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## Editorial Notes.

### SPECIAL TO CONTRIBUTORS.

THE editor finds it necessary to call the attention of would-be contributors to the fact that no manuscript whatever can be accepted or published in these columns where the editor is left in ignorance of the true name and address of the author. From time to time contributions of a highly meritorious character are received at this office, and are consigned to the waste-paper basket for no other reason than because there is no clue to the authorship. *Ex. gr.*: this morning's post brings to the editorial sanctum a bright and sparkling rondeau, composed in the manner of Austin Dobson, and not greatly inferior to the every-day work of that elegant writer. It is accompanied by a letter dated and posted in Toronto, to which is appended an apparently genuine signature. The poem itself, however, is of such exceptional merit that the editor feels a curiosity to know something more of the writer than his mere name, and upon consulting the directory finds no such name there. He is accordingly compelled, though with great reluctance, to treat the rondeau as an anonymous contribution, and to cast it into the receptacle for anonymous MSS. Should this note meet the author's eye, let him learn therefrom that there is nothing which editors hold in such special abhorrence as the unknown contributor. Attention is also called to the announcement embodied in the editorial heading, that the editor cannot undertake to return MSS. by post, even when they are accompanied by stamps to pay return postage. It is found necessary to act stringently up to this rule; as otherwise the number of unavailable MSS. to be examined would be too great for editorial endurance, and the task of unwrapping and returning them would involve greater labour than the editor feels bound to undertake.

### SEED GRAIN AND VOTES.

OWING to blighting by drought and the havoc wrought by innumerable swarms of gophers, the crops in some parts of the North-West have been almost total failures during

the past two years. In the upper part of the Qu'Appelle valley, for example, some settlers with fifty acres and upwards in crop did not harvest an acre. Disheartened by continued ill-fortune, some of them threw up their claims entirely last autumn. Others were induced to remain for another year's trial only by the promise of assistance in the form of seed grain from the Dominion Government in the spring. It was eminently desirable that our unfortunate fellow-countrymen should receive aid from the State in their distresses, and that aid has been given. But the mode which was adopted for the distribution of assistance throws grave doubts on the purity of the motives of the Government. It is affirmed that applicants were practically told that the measure of their relief would depend upon how they voted in the impending Dominion elections. The elections in these territories are by open vote, and exceedingly powerful and pernicious influence may have been brought to bear on the needy electors. What makes the matter look worse is the fact that the relief agent in Assiniboia was also the Government candidate. *He was elected.* The two facts may have no connection, but seen in the light of the ordinary tactics of party politicians, there is an unavoidable and unwholesome suspicion that they may be closely related. The final result of the so-called benefaction in such a case can only be bad. It means the wholesale political and moral corruption of the electorate, and the maintenance and encouragement of the corrupting power. At this rate the seed wheat of the Assiniboia farmers has been provided at a great cost to Canada.

### THE NORTH-WEST.

NOBODY needs to wonder that the recent failure in farming operations in some districts of the North-West is not more generally known in Ontario. The railway and colonization companies which have lands to sell are of course very careful not to publish any information of this kind in their pamphlets. Then, most of the newspapers of the territories are more or less under the influence of these companies, and of private speculators. So it comes about that while all the good qualities of the country are painted in glowing colours, not a syllable derogatory to it is permitted to get abroad. Through these organized influences, based entirely on self-interest, a strong local sentiment has been created which looks with extreme disfavour upon any attempt to report the truth when that happens to be damaging to the bolstered-up reputation of the country. Here is an incident within our personal knowledge which will show to what extent this feeling prevails. Some time since a gentleman of this city gave to an editor as an item of ordi-