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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 farmers of Prince Edward Island are making money by the sale of horses and eggs. They appreciated their position, and knowing what the market demanded, they set about to supply it. Keen foresight is closely related to success.

The astonishingly low state of the water in the lakes in the vicinity of Halifax should remind our citizens that at this time of year lake water should not be drunk excepting when filtered. Much of the sickness which has been reported during the past few weeks is directly attributable to the drinking of unfiltered water, which just now is poisoned by the insect and vegetable life which the waters contain.

The prospects of railway construction in China look more promising. Weng Tung Ho, the President of the Board of Revenue, who is the strongest opponent of the innovation, seeing the futility of further resistance, has seized an excuse for temporarily absenting himself from the capital. A large number of changes have been made in the provincial officers consequent on the projected works, and tenders will be called for without delay.

The race feud which is now going on in the Southern States between the whites and the blacks is assuming a very serious aspect, and it is somewhat difficult to see how any satisfactory settlement can be reached. Eight millions of revengeful negroes thirsting for property, power and pre-eminence, constitute a real danger to the peace of the Republic, and one that will become more real as years roll on. It sometimes looks as though the color line might yet have a geographical as well as an educational significance.

In many of the hospitals of Boston and other cities systematic training as nurses is given to young women, and it is said that the physicians, both in their hospitals and private practice, are feeling the advantages of being able to engage the services of such competent and intelligent assistants. Many of these girls are from Nova Scotia, and have gone forth from excellent homes inspired with the idea of self-helpfulness and independence. Is the training of intelligent nurses not a field of usefulness which might be opened up to our girls at home by the management of the Victoria General Hospital? Our enterprising ladies who are ever on the qui vive to advance the interests of their sex should make themselves heard by the powers that be. Thus they might be the means of smoothing the wrinkles from the pillows of many beds of sickness. Move, ladies; move.

There are always some who are envious of fame. It is now suggested that Graham did not go over Niagara Falls at all, and that Brodie's India rubber suit was stuffed with straw when it went over the cataract, Brodie being safely in waiting below. It is, however, to be remembered, that as the authorities would not allow the passage of the falls to be made publicly it had of course to be accomplished with secrecy. "Hence," as the *St. John Evening Gazette* says, "these painful doubts."

Mankind, like the monkeys, are nothing if not imitative. The imitative tendency goes down to crime. No sooner does one ruffian perpetrate an original act of atrocity than a dozen others spring up and follow suit. In like manner the construction of the Eiffel tower has begotten the ambition in other lands to copy, and at the same time to excel. London is completing a 2000 feet tower, and New York is exercising itself in the same direction. London should wait till the New York affair is well under way, for if she erects her tower first, New York will be certain to go a few feet higher, if only for the satisfaction of having it to say that America has again, in this matter, beaten all creation.

It appears that after all General Boulanger is to be allowed to take his chances in the French elections. Whether a growing belief that it will be safer to allow Boulangism a vent at the polls is at the bottom of this vacillation of the French Government it is difficult to say. It is impossible to predict the vagaries of Frenchmen. Some degree of apprehension of danger may have to do with it, but General Boulanger has become so seriously discredited that there may also exist a not unreasonable hope that no self-respecting French constituency would elect him as its representative. It is to be hoped this may prove to be the case, as we can foresee nothing but trouble and discredit to France should she be mad enough to entrust her destinies to a charlatan.

Notwithstanding that the peace of Europe remains intact, it is evident enough that there is very little cordiality between Germany and Russia. Russia continues, it is said, to mass her troops on her western frontier, and if this is really a menace, the Kaiser answers it very practically by having actually added to his army since the beginning of the year no less than four complete army corps, while orders have been issued for the formation of a fifth, with headquarters at Bamberg on the frontier. There are renewed rumors also of a projected alliance between Russia and France. These may be premature, but whatever may happen in the way of war, it is certain that Great Britain will hold the balance of power, and will doubtless use it to promote peace if possible.

The *Week*, in discussing the question of the future of Canada, sounds no uncertain note in favor of Independence. In its issue of the 13th inst., it has no less than four editorials on the subject, written with the weight and calmness which are the distinguishing features of the first of Canadian journals. They are so instructive and suggestive that we purpose reproducing them, one, or perhaps two, in our next issue. Annexation, the *Week* admits, is out of the question as entirely opposed to Canadian national feeling, while "Imperial Federation," it adds, "as a grand idea has many attractions, but every effort to bring it down from the clouds, and within the limits of definite and practical conception, has so far failed." It can therefore at least do no harm to ventilate the other alternative.

It is a fact patent to those who know anything of the army of the United States that its discipline is brutal, and that its officers inflict punishment at their own sweet will, any one of which would cashier a British officer. The *St. John Sun* has the following on the subject.—"A reporter of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* enlisted in the United States regular army so that he could become acquainted with the inner workings of the military machine and expose it to the world. His exposures are now being published, and they reveal a state of affairs which could not possibly exist in the British army. They read rather as if they were a continuation of some insane asylum revelation. They show a terrible state of affairs at Jefferson barracks, alleging that recruits are treated like dogs, that men are strung up by the wrists until they swoon from weakness, and that brutal sergeants deem no cruelty too severe. They relate how an insane man was heartlessly tortured, while common soldiers are imprisoned at the whim of their superiors. The statement is made that in the guard-house, where prisoners are packed into an enclosure 20 by 40, the sanitary condition is terrific. The prisoners are kept from sleep by vermin, and their surroundings are revolting in the extreme." It is within our own experience that one of the most gentlemanly American officers we ever met talked quite coolly of tying a man up by his thumbs—an exquisite torture—as a quite commonplace and ordinary occurrence.