to be governed by a Dublin Parliament. The Ulsterites should remember that the Home Rule bill has not yet become law. It has yet to be sanctioned by the House of Lords, and that sanction is not likely to be obtained as long as there be a majority of sixty-four English constituencies opposed to Home Rule in Ireland. But, supposing that the measure had become law, the men of Ulster should not doubt that the Parliament which created the Dublin Parliament could, in the event of the delegated power being abused, speedily settle matters.

THE BUSY CHINESE.—A colony of unwelcome Chinese farmers on Long Island, near Brooklyn, are teaching farmers many lessons in economy. They are engaged in raising Chinese vegetables for the China-town of New York, where their produce supplies the market. Every care is taken with early and late crops, and experts state that the Chinese farmer can obtain double the produce that an American would obtain from the same piece of ground. Several of the farmers have induced four successive crops to grow on their barren plot of ground. The money-making methods of these agriculturists are not wholly to be admired. Their homes are tiny board shanties in the middle of the acre or two of farm, their food is the cheapest obtainable, and as they do not esteem time as money, they are able to cut-rate the farmers of the neighborhood. It is strange by-the-by, is it not, that we now hear so little about the threatened exclusion of the Mongolian Race.

IT DOES NOT SUIT US.—The provisions of the new treaty between Canada and France which are now being considered by Parliament do not commend themselves to the judgment of the people of this country. By these provisions France agrees to admit certain articles free and others at a minimum duty, which, according to the trade of the year 1891, would sweep away duties amounting to \$30,000 per annum. According to the provisions of the treaty Canada agrees to place French wines upon the free list. The duties imposed on these wines amounted in the year 1891-92 to \$80,000. This looks very much like jug-handled reciprocity. At any rate the advantages of the treaty are largely on the side of France. One clause in the treaty is practically the last nail in its coffin. It provides that in the event of Canada arranging a treaty with any other nation, granting greater trade privileges than those provided in this treaty, France is at once to be placed in the same position as the nation with which the new treaty is made. This virtually kills the treaty, for everyone in this country, from the most pronounced tory to the ultra radical, believes that reciprocity between Canada and the United States must sooner or later come, and no Canadian Ministry would for a moment think of jeopardizing the chances of such a reciprocity for the small advantages that are to be gained by the treaty now under discussion.