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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.

CHRISTMAS—1893.—THE CRITIC extends a Christmas greeting to all, wishing its readers, young and old, thorough enjoyment of the sacred festival of the year. To the young the Christmas season is suggestive of merry-making and good cheer, but to the majority of us who have reached manhood and womanhood, our pleasure is not untinged with sadness, as with the return of the Christmas tide memories of the past flow in upon our hearts. Those who have been fortune's favorites during the past year and have been shielded from adverse fate have reason to rejoice and give thanks, while to those who look upon a home circle broken, or find themselves in unfortunate circumstances the day will be rather one of sad reflection. May that message which rang out with great gladness upon the Christmas morn nearly nineteen hundred years ago—Gory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men—find an echo in the hearts of those who are looking backward as well as of all who greet the Christmas dawning with unalloyed happiness.

A WRITTEN CONTRACT—The frequency with which breach of promise suits are brought into court has given rise to much disputing as to the actual value of a lover's promise of marriage. If the lady in the case can produce a letter in which, ever by implication, the lover admits the engagement, she is safe to win her suit, or if the gentleman can produce a similar document in the handwriting of the lady he may compel the fickle fair one to compensate him for his wounded affections. In the majority of cases, however, documentary evidence cannot be procured, and the verbal promise is all that the discarded man or woman has to go upon. It has been proposed, and very wisely we consider, that the engaged couple should have the written promise of each other. If the engagement is amicably broken, the papers can be destroyed. If despite the precaution a suit should arise there is no need for the whole history of the engagement, the caresses and endearments of the one and pair to be dragged before the public, for the offended party has the plain proof of his or her status as an engaged lover. The fact that a written promise was to be given would prevent undue haste on entering into the new relation, and, as an engagement not recorded on paper would not be recognized in the courts, the breach of promise suits would be few and far between. This is certainly a non-sentimental side to the written contract but the requirement is notwithstanding a just one.

EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY.—Dr. Wesley Mills, of McGill University, holds a most novel reception on Monday and Friday mornings of each week. To this function are brought the afflicted of the canine race, and barking, whining and yelping are the order of the day. Lame dogs, bitten dogs, mangy curs are all made welcome by the genial host, who, with a dozen young veterinary surgeons, stands ready to investigate all the ills to which dog-flesh is heir. Dogs of pure breed, as well as dogs of mongrel extraction are carefully and freely attended to. Simple medicines are prescribed, bones are set and operations are performed for the suffering animals. Dr. Mil's also contrives to impart his inborn spirit of kindness to his assistants who, one and all, are determined that the old adage, "to be treated like a dog," shall call up the most pleasing and gratifying picture.

STILL AT LARGE—For one millionaire at least the coming Christmas is likely to be a far from pleasant one, for the reason that justice and not conscience has him by the heels. Jabez Balfour will be remembered as the organizer of a number of London building societies. When business was booming he decamped to the Argentine Republic, where for some time he has been living in luxury on the invested money of the British stockholders. On his estates in Buenos Ayres he has been a little sovereign. The absence of extradition laws and the presence of a small army of retainers were sufficient guarantees of safety to enable him to hold up his head with the proudest in the land. But, alas for him! the day of retribution has come; the extradition laws are amended, and he has no choice but to desert his palatial home and fly to the Andes Mountains for safety. Jabez will need a good start to outrun the pursuing British justice.

THE KNIGHT OF LABOR IN REGALIA.—Our English friends are more particular in the matter of detail than are we in Canada. During a cold snap here we deem ourselves fortunate to obtain on any terms the services of a plumber, but it appears that across the Atlantic it is not so. In a recent case before a British magistrate, a plumber, who was called in during a household emergency, continued to wear his cap while at work. The householder objected to the covered head, remonstrated with the plumber, and at last snatched the cap off the offender's head. A policeman was then called in by the plumber, who claimed that a privilege of his calling had been interfered with, and the trio sought the nearest justice. There the householder was informed that he had no jurisdiction over the costume of the employe, and that any rough language which the plumber might have used towards him was to be condoned, because of the provocation received. The justice did not consider that a fine of 10s. was too much to be imposed upon the self-appointed teacher of manners.

GET THE CHILDREN HOME—We have much to be thankful for throughout Nova Scotia at this Christmas-tide. The times are not hard and those who cannot afford to supply themselves with Christmas cheer, will find that their richer neighbors have not forgotten them. But for many of our people who have deserted their Provincial homes with the idea of securing better paid work in the American cities, the coming holiday will be sadder than any of previous occurrences. The great cities of the United States are crowded with out-of-work men of all trades, and women who have found work as seamstresses, as factory hands, and as domestic servants are all thrown out of employment. According to the Boston Herald there are in that city alone 50,000 wage-earners who have no prospect of obtaining work and who with a number of dependent women and children, probably 50,000 more, are living solely on charity. In New York and in Chicago the state of affairs is even worse and when we reflect on the probable number of our Provincial men and women who are suffering for no fault of their own, and who have not the money to enable them to return to their homes, the sorrowful thought hides many of the manifestations of Christmas cheer and of a plenty which everywhere surrounds us. We have a special word to say to Provincial parents whose young people are in the neighboring Republic. If they are out of work, and here we refer particularly to the girls—make every effort to send them the money which will suffice for the home-coming. Do not allow young and inexperienced daughters to meet those temptations which hunger and poverty are sure to strengthen. The girls will be grateful and glad to come home when the money and the welcome are assured them, and in every case those at home should make a determined effort to keep the girls who are pushed by poverty from taking the first steps in a life of shame. As for the young men, we take a lively interest in them as well, but the danger to them is not quite so great, yet we are confident that parents who gather both boys and girls around them at this festive season, will not regret having taken our advice, and our Province will be the richer for having gotten back its wandering sons and daughters.