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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.

A very remarkable calamity has occurred near Pesh. An immense waterspout burst in the neighborhood of the large collieries of Fuenksircher, inundating the country and filling the mines. The colliers had almost no chance of escape, as the rise of the water was extremely rapid. It is thought that the loss of life will be very great.

The promoters of the Halifax Ladies' College are to be congratulated on their latest success. Hereafter the graduates of that excellent school will be admitted to the Dalhousie Arts course without a special examination. The affiliation of the Ladies' College with the older institution is a true sign of these progressive times, and we trust that many young ladies now at the school will take the full advantage of this privilege.

Four hundred Mahomedan gypsies in Servia were recently baptized into the Greek Church. It was a gala day for the gypsies, who were attired in their gayest garb, and who were not too deeply impressed by the baptismal ceremony to defer their dance on the church green. One tribe after another has embraced the "Othodox Faith," tempted perhaps, not a little, by the wealthy Servian christians, who give costly presents to the converts on such occasions.

Another thwarted dynamite plot is reported from Buda Pesth. The explosion occurred in Andressy St., a fashionable thoroughfare. Eight bombs had been placed on the rails on which the electric cars were running, but fortunately seven of them became displaced, and the shock occasioned by the bursting of one, while severe enough to injure the passengers and to wreck the car, was followed by no loss of life. The police have no clue by which they may seek the cowardly would-be murderers.

Naturalists of Nova Scotia, attention! Prof. Byron D. Halisted, of the New York Agricultural Extension Station, respectfully requests that the worst weeds from all parts of America be sent him for his exhibit at the World's Columbian Exhibition. Here we have an opportunity to at once benefit science and to dispose of some of the troublesome tenants of our fields. The stately burdock, the insidious notch grass, the brilliant fir-weed and even the downy stocked mullen should be cheerfully offered up at the altar of science.

The cowardly administration of Paris is now offered assistance. A number of men, calling themselves by the romantic name of The Vendetta, or in plain words, lynchers, have notified the police that they will administer summary punishment to anarchists, by assassinating an anarchist in revenge for every dynamite outrage. It is to be hoped that the French Government will protect even her criminal classes from the "justice" of these blood-thirsty roughs, who would be as dangerous a power in the State as the anarchists themselves.

According to the Canadian *Electrical News* the telephone is a most popular institution in our Dominion, where there are 54 telephones to 100,000 inhabitants, against 350 and 167 instruments to the same population in the United States and Great Britain respectively. Montreal is the palm city with regard to the possession of this great convenience, as she now owns 5,872 telephones. Halifax can also make a good showing. The list of subscribers throughout the Dominion has increased ten-fold in as many years. Long life to the telephone say we.

Lord Dufferin relieved himself of a bit of quiet sarcasm the other day when, in addressing the "Chamber of Commerce," Paris, he suggested a new mode of declaring war. As heralds and trumpets are quite out of date, and as the curt ungrammatical telegrams now in vogue are inconsistent with the dignity of a nation, he suggests that the ambassadors of the rival countries should be strung up on lofty gibbets on the frontier—if necessary the foreign Minister might also be added. He is of the opinion that the spectacle would have a deterring effect on martial sentiments.

Again we hear of the deadly dynamite bombs. This time Caracas, Venezuela, is the spot chosen by the destroyers. The houses of the Minister of Finance and the French Consulate were badly injured. The following evening two ineffectual attempts were made to blow up the Government buildings, which are also the military head-quarters. General Crespo, who is inciting these daring deeds from a secure retreat, has sent word to the Venezuelan authorities that unless Congress is immediately summoned and the general elections brought on the outrages will be continued.

Electricity is working wonders in our day, but we hardly expected to find it working in the guise of a race-horse. The other day, an old worn-out horse very unexpectedly won a race on the Guttenberg, New Jersey, track, the backers gaining 100 to 1. On the second appearance of the winning steed, both it and the rider were closely watched, when it was found that the jockey was equipped with an electric belt connecting with the spurs. The nervous action given to the old horse had caused the race to be won. Since this disclosure and the disaster to the Duke of Westminster's favorite "Orme," it looks as if the turf were getting too shady for any but professional sharpers.

Mr. Richard J. Wicksteed, of Ottawa, has certainly the courage of his convictions, or he would never have brought his scheme for compulsory voting before the Canadian people. He draws his arguments from "moral and ethical-political" reasoning. A strong support for his proposition is, that the real voice of the people is not felt at the elections, as, for instance, in 1891, when with 1,132,201 electors on the list, only 730,457 were heard from. He repeats the sage remark of Luther, "They whose voting is the least desirable are the surest to be at the poll," and he calls for voters who are disinterested in all but their desire for their country's well-fare. He deplores the example set by our M.'s P. who decline to vote except on party questions, and calls upon the House of Commons not only to punish such offenders but also to pass a bill making voting compulsory. There is much to be said on both sides of the proposition.

It is very gratifying to note that the Dominion and Provincial authorities are working together in New Brunswick to revolutionize buttermaking in that Province. Experimental creameries are to be established and instruction given to farmers in the raising of milk-producing crops. It is quite time that some effort should be made to improve buttermaking in Nova Scotia. Our farmers' wives have long outgrown the idea that the cloths and linen for home consumption should be manufactured in their own homes, and if the sale of wool and flax is profitable to the farmer and the purchase of factory cloths and cottons satisfactory to his wife, why should not the same rule be applied to milk and the farmer's wife be relieved from the drudgery of the churn. Of course Mrs. A and Mrs. B make splendid dairy butter, but if they could taste the butter made by Mrs. C. and Mrs. D. they would understand why we so thoroughly approve of any movement that will place in the market good butter at moderate rates.