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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.

It would be interesting to know why a letter addressed to Rev. Hugh McMillan, posted in Bermuda on the 26th of November, should be found lying among a lot of car sweepings near the Narrows Bridge on December 1st. It may have been by accident that this happened, or there may have been gross carelessness or worse on the part of the railway postal authorities. The letter was found by Mr. T. C. Connor, contractor, of Moncton, N. B., who kindly took the trouble to mail it again. It was of considerable importance, and contained a cheque for a sum of money. In the ordinary course of events this letter should have come to Halifax via New York by rail, but by some mischance it failed to reach its destination. In view of the importance of having the mails strictly inviolate, this case appears to call for investigation.

A man, who must certainly have been madder than a March hare, entered the office of Russell Sage, the many-times-a-millionaire, in New York, last Friday, and demanded \$1,200,000. Failing to obtain this rather large amount of booty, he threw to the floor a bomb, which demolished the building and killed five people, including himself, and injured five or six others. The man is supposed to have been H. D. Wilson, an escaped lunatic, but there is some suspicion that he belonged to a gang of organized bomb throwers, pledged to kill all monopolists. A man named D. Southwick has since been arrested on suspicion of having had some connection with the affair, but we think it is most likely that the man who threw the bomb was insane and committed the deed on his own account. At any rate, if this was an organized attempt to terrorize millionaires, it has proved a failure, for Russell Sage appeared to be the least injured of all the occupants of the room, and the crank himself paid the penalty of his crime with his life.

The question as to the liability of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association for the \$10,000 life insurance policy effected by the late James Maybrick in favor of his wife Florence, now in jail under life sentence for causing her husband's death by administering poison to him, has been settled. The judges of the Court of Appeal in London, on Monday, decided that the Association is liable for the payment, provided the wife does not profit by it. This decision is most important, as it establishes a precedent in law effecting life insurance. It will appear to most people as just and equitable. Maybrick effected the policy, and he could not prevent the

manner of his death, therefore, it would be unfair that his heirs should be deprived of the benefit of the provision he had made for their comfort. Mrs. Maybrick, if she committed the crime for which she is imprisoned—which many people doubt—would naturally be shut out from the enjoyment of the money, but it would not seem right that the insurance company should reap any benefit from the crime. It would be different if a man committed suicide, for that would be perpetrating a deliberate fraud on the insurance company.

The course pursued by Newfoundland towards the Canadian fishermen has resulted in the putting in force by the Dominion Government of the clauses of the customs act levying duties upon fish imported from Newfoundland. The formal proclamation to this effect was signed by the Governor General on Tuesday. This is Canada's first return blow for the unfriendly treatment received from Newfoundland, and it probably means only the beginning of the fray. The breach between the Dominion and the Ancient Colony has been slowly widening for some time, but it now promises to become irreparable. It is not improbable that Newfoundland will now impose discriminative duties upon all Canadian products, and that in return for privileges granted to United States fishermen, the United States will abolish duties upon Newfoundland products, and thus direct the tide of trade away from Canada. The turn affairs have taken is much to be regretted, for complications may arise out of this bait question which will seriously embarrass the empire. It is a not-to-be-contemplated contingency that Newfoundland should ever transfer its allegiance to the Stars and Stripes. Britain would not allow it, and if any serious tendency towards such a move were noticeable, she would make bare her arm in short order.

The Presbyterian denomination in the Lower Provinces has had very sorrowful news from its missions in the New Hebrides. Rev. Joseph Annand writes from those islands that some time ago Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Laurie, missionaries, lost a child, which so preyed upon Mrs. Laurie's mind that she became crazy, and had to be removed to Australia—a task that was accomplished with difficulty. Another lady, Mrs. Segget, wife of a missionary, became insane and committed suicide by hanging. The third tragedy is the most terrible of all. A young planter who had been married but two days, went with his partner in business from the small island on which Mr. Annand lives to an adjoining one to engage in his regular occupation. A commotion was observed on the beach of the island during the day, and when help arrived it was found that bushmen from the interior had come down and killed the young bridegroom and two natives, whose bodies they carried away for a cannibal feast. These sad incidents in the lives of the missionaries will serve to awaken deep sympathy for them. The Gospel has done much for the natives of these islands, and while brave men are found willing to carry on the work it will not fail. Mention was made of the sad news in all the Presbyterian Churches of the City on Sunday. Much sympathy is felt for the Mission Society.

The story of the financial wreck and break down of the health of Cyrus W. Field, the famous originator of the Atlantic cable system, illustrates most forcibly the instability of fortune. Mr. Field entered a mercantile house at the age of fifteen, and by his ability and perseverance in business was enabled to retire with a fortune at the age of thirty-four, and devote himself to the accomplishment of an object on which he had set his hopes—the laying of a cable across the Atlantic. A Canadian electrician, Mr. F. N. Gisborne, it is said, made the first suggestions which led to the formation of a company for the purpose of establishing a telegraph line from the American Continent to Newfoundland, and thence to Europe. A number of prominent American capitalists were associated with Mr. Field in this venture, and several attempts were made to lay the cable, but they failed of accomplishment. Mr. Field then went to London and organized a new company, subscribing one fourth of its capital himself. Both the British and United States Governments were induced to aid the enterprise by ships and other means, and the third effort to lay the cable proved successful. Communication thus established lasted only three weeks, and affairs looked rather hopeless. This was in 1858, and it was not until 1865 another expedition was fitted out, and the *Great Eastern* started to lay a cable. The first attempt by this monstrous steamer was a failure, but in the following year she managed to connect the old and new worlds by the slender tie which has, in a manner, annihilated space for us. It took twelve years of incessant toil, and the penalty of crossing the ocean fifty times before this result was achieved, and Mr. Field was acknowledged to be a benefactor to the world. Honors and fame were his, but now he is overcome by trouble. The death of his wife, the failure and insanity of his son, and his daughter's illness, together with his own impoverished state, form a sorrowful setting to the latter end of a life that has been exceptionally useful to his fellow men.