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Editorial Notes.

CONTRIBUTORS' MANUSCRIPT.

THE editor once more finds it necessary to call the attention of contributors to the announcement at the head of the editorial page, to the effect that rejected contributions cannot be returned by post, even when stamps are enclosed for that purpose. The number of MSS. received is so great that even the most cursory examination of them involves much time, and to undertake the return of these by post would be to incur a thankless obligation to no purpose whatever. Contributors whose MSS. may not be found suitable for publication must either call or send for them.

THE ANNEXATION CRY.

SOME of the Canadian papers seem determined to fasten upon Erastus Wiman a deep-laid design to bring about the annexation of Canada to the United States. All sorts of rumours, some of which are unquestionably far wide of the truth, are in the air. One of these is to the effect that an arrangement has been come to between Wiman and Mr. Bunting, of the *Mail*, whereby the former is to carry half the capital stock of the late Conservative organ, in return for which the *Mail* is to give itself over to the advocacy of Mr. Wiman's projects. There has unquestionably been a good deal of *rapprochement* of late between the two gentlemen referred to, but whether it bears the interpretation sought to be put upon it is a question which probably cannot be answered by anyone except the parties concerned. Assuming the truth of the rumour, some of the extraordinary utterances of the *Mail* during the last few months are fully accounted for. In any case, we fail to see the justice of some recent ferocious attacks on the *Mail's* policy. That paper is a purely commercial institution, and has a right to dispose of itself in such a manner as, in the estimation of its proprietors, will conduce to its success. And in so doing

it would be acting precisely as its rivals would act under similar circumstances.

THE O'BRIEN RIOT.

IT is much to be regretted that Mr. O'Brien was not allowed to march quietly out of Toronto, just as the King of France, with his ten thousand men, marched up the hill—and then marched down again. He would then have accomplished nothing but the easy, if not graceful task, of making himself ridiculous. It would have been clearly seen that the sympathizers with violence and intimidation were a minority in Toronto. He would have injured the cause of Home Rule in this country, but that could not be avoided in any case while the leaders of that movement persisted in sending their most indiscreet champion to exhibit the weakest side of their case, to the exclusion of any other. The two great meetings in the park sufficed to show that Toronto had no sympathy with disloyalty, and no desire to listen to slander and vituperation. The *vox populi* which Mr. O'Brien worships, and which is the breath of his nostrils, declared against him, and unfortunately did not stop there. They proceeded to acts of violence which lowered the fair fame of Toronto, and weakened the force of the verdict they had helped to pass. The weight of Toronto's rebuke to agitation would have been much greater if it had been altogether dignified, and the law-loving citizens are entitled to sympathy in having lost the effect of their dignified protests by the violence of a few roughs. As for O'Brien himself, he certainly deserves no sympathy. He was probably willing, if not anxious, to have his tall silk hat re-baptized with brickbats as a crown of martyrdom, for any person of ordinary prudence would have scented danger in the unanimous deprecation of violence by the speakers at the anti-O'Brien meeting. Had the mob been encouraged by any leaders of weight, or deliberately organized for mischief, the agitator could not have escaped with his life, but as it is he will certainly make the most of the advantage given him. We may take to ourselves the lesson of charity, and in future cease to wonder at the occasional disorders of Ireland, where such provocation to violence as that given by O'Brien is an every-day occurrence.

THE CRIMES BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE debates, or rather obstructions, which continue to impede the progress of the Crimes Bill, have little variety or interest to offer by way of compensation for their inordinate length. It is still debated whether Mr. Gladstone is gaining converts for the Nationalist party by his earnestness and persistence, or losing them by the countenance he gives to the obstructive tactics he so bitterly condemned when