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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.

The recognition of Mr. Bradlaugh, M. P., as the champion in Parliament of the "Indian Congress" is a curious contrast to the ignominy with which he was treated some years ago on account of his religious (or non religious) opinions, and the resolute stand he made in the parliamentary oath matter. Although Mr. Bradlaugh was right in principle on that question we do not think he dealt with it in the most efficient manner at the moment, but, whatever opinions may be held as to his views, his thorough honesty, great ability and unflinching determination seem to have won for him in the end a fair measure of respect and consideration, which, as every man's religious conscience is his own private concern, we do not hesitate to say we are glad to see.

The Provincial Farmers' Association, which met at Fredericton recently, decided to request the Local Government to aid in establishing butter factories, and employing specialists to introduce the system in various parts of the Province. The establishment of butter factories is no doubt a desirable thing, and Provincial funds might be wisely spent. We scarcely like, however, to see fresh instances of reliance on Government aid where individual, or at all events combined private enterprise ought, as we conceive, to suffice. Another proposition—that of amalgamating the New Brunswick with the Nova Scotia Dairying Association seems desirable, as any measure calculated to unite the people, or any section of them, of the Maritime Provinces for such joint ends tends towards uniting them for still broader purposes.

It is quite contrary to our usual custom to give an Editorial Note to such subjects as fashion journals, but we are induced to notice in this way the February number of the *Ladies' Boxer* (4 Adelaide St., Toronto) not only on account of its cheapness (50 cents a year or five cents a copy), nor even because we notice a marked advance in style, matter, print and illustrations over earlier numbers, but emphatically because it is a Canadian publication pure and simple. The American publications of this nature are no doubt excellent, but we feel it to be a national discredit that our women should be content to take their tone and style in dress from the United States, when Canadian taste and enterprise are fully equal to the satisfaction of their requirements in this line, if only they are patriotic enough to afford to Canadian efforts the necessary patronage. We therefore strongly commend this publication to the ladies of Nova Scotia.

The *Toronto Globe* is (in an editorial note) responsible for the following whole-cloth statement:—"On every dollar's worth of sugar purchased by the Canadian farmer he pays as a tax the equivalent of a bushel of barley." Sugar being worth, say ten cents a pound, and barley about, say seventy cents, the statement may be commended to the ingenious as a promising economical problem.

The chivalry on which Frenchmen pride themselves is often but skin-deep, or at all events is lacking in its higher, deeper and broader forms, while much old-time prejudice crops out every now and again in high places. The *Westminster and Lambeth Gazette* gives a recent instance:—"A lady doctor in Paris has been unsuccessfully attempting to be elected as one of the physicians on what are known as 'Bureaux de bienfaisance,' but the authorities would have none of her. They disregarded the fact that women and children came in numbers to these bureaux to get advice, and that in case of the former, certainly, there is palpable need for a woman physician. It is well known in London that poor women will sometimes go on suffering greatly and increasing their malady, because there are no women doctors at the public institutions to which their class repair."

The finding of the Parnell commission has at last been published. The Judges find that speeches made by many of the Parnellite members were intended to bring about the separation of Ireland from England, and that others were calculated to foment crime; that Mr. Parnell was cognizant of the criminality of several of the persons whom he directly or indirectly assisted, and that the leaders of the league combined to carry out boycotting and were guilty of criminal conspiracy. We sincerely wish the finding of the commission had been more favorable, at all events to Mr. Parnell, yet it is no stronger than must have been anticipated by any unbiased and unimpaired person of common sense and ordinarily clear perceptions. Meanwhile it is eminently satisfactory to learn that all the charges most directly impugning Mr. Parnell's personal honor have been pronounced unproven.

While there is no doubt that the action of the Manitoba Government and Legislature in abolishing the use of French as an official language is in accordance with the dictates of common sense, it is not particularly fortunate that the initiative of the question in the House of Commons should have fallen to Mr. Dalton McCarthy, whose convictions and tone of thought are calculated to enhance, rather than modify and assuage, the discordant race sentiments which everyone ought to make it a matter of principle to ignore. No doubt the French Canadians of Quebec entertained the hope that the North West would become another "Nouvelle France," but the emigration thither of French Canadians has proved but small, while that of English-speaking settlers has been overwhelming. Under these circumstances the large majority in the Manitoba Assembly by which Mr. Greenway's policy has been upheld may be taken as fairly representative of the Province on the question.

Most cultivated and liberal-minded people of to-day have conceded, a vague acquiescence in the right of woman to do any work for which she may find herself fitted, but a discussion of the question generally results in limitations. It is not always that the contention for women is put on clear axiomatic grounds. Mrs. Catherine Weed Barnes, however, in a paper read before the Society of Amateur Photographers of New York, seems to have succeeded in giving expression to the spirit in which the position of women ought, as we think, to be regarded. She urged that the "ladies' diploma or prize" be abolished. She said:—"Good work is good, whether it be by man or woman, and poor is poor by the same rule. If the work of men and women is admitted to the same exhibition, it should be on equal terms. Do not admit a woman's picture because they are made by a woman, but because they are made well. If the work is poor, reject it. Do not, when she wins a prize, allow the inference to be drawn that it is hers only by courtesy. Let her feel that she has won it fairly in a free field. You admit her to your deliberations, place her work on your walls and on your lantern screen; can you not offer your prizes simply for certain kinds of work, and allow the question of sex to be laid aside?" Unquestionable genius enforces the view and commands the position, for no one would dream of saying of Rosa Bonheur's or Lady Butler's pictures that they were "wonderful for a lady." But there is plenty of woman's work in the world which requires less than genius, but the quality of which demands recognition simply on its own merits. Another writer puts the case with great breadth in the pregnant words, "the woman has as much right to live her individual life before God as the man," and further "that no man is a good husband who does not respect the individuality of his wife—body, soul and spirit—as much as his own."