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EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is perfectly sickening to read in the European dispatches that the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria is reluctant to sign the death warrants of those two monsters in human shape, Frank and Rosalie Schueider, who were recently convicted of murdering and robbing eight servant girls in Vienna. The death sentence, it is stated, will probably be commuted to imprisonment for life. Such sickly sentimentality as this is deplorable. When human beings commit crimes they must suffer the penalty, and if ever there was a case that appeared to call for the utmost severity this is one.

The Lord Mayor of London has promised his support to the movement for introducing anthracite in that city for house purposes. The smoke nuisance has become so great that anything that offers the least relief is worthy of a trial, and the Welshmen who visited the Lord Mayor a few days ago have succeeded in making out a clear case for the coal they advocate. Among a number of curious facts brought out at the interview it was said that London has 700,000 houses and 1,500,000 chimneys. On a cold day about 40,000 tons of coal are consumed, emitting 840 tons of sulphur. A change of fuel is certainly to be desired.

The prospect of a speedy settlement of the Behring Sea dispute is cheering to our jaded spirits. It really seems as if this matter might have been disposed of long ago, but diplomacy, like the mill of the Gods, grinds slowly. Sir John Thompson, Messrs. Foster and Bowell, accompanied by Mr. Parmalee, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, left Ottawa on Monday for Washington, where meetings were commenced on Tuesday. The commissioners for Britain are Sir George Baden Powell, and Dr. Dawson, and for the United States Professors Mendenhall and Merriam. The matter should be fully decided before the next sailing season, and to an onlooker it appears a long enough time to put it through. The rumors that have been afloat as to another reason for the visit of the Canadian Ministers to the United States' capital, may turn out to be correct, they are at least plausible. It would appear to be economy of time and money to make one visit serve for the discussion of both the seal question and the more important one of reciprocal trade relations between this country and the United States. At the time of writing rumor alone is responsible for this statement, but we hope it may be true, for there is room for much improvement in such matters.

We regret to chronicle the death at an early age of one of the most promising young men of the Provinces—Goodridge Bliss Roberts, son of Rev. Canon Roberts of Fredericton, N. B., and brother of Professor C. G. D. Roberts of King's College. The sad event took place at Wolfville on the 4th inst., and was very sudden. Mr. Roberts had gone to Wolfville to preach on the previous Sabbath and was taken ill with pneumonia, which terrible disease proved fatal. The deceased was a graduate in arts of King's, and was pursuing the divinity course at that university. For a man of his years he had already become well known in literature, although naturally his brother's fame as a poet somewhat overshadowed him. Had not death's relentless shaft struck him down thus early in his career there is no doubt that he would have been enrolled among Canada's principal men of letters. Sorrow for the young is always greater than for those whose race is run, and we echo feelingly the words of the poet:—

"Come let the burial rite be said—the funeral song be sung!
A dirge for him the doubly dead in that he died so young."

The physical culture movement seems to have set in in Canada, and an unusual amount of literature pertaining thereto is afloat on it. Of all fads it is probably the least objectionable, and if it will really teach women the senselessness of waip-waists and consequent ill-health, we will have much to be grateful for. Dress reform goes hand-in-hand with physical culture, whether it pass by the name of Delsartism or something else, and the very fact that the exercises prescribed in the manuals of the order are scarcely safe to be taken while wearing tight clothes or corsets, makes it imperative on the devotees of physical grace and expression to dress in accordance with the laws of health. Mrs. Jenness-Miller, the noted exponent of the system of dress reform, which bears her name, has set the ball rolling in Toronto, and now there is a trainer at work with a large class of ladies in that city. Of course the influence will permeate all over Canada, and the mothers, wives and daughters of the land will be taught how to carry themselves under all circumstances. One thing to be borne in mind by those who enter into this movement is not to expect it to be a cure for everything. It will certainly do good to persist in exercises looking to the correct development of the whole body, but the work is slow and requires patience. It has, however, the advantage of being interesting where classes are formed, and it would not be a bad idea for some of our Halifax ladies to make some experiments in this way.

How would any spirited young man feel just now were he standing in Prince George of Wales' shoes? According to all the oracles he is to be married almost immediately in order to "secure the succession," and the small matter of whether it be agreeable or not to His Royal Highness is not taken into consideration. The possibility of a Fife sovereign ever reigning appears to gail the aristocracy of Eng and exceedingly, hence the anxiety for the Prince to marry and have a family. If he follows the example of all the other members of the Royal Family—with one exception, Princess Louise—there will be no danger of direct heirs failing, but it certainly savors of "counting your chickens before they are hatched," to rely too much upon the possibilities of Prince George's marriage. It is to be hoped that the favorable impression created by the intended marriage of the Duke of Clarence to, if not strictly speaking an English princess, at least as English as they make them, will not be lost sight of by Prince George and his relatives when it comes to the point of choosing a bride. The reigning house of Britain is almost wholly German, with some admixture of Danish blood. Since James VI of Scotland, son of Mary Queen of Scots, became James I of England there has been no infusion of British blood in the family, and that was nearly three hundred years ago. James married Princess Anne of Denmark, and their daughter married the Elector Palatine, and her daughter, Sophia, married the Elector of Hanover, whose son became George I of England. The latter could not speak English well; his wife was Sophia of Brunswick, and their son, George II, was married to Caroline of Anspach. George III was the son of Frederick Prince of Wales by his wife Augusta of Sax-Goth, and his wife was Sophia Charlotte of Mecklenburg Stralz, George IV married Caroline of Brunswick, and his brother, William IV, married Adelaide of Saxe Meiningen. Our present beloved Queen is the daughter of the Duke of Kent, brother of George and William, and his German wife, so it will be seen that Victoria's only English blood comes from so distant a source as to be scarcely apparent at all, she married a German prince, and the Prince of Wales married a Danish princess, so it cannot be said that the family of the Prince of Wales is English. If Prince George has any backbone he will certainly choose his bride himself, and if he knows what is best for him he will not marry a German princess. Some new blood would be an advantage, and there could surely be found a girl in the British aristocracy, "as sweet as English air can make her," fit to share the throne with the sailor prince whom everybody likes.