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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.

An agitation for the repeal of the Septennial Act is again on foot in Great Britain. An impression abroad that the Conservatives are backing the duration of parliament against Mr. Gladstone's life lends force to the Liberal view of the question, which is not, however, a new one. Practically the duration of Parliaments has averaged much less than seven years. In the 33 years between 1826 and 1859 there were ten Parliaments, and only two up to the present date have run over six years. There has been a disposition of late years to take advantage of the whole term, which will probably strengthen the desire to shorten it. No doubt the seven year term is too long.

Halifax can no longer complain of any lack of educational facilities. For higher education it has a liberally-endowed university. Its County Academy, now open to both sexes, has just secured one of the most successful teachers in the Dominion. For art and design there is the new Victoria School. The Ladies' College, too, has taken root and blossomed vigorously, and proposes adding to its staff an accomplished instructor in drawing and painting. Then there is Cambridge House for those who consider a good tone as well as a good education essential for their sons. With a staff of English university honorem, to be reinforced, it is understood, by a new French instructor, and with a most successful teacher of music and drawing, there seems no reason why such a school should not compete with Lennoxville or Port Hope.

We extract the following calm and moderate estimates of the benefits of Confederation from the Victoria, B. C., *Colonist*. "We believe that Confederation has been beneficial to British North America. We believe that union has advantages which the different provinces have already profited by, and which will be productive of greater benefits still in the future. Confederation has certainly added nothing to the natural resources of the country, neither has it made any very perceptible change in the character and habits of the people, but it has enabled them to work to greater advantage, and it has brought resources within their reach of whose existence, had they remained isolated, they would have hardly yet known. Without Confederation very little would have been known of the great Northwest. That wonderful region would, in all probability, have still been the possession of the Hudson Bay Company, and would not have been opened up for settlement."

The recent marriage of the Hon. Mr. Foster to a lady who had obtained a divorce in a Chicago Court excites much comment. Mrs. Foster is a lady of exemplary character, but it is regretted that any action of persons of high social standing should involve complication with the loose and objectionable divorce laws of the United States. An American divorce is no doubt unrecognizable by the law of Canada, by the Episcopal, and we believe by every other Canadian Church.

Says the *Eastern Chronicle*, endeavouring to persuade itself that the disloyalty of Nova Scotia to the Dominion is far greater than it is. "We are loyal to England, but, as to Canada, for God's sake let three or four generations of Nova Scotians die before you begin to talk about it." We venture to think our contemporary is slightly mistaken. There is an ample proportion of Nova Scotian citizens who believe in the Dominion and are loyal to Canada, and the loyalty will be sufficiently marked throughout the Province before one generation shall have passed away.

Some fishermen having recently obtained bait by lowering baskets into which a quantity of winkles and other shell-fish find their way, and which, when the shells are cracked, proved highly attractive, many people have concluded that a revolution in fishery has been accomplished. Success certainly seems so far to have attended the accidental discovery, but there are other persons who consider that the depletion of shell fish by these means may result in economic disturbances of the normal conditions under water, which may result in neutralizing the immediate benefit. Time and observation will no doubt determine the matter.

We are entirely in accord with the following opinion which we clip from the *Chronicle*. The display of the photograph of any respectable lady on cigar, tobacco and cigarette packages is indeed a gross impertinence and violation of all rules of propriety. "A handsome young lady in New York has entered an action against a firm of cigarette manufacturers for making use of her picture as an advertising medium. Public sympathy will be with her, of course, for the use of her picture without her consent is a gross outrage. Most people will agree with the *New York Tribune* that this "cheap and nasty picture advertisement business is getting to be a depressing nuisance—has, in fact already 'got there'" while all cigarette smokers think: "If the cost of the inducement were put into the goods, the result would be more satisfactory to the consumers, and not less so, we should hope, to producers."

The enormous size of the country which has been hitherto known as West Australia has become the source of considerable discussion, not only as to the disposal of that section itself but as to the inevitable ultimate federation of the Australian Colonies. The handful of people (some 45,000) occupying the old Swan River Colony cannot obviously undertake the task of the settlement of the whole great expanse of country still known as Western Australia. Moreover the mother country is scarcely disposed to relinquish control of the last wide field of Imperial territory available for emigration, and not subject to the management of local governments. It is clear that in this matter lies another proof of the advisability of an Australasian Confederation on the lines of our Dominion, in which the unoccupied and thinly settled regions might perhaps become Territories like those of our own Northwest. West Australia is about to receive self-governing powers, an event which will constitute another step in the progress of the Empire, and for Canada, about to become the great highway between Great Britain and its Eastern and Australasian dominions, it is one which will have a special interest.

As we have once or twice remarked, we have always entertained doubts as to the soundness of the astute and perfectly irresponsible Mr. Booth. Mr. Commissioner Coombs of the Toronto branch of the Salvation Army seems to be open to the same sort of suspicions which attach to the great Commander-in-Chief. One Arthur Sumner, formerly editor of the *War Cry*, has now written a book impugning the financial arrangements of Coombs, and secured its publication both in Toronto and in London, G. B. When 5,000 copies were ready the fact came to Coombs' knowledge, and he offered Sumner the alternatives to take what money he wanted, give up the book and leave the country, or go to prison on an old charge hanging over him, which he had acknowledged in writing. Sumner accepted the terms, and Coombs succeeded in obtaining the copies, proclaimed a half holiday in his offices, and, when the coast was clear, proceeded to burn them in the furnace. A copy however had been secured by an employee, afterwards discharged, which has since appeared with an illustration of the "Burning of the Books." Every endeavor was made to hush the matter up, but there is evidently "something rotten in the State of Denmark."