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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for each 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.

South American countries appear to be ever on the point of revolution. The latest news from Rio Janeiro states that the Congress has been dissolved, martial law proclaimed, and throughout the Provinces a dictatorship established.

The celebrated Pere Hyacinthe is said to be one of the latest converts to theosophy, and that he intends soon to lecture on the subject of esoteric Buddhism and the inner spiritual light. He is now in London deeply immersed in the study of theosophy.

The theory of animal magnetism has been discarded by a celebrated Paris physician, Dr. Pinel, for the reason that he has found that hypnotic patients obey the phonograph as readily as they do a living speaker. It is just as well to subject all theories to severe tests before accepting them as conclusive.

It is hard enough to keep oneself up to the mark on one system of time, and we do not see how the St. John folk have ever managed to put up so long as they have with their systems of time. A move is being made in that city to effect a change and adopt standard time. It is to be hoped it will culminate successfully, for a stranger gets hopelessly mixed in trying to make out the time of day or night in our sister city.

The crisis in the Dominion Cabinet has been got over, or "fixed up," as the Quebec Chronicle puts it. Mr. Chapleau has returned to office in his old capacity, for the present. When Mr. Dewdney leaves the capital to succeed Hon. Mr. Wilson as Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia, Mr. Chapleau will become Minister of the Interior. Reconstructing a cabinet is slow and troublous, but it will be accomplished in time.

The Yarmouth Times of last Friday commented on the fact that there are now in Yarmouth no less than six children—all under fifteen years of age—in the county jail serving terms of imprisonment for theft. The Times refers to the fact that some time ago the Halifax reformatory were opened to juvenile offenders all over the Province, and yet they are still being taught to be jail birds. It appears to us that the blame for this must lie on the magistrates who sentence the youths, and they should be brought

to a sense of their responsibilities as speedily as possible. It is wrong indeed to force young offenders to herd with habitual criminals.

Canada's winter port in the United States is just now rejoicing over the refusal of the Allan Steamship Company to carry mails at the old contract price, as this gives Portland the handling of through freight to and from the Upper Provinces, the largest portion of which had in former years been looked after in Halifax. The Government is willing to contract for a first class Atlantic mail service, which the Allans are at present unable to supply; but realizing that it is an object for the Government to have through freight carried over the Intercolonial Railway, and that no outside company is at present in a position to accept the conditions upon which the Government subsidy is granted, the Allans demand better terms. Not having got them they give Halifax the go-by, withdraw their business from the Intercolonial and transfer it to the American terminus of the Grand Trunk Railway. This may be all well enough so far as the Allans are concerned, but Halifax and the Province of Nova Scotia, which derives benefit from the prosperity of the capital, will not look with a kindly eye upon a company which has for years been the recipient of Government subsidies, but which when opportunity arises refuses to improve its service and at the same time demands a larger subsidy for such services as it is in a position to supply. If our Halifax shippers would unitedly take a stand in this matter the question of the winter port of Canada might be settled once and for all within the next two years. A good strong Halifax steamship company with shrewd men at its head should be organized at once. A sufficient number of steamers having the requisite speed could be chartered so as to involve no loss, the Government subsidy could be secured, and within the time specified the company could have built for it a fleet of ocean greyhounds suitable for the trade, and our merchants would have the satisfaction of knowing that by putting their own shoulders to the wheel they had made Halifax the unquestioned winter as well as the summer port of Canada, and had made a commencement in the control of the trade of half a continent. If Halifax is ever to become a great mart of commerce it must be through and by the energies and efforts of her own citizens. Nature may have given the port great advantages, but nature does not build swift ocean going steamers or encourage railway corporations to make any particular locality its ocean outlet.

So the Mercury thinks our two society lectresses incompatible one with the other, and says of our remarks upon "dress and deportment" that "no more offensive article, or, we believe, a more unjust or uncalled for article, has appeared in the Halifax press than the one to which we refer." Of course if we had considered that article uncalled for or unjust it would not have appeared in our columns, and that is just where we differ from our esteemed contemporary. At various times since the Mercury's advent it has contained in the contributions of some of its regular writers strictures no less severe than our own on some of the habits of society folk, only they leveled their shafts at the painted faces rather than at the too much exposed natural charms of some Halifax women, which we commented upon. As to our article being "insulting," we do not see how any woman who does not transgress in the way we mentioned can feel aggrieved, and of those who do transgress, will not the Mercury admit that they stand in need of admonishing? If our general remarks upon a low tendency of the time, without hint or reference to any one offender, were insulting, we consider the Mercury's frequent comments upon the make-up of society women's faces equally so. But we do not see that either were uncalled for. In a broad sense it is the duty of the press to try and effect any reform it considers will tend to raise the tone of society, and if it uses strong terms in advocating what it takes up, so much the better. As we have sufficiently explained, it is the disagreeable personalities that we object to, and in referring to them we had no particular paper, certainly not the Mercury, in our mind. We are glad to see that our contemporary admits that "this kind of thing is run to extremes sometimes." It certainly is! We know of one esteemed and charming young lady whose face has been to be commented upon many times by the society correspondents of different papers of the town in which lives. She is much admired by gentlemen and has a great deal of attention shown her, and this may perhaps account for the lively interest taken in her affairs. The correspondents were, "not a 'namin' of any names," but no one who knew the persons could make any mistake as to the identity of those referred to. How much unhappiness and mortification has been caused by the paragraphs in question we cannot tell, but we can guess. We knew whereof we spoke in both our articles, they were no more inconsistent than (to make use of a very high comparison) St. Paul's doctrine of faith and St. James' doctrine of works. Commenting severely upon a tendency of the age is quite compatible with strictures upon anonymous personal gossip.