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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.

We clip from an exchange the following sensible suggestions with regard to a boy's education, and would add that if they were included in every young woman's accomplishments it would be a good thing for the country in general:—"Don't be satisfied with your boy's education, or allow him to handle a Latin or Greek book, until you are sure he can—write a rapid business hand, spell all the words he knows how to use, speak and write good English, write a good social letter, write a good business letter, add a column of figures rapidly, make out an ordinary account, deduct 16½ per cent. from the face of it, receipt when paid, write an advertisement for the local paper, write a notice or report a public meeting, write an ordinary promissory note, reckon the interest or discount on it for days, months and years, draw an ordinary bank check, take it to the proper place in a bank to get cash, make neat and correct entries in your day book and ledger, tell the number of yards of carpet required for your parlor, measure the pile of lumber in your shed, tell the number of bushels of wheat in your largest bin, and the value of it at current rates, tell something about the great authors and statesmen of the present day, tell what railroads he would take in making a trip from Boston to San Francisco. If he can do all this and more it is likely he has sufficient education to enable him to make his own way in the world. If you have more time and money to spend upon him, all well and good—give him higher English, give him literature, give him mathematics, give him science; and, if he is very, very anxious about it, give him Latin and Greek, or whatever else the course he intends pursuing in life demands."

Breach of promise cases, while happily rare in Nova Scotia, are not altogether unknown, and in the United States and England we frequently hear of them. Not so in France, however. There, we have often heard, they manage things better, but as we know accidents will happen in the best regulated households, and France had a breach of promise case for the first time in December last. At least, so says the Paris correspondent of the *London Daily News*. "It was," say the writer, "tried on December 1st at the Tribunal of Beziers, a town in the south of France, near Montpellier. A young couple were about to be united, the banns had been made public, cards sent out to the friends, and the wedding-dress had received the finishing touches of the dressmaker. The wedding-day came on and nothing more was wanted but the bridegroom. This indispensable man had however thought a second time about the marriage, and he never came. The disappointed bride brought an action for damages against her too fickle

suitor. The sentence of the Beziers bench is extremely curious. 'Whereas the promise of marriage,' so it runs, 'was of public notoriety, the banns were published, and a rude breaking off of the marriage was calculated to injure the bride's family; whereas the latter had been to a considerable expense in view of the ceremony, particularly in view of the bridal dress and the accessories (euphemism for trousseau), the bridegroom is bound to compensate them, &c. The bridegroom is sentenced to £160 damages for the moral injury to the family (not to the bride!), and to indemnify them for the cost of the wedding-dress and the interest on the outlay.' This novel case was tried by a bench of magistrates, and not by a jury."

Dominion detectives have been for several weeks moving mysteriously about the various offices of the Customs Department in this City. Their object has been hitherto veiled from public cognizance. The immediate result, however, is that one of the principal officers in the appraiser's office has been suspended pending further enquiries, and it is understood some higher officials will be asked to answer questions. Several city firms are said to be involved in the enquiry—among them a leading jewelry firm and a painter—but we withhold names and details for the present.

We are told that the other day a party of fishermen crossed the Zuyder Zic on the ice, a feat unparalleled since the year 1740. In that year—it may be interesting to note—the Thames was frozen so firmly that a Frost Fair was held on the ice, and printing presses were set up for the issuing of literature appropriate to the occasion. On Jan. 2nd an ox was roasted on the ice with great ceremony. In 1768 there was similarly severe weather in Europe, and in 1785 a bitter frost which lasted one hundred and fifteen days. In 1789 the Frost Fair was repeated, and booths and printing presses erected on the Thames about the 9th of January. The latest occurrence of the sort was in 1814, when, about the end of January and beginning of February, the Thames was like a thronged park, crossed in every direction with ash roads, and provided with all sorts of entertainment. There was a street built of tents, called the "City Road," and the booths were gay with music and dancing. Among the productions of the printing establishment on this ephemeral street was the following stanza:—

"You that walk here, and do deign to tell
Your children's children what this year befell,
Come buy this print, and then it will be seen
That such a year as this hath seldom been."

The increase in the number of deaths from diphtheria has again filled the papers with columns of scareology, which may or may not do good. The only really level-headed and all-round sensible article was that by Mr. Bradford in *Our Society* of last week. He advocates having persons who contract the disease immediately removed to a place which should be provided for the purpose of receiving and nursing them. This commends itself as a much better plan than the quarantine regulations of the Board of Health, which are admirably adapted to keep the disease on the increase. We can imagine no better plan for killing off whole families than to compel all members of a household to remain in an infected house. Diphtheria, or any other contagious disease, will not be stamped out by such means. One of the first things to be attended to by those who wish to escape the scourge is to see that the general health of all in the house is kept good. Fresh air, exercise, wholesome, plain food and cheerfulness go far towards this object and lessen the risk of contracting disease. Ventilation is of the utmost importance, but how many open windows can be counted on even a fine mild morning in Halifax? How many people have their sitting and bed rooms "done" for the day without so much as thinking of letting in a supply of fresh air? What can be expected in such cases, especially if the drainage is not in perfect condition, but that sickness will enter the home? The reforms we need to effect in order that our city can get a clean bill of health again are many, and half-measures will be useless. Perfect cleanliness in the household and in the whole city must be observed, drainage must be perfected as far as possible, and cleansing fluids used frequently in the pipes, and there should be at once a suitable place provided for the reception of patients. These are a few of the necessary safeguards. As to keeping people shut up in houses where the disease has entered, it is monstrous. Is the city willing to compensate such persons for loss of salary or positions so incurred? The heads of households are not the only ones who go out daily to work for their living. Take for instance the case of clerks, book-keepers, type-writers and others whose salaries are not enormous, and who have to work all the time in order to make a living. Are they to be put to loss, perhaps amounting to suffering, because the health (?) regulations will not allow them to change their place of residence and continue their work? We hope not. If the regulations are to be enforced in this respect the sufferers should be compensated,