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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.

A murder has been perpetrated at Gateshead, near Newcastle, similar in character to the Whitechapel atrocities. The question suggests itself whether the supposed lunatic who committed the latter has changed the scene of his terrible crimes, or whether the new horror is due to the extraordinary tendency to imitation so often observed, which is almost sure to constitute some novelty in murderous outrage the first of a ghastly series.

We are accustomed to think and speak of Latin and Greek as dead languages, yet not only is one an actual living tongue, but our own speech is so constantly in process of enrichment from both of them that in that sense they are still living to us. We have perhaps adopted nearly all we are likely to adopt from the Latin, but our debt to the Greek goes on increasing with every new scientific word we introduce, and the newspapers of Athens show that modern Greek is little different from the ancient, and that it would be easy to restore it to its original purity.

Mr. Gladstone's recent utterances point distinctly, to Home Rule (which in those sober and rational countries embodies no dangerous ideas of disruption) for Scotland and Wales. This, as we have said before, we seriously think the best road for England out of present difficulties. English conservatism will probably be slow to admit the idea that there is no inherent weakness in federation as compared with centralization, but if the fortunes of that party were in the hands of the agile Disraeli, the Liberals might wake up some fine morning to find the wind taken out of their sails by a sweeping federative measure.

"It is instructive," says the London Times, "to note the difference with which fishery questions are treated in America, according as they fall within the domain of party politics, or as they can be dealt with far away from the influence of caucus managers. Mr. Bayard has apparently given directions that the operations of British sealers in Behring's Sea should not be interfered with. Both Canadians and Americans have every reason for submitting to reasonable regulations in the prosecution of the seal fisheries, and we hope that some such equitable code of rules will be the outcome of Mr. Bayard's moderate policy."

Attention is being strongly drawn to the fact that bona fide settlers are limited in their choice of fat land for settlement by the large areas which have been allowed to fall into the hands of land-grabbers who, of course, select the best. This jobbery has, it is said, been carried out to a huge extent in Vancouver Island; but in other parts of the Dominion desirable settlers are confronted by prior claims and have been turned away. This requires thorough ventilation.

"We have a vast extent of territory; in shipping we are the fifth power in the world, being ahead of France, Russia, Italy, and some of the other great powers; we have the longest line of railway on earth; in every way we are holding our own, with nothing to be ashamed of and everything to be proud of. Those now living might see this country a nation powerful among the nations of the earth." So spoke, and truly spoke, Mr. G. W. Ross, the Ontario Minister of Education, at Chatauqua, on Dominion Day. Let all men mark it well.

"It is our will," ran the famous Indian proclamation of the Queen in 1858, "that, so far as may be, our subjects of whatever race or creed be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity, duly to discharge." To this noble proclamation Sir W. W. Hunter, in an article which holds the place of honor in the Contemporary for September, furnishes this corollary. "We have not only given pledges which we are asked to fulfill, we have nurtured aspirations which we are expected to satisfy."

The Queen's Indian proclamation has borne its legitimate fruit. Six hundred deputies from all the Provinces have assembled, and formulated their desires; which are, in brief, (1) The complete separation of the executive and judicial functions, so that no man shall be prosecuted and tried by the same officer; (2) an effective outside control over the financial administration; (3) tentative introduction of the elective principle into the Legislative Councils; (4) the right of asking questions in the Indian Legislature; (5) partial repeal of the Arms Act, so that there may be some means of defence against wild beasts; (6) establishment of military colleges, and a system of native volunteering; (7) the age of admission to the Civil Service to be raised, and examination for the judicial branch to be held in India as well as in England. The moderation of this platform is emphasized by the Congress asking only that a Royal Commission be appointed to consider it.

With grave and statesmanlike eloquence Sir William Hunter continues his discussion of the Indian problem. "We have chosen as our school-books for India the splendid narratives of English freedom: we have compelled the university youth to study the great masters of English national eloquence. The list of works officially prescribed for the colleges of India is in itself an education in political rights. And we could not have done otherwise. For the English language, if expurgated of the language of liberty, would be no vehicle for the education of a people. During a full generation, according to the Asiatic span of life, we have forced upon the educated classes of India the political ideas of England. Is it any wonder they should now demand some of the political institutions of Englishmen?" England has thus, as was her duty, enkindled the aspirations of constitutional freedom of which she is the great mother, in the Asiatic races over which she rules, and there exists a confident expectation that Lord Lansdowne will prove the right man to give effect to them.

The Pitcher case is being closely watched in Montreal, and with intense interest across the line, being the first instance in which a determined effort has been made to bring to justice one of those defaulters whose presence in Canada would be a disgrace if Canada were at all responsible for it. Happily, our hands are clean, and there is a very cool amount of assurance in the remark of the Boston Advertiser, that "self respect should make the Canadians unwilling to harbor such a horde of robbers as constitute the colony now harbored in Montreal." The Advertiser ought to know, or, at all events, might safely presume, that their presence is utterly distasteful to Canadians. It cannot but be fully aware that the extradition of criminals is a matter of treaty, and that if no treaty has been concluded which will cover these cases, the American Government is alone to blame, and is entirely responsible. If the United States elect to incur the frustration of the justice it is entirely at their option to ensure, and prefer to protect dynamiters and other criminals obnoxious to all law and christianity, to having their bank swindlers extradited, it is their own look-out, but it is the height of meanness to throw the blame of their own perverseness on Canada, which would be but too glad to be rid of the nuisance. We have rascals enough of our own to look after, though their array is insignificant beside that of the rascaldom of our exceedingly high-minded neighbors.