

# THE CRITIC:

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES .....	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Events and Comments .....	6, 7
The Society List .....	7
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles .....	3
News of the Week .....	4, 5
Poetry—My Love or I .....	6
Industrial Notes .....	7
Parliamentary Review .....	8
Commercial .....	8, 9
Market Quotations .....	9
Serial—Maitland's Mystery .....	10, 11
City Chimes .....	12
Mining .....	13, 14
Home and Farm .....	15
Chess .....	16
Draughts—Checkers .....	16

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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.

Mr. Anglin in his recent lecture on the "Irish Question" had no hesitation in stating in plain terms that the Irish vote controls the policy of the United States. No doubt the statement accords with facts, but we presume it is not every American who will regard its uncompromising public assertion with complacency.

A contributor to the *Acadian Recorder* in its last Saturday's issue under the signature of "Doesticks" writes as follows: "A late number of your esteemed contemporary THE CRITIC incidentally remarks on certain social phases of Ottawa and the United States." The *Recorder's* contributor, probably unintentionally, implies that the remarks in question are editorial; he should have observed that they were those of a correspondent.

In Stockholm, it is said, they are not yet tired of honoring Jenny Lind. A new street has just been named after her, and a sculptor has recently finished a statue representing her in the costume of Norma. There is much propriety in honoring to the full in her native land the great songstress, second to none, whose private life was as exemplary as her operatic career was splendid, and her voice divine, but it is a mistake to have represented her as Norma, the character in which, apart from the glory of her voice, she was least successful. Perhaps her most perfect impersonation was that of Amina in the *Sonnambula*, but as Norma the Swedish Nightingale suffered by comparison with the grand and passionate Grisi.

Whenever women come to vote on equal terms with men a great power will be brought to bear on the armies and navies of the world. Women are instinctively lovers of peace. Their dread of war is not really influenced by their liking for soldiers and sailors, and it may be pretty certainly assumed that the weight of their vote would be thrown against Jingoism. It is a question on which women are not much influenced by their male relatives, and war is repulsive and a terror to them. It has been astutely suggested that Bismarck's bitter antipathy to the broad minded and brilliant widow of Frederic, is prompted by her disposition to exert all her influence against the dominant military spirit in Germany, and that it is very doubtful whether such a man as the Iron Chancellor could flourish in any country where women really shared with man the powers and duties of government.

We quote, in another note, the words of General Harrison on Protection, not because we think it is so necessary to the welfare of the great and wealthy Republic as we are compelled to believe it to be here. We are no lovers of protection for its own sake, and would gladly see our own manufactures so firmly established, and our people so decided in their preference for Canadian products over those of other countries, that it might be relinquished. But even then there would remain the question of revenue, as to raising which, except by custom duties, our clamorous politicians afford us no suggestion.

A noticeable modification of tone has come over the tail-twisting Republican Senators since their party has become responsible for the administration. "But a few months ago," as the *Montreal Witness* remarks, "they were out-roaring the lion and or-screaming the eagle." Now, when a member of Congress desires simply to "enforce existing laws" touching the Alaska seal fisheries, Senator Edmonds feels that "such a very important and difficult question" is raised, etc., etc.—"What a noble business this is"—the *Witness* trenchantly concludes—"of embarrassing the government of one's own country, just because it is wielded by another party."

Whatever Mr. Cleveland may have failed to accomplish, it would appear that he has really dealt a heavy blow to the old-standing wholesale award of the spoils to the victors, and General Harrison has plainly intimated his desire that the Civil Service Act shall be fairly observed. It is impossible that the Civil Service of any country should be what it ought to be under the conditions of a sweeping quadrennial change, and we are sufficiently interested in the system of government of our neighbors to desire to see its public service delivered from the fatality of a low and discreditable scramble at every advent to power of an opposition party.

We have no means of knowing whether our persistent advocacy of certain postal reforms has in the smallest degree contributed to bring about the concession of the ounce weight to ordinary letters, but our satisfaction at this substantial boon is considerably lessened by the increase of rates on registered and drop letters. If, indeed, amounts sent in registered letters were to be guaranteed if lost, in consideration of an extra registration fee, even a higher rate might be justified, but this does not appear to be the intent. If the imposition be meant to discourage the practise of sending money in that manner, and to promote the safer post office order system, it is a very indirect and objectionable way of attaining that object. The increase of the rate on drop letters will certainly not counter-balance that of the weight allowed for the three cent rate, and we fail to see the necessity for it. Perhaps, however, now that the thin edge of the wedge of reform has been entered, perseverance in hammering may drive it home before very long.

The Commissioner of the N. W. Mounted Police has a good deal to say on the liquor question. It appears that present regulations permit the brewing of "a wretched apology for beer out of grape-sugar and other poisons," while the brewing from home-grown malt is senselessly prohibited. All malt liquor must be manufactured out of the Territories. There is a great deal of liquor drunk in the towns, and more or less drunkenness among a class who will get drunk anywhere, but the rural settlers are "remarkably free from liquor and its effects." The Commissioner considers that things were better even under the old permit system, when only comparatively responsible persons could obtain small quantities, than under the present license system. He justly draws a wide distinction between beer and spirits, and advises the permission of breweries under the inspection of an Inland Revenue Officer for the manufacture of a wholesome article out of home-grown malt, and that no other liquor permit should be allowed to houses selling it.

General Harrison and Mr. Morton were duly inaugurated at Washington on Monday as President and Vice-President of the Great Republic. The anticipations foreshadowed by the dignified and reticent attitude of the President since his election are fully borne out by his statesmanlike speech, which may well stand for a model of breadth, calmness and dignity. Protection will of course continue for the present to be the steady policy of the United States, but the President treats the subject briefly, it is true, but with a grasp which our own advocates of its relinquishment might bear in mind under the necessity which at present exists for its maintenance. "None," he says, "are excluded from achieving that diversification of pursuits among the people which brings wealth and contentment," and further on "I look hopefully to a continuance of our protective system, and to the consequent development of manufacturing and mining enterprises in States hitherto wholly given to agriculture, as a potent influence in the perfect unification of our people."