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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 the are as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

All the parliaments in which we are immediately interested are now in session. The Provincial, the Dominion and the Imperial makers of law are all at work, and the busy man has as much as he can do to take cognizance of all that transpires. So far as the Provincial and Dominion houses are concerned our readers will find it a saving in time to read our weekly digest of the proceedings, and we will also watch the important events of the Imperial parliament in their interests.

A movement is on foot in England, inaugurated by Mr. Leslie Stephens the author, to secure the erection of a statue to James Russell Lowell in London. It has even been proposed to place the statue in Westminster Abbey, but this will most surely not carry. So far as the other project is concerned, the great popularity of Lowell during his residence in London will probably assure its success. A man of Lowell's attainments is worthy of commemoration among great Englishmen.

The people of this Dominion are not blind to the fact that reciprocity with the States is at present impractical, because the people of the United States do not want it very badly—as offered by Canada—and Canada is not ready, or able, to make such a proposition as would be sure of acceptance. The proverbial Yankee cuteness will continue to make the United States keep such a keen lookout for number one that no proposition that does not give that country the best of the bargain is likely to be entertained.

Typhus fever is a terrible disease, and it is not wonderful that the outbreak in New York is regarded with alarm. A short time ago it was announced that eighty-four cases had resulted from the landing from the infected steamer *Massalia* of a number of Italians, who carried the disease to many widely separated points, and on Tuesday the news that thirteen new cases had developed within twenty-four hours was productive of much uneasiness. The disease is true typhus, and was brought on board the *Massalia* by Russian Hebrews, who communicated it to their fellow passengers. Chicago also has five cases, but every means is being taken to stamp out the plague before it spreads.

If the rumor circulated from Ottawa a few weeks ago proves correct, and a cable between British Columbia and Yokohama is really one of the probabilities, Canada may again congratulate herself on becoming a little more

important to the Empire. The difficulties of the route between these points are said to be much less than between B. C. and Australia. An attempt is now being made in England to form a company to undertake the enterprise in conjunction with the commercial cable and the C. P. R., and it is reported that Vice President Shaughnessy, who has just returned from Japan, has made an arrangement with the Mikado's government for the use of their land lines. These signs indicate that something is being done, and that before long the east and west will be on speaking terms.

A telling example of the truth of the maxim that union is strength was recently exhibited in St. John. The teachers of the Centennial School in that city formed a club and studied together for the purpose of answering a set of questions asked by the *Dominion Illustrated*, and for which several valuable prizes were offered. The result fully justified the means. Of the twelve teachers in the school, eleven sent answers and ten won prizes, the aggregate value of which is \$913. The teachers did not, of course, make up their papers in common, but each one wrote his or her answer without communication with the others, the study being all that was done together. One of the prizes was solid cash to the amount of \$750—a dot not to be despised by anyone who works for a living. The example of these teachers is worthy of remembrance when the next good offer is made.

The anniversary of the birth day of "the Father of his Country" was celebrated in the United States on the 22nd ultimo. One of the most notable ways in which the day was signalized was the paying of a visit by the fifty-second Congress to the site of the World's Fair, Jackson Park, Chicago. In New York a flag incident occurred as a matter of course. A "blooming Britisher" saw fit to raise a Union Jack as part of his decorations in honor of the occasion, and his taste in flags did not please his neighbors. A mob was formed, and the gentleman was forcibly remonstrated with. How differently we regard such things in Canada. If the streaked and spotted banner lends itself to decorative purposes, we make it available without regard to nationality, and besides we do not cherish the unkindly feelings which would lead us to object to it. But such is life in the colonies.

Some genius has brought the fact to light that Mrs. Columbus, that is Mrs. Christopher Columbus, was the daughter of a great navigator of Lisbon named Palestello, and brought her husband a wealth of information in the form of charts, maps, important memoranda, and journals of voyaging, and suggests that in all probability this lady was responsible for the impetus which sent the great Genoa sailor in search of a new path to the Indies. It is really too bad that the women are getting the lion's share of credit for the discovery of America. It is not enough that Queen Isabella of Castile should receive the plaudits of the world for being the patroness of the Columbian expedition, but now the brave navigator himself must have his lustre dimmed by the holding up of his better half for admiration. The Board of Lady Managers of the World's Fair will surely not let slip this opportunity for another exaltation of their sex as originators of everything worth doing under the sun. Of course if Mrs. C. really did think the matter over and start her husband out she deserves to be covered with glory, but the dust of four centuries lies thick on the records of the times in which Columbus sailed from Palos, and we must e'en be content to honor the man who was the pioneer of the Western Hemisphere.

There are indications in plenty that Germany is getting ready for internal dissension, and although the outbreak of unemployed and discontented on February 25th has not, so far, been followed by any dangerous display of hostility to the government, we do not know what moment an uprising may occur. The Emperor's speech at Branderburg contained, as his speeches usually do, passages offensive to many of his subjects. He hinted that it would be better for discontented persons to shake the dust of Germany from off their feet, retiring to some country where conditions suit them better. It is answered that if all the discontented were to leave the country Emperor William would be left to rule over a desert. The riot of the 25th ult. was only the effort of that class of people to awaken the interest of the Emperor in their behalf, but while the mob thundered at his gates the Kaiser calmly looked out from a window, and did not speak an encouraging word to those who wanted bread. The police subdued the excitement after a desperate hand-to-hand encounter and many arrests were made. It is evident that a serious state of affairs is brewing when a mob grows bold enough to attack the palace of the Kaiser. The storm has not yet burst over Germany, but when it does we may depend upon it that the revolt against the heavy taxation, necessary to maintain a costly standing army, and to supply the wants of a monarch who claims to rule by divine right, will be terrible. The Emperor's statement that he is leading his people to glorious days may be sadly disproved.