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THE VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES.

TO criticize a scheme formulated by one whose position commands respect and whose own personal qualities of both heart and head give to her a high place in the esteem of our people generally is necessarily a delicate task. When the avowed object of the scheme is to relieve the sufferings and hardships of those not so favorably situated as ourselves, and when the scheme is proposed as a suitable means whereby Canadians may commemorate the Jubilee of her whom we all delight to acknowledge as our Queen, the task of the critic becomes manifestly more delicate and more difficult, inasmuch as any adverse criticism may possible be construed to mean a want of sympathy with the philanthropic work proposed, a lack of respect for her whose proposal it is, or a deficiency in loyalty towards her in whose honour the Order has been suggested.

Believing, however, that the proposed Order is in the first place impracticable and unnecessary, and, therefore, doomed to failure, and in the second place inimical to that feeling of independence which so far has characterized Canadians, we feel it to be our duty most respectfully to enter our protest against the proposal. So far as we can gather there are two sets of people for whose benefit the Order is to be called into existence—the poor in our towns and cities and those in sparsely settled districts whose homes are far removed from that of any medical practitioner. As to the poor in our towns and cities we confidently assert that the Order is absolutely unnecessary. Our towns and cities are now so generally supplied with hospitals that no one, for lack of money, need go without proper and efficient medical attendance. The poor are gratuitously admitted to the wards and if they do not require to be confined to bed or to the house they are treated, without charge, at the out-door department.