

THE CRITIC:

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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4
Chess	5
Draughts—Checkers	6
Poetry—"March goes out like a Lion"	6
Newspaper Reading vs. Book Reading	6, 7
About the Vikings	7
Industrial Notes	7
City Chimes	8
Parliamentary Review	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—A Clever Woman	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Her Marriage Dowry	14, 15

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Says the *St. John Globe*, apropos of the recent tariff changes: "Of what use is it for men to delve and toil and worry if the results of their work are to go to the Canadian taskmaster, and yet this seems to be the real object of these tariff changes" We are by no means enmeshed of those additions of duty but, being made, we are somewhat at a loss to divine to what other treasury and taskmasters the *Globe* would be better pleased to see the results of any new taxation go?

Easter falls a fortnight earlier this year than last. We have had so long a spell of cloudy, rainy, snowy and unpleasant weather at the time of writing this note that it may be hoped Good Friday may be more agreeable. We are always reminded at this season of the unnecessary cumbrousness of the old ecclesiastical idea of making Easter a moveable feast. It would be a reform well worth the attention of the Church authorities to fix a date for Easter at such a Sunday in such a month.

The *Boston Journal* alleges that there came from points east of Vanceborough, over the Maine Boundary by railroad alone in 1889, 38,989 passengers, the majority of whom were seeking employment in the United States. The words we have italicised indicate that there is a considerable amount of guess-work in the statement, and the *St. John Evening Gazette* suggests that the number of passengers who came from the west into these provinces should also be ascertained. For our own part we have a profound distrust of the alleged exodus figures and statistics, and believe with the *Gazette*, that if the Dominion Government will take steps to ascertain the facts, it would be found that there is but scant ground for the continual outcry kept up on the subject, and that there is a strongly counterbalancing movement of population the other way. No doubt Boston, which is very near our border, contains a great many people from the Maritime Provinces, but now that Dakota and other Western States are being shown up in their true light, and the labor market of the States is becoming so rapidly congested that Americans are demanding more stringent laws for the exclusion of foreigners, we may safely anticipate that any exodus from Canada will speedily cease as our people discover that they can do better and live more comfortably in their own country than they can do abroad.