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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.

General Harrison is said to have begun the peculiar experience which renders the life of a newly installed President a burden to him, in the clamors of the usual hordes of office-seekers—the victors demanding the spoils. Some day it is to be hoped the good sense of the American people will lead them to stamp out this vicious system and discreditable exhibition.

We by no means approve of lotteries generally, but the object of the National Colonization Lottery, whose advertisement appears on page 16, is of a different nature to that of such organizations in general, while the name and reputation of Father Labelle, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Quebec, under whose patronage it is, is sufficient guarantee for perfect fairness in its management.

It is satisfactory to learn that an Ontario Judge has not hesitated to prescribe the lash, as well as a term of imprisonment, in the case of a ruffian convicted in Prince Edward County of attempted assault on a young girl twelve years of age. A portion of the punishment was inflicted a few days ago, and it is confidently expected that the example will have a powerful deterrent effect in that district.

The Earl of Dunraven is trying a very sensible experiment in yacht building, which is calculated to enable the English yachtsman to make up his mind on the centre-board question. He is building a 60 ton yacht which is to sail either as a keel or centre-board boat. She is first to be tried against the Yarana as a keel-boat, and if not found as fast as the latter, her centre-board will be adjusted, and it will then be seen whether her speed is increased.

A certain section of the Canadian Press has been making a great deal lately of the Hitt Resolution as a standing offer on the part of the United States of "Unrestricted Reciprocity." But it does not appear to us that the situation is in the least altered. "To abandon Canadian industries to the crushing competition of the United States, and to join our neighbor against our mother country, are," as the *Empire* remarks, "the essential features of this offer." If it were not impracticable, the acceptance of the terms embodied in Mr. Hitt's Resolution would mean the adoption in Canada of a protective tariff higher than her own, and a discrimination against Great Britain, which she is certainly not at present disposed to entertain.

Apropos of Sabbath observance, or non-observance, Congress has set a not very edifying example of non-observance of that virtue by remaining in session the whole of Sunday the 3rd inst., on which day also, we believe, the ex-President was equally occupied in affixing his signature to acts. No doubt the fact of the inauguration of the new President on the next day, Monday, constituted an excuse of urgency which was not perhaps to be denied.

Considering the desperate state of the country, of which we hear so much, there seem to be a number of young persons in Nova Scotia who display a culpable rashness in assuming the burthens and responsibilities of matrimony. The Revenue returns show a receipt of \$6,555.82 for marriage licenses during the past year. At \$4.00 per license this sum represents no less than 1639 marriages, presuming that some one attained happiness at 18 cents under the regulation price.

We invite the particular attention of our lady readers to the account, promised last week in our Cozy Corner, of the Toronto Domestic Kindergarten which, on account of its length, will be found in our columns for Contributions. What we intend to suggest to the active and energetic ladies of Halifax is, whether, by combining to establish a similar institution here, they might not be enabled to accomplish some tangible relief from the inconveniences so many have to endure from inefficient service.

After piling up horror upon horror as to the component ingredients of wine, brandy, whiskey, etc., till the reader's hair ought to stand on end "like quills upon the fretful porcupine," a minister in Yarmouth, in a recent sermon, rounds off on beer in this wise: "A pure article of beer is as hard to find as pure wine or brandy. Here are the things the brewers use for malt: Sugar, honey, molasses and liquorice for hops; opium, gentian, quassia, aloes, coculus indicus, amarantha, tobacco and nut, to prevent souring; salt-petre, jalap, salt, maranta, green copperas, marble dust, oyster shells, sulphate of lime, hartshorn—shavings, nut galls, potash and soda. The foaming head of froth is produced by adding green vitriol, alum and salt. The smack of age and the tingle of the palate is often produced by alum; and new beer is artificially made old in a few hours by adding the oil of vitriol." What do our Brewers say to this?

The City Slaughter-house Bill passed the House of Assembly on Tuesday and will, doubtless, pass the Legislative Council. It authorizes the City to borrow \$15,000 for securing a site and erecting a slaughter-house where all animals intended for food shall be taken for inspection as to their health and condition before killing. If diseased they are to be destroyed, and the carcasses are to be again inspected to guard against their sale. All carcasses of animals killed outside the city limits and brought in for sale, must also be inspected at the slaughter house before being put upon the market. A fee will be charged for each case of inspection. It is expected that the fees thus derivable will pay salaries and other running expenses, interest on the capital invested, and provide a rest for paying off the principal in a few years. Thus the citizens will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are eating sound meat at, practically, no added cost to themselves. Sheds and freight stores will be provided so that animals arriving foot sore, or otherwise worn by travel, may be kept till they are fit to kill for food. The measure seems to meet an imperative sanitary requirement.

The western temperament finds itself entirely baffled in any endeavor to analyze that of the Japanese. The extraordinary rapidity and abstract philosophy with which they adopt new customs and methods which recommend themselves to their clear and logical intellect would seem to savor of instability. The calm abandonment of their feudal privileges by the Daimios was remarkable enough, but the world has scarcely witnessed so singular a spectacle as the national adoption of a religion on purely expedient and intellectual grounds, without the shadow of a pretence of religious conviction or emotion. We now learn that, with a suddenness equally startling, the Japanese Empire wakes up to find itself in the possession of full blown Constitutional Government. Their changes seem to bear a close affinity to their conjuring. It is Hey. Presto! and the thing is done. Intellectuality so hard, clear, and rapid, suggests corresponding hardness of heart. Yet we have much testimony to their exceeding kindness, and if their extreme and light-hearted courtesy and good-nature hint at an underlying superficiality or frivolity of nature, we are checked by the fortitude and steadfastness of which they have given proof in many ways. They will, we imagine, long remain a metaphysical puzzle to slower minded races. The French mind is perhaps the nearest approach in the old world to that of the "Jap," but we have some idea that, on the whole, the latter is the sounder.