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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 Venezuelan uprising has developed a new feature—and a most distressing one for Palaccio. The Church has decided to uphold the revolutionists, and the priests are participating or sympathizing with Palaccio's enemies. One of them, indeed, has already distinguished himself as a military leader. Palaccio will have his own best interests and the good of his country most at heart if he retires from the uncomfortable dictatorship.

It is impossible to imagine the grave faculty of Cambridge University discussing with any degree of comprehension a case of flirtation. But not only have they done so, but the Chancellor of the University has decreed that the guilty party, one Miss Beatrice Cooper, shall be imprisoned for one week—which is most harsh and ungallant of the Chancellor. In Canada we can claim more liberty than this case would suggest, and the young ladies of our cities and college-towns who indulge in this lively pastime need not fear a similar bad result.

Considering all the circumstances, Halifax is wonderfully free from ruffianism. Her citizens are law-abiding and peaceful, and the transient seafaring population keep fairly well within bounds; but every now and then the rowdy element in the garrison becomes unruly, and then our people are exposed to all the dangers that contemptible cowardice and rascally rum can prompt. Last week three of our most respectable citizens, when quietly returning to their homes between the hours of ten and eleven p. m., were individually attacked and shamefully beaten by four or five military brigands, who do not deserve the name of soldiers, and despite the apparent assistance of the authorities of the regiment, only one of the number has yet been identified and brought to book for his conduct. The unfortunate incident suggests one or two thoughts which are worthy of consideration. If the police protection is inadequate in such a frequented portion of the town as the intersection of Gerrish and Guttingen streets, what is it like in the rest of the city. If the above incident can take place within earshot of some of the non-commissioned officers, what is the regimental standard of discipline. If military brigands can brutally assault peaceful citizens and be shielded from detection by their comrades in the regiment, how can the men of that regiment retain the respect of the citizens of Halifax, and do they not only serve to make the red coat a badge of cowardice rather than an emblem of soldiership. The military authorities will not have done their whole duty to the people of Halifax until they shall have ferreted out the cowards and handed them over to justice. The stigma of ruffianism which this affair attaches to the regiment is slight as compared to the odium that it will entail should the guilty parties be shielded from the consequences of their cowardice.

Asiatic cholera is not the only visitor to be guarded against! The people of Newfoundland are suffering from a catching fever of a virulent type, and many, in consequence of the spread of the disease, are leaving their homes. It is quite possible that the disease may be brought to us by some of the many men and women who come to Halifax every week in search of work. A rigid inspection of all Newfoundland vessels would be a wise step.

The Assembly of the Quebec Legislature should be in high favor at present with the ladies. After a comparatively short debate the members accepted a bill which will give to widow or spinster holders of property the right to vote in town and school-trustee elections. This is a decided victory for the female suffragists, who, however, will regret that the clauses of the bill allowing women to sit on school-boards and municipal councils were struck out, and that the new bill is permissive in its character, and its provisions may be accepted or rejected by any municipality. Still, the proverbial "half-loaf" is always considered better than no bread at all.

The evidence which is being published with respect to the Intercolonial Railway, taken before the civil service commission, proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the expenses of carrying on a government railway are abnormal, while the receipts are below the mark. Mr. Schreiber, the high cocklow, says so, and Mr. Schreiber ought to know. Under these circumstances how can the Intercolonial deficit be turned into a surplus. Not at all. We might as well expect a merchant who buys dear and sells cheap to become a millionaire. The Intercolonial Railway had better be put in the hands of commissioners, and then, it may be, its affairs will be conducted on business principles.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise continues to show the same friendly feeling for Canada that she exhibited when she so gracefully held the position of the Chief Lady in Canada. At present she is organizing a party of noble or prominent ladies, who are to visit the World's Fair in her company, and later are to travel through Canada. The Princess has many pleasing recollections of her Canadian life, and we can point with pardonable pride to some changes for the better in the development of our country since her stay with us. Lady Dufferin is to be a member of the party, and with the exception of the ladies of the Royal family, there is probably no noble guest who would be more warmly welcomed to our Dominion, which she has done so much to befriend.

It behoves the authorities to keep a close lookout for disease-stricken vessels or travellers. The outbreak of virulent cholera in India is alarming the British residents, and many are flying from the country. The older inhabitants among us remember the stay of this awful Asiatic guest in our midst, when from 1829 to 1831 the cholera made its fearful "round the world trip." In 1849 and 1865 America was again ravaged by this plague, and in all these cases the home of the fell disease was in Asia. Better hygienic knowledge has taught us how to lessen the dangers of contagion; stringent quarantine regulations have been the safe-guard of our ports, and the utmost precaution should be employed to protect our homes and our little ones from the unwelcome Asiatic visitor.

There are two very discontented little islands who are just now airing their grievances. The Governor of St. Helena is very down-hearted over the affairs of his domain. The solitary and isolated plot is seldom visited, and enjoys none of the usual advantages of British possessions. In this case geographical position seems to be the chief grievance, and it is hardly within the probabilities that this serious defect can be remedied. The other wail comes from Madeira. Mistress Portugal is dictating severe terms to the little community of settlers, and by imposing heavy import duties has cut the island off from the world's trade. This grievance, happily, may be remedied in time, and does not compare with the trials of those who have chosen Napoleon's lonely island for their home.

After a hot fight, the London School Boards have decided that the children under their charge shall be protected from the sale of intoxicating liquors. The wonder to us is that they did not come to a similar conclusion a generation ago. The Imperial Parliament is now considering the bill as presented by the Boards, but the members are by no means of one mind regarding its advisability, and several local governing bodies have been asked to express their approval or disapproval of the new principle. If the persuasive logic of a woman would weigh with these behind-the-day British legislators, and if it would not be wholly contrary to British precedent, it would be well for the temperance-workers of England to allow Lady Henry Somerset to represent them in the discussion.