

POETICAL LIST OF FURS.

(From the Montreal Gazette)

William Boyd of Manchester, Mass., sends a poem, entitled "Swartzen," which contains a descriptive list of all the furs, known or unknown to the trade, written in the metre of "Hiawatha." Appended thereto are expressions of opinion as to the merits of this ingenious poem, written or printed soon after its publication in 1865. Among the writers of these notices are Charles Heavyside, author of "Saul," whose criticism, though printed, is not credited to any paper. The other personal criticisms are from pens still more famous—those of H. W. Longfellow and O. W. Holmes. The fourth is credited to the *Gazette*, April, 1865, and the Montreal *Family Herald* characterizes it as exquisite. Dr. T. Sterry Hunt thought highly of this production and helped to annotate it, and a well-known furrier of that day—the "Swartzen" of the title—assisted the author with his special knowledge. There is still another personage associated with Mr. Boyd's poem. The notice of the *Gazette*, just referred to, reads as follows:—

"We learn with much pleasure that the Hon. Mr. McGee, of the Canadian Cabinet, and Chief Commissioner from this Province to the forthcoming Dublin Exhibition, has ordered a thousand copies of what he very happily styles the 'clever Furriad' of 'Swartzen,' which is so illustrative of winter life in Canada, for distribution among the members of the press and the literati at the great international fair just alluded to." The *Gazette* then goes on to interpret the borders of the pages—the arms of our city at the top, the view of it at the bottom—the Victoria Bridge, the industrious beaver, and the interlaced pines, and maples and silky corn tassels on the margins, do honor to Canadian nature, and enterprise and industry, while the contemplative and contented-looking Indians indicate that Canada's prosperity was not won without regard to the welfare of the original lords of the soil.

The full title is "Swartzen: an imaginary advertisement, principally enumerative of the furs worn in Canada."

The poem thus begins:—

"Should'st thou ask us who is Swartzen,
Subject of these classic numbers,
We should answer, we should tell thee,
That he is a famous furrier,
And a hatter thrice artistic,
In the city of the railways,
Of the great canals and steamships.

In the old Canadian city,
Ville Marie or Sault aux Normands;
That his splendid shop and warehouse
Stand upon the Rue Madonna,
Heart of occidental region,
Near the artery, Argyle street.

Wouldst present thy gentle partner
With a muff or cap or boa;
Collarette or cuffs or tippet;

Driving hood or cloak or mantle;
Cape or victorine or gauntlets—
Fit for Scandinavian countess,
Fit for Muscovite czarina—
Of chinchilla, fitch, opossum;
Indri, swansdown, kid or genet,
Wavy lamb of Persian Empire,
Or the lamb in curl of Tartary,
Sooty phalanger Tasmanic,
Astrakan, ornithorhynchus,
Chipmunk, weasel, striate monkey,
Long-haired ape of Upper Guinea,
Caracal, Altaian squirrel,
Ringlet goat of Asia Minor,
Marten from Teutonic forests,
Or from rocky wilds Northwestern,
Sitka sable, dark putorius,
Fisher, lynx or royal ermine—
Go to Swartzen, ladies' furrier,
And procure the gifts hyberneal,
Gifts of duty and affection."

On another occasion we will give Mr. Boyd's description of the various kinds of robes, of the furs suitable for travelling, for domestic use and for different outdoor occupations, of the furs best adapted for the several garments worn by ladies of all ages, men and boys, for hats, gauntlets, overcoats, for walking, driving, hunting, skating, tobogganning, etc. "A clever poem of its kind," wrote Longfellow to the author, "and you have managed the strange names very adroitly."

UNITED STATES TEXTILE IMPORTS.

The forthcoming summary in the United States Bureau of Statistics, showing the imports of textiles during September last, and during the first three-quarters of the current calendar year, exhibits some interesting features. While there is a heavy falling off in the imports of almost all goods during September, 1897, the figures for the nine months ending September 30th, 1897, show a very substantial increase over the same period a year ago. In the imports of raw wool the receipts for September, 1897, show but a slight increase over the month of August, the total for the month being 2,505,673 pounds, valued at \$298,452, as compared with 4,795,176 pounds valued at \$472,765, in September, 1896. In clothing wool of the first class there was an increase during September, 1897, the imports amounting to 1,640,364 pounds, valued at \$211,077, as against 712,431 pounds, valued at \$68,937, in September, 1896. In carpet wools, however, there was a heavy falling off, the imports in September, 1897, amounting to but \$51,821 pounds, valued at \$5,187, as against 3,880,345 pounds, valued at \$363,032 in September, 1896. The figures for the first three-quarters of the current calendar year show a very large increase over the same period of 1896, the total for the nine months of 1897 being more than 320,000,000 pounds, valued at nearly \$50,000,000.

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