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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.

Parnell still controls a strong wing of the Irish Party, but he does so at the cost of Ireland and Ireland's cause. Parnell is a remarkably strong-willed man, but, like Bismarck, he must succumb to circumstances and learn that in this age few men are indispensable in any cause, and that movements not individuals are taken into consideration.

This is the season of Lent, but Halifax society has now no respite. The sayings and doings of its upper ten receive weekly attention in the columns of three dailies and two special weeklies, and even the doings of the under ten do not pass unnoticed. In very truth human curiosity appears to be abnormally developed in this age, and the privacy of family life no longer exists. Are the public in reality so deeply interested as to what takes place when we dine our friends or gather them wholesale for a cup of afternoon tea. We suppose the public must be interested, otherwise why this craze for society gossip?

Since the paragraph referring to the "card scandal" on another page was in type, it has transpired that the defendants are willing to admit that they were mistaken in making charges of cheating against Sir William Gordon Cumming, and will leave the question of damages to a jury. This will make the case very simple and rob the scandal-mongers of an expected tid-bit. The amicable arrangement is said to have been brought about by the good offices of the Duke of Clarence, who has been visiting both at Tranby Croft, where the incident occurred, and at Lady Middleton's, Sir Gordon's sister. It is said the plaintiff is willing to accept this solution as atoning for the wound to his honor.

The communication sent by the Hon. Edward Blake to his supporters in West Durham has now been published, and it is unquestionably a strong brief against unrestricted reciprocity. Mr. Blake evidently has the courage of his convictions and has given the matter much earnest thought. He clearly states that according to his judgment unrestricted reciprocity would involve discrimination, assimilation, degradation, taxation and annexation. Discrimination against the mother country, assimilation of the Canadian and American tariffs, degradation of our citizenship by handing over to the United States the control of our affairs, the taxation of the people direct, and the ultimate annexation of Canada to the United States, would, Mr. B thinks, result from the adoption of unrestricted reciprocity.

The opinions of Mr. Blake, elsewhere referred to in this issue, are frank, manly and outspoken, but while Mr. Blake tells us without reserve of his objections to unrestricted reciprocity he leaves us in the dark as to the policy which in his opinion would best meet the needs of the country. Is it Imperial federation, independence or annexation? Which?

The recent Springhill horror is again uppermost in the minds of the people. The relief fund has not reached half the amount asked for, and all who intend giving should make haste about it. It is a case where generous impulses should be followed. Many new miners have arrived at the mines and work is going on again. Every precaution has been taken by the men to ascertain that the mine is perfectly safe.

The drinking of Jamaica ginger is the latest vice of which women are accused. The difficulty of obtaining liquor is one of the causes alleged for the prevalence of this habit, which is pronounced much more harmful than liquor drinking. "The tincture of ginger, or Jamaica, as it is popularly known," says the Philadelphia Times, "is the strongest and most irritating alcoholic solution known, ranking next to alcohol absolute and standing equal to commercial alcohol, which is never used as a beverage. The Jamaica ginger is sold by druggists and grocers in four ounce vials, and the unbottled tincture is retailed at one ounce and upwards. During the past few months the demand for the article, which has been steadily growing for a number of years, has become unprecedented, and some druggists are already beginning to 'flag' habitual inquirers." A prominent physician of Philadelphia is said to have died from the effects of ginger drinking a short time ago, but the majority of the drinkers of this stuff are women. There are no restrictions upon the sale of ginger, and the drug shops and grocery stores do an enormous business in it. The habit once acquired is said to be hopeless, and the Philadelphia Times wisely suggests that legislation against the indiscriminate sale of ginger, the same as against other alcoholic drinks, should be resorted to.

An English magazine has been collecting and publishing the opinions of various leading artists on ladies' dress. The articles, or extracts from them we have seen, are all, more or less, expressive of approval of the present styles when not carried to excess, and suitable and tasteful selections are made to accord with individuality. The cramming of feet into tight boots and shoes comes in for condemnation, as it well may. The Hon. John Collier says in his answer to the questions sent him, "Painters and sculptors have good cause to know that the modern female foot is a hideous object—one vitiated taste has become accustomed to it when clothed, but when seen in its naked deformity it is a thing to shudder at." The wearing of crinolines, bustles and all pads and protuberances is also discouraged by these connoisseurs in the artistic. One artist suggests that the women of England should adopt a special garment for church service. How would this suit our fair friends? There would be some difficulty, we imagine, in deciding upon the particular devotional garb, and the ladies of the various denominations might possibly prefer to differ in their dress from their neighbors of another communion. The questions sent out were as follows: What is your opinion of the present style of ladies' dress? What are its chief defects, and what its merits, from an artist's point of view? What is your idea of a beautiful woman beautifully dressed?

The subject of London fogs has been brought up in the Imperial Parliament. It is thought that these health and comfort destroying inflictions can be mitigated if proper means are employed. The use of bituminous coal is one of the causes of London fogs, and if this were discontinued and some more cleanly fuel used instead, an improvement would naturally follow. A correspondent of Nature says: "Londoners need not be surprised to find black fogs, when it is a fact that tons of soot float in the atmosphere every day. Hoping to get some fact on the subject I collected a patch of snow, equal one square link, that had lain from November 27th to December 27th last, and from which I obtained two grains of soot. Now, supposing London to cover 110 square miles, it would produce 1,000 tons of soot. Imagine a month's allowance being drawn off by a line of 1,000 horses! The line would extend to about four miles in length." It is somewhat strange that the matter should be dealt with in parliament. It appears more a matter for city management, and if legislation were needed to carry out any suggestions that would follow afterwards. A large outlay of money would be justifiable in fighting the fogs, as the expense they entail in loss of work and other items is enormous. The gas alone consumed costs hundreds of pounds on a day of "pea soup" fog, and the interruption of business must be much more serious. Mr. Smith, First Lord of the Treasury, expressed himself as being sceptical of the ability of a parliamentary commission to deal with the matter.