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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.

AUSTRALIAN FRUIT.—The prospects for a fruit trade between Australia and Canada are fairly promising. The first consignment was opened on June 22nd, and was found to be in good condition, although the inexperience of the packers was shown in the over-ripeness of the pineapples sent. The oranges were in good condition and will probably meet with a ready sale. As this is the most trying season for the shipment of fruit, there is little doubt that under better conditions of weather the fall consignments will arrive in good order.

THE FOUNDERED CRUISER.—Deep sympathy is expressed in all classes of every civilized land for the ill-fated victims of the disaster which has befallen the Man-of-war *Victoria*. For Admiral Sir George Tryon, who perished with his men, none but the kindest words are said, for he had shown himself on many occasions as "a man every inch of him." The cause of the terrible accident is not yet known, although it is thought by many that the steering gear of the *Victoria* was not true, and that while all due care was exercised for her safety and that of the *Camperdown*, yet the defect in the gear was responsible for the accident. Less than a year ago the *Victoria* met with a grounding accident, for which her Captain, the Hon. Maurice Bourke, was severely censured. He pled that the fact that the ship would not respond quickly to the steering gear had caused the accident, but his argument was not allowed. The gear was not tested at the time, and as a result perhaps of official carelessness, Captain Bourke has perished along with over four hundred officers and sailors. There have been but few disasters in times of peace caused by foundering. The story of the *Royal George*, which keeled over in 1782, when lying quietly at Spithead, is one well known. The lines—

"When Kempenfelt went down
With twice three hundred men."

bring a graphic picture before the eyes of every school boy. Of late years the greatest naval disaster was that which befall the *Serpent*, which foundered off Cape Finisterre on Nov. 11th, 1891. The *Serpent* was a large, well equipped cruiser, but on a voyage to Africa she encountered stormy weather and was driven ashore, of the 176 men on board, only three survived to tell the sad story. We trust that the great disaster which has befallen the *Victoria* may long be without parallel.

NO MISTAKE ABOUT THE CHEESE.—Our cheese-makers have reason to be proud of the honor done to their exhibits at the World's Fair, as out of the 135 medals for this feature of the dairy exhibits, no less than 126 medals have been given to Canadian cheeses. There were in this department over 600 entries of American, European and Canadian cheeses, and the last have been incomparably the finer. It now remains for our cheese-makers to keep up the good name which they have earned by keeping the quality of cheese up to the present standard.

THE BALLOT IN THE FATHERLAND.—Although the German elections are nominally over, the political parties are by no means aware of their resulting weakness or strength. Instead of the three great political parties that entered upon the contest, four large and several small parties have issued from the struggle. The great Radical party has met with a severe blow, the Social Democrats have more than held their ground, and the Conservative and Catholic parties have each a large following. It is probable that at least half of the elections will be contested again, and as many of the small parties will then disband, their votes will probably give the balance of power to the Catholic or Conservative parties.

BLARNEY AGAIN.—It will be hardly worth while for sight-seers to visit Europe during the coming season, for a large number of the most interesting relics are to be found in Chicago. Who would care to visit the burial place of Columbus if he could not experience the thrill of being near the ashes of the great discoverer, or who would care to go to Erin if he were to be debarred from viewing from afar, if not actually kissing the famous Blarney Stone. The stone is the last acquisition of the Board of Managers of the Fair, and Lady Aberdeen has been most earnest in her efforts to secure it for the Castle in the Irish Village. If any of our readers should chance to kiss the stone in the undignified attitude which its position renders necessary, we shall be charmed if he will favor us with a description of his sensations at the critical moment.

SHAKEN AT THE FOUNDATIONS.—Scientists have been investigating the cause of the recent earthquakes in Zanto, which for the past three months have kept the inhabitants in constant terror. The shocks have been so severe and so frequent that of the 4500 houses on the island only 200 are now left standing, and during one day no less than 300 distinct shocks were felt. Marvellously few people have been killed by the shocks, for only 50 out of a population of 40,000 are missing, though many have been injured by falling walls. The scientists claim that the shocks have been caused by erosive currents at the bottom of the sea that have generated gases by eating into the rocky floor. The gas thus escaping forces itself upwards causing upheavals and shakings of the land near by. The Zantians are however not greatly interested in the scientific solution, they only ask for peace and quiet and to be spared any further fluctuations of real estate.

BEAUTIFY THE HOMESTEAD.—Year by year our Provincial farmers are doing more to beautify their farms, and on the whole the aspect of the ordinary farm-house has improved considerably. There is, however, yet much to be done, for there are still hundreds of unpicturesque and untidy little homesteads to be found in all sections of the country. There is no reason why the farmer's home should be unattractive and ugly when the means for beautifying it are always at his hand. Shade trees should be set out, the front grass plot should be kept in good order, and if there are to be flower beds, they should be trim and tidy. The most angular inartistic house may be toned down with vines, the useful hop vine being no mean ornament, while the most sordid utilitarian cannot object to its existence. Let our farmers see to it that they do their whole duty in the matter of making the farm attractive to the young people, and that the appearance of the homestead be made prepossessing.

THE MINISTERING ANGELS.—Princess Christian is to be congratulated on the grand work which she has accomplished in connection with the training of nurses. It is only five years since she formed the British Nurses Association, with the avowed object of protecting and elevating the profession. Since that time 2,000 trained nurses have graduated from the Association and the general public has profited by their services. In India, Lady Dufferin began a similar work, and in Canada Lady Stanley has been intimately associated with the Stanley Institute, where a splendid course of instruction is thrown open to Canadian women. There are also excellent training schools for nurses in almost all the Provinces, and much excellent work in alleviating suffering and caring for the sick is done by our professional nurses. The profession, which is still in its infancy, offers well-paid employment to many more of our Provincial girls, and we trust that the good work will steadily grow in popularity.