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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 Massachusetts branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has secured the passing of a law which we would like to see enforced throughout Canada. The barbarous custom of docking a horse's tail, or of causing it to be docked so that the solid part of the tail is cut, is now a criminal offence, the penalty for the crime being either a year's imprisonment or a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars. We congratulate the State which has made the first law in the world against the fashionable but fiendish custom of docking.

The point of view makes all the difference in the world. Take for instance the recent comments upon Mr. Cleveland's letter of acceptance of his nomination. According as we peruse the columns of the Republican or Democratic papers we learn that his letter is "an expression of demagoguery and cant," or that "his letter, like the man, is strong, straightforward, sensible and honest." On again on one side it is described as a "superb, patry, trivial document," while the other heralds it "as a faithful lesson in patriotism and statesmanship." It would almost seem as if some of the distributors, which Canada can well spare, were engaged in the, to them, congenial work of quill fighting.

The recent epidemic of small-pox in British Columbia and the North-West has led to some rather complicated questions in which the right and duty of Provincial Governments are at once asserted and questioned. In one instance a store-keeper of modern Manitoba died of small-pox. As a precautionary measure against the spread of the disease the Provincial Government at once seized and burned his entire stock of goods and all the business books which were in the store. The merchant was doing a prosperous business, he estimated his stock as being worth \$9,000 and his book debts at \$3,000, while his liabilities were only \$4,500. Owing to the action of the Government the creditors will be unable to recoup themselves from the estate of their debtor, for not only is his business destroyed, but there now exists no record of his affairs. Still worse is the condition of the widow, who, although her husband in his life-time made every reasonable effort to provide for her welfare in case of his death, is now left utterly unprotected for. In plain words, the Government is making a few private citizens bear the expense of assuring the public safety. The action of the Government in burning all the doubtful goods is praise-worthy, but the Government should also be held responsible for the money losses arising therefrom. The action of the Government in ignoring the petition both of the creditors and of the widow should receive a wholesale condemnation.

The main railway station within the World's Fair grounds, where all excursion trains will discharge their passengers, will be a handsome structure costing \$225,000, and will accommodate 25,000 persons at one time.

Postmaster-General Wanamaker is setting his house in order against the evil day when a Democratic ruler may possibly reorganize the public service. He now declares himself in favor of a ten cent telegraph and a three cent telephone service in connection with all government post offices—he recommends building a new and palatial post office in New York City, but he does not explain why the postal-telegraph system, to which he pledged himself on his appointment some years ago, has not already been introduced. Notwithstanding these cavils of the Democratic press, Mr. Wanamaker can boast a fair record as a Postmaster-General. He fought the Louisiana lottery vigorously, and enforced all the postal regulations which could rob it of its power. He has suppressed many advertising frauds, and withal he has not tampered with the privacy which the public rightly demanded for their sealed letters. The loss of a man who, as a Federal officer, has fought in the postal warfare without thought of private gain, would be felt immensely in the event of a turnover on the fourth of November.

Long ago Tennyson wrote how "The old order changeth and giveth place to new," and the appointment of Mr. Swineburn to the Laureateship, which seems now almost assured, recalls the line to many. A sharper contrast cannot be imagined than that between Tennyson, the noble-minded, helpful singer, and the erratic, irresponsible yet powerful Swineburn. In our judgment Swineburn, though full of poetic fire, is not a fit man to fill the position vacated by the death of Tennyson. The purity, the high-mindedness of the dead poet is not to be found in the works of the present aspirant, who, too often, paints vice with glowing colors, and too often leaves the moral arguments of his poems, when indeed they are not decidedly immoral, entirely to the imagination. We cannot forget that Swineburn is no lover of peace and order, and that it is only a few years since, in one of his most powerful poems, he cursed the Czar of Russia, and bade some "brave assassin" come forward and send the "cowardly knave" to a warmer region.

A curious case of great interest to all temperance workers has just been settled in the High Court of Ontario. It appears that the late Abraham Farewell, ex M. P., of that Province, being a zealous advocate for reform in temperance matters, bequeathed the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of promoting such legislation in the Parliament of Canada as should lead to the "total prohibition of the manufacture, sale or use of intoxicating liquors in Canada." The heirs-at-law have contested the clause on the ground that it was not a charitable bequest—that it was illegal and *ultra vires*. The clause has, however, been sustained by the Court on the following ground, that the bequest is for a charitable purpose as it is for the well-being of society, and that it is legal for a man to leave property for the purpose of bringing about a change in legislation. The purpose of the testator was also construed to be the fostering of public sentiment through the medium of the public schools, the public lecture or the press, and the expenditure of the money in any or all of these channels will meet with the full approval of the court.

We remember in our own childhood's day the speech of a curious old friend, who announced that all humanity might be divided into four classes—those who washed the whole body each day—those who washed face, neck and hands—those who washed face and hands alone, and those who did not wash at all. And oddly enough our mentor insisted that the second and fourth of his unique divisions were nearly equal. Of late the fear of Cholera has given great impetus to all sanitary measures relating to the welfare of the public, and has raised many questions as to the amount of care which it is necessary to bestow on the body in order to keep it clean and sweet. Those who have been in the habit of taking many and regular baths have quietly followed their accustomed life, and many who hitherto have belonged to the second of our friend's divisions have adopted the highly salutary practice of morning baths. By-the-by it is a pity that more of us do not appreciate the value of a bracing bath as a protection of the body against all forms of disease. Not only do the diseases which physicians bluntly characterize as "dirt-diseases" fly before it, but the constitution is so strengthened that many colds, attacks of grippe and the many lesser ailments which the flesh is heir to are often killed in the outset.