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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—Morning	B. Musgrave, Jr. 6
City Chimes	"Chips" 7, 8
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
A Warning Note	6
Industrial Notes	7
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—Jessica's Choice	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Home and Farm	14, 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.

A great part of Buenos Ayres suffers from periodical drought. Canals are projected for irrigation, of which Europe will no doubt be asked to help the construction.

Australia has come to the front in letters and art, in the persons of a poet of admitted pretension, and a young actress, Miss Essie Jennings, concerning whom anticipation runs so high as to suggest comparison with Miss Mary Anderson.

Spanish finances, like those of France, are not in a healthy condition. Imports and exports are declining. Expenditure exceeds revenue by £3,000,000 stg. annually, and the Finance Minister can think of nothing but new loans to pay old debts.

While the German Kaiser desires to burke the memory of his noble father, and is, if reports may be at all trusted, antagonistic to his excellent mother, the Czar has spent £60,000 during the last five years in the erection of a beautiful church at Jerusalem as a memorial of his mother.

The *Montreal Witness* points out the probability that, if Stanley had been killed, some of the hundreds of his followers—carriers, etc.—would have scattered in various directions and have made for the coast. Some of them would, had disaster occurred last year, have also reached the mission posts of the interior, and given intelligence more or less authentic. The tidings of Major Bartelotte's death were brought both quickly and accurately. This view of the possibilities—not to say probabilities—of the case is decidedly reassuring.

Nothing could possibly be more ridiculous than the bombastic language of Mr. Cleveland's message, on the Sackville incident. The solemn importance attached to a venial indiscretion would be still more absurd were it not for the necessity Mr. Cleveland is under of showing cause for his discourtesy and precipitancy. Granting that Lord Sackville's unfortunate facility gave reason for his withdrawal, the terms in which the fiasco is described are those of a magniloquent hyperbole ludicrously out of keeping with the facts, and when Mr. Cleveland takes credit for "affording full opportunity for H. M. Government to act in relief of the situation," he glides from bombast into something very like untruth.

It is a pleasure to note the success that has attended the efforts of Nova Scotians both at home and abroad. Mr. James Ratchford DeWolf, who recently died in Liverpool, G. B., was a native of this province, who, through his untiring energy and foresight, rose to be one of the leading ship owners in the world's maritime metropolis. At the time of his death Mr. DeWolf's fortune could not have been less than one million dollars, and this amount was solely the result of his own labors.

The colony of Queensland, its Government and Legislature, evidently have an acute fit of bumptiousness upon them. The Legislature has passed a Chinese Restriction Bill, to which they have added a clause enacting the penalty of imprisonment for life against Chinamen illegally entering the colony. As they must be perfectly aware that such a clause could not possibly receive the Royal sanction, we are led to suppose that the Queenslanders are doing a little of the "who'll tread on the tail of me coat?" business.

So far as we can gauge public opinion, we find that William Preeper is regarded as an immoral man, and hence, while no one thinks the circumstantial evidence upon which he is to be hanged is at all conclusive, the public will not protest, on account of his supposed immorality. In view of the verdict in the trial of Mrs. Doyle, we cannot understand how Preeper can be guilty of murder, and, as the evidence of his immorality is weak and inconclusive, right thinking people should not be apathetic when a timely petition may save the life of an innocent man.

The long stagnant colony of Western Australia has, under the influence of the gold discoveries within its ample boundaries sprung into new life. Mining companies are now being floated in all directions, railway extension is being pushed, and a stock exchange has been opened in Perth. The population of this enormous colony, which at present nominally comprises more than a third of Australia, was given for the 1st December, 1886, as 39,584. Recent events have no doubt increased it immensely, and if the gold discoveries turn out to be at all comparable with those of Victoria in 1851, West Australia may progress by leaps and bounds as Victoria did.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, speaking at the Dolphin Society Colston banquet at Bristol, challenged Mr. Gladstone to give a definition of the scheme of Home Rule he intended to propose in place of the one he had abandoned, and ridiculed the idea that the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament at Westminster could be maintained while at the same time a separate legislature was established in Ireland. Herein we think Sir Michael Hicks Beach, in common we suppose with his fellow Conservatives, to be radically wrong. It certainly is a lamentable peculiarity of the English Conservative mind not to see far enough, and not to see its opportunities.

Dr. H. H. Read in a letter to the *Chronicle* on "the Future of Canada" (a subject which is fast becoming a gratuitous nuisance,) says: "It is known that Queensland was prepared to sever the tie of Imperial connection had the British Government not given way." This is the cool sort of assumption of a fact, which would be convenient if it were a fact, which Annexationists and Commercial Unionists are adepts at, and which so easily impose on the ignorant. Nothing of the kind is known, and Queensland, a young colony of say 35,000 population, is in no position to sever ties unless she were backed up by all the other Australian colonies, and it is quite unlikely that they would precipitate a quarrel on such grounds.

The question whether manual training shall be introduced into the curriculum of our Public Schools is evidently looming up. The question of expense may operate against it for a time, our school taxation being heavy as it is, and any proposition to increase our burdens in that direction will demand serious consideration. We have little doubt, however, that the principle will sooner or later be adopted. A distinction must be made between manual and industrial training. The former merely implies a training of the hand in the fundamental operations underlying all handicraft, the latter, preparation for some special trade or manual calling. Girard College, Philadelphia, one of the largest orphan asylums in the world, contains some 1200 boys. The foundation provides for apprenticeship, but the decay of that institution has prevented carrying out the will of Mr. Girard. Boys have therefore been kept till 15 or 16, when three-fourths of them became clerks, book keepers, &c. Three years ago manual training was introduced to a limited extent, and now half the boys go into shops at once. "In other words," says the *Andover Review*, "all those boys who have a taste for handicraft are now enabled to follow it, and many an inventor and mechanic will be given to the world, who, under the old system, would have been a poor counter-jumper or a wretched copyist."