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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 now transpires on no less an authority than that of Douglas Sladen, that Mr. Gilbert, Sr., the well-known composer, is responsible for the music of "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay." After the many romantic birth-places which have been assigned this famous song—which, however, does not seem to have "come off" on this side of the Atlantic—it is satisfactory to note that Mr. Gilbert's claim has been so fully established that the publishers have agreed to pay him upwards of £1,000.

The *Gleaner* of Jamaica is showing a practical sympathy for the persecuted Jews of Russia. Many of these outcasts have not yet found homes—why should they not go to Jamaica where tens of thousands of industrious workingmen can be accommodated with land. The West India Improvement Company will settle a large number of emigrants on vacant railroad tracts, and the people of the Island are quite willing to devote a fund, which has been raised for the purpose of relieving the Jews, towards helping forward the colonization of the Island. The suggestion is both generous and practical and merits consideration.

Now that the summer weather is almost here, many heads of families are betaking themselves to Bedford, Rockingham and other country haunts, intent on getting a change for themselves and little ones. There is nothing the children so much enjoy as the country—let them run out-of-doors in the blessed sunshine—let them lie in the grass, and let them come running home breathless with some wonderful story of insect life to relate—let them gather field-flowers and fern to their heart's content, and rest very sure that the grass-stained frocks are but a slight and temporary disadvantage compared with the vitality they are storing for the winter months, and the love of Nature they are acquiring, which does so much towards awakening and refining the higher sensibilities of childhood. Many of our readers, through stress of circumstances, may not be able to afford a country outing. They must not forget that with our Park the country may be easily attained—that a few minutes preparation and a street car will take them to the green, tree-covered, sea-girt peninsula. Perhaps we do not appreciate fully this luxury of country within city—at least we do not utilize it so much as we ought. And why should our Public Gardens be monopolized wholly by nurse-maids with their dimpled charges? Would it not rest many a tired mother to leave her household cares occasionally for a stroll among the pleasant, fragrant walks. In our perfect summer weather with our bracing sea-breezes it is the duty of every citizen to keep out-of-doors as much as possible.

Iceland is not wholly an unprogressive country. For years Icelandic men and women have met on terms of political equality. The nation is governed by representatives elected by 73,000, male and female electors. Educational work is almost entirely carried on by the women, and there is no illiteracy in the Island. The little nation boasts that she keeps no army and needs neither police nor prisons. Were a like result assured, there are few civilized nations who would refuse to admit women to the polls.

Apropos of the Sunday Bill, which our Canadian House of Commons is discussing, the House of Representatives at Washington has spoken definitely on Sabbath-keeping, and of course in the rapid characteristic way of the nation. Unless the managers of the World's Fair bind themselves to close the Exposition doors on Sundays no Government appropriation will be made. The American public has been a bit stirred up of late over some Congressional doings, but this resolution pleases the majority "down to the ground."

We cannot speak too severely of the member of the House of Commons who disgraced the represented manhood of Canada by singing the well-known and beautiful hymn "Nearer My God to Thee" at an all-night session of the House. It is not often that a representative man so far forgets his duty to his Creator and himself as to indulge publicly in any scoffing at religious affairs, and the man who dared to travestise a hymn which to almost every one of us has some sacred association, is an iconoclast and should be treated as such.

A world-valuable work which has been undertaken by a British Telegraph Co. will shortly be consummated. By July it is hoped that the new Atlantic cable will be in running order. This great sub-marine connector of continents will extend from Port St Louis (near the mouth of the African river Senegal) to Pernambuco, on the coast of Brazil. At the African terminus communication may be bad with any European country, while in South America there will be direct connection with many land and water lines. It is thought that the new cable will be used almost wholly for commercial purposes, and that it will be a powerful factor in building up a trade for European goods in southern regions.

The folly of continuing to leave immigration in the hands of selfishly-interested agents is becoming more evident every day. Some steamship men in England recently obtained a premium from the Government for every person they could induce to emigrate to Brazil. Such gloomy accounts of the emigrants, however, reached England that an official was sent to investigate their condition. He found that one third of their number had died of famine or fever, and that the survivors were in a pitiful condition, depending for sustenance chiefly on the kindness of the British Consuls. Since then also have been assisted to their English homes, and an attempt is being made to make the Brazilian Government responsible for the condition of the emigrants, but the truth of the matter lies nearer home in the persons of the misrepresenting agents.

To most of us "shop-lifting" has been a name connected only with light-fingered Americans, or kleptomaniacal members of the British aristocracy, yet many of our city business men will certify that to them the name has long ceased to have so pleasing an impersonal meaning. We have read often of diamond pilferers, and some of us have "sampled" exhibits of candies or fruits regardless of the fact that the small boy bystanders might feel encouraged by our action to fill an empty pocket or so from the same unauthorized source, but the charge of appropriating any valuable article would materially disconcert us. We should perhaps remember the Scriptural injunction and "refrain from the appearance of evil." As to the cases of shop-lifting in our midst we must reserve judgment until the courts are satisfied as to the fault or innocence of the parties interested.

It will not be very wonderful if by this time some of us have forgotten that this was the year in which the Imperial Institute was to have been opened. We Canadians contributed \$100,000 towards its erection and equipment, and should take a personal interest in its affairs. Owing to the death of the Duke of Clarence, the building will not be opened until next year, when the stately halls and museums will be dedicated to the public. The chief object of the Institute is to further intelligent colonization by giving lectures on colonial resources, which the museums will amply illustrate. Special attention will be given to the advancement of trade and commerce, and an exhibit of the work of "artisans and apprentices" will be kept. Sir Charles Tupper will see that Canada is not slighted, and every Canadian visiting London will turn to the handsome building with a feeling of pardonable pride.