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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Letter to Cousin Caryl	6, 7
Letters from India	7
MISCELLANEOUS	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Poetry—Autumn	6
The "Week" on the Future of Canada	7
Industrial Notes	7
City Chimes	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Poor Relations	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
A Most Suspicious Circumstance	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.

The Victoria Art School, which is doing such a grand work in training our young men and women, is in every respect abreast of the times, and its board of directors deserve credit for their persistent efforts to make the school creditable alike to the city and province. With its staff of zealous and able teachers the school is prepared to extend its usefulness to an increased number of students, and it will be advisable for young people contemplating taking such a course in such an Institution to give our own the preference to those of Boston or New York.

On Saturday last the city authorities took up the turn-out that had been placed on Lockman street by the Halifax Street Railway Company. This turn-out was, according to the superintendent of the railway, put down with the consent of the proper city authorities. It was certainly in the public interest, as it enabled the company to give better service; and its removal appears to have been prompted by a pettiness which ill-becomes the dignity of civic officials. If the railway company had exceeded its rights it surely might have been shown the fact without having to resort to the needless destruction of its property.

If we are able to judge from the anxiety displayed in Europe over Mr. Blaine's conference of representatives of American countries at Washington, it would involve a large scheme of American exclusiveness very much in keeping with the general tendency of that astute statesman's ideas. The scheme, if it be one, is certainly large and comprehensive as regards these continents, but it is narrow and retrogressive from the point of view of those (whose number is ever increasing) who look forward to a time when all the nations of the earth shall interchange their products in a spirit of mutual benefit and good-will. And for this reason it will very likely fall through, supposing it to be as apprehended. But there are also strong commercial obstacles to a policy of cis-atlantic exclusiveness. English capital has an extensive influence in South America, and the United States did not commend itself either to Chile or Peru during the war between those republics. It is confidently stated that American trade is losing ground in South America, while England and Germany, which are the nations that have been gaining, are not much alarmed at Mr. Blaine's convention. Besides these considerations it is probable that the Latin nations of South America will not be able to stifle some distrust of the prominent and leading part assumed by the States.

Referring to an editorial note in a recent issue of THE CRITIC, an exchange remarks:—"THE CRITIC believes in a ringing Nova Scotian policy, but just what that means is not quite clear." It means this: the adoption of a patriotic progressive policy by our representative leaders of public opinion; it means the sinking of the self-seeking politicians and the raising up of men who are determined first, last, and always to devote themselves to the advancement of our own Province; it means a policy that every honest man in Nova Scotia would gladly see inaugurated and successfully carried out. Such would be a ringing policy and no mistake.

The New York Herald has in its issue of the 18th ultimo an article on the Militia of Canada, under the heading "Canada's Small Force," which we should think would attract the attention of the Militia Department, and should attract that of all members of Parliament. The writer has had access to the Militia Blue Book, and if there is little poetry there is a very large amount of truth in his observations. We shall not comment much on the points raised in this issue of THE CRITIC, but shall probably notice one or two at an early opportunity. At present we shall only remark, that after giving (correctly) the numbers of the Active Force as 37,474, and noting numerous shortcomings, the Herald concludes its article, which is moderate enough in tone, with the observation that "Miss Canada may look coy and distant; she may pout and frown; but there is no immediate fear of her setting her dogs on Uncle Sam." The Herald article ought indeed to accomplish two objects—that of working up our legislators to the point of making our small force really efficient, and if necessary, of even reducing its numbers for that end, as recommended time and again by Sir F. Middleton, and that of putting a stop to the foolish outcries of a portion of the American press about Canada's belligerence.

We are under the necessity of disagreeing with our pleasant and valuable contributor "Dinah Sturgis," with regard to a remark which occurs in her "Letter to Cousin Caryl" in this issue. "The outcry," she says "against the destruction of birds for purely decorative purposes that was raised a couple of years ago, was made so fashionable a movement that birds went out completely, but the powers that be (on the millinery throne this is) have ordered them in this season, and here they are. Still it does not argue great heartlessness after all. The larger part of the birds used by milliners are manufactured from the feathers of barn yard fowls and birds that are shot for the table and dyed to imitate all bird creation." This may or may not be the case. We are not posted. But we have culled and published sufficient statistics of the frightful destruction of the most charming and the most beautiful of birds at the demand of fashion to assure us that it is the duty of every woman who pretends to conscience, or the humane consideration for animals which an enlightened conscience dictates, to discourage not only by word, but more especially by example the fashion which is depleting the whole world of its feathered ornaments and delights. We are sorry to fancy that we discern a latent sneer in our contributor's mention of the subject as "so fashionable a movement." Let the milliners prove that their wares are manufactured as Dinah intimates they are.

No country in the world, we should suppose, could disclose such an extraordinary state of things as the manipulation of the United States Pension List. Never was there an engine of more gigantic money power—being in fact the whole enormous American surplus—open to the party in power to be unscrupulously used for securing political adherents, who in this case appear to embrace every man who served in the civil war. The amount paid out for pensions last year was \$88,000,000, and the expense of the pension list and army was greater by some \$23,000,000 than that of the whole British Military establishment, pensions included. The redoubtable "Corporal" Tanner, who seems to have had *carte blanche* to do as he wished, has, it is true, been obliged to be dismissed on account of the charming candor with which he declared his intention to deplete the treasury of the country by granting pensions on every possible pretext. It is thought, however, that the removal of an indiscreet commissioner will not penetrate to the root of the evil, and that the President is not strong enough to effectually resist a policy which, if fully carried out, might almost bankrupt the United States, but which presents so alluring a party programme that it is quite probable it may be persisted in unless the indignation of the country becomes too thoroughly roused. It is estimated that there are 900,000 men living to-day who were enlisted in the late war, and that the result of carrying out the policy of pensioning them all would entail an amount of \$1,000,000 a day. If the American people can derive any gratification from this stupendous scheme of corruption, it must rest on the fact of its "beating all creation" on its own lines. It may be doubted, however, whether this *eclat* will sufficiently gild and lubricate the pill to enable the people of the United States to swallow it.