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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.

THEY PAINT THE LILY.—Parisian fruit dealers have learned that if their goods can only be made attractive to the buying public their sales will be rapid. A recent investigation shows that the old saying of "nature unadorned" does not apply to these hustlers after trade, for it is the custom to force dye into common oranges in order to make them resemble the blood oranges, or to color the skins so that they will resemble and sell for the high-priced mandarins. Pineapples are doctored in the same way, and ripe strawberries are dyed rosy red, and melons are given a mellow-looking rind by washing them with an orange colored mixture.

A BREAD COMBINE.—The people of Montreal are determined to secure cheap bread, and the determination has risen to such a height that a public meeting has been called and a co-operative scheme for making cheap bread has been arranged. The committee who now have the matter in charge claim that bread which is cheaper and better will be at once produced, and if the scheme works satisfactorily to all concerned, it is proposed to form similar organizations in order that the people may obtain all the necessities of life without dealing with middle-men. Edward Bellamy, the author of "Looking Backward," will perhaps see some of his ideas regarding the simplifying and cheapening of ordinary household needs carried out by the present generation.

THE DEATH OF PARKMAN.—The world loses a great historian by the death of Francis Parkman, whose pen has done such good work in connection with the early history of Canada. There was probably no man who had so wide a knowledge of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, of the tribulations and experiences of the French settlers, and of their dispossession by the English. Two of his books will remain as Canadian classics, when much of our present literature will have been swept away. We refer to his two master pieces—"The Pioneers of France in the New World" and "Montcalm and Wolfe." Each volume has been the result of the most careful study, and each is characterized by a keen grouping of facts and dates which does not interfere with the philosophical comment of the thoughtful historian. Mr. Parkman, like another famous historian, Mr. Prescott, struggled for many years with a serious eye-trouble which resulted in blindness; and, like Prescott, much of his best work has been done under what are generally esteemed most disadvantageous circumstances.

BREAKING OLD TIES.—Wales is following the example of Ireland in agitating vigorously for a settlement of the land question. The Welsh farmers claim that they suffer all the disadvantages of absentee landlordism, that the land is poor and run out in quality, and that unless the landlords can be compelled to sell their estates in small lots in the open market there is no hope for the working class. The landlords in turn complain that at the most they can get but two per cent out of their land, and that if a sale were forced they would practically be robbed of their inheritances. In the meantime both the farmers and the younger generation of landlords are giving up the struggle, and there is a general desertion of historic localities, as the men leave for a land in which the laborer has the right and opportunity to prosper.

A COMPLIMENT FROM THE "INTERIOR."—We have some appreciative as well as jealous neighbors on the other side of the border, and when occasion requires they are not averse to speaking plainly of the advantages of life in Canada. The contrast between life in Western Canada and life in the Western States, is most marked. North of the boundary line one seldom hears of lynchings or deeds of outlawry, while in the Southern districts lawless deeds are daily chronicled. The *Chicago Interior* attributes this superiority to the fact that in Canada both person and property are protected by law, and although the class of settlers in both countries is about the same, the lawless element is kept completely in check on the Canadian side of the border. In the fastnesses of the Rockies and in the lone places of the Selkirk, the scarlet uniform of the Mounted Police is to be seen, and where the British or Canadian soldier goes there is no need for the people to substitute private revenge for the justice which is their due.

THE USUAL MISCONCEPTION.—It is probable that there will be a Winter Carnival held either at Montreal or Quebec, and that as a result our English and European friends are to be again confronted with the "polar idea" of Canada, which is, alas, so common. A Winter Carnival is a beautiful sight, and there is no doubt that the city which possesses it will be benefited by the celebration, but on the other hand, the whole of Canada will suffer. The absurd misconception which prevails as to the climate and produce of Canada, and the habits of our people, can only be heightened by a repetition of the Winter Carnival. This is not a land of eternal ice and snow, nor do our people habitually clothe themselves in blanket costumes, neither is there any large mortality caused by freezing to death. We groan beforehand over the illustrated papers that will seize upon this opportunity of blazing ice and snow scenes—over the overwhelming number of frosted cards and toboggan emblems—and we have a still deeper and more desperate feeling towards those Canadians who are so base to the interests of their native land as to hand their fur clad likenesses down to posterity. We trust that the Carnival may be a success, but we cannot but regret that another breeze from the supposedly ice-bound land is to travel the world round.

IMMIGRATION REFORMATION.—The new regulations affecting immigration to the United States promise to bear hard on Canada, unless some radical change is at once made. The authorities in the neighboring Republic are very naturally and rightly desirous of keeping out all immigrants of doubtful character. Many scores of thousands of paupers have been already drafted into that heterogeneous compound, the American people, and it is but right that some protection should be given the people of the country against the incursions of the refuse of Europe. Many would-be settlers are now arriving in Canada. For the most part they are bound for the United States, and it is with surprise that they receive the notification that unless they can satisfactorily answer certain questions they will not be allowed to proceed further on their journey. Each immigrant is examined as to his physical, and we might almost say, his spiritual condition. If he inherits disease in any form—if the pathological history of his family is not satisfactory, or if his physique be not good, he cannot be allowed to enter in. It is to be hoped that a fine spirit of honor will cause the immigrant to respond correctly to all enquiries as to his mental and moral condition, and that if he is acquainted with any of the lively or dormant capabilities for criminality which may be concealed in his bosom he will speak frankly of their existence to the officials. When the applicant has successfully passed two-fold inspection, when the color of his eyes and hair have been noted, and the condition of his pocket tested, he is allowed to pass into the home of the free. The particular beauty of this plan is that when the United States authorities are dissatisfied with the immigrant they simply leave him on the hands of the Canadian authorities, and we bid fair to obtain in this way a "picked" body of settlers who will lower the whole tone of our people. While this method is doubtless satisfactory in the United States, it occurs to us that it is hardly fair that we in Canada should be forced to accept the most undesirable class of future citizens.