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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.

Private despatches from Loango, South West Africa, report a terrible disaster to a French exploring expedition which left Loango in July of last year under M. Crampel, its destination being understood to be Lake Island. A short time ago a report reached Mayumba that the whole party had been massacred by the natives of the Matonga Country, and that several white men had been eaten by cannibals. A second expedition left Loango in April last for the purpose of ascertaining definitely the fate of the explorers.

Recent statistics show an enormous development of the frozen meat trade between New Zealand and England. In 1882 the number of sheep exported to England was only 8839. In 1890 the number had risen to 1,562,247. The transit charges now amount to only 1½c. per pound, and it is probable they will soon be reduced to the even penny. Curiously enough the frozen meat trade in Australia has not expanded in anything like the same degree as New Zealand, but a leading Sydney journal anticipates that "what with the steady reduction of freezing and freights, the spread of the taste for frozen mutton at home, and the inevitable increase of our flocks and herds, we have good reason to see in the food requirements of England and Europe an almost untouched and inexhaustible mine of wealth for Australia." This should wake up our farmers to secure if possible a share of the home trade. Comparatively little mutton is exported from Canada, and Nova Scotia is peculiarly adapted for sheep farming, as our rocks and hills would furnish abundant sustenance to the flocks, although but a Barmecide feast to cattle and horses.

It is not always so easy to get married as one might suppose. An Englishman residing at Munich, Bavaria, for the benefit of his health, and wishing to be married there, applied first to the English chaplain, and secondly to the British Legation, for information as to where he could be legally married, and was informed that the marriage would be valid by English law only when taking place at the British Legation. Accordingly, after some six weeks' notice, the auspicious day arrived; bridesmaids, best man, relations and old friends (who had come all the way from England) were assembled at the house of the fiancée. Half an hour before the ceremony was to take place the chargé d' affaires called to inform the bride and groom that they could not be legally married according to English law at the Legation and he refused to have the wedding celebrated there. They are therefore obliged to await the usual long formalities preceding a marriage by Bavarian law, and to repeat their wedding festivities. If a German lawyer had not accidentally discovered on the eve of the wedding that, according to English law, the marriage would not be valid, and had not

forthwith warned the chargé d' affaires of his inability to have a marriage at the Legation, the betrothed would now be off on their honeymoon illegally married. The groom has written an angry letter to the Standard asking how it happened that, after the Legation had demanded and received a declaration to, the effect that there was no obstacle preventing the marriage, and had taken an English sovereign as fee for the Bishop of London, that the Attorney-General and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Munich had to inform the British Legation that its proceedings were illegal according to English law. This case is hardly calculated to increase the comfort of those British subjects who have been married at British Legations and had children since their union.

Some are beginning to fear future trouble in India. Mr. Meredith Townsend, an Englishman, asserts that the end of the British Empire of India is near at hand, and there are others, possibly alarmists, who do not conceal their uneasiness. A writer in a French review has been discussing the question, which he thinks should occupy the minds of cautious Englishmen. It is doubtful if the grudge of 1857 are entirely dead, and that the Hindoos have altogether made up their minds to submit to the yoke of the foreigner. Although England employs the revenue of India in the interest of the latter country, yet is the native population perfectly satisfied with the use to which it is put? Owing to the construction of railways, many English manufactures are sold in the heart of India at lower prices than native productions. Certain Indian workmen have to abandon their occupations, and this produces discontent. It is said that the want of money is general; people grow poorer while taxes increase. To keep in order the population of 250,000,000 persons we have the Queen's troops quartered there, about 63,000 to 65,000 men, of whom 4,400 are officers. Since the mutiny native soldiers cannot be implicitly relied on. The Hindoos have been educated, but education has only made them sharper and more cunning, and has deteriorated their morality, in fact has made them more our enemies than our friends. Their honesty, it is stated, is based only on fear of the policeman and his club. Fortunately the existence of caste has retarded unification among themselves. While we do not at all consider the situation so strained as the writer referred to thinks, yet it is well to be on the watch and to hopelessly crush any insubordination on its first appearance. In such an event let there be no trifling. The suddenness and fatality of the outbreak of 1857 should teach us a never-to-be forgotten lesson. The Hindoos are an untrustworthy lot and capable of anything if they but saw the prospect of success. Britain would not fail to put down any rising that might occur, but still bloodshed is undesirable, and a sharp eye on the Indian Empire will avert any disagreeable consequences.

"An Earnest Appeal on behalf of the Rank and File of the Navy" has lately been circulated in England. The object of the appeal is to secure for the warrant officers of the navy, and thereby indirectly for the whole rank and file, the privilege of select admission to the commissioned ranks of the service. This privilege has, as is well known, already been conceded to the corresponding ranks of the sister service. It is of course possible that the authorities may be able to show that there are insuperable objections to its extension to the naval service—objections arising out of and inseparable from the peculiar nature of naval service and discipline. But if it may be assumed, as the practice of the sister service entitles us to assume, that such objections as exist are not altogether insuperable, it may be acknowledged that the appeal is, on the face of it, reasonable and not ill-timed. The differences of social standing and antecedents between commissioned and non-commissioned officers have been obliterated in some cases in the army by the promotion of "Rankers," as they are called, men who have risen from the ranks; although, perhaps, the position of officers who have obtained their commission in this way may not be in all cases satisfactory either to themselves or to their brother officers. If the principle of select promotion from the ranks in the navy be conceded, the present moment affords a very favorable opportunity for its application. The dearth of lieutenants is notorious. The navy has been largely increased of late years, and no adequate provision has been made for a corresponding increase in the number of lieutenants. It is said that there are many warrant officers who have not only been recommended for promotion, but have actually performed lieutenant's duties on active service, some in command of gun-boats and torpedo boats. It is contended by the framers of the appeal that all that is required to qualify these officers for promotion to commissioned work would be a short course of training in those subjects, such as tactics and navigation, which are essential to the qualification of a lieutenant. A searching competitive examination at the end of the course, it is contended, would insure the selection of the fittest men. The supply from this source would be immediately available, and would keep pace with the increasing requirements of the service.