

THE CRITIC:

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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	5
Parliamentary Review	6
News of the Week	6, 7
Chess	7
Poetry—Pluck	8
Being a Woman	8
When Twilight Falls	8
Employment for our Girls	8, 9
Honorable Competition	9
Industrial Notes	9
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—Judge Not	12, 13
Mining	14, 15
	16
	17
Draughts—Checkers	17
City Chimes	18

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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.

Divers in the harbor of Syracuse, Sicily, have discovered a magnificent marble building, whose highest point is only three metres under the water. The building contains great stairways and columned halls. It is believed that the edifice was once used as a bath or a temple.

The consecration of the great church of Montmartre, Paris, as an act of penitence for the irreligion of the nation, is justly taken as proof that the religious spirit has not ceased to exist in France. No less than one million pounds sterling have been subscribed to the great undertaking initiated by Cardinal Guibert.

The Democratic Convention of Ohio, which re-nominated Governor Campbell as its candidate in opposition to McKinley, the Republican nominee, adopted the following as one of its planks in its platform of principles: "We favor closer commercial relations with our Canadian neighbors, and the removal of the embarrassing and annoying restrictions, which only vex our people without yielding any substantial revenue to the government." This is sound common sense, and if the same resolution should be carried into the Democratic presidential platform we might soon see reciprocity an accomplished fact. The United States is entirely to blame for the necessity of the National Policy in Canada. They have been the aggressors all along, and are the parties to make advances for freer commercial intercourse. All former efforts of the Dominion were rejected, and the National Policy was a measure of self-preservation.

Every dollar's worth of work done by our own people in our own Province adds materially to the common wealth. This truth is forcibly presented by our representative in his article upon the establishment of Messrs. Clayton & Sons, which is published elsewhere in this issue. We confess to a feeling of honest pride in the fact that willing, energetic girls have it within their power to make a living at home, without being obliged to go to the United States, there to wander in the border land of uncertainty. If our girls could but realize that one dollar made in this country is as good as two dollars earned in Boston, and that the hours of work here are less than those in the Hub, they would be content to do the work their hands find to do, and with thrift they would soon roll up a credit in the savings banks. So valuable and interesting to our girls do we consider the above mentioned article that we are sending out a large number of extra copies of this issue.

In remitting subscriptions for THE CRITIC a post-office order costs but two cents. If not near a money order office, send one dollar bill and fifty cents in stamps for one year's subscription, or a two dollar bill for one year and four months, or three dollars for one year's subscription for yourself and your neighbor. Don't delay! Send at once.

In recent Russian trials to test the adaptability of snow breastworks against an enemy's fire, it was found that a thickness of six feet was a perfect protection against bullets fired at 300 paces. Packing the snow and pouring water over it to make a crust of ice was found to keep bullets out when the thickness was only three feet and one-half.

A new electric arc lamp is said to have been invented by a Pittsburg manufacturer, in which instead of the carbons being made pencil-shaped, they are made in the form of wheels, which are placed at right angles to each other, and by an automatic arrangement within the lamp they are kept constantly revolving. The lamp is said to be cheaper and simpler than the old lamps, while its endurance is greater, the claim being that the lamp will burn continuously 500 hours without the removal of the carbons.

Dr. Talmage says that poets and painters have represented the devil as horned and hooped, but that if he were a poet he should describe him with manners polished to the last perfection, hair flowing in graceful ringlets, eye a little bloodshot, but floating in bewitching languor, hands soft and diamonded, step light and artistic, voice mellow as a flute, boot elegantly shaped, conversation facile, carefully toned and Frenchy, breath perfumed until it would seem that nothing had ever touched his lips save balm and myrrh.

According to a Montreal journal a number of the cattle shippers of that city have this year turned their attention to hay, of which they are now exporting hundreds of tons weekly to Glasgow, Scotland. The business is considered as paying well. Hay costing eight dollars a ton in Montreal and twenty-five shillings (\$6.08) freight, fetches £4 (\$19.47) in Scotland. The demand for Canadian hay is stated to be very good, and a considerable trade is in process of formation. Hay is especially the crop of Nova Scotia. Surely our men will not allow the Montrealers to control the whole trade.

We have been particularly flush of money for the past few weeks, and have surprised several collectors by paying them off hand instead of intimating that they had better call next week. This promptness on our part is due to the fact that some of our subscribers have realized that we cannot run a paper of the standard of THE CRITIC upon air, and have remitted their subscriptions upon the receipt of the bills. If every subscriber would but do this, THE CRITIC's heart would bound with delight, and it would sing and speak with a new and stronger voice that would charm the ears of its constituents. Amen.

The census returns for the population of the City of Halifax have not yet been made public, but estimating that the increase in population during the past decade has at least equalled, if not exceeded, the percentage of increase during the seventies, Halifax should have at the present time a population of not less than forty-five thousand. This increase is due in no small part to the growth of our manufacturing industries, which give employment directly and indirectly to hundreds of people in the city, as well as giving work to those resident in suburban districts. It is safe to assert that the growth of the population of the city, while not phenomenal, will prove to be steady and satisfactory.

Brother Jonathan always has his eyes on the boundary fence of his homestead. The people of the United States are now beginning to cast longing glances toward the Spanish island of Cuba. Its great agricultural capabilities are made manifest by the immense value of the products of the small portion which is now under cultivation; for while only fifteen per cent. of the land has as yet been adapted to agricultural uses, still the remaining part is just as worthy of attention, and the Yankees expect that under their pushing policy the whole country may be made to yield as largely in proportion as the five million acres which are now contributing so greatly to the commerce of the world. The island is likewise possessed of great mineral wealth, which is as yet undeveloped, and its forests of rare timber are said to be very fine. Altogether it is thought to be an essential complement to the industrial, agricultural, commercial and military systems of the United States, a fact which it is contended should lead our neighbors to its early acquisition. What has so far retarded Cuba's progress, has been the bad colonial system of the Spanish Government.