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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 STARTLING SUGGESTION.—In a late number of the *Fortnightly Review* a prominent naval captain makes the startling suggestion that Great Britain should cede Gibraltar to Spain for the slight consideration of the Canary Islands. The proposal is perhaps not to be seriously considered at present, but the writer, who is no mean authority, contends that it is the best bargain that England can make, and that, should she not accept the offer, she may be quietly obliged to relinquish her hold on the key of the Mediterranean.

AN UNKNOWN POISON.—Housekeepers are well acquainted with the fact that apples stored in cellars are invariably covered with a slight covering of mould or mildew, and the painstaking woman polishes the fruit with a clean cloth in order that the ruddy skin of the apple may show to advantage. There is, however, a deeper reason than the aesthetic one for the removal of the coating, for the tiny fringe of which it is composed has been known to breed diphtheria among apple-eating children. The mould is a poisonous substance, and is exceedingly harmful to the human system.

THE 1/2 YEAR'S OASIS.—The holiday season is already here for many busy provincialists, and many are looking forward to a pleasure trip to the World's Fair. The trip is by far from a costly one, as many returned travellers have proved, and the possible enjoyment is great. The expenses of a fortnight's stay need not mount beyond \$88.00 per person, and the sum will include a large part of the necessary expenses of the trip. Of course the same trip on a more elaborate scale may cost well up in the hundreds, but the pleasure of the sight-seeing will not be materially increased. By all means, if you have health, a bright mind and the necessary money, take in the Fair during the summer. For many of us, however, a busy sight-seeing time in a crowded city is not what is needed—a fishing excursion prolonged for weeks, a camp in the woods, or comfortable board in some pleasant country section, would be of far more use so far as the renewing of the physical man is concerned. There are many cheap ways of obtaining the needed change, and the long distance walkers and the cyclists have many inexpensive enjoyments. To one and all we wish a pleasant holiday and a renewal of the freshness and vigor of youth.

A NOVEL FODDER.—A French farmer, whose cattle have suffered in the past from seasons of prolonged drouth, has found a new food which he will use in the next emergency. It consists of the leaves of trees, to be used either in the fresh or dry state, and his experiments have demonstrated that the food is as nutritious and as digestible as all the grasses of the pasture lands. In the West Indies leaf fodder has been known and used for years, and in dry seasons the leaves have been wholly depended on. It now remains to be seen if the leaf harvest can be gathered without interfering with the health of the trees.

MAKES BUTTER WHILE SHE MILKS.—A late dairy invention of an American is calculated to stir the dead and gone grandmothers of the present generation into life again, that they may hold up their hands in disapproval of the methods of their time saving descendants. By means of the milk-separator two thousand pounds of warm milk may be separated into cream and milk in an hour's time, and by adding to this the attachment called the butter-maker, the shrewd dairymaid may milk her cow into the "separator" of the separator and remove well-made and stamped pats of butter from the opening of the patent butter-maker. We have not yet heard that the cows have the least interest in or objection to this new process.

CHURCH DISPUTES.—Apropos of the recent church disturbances, the thoughtful man rises to give an opinion on the subject which has caused such heart-burnings of late. His doctrine is simply that clergymen should be mindful of the vows which they have taken upon their ordination to the ministry. If a clergyman finds that owing to a change of mind he cannot consistently teach the Scriptures according to the tenets of the sect in whose service he is, he should resign his charge. He will then cease to be a stumbling block to the members of his denomination and if he chooses to found a separate church on the disputed doctrine he is at liberty to do so. The clergyman has no right to remain in his church who does not accept the doctrine of his church, and the general recognition of that principle would put an end to further strife.

SWALLOW-TAILS FOR BREAKFAST.—The question of what to wear has shaken the social foundations of Chicago. Many and diverse have been the theories promulgated as to the proper raiment for the momentous occasions on which the invisibly crowned American citizen was to be presented to the more tangibly ornamented relative of some foreign potentate. The ladies, who were bound to wear dress reform suits only, could not withstand the temptation, but came boldly out in low-necked and trained dinner dresses at the lunches and receptions given to the Spanish guests. The mayor of the Park Metropolis, who has prided himself on his cowboy style of appearance, and whose head in a slouch hat has achieved a world-wide celebrity, has shorn himself of whiskers and hair and obtained a ready-made French Albert coat and a top hat in order to appear to advantage on all festive occasions while another city luminary attended a recent breakfast in full dress clothes. The *New York Herald* thinks it well, considering these occurrences, to remind the public that their sainted Washington once warned his people "against the insidious wiles of a foreign influence."

UNEXPECTED GOOD SENSE.—A very sensible reform is being inaugurated among the young men of New York's famous four hundred. The object of the promoters is to encourage morality by discouraging the long-established habit of treating. Henceforward it will not be esteemed good form for "Cholly" to "treat" his friends elsewhere than at his own private table. The treating custom has been so widely adopted that objections have been raised against it in all quarters. The habit was an expensive one and of necessity led to immoderate drinking on the part of many, who, out of politeness to their leader, felt compelled to drink with him and to return the compliment. The reform is a step in the right direction, but it should go still further and should endeavor to find some method of time-keeping for the pitiable class of young men for whom it has been devised. The wealthy American youth does not condescend to trade, neither does he care to enter the army, navy, or the field of exploration. He has no estate to manage as has his English cousin, and unless he has a yacht, his time hangs heavily on his hands. It is fortunate that our Canadian youths are more sensible in the matter of occupation for there are few among them who are not "earning their salt" or by means of philanthropic work doing some service to the world. To the few who do nothing but exist on the wealth which their fathers and grandfathers labored to secure, and are content to lead aimless lives, we can only offer as sensible advice the suggestion that they follow the lead of "Cholly" and cease to violate the canons of good form.