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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.

One of our country contemporaries remarks, apropos of the selection of candidates by the recent Liberal-Conservative Convention at Halifax, that "Mr. Henry is a lawyer, able in his way, but just because he is a lawyer not a wise selection. As a rule lawyers are the bane of legislatures." Of Mr. O'Mullin it is said, "Pat O'Mullin is a brewer. That is sufficient to debar him from a seat." This is a delightfully easy way of pronouncing on the merits of candidates.

One of the most effective weapons used by the Allans to deter capitalists from entertaining the fast mail line project was the publication of a letter in the *Times*, damning, as it were, the proposed enterprise with faint praise by wishing it success, but intimating that, though they had carried on the mail service and run the line for 35 years, they could not see their way to build fast steamers, etc. This letter, which is quite worthy of the general tactics of the Allans, had, it is asserted, a marked effect.

In connection with the opening of the new Provincial University building, Toronto, for scientific purposes, the study of Biology has attracted the attention of the *Week*. Under this comprehensive term come the abhorrent methods of Vivisection. Making every allowance for the claims of science, we are rejoiced to find that influential journal taking the ground that "the humane public of Ontario should insist on having some guarantee, legislative or otherwise, that such experiments (the tortures of the vivisection chamber) will not be permitted in any Canadian institution."

The differences, of which we have lately heard every now and then, between Lt.-Governor Royal of the N. W. Territories and his Executive Council, arise in reality from the old struggle for the control of the purse-string. It would appear that the Lt.-Governor thinks the expense of more directly representative institutions would be too great for the Territories at present. The N. W. Press seems to think differently, and as we apprehend, justly, that it would be more dangerous to defer the boon of representation until it can be accompanied with the complete organization of Provinces than to concede a tentative degree adapted to present circumstances at once. Undoubtedly the Ontario and other people who have made their homes in the N. W. have, in the meantime, the same right in regard to the disposal of revenue as their compatriots who remain behind, whether their numbers be comparatively great or small,

There have been painful rumors lately current that the Princess Christian is in danger of losing her eyesight. This calamity would be a public grief, as Princess Christian is universally respected and beloved for her many good deeds, and her charitable and christian life. We trust the evil may be averted.

"For the first time in the history of the British Post Office," says *The Colonies and India*, "the Indian mails have been delivered in London under fourteen days * * * * * thus it was possible for merchants to reply the same evening, and let their correspondents in India hear from them in a day or two under a month." While India has thus been brought within fourteen days of Great Britain, owing to the splendid steaming qualities of the *Oceana*, the vessel of the P. & O. which took Prince Albert Victor out, the English mail which arrived in Halifax late on Monday afternoon by one of the Allan crawlers was eleven days out.

The Princess Louise, who is well known to be more than a mere amateur in sculpture, and an artist of real merit, is engaged on a statue of the Queen, in the conception of which Her Royal Highness displays both boldness. It is to be erected in Kensington Gardens, and the ground pond. It is intended to represent Her Majesty as she appeared on the memorable morning in June, 1837, when it was announced to her that she was Queen of England. It will be remembered that upon that occasion the Princess Victoria appeared in the scantiest of attire—a mere robe de nuit, with a shawl hastily slung over it. Rumor has it that the Princess is succeeding in giving to this decidedly unconventional attire the appearance of quite classical drapery.

We are glad to be informed on what appears to be good authority that it is at last contemplated to bring forward in the ensuing session of Parliament, a measure for pensioning Staff Officers of Militia, when obliged to retire after many years' service, at a rate of some degree of equality with civil servants of the people. That an officer who has devoted 25 or 30 years of the prime of his life to a service which has in the past been by no means encouraging, should be turned adrift, when he attains the age at which retirement becomes a necessity, with a beggarly three years pay of his rank, is a thorough discredit to any country, and we shall rejoice if the information we have of intended reform is found to be correct.

Mr. John Morley has been speaking, among other matters, on the relations between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. He regards the proposal for the infusion of life peers as the worst possible solution. A life peer, he thinks, is sure to be more impracticable and less responsible than a peer of the ordinary kind, who at all events has some responsibility to his eldest son. He mentioned with approval the suggestion of Mr. Bright that the lower house should gradually wear down the veto of the Lords, but his pet idea is to make peers eligible for the House of Commons. We are inclined to agree with Mr. Morley in his opinions as to life peerages, and we certainly agree with him in the latter proposal. But English statesmen never seem to see their way to a comprehensive, simplicity. Why should not the members of the House of Lords be reduced, and the remainder be placed on the broad basis of the electoral principle? The Scotch and Irish peers of Parliament are representative, and limited in number, (16 for Scotland and 28 for Ireland.) Why should not the peers of the United Kingdom be placed on the same footing? This measure, combined with eligibility for the House of Commons, would probably give the House of Lords a new, and far more popular, lease of existence.

It is a striking commentary on the lamentable and degrading propensity of a large portion of the press of many countries for the most nauseous sensationalism and disregard of truth, that the London correspondent of the *New York Herald* should have written to that journal as follows:—"I have heard, though I have not actually seen the paper, that a *New York* journal recently published an article on certain abominable scandals with the portrait of Prince Albert Victor in the midst of it. If this be so a more atrocious or more dastardly outrage was never perpetrated in the press. The tone of public feeling in *New York* must have changed much of late years if this kind of 'journalism' meets with any sympathy or encouragement." It appears that various rumors connecting the Prince with the abominable London scandal have been recently in circulation. It is altogether unlikely that there is the slightest foundation for them, and the article alluded to is probably only an instance of the baseness and recklessness of sensational journalism. The scandal itself, it is feared, is a very bad one, and very improper methods seemed to have been adopted to hush it up. The spirit of investigation, however, both with the English Press and public, runs high, and it seems likely that the truth will soon be elucidated.