

# THE CRITIC:

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## THE CRITIC,

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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.

**HIGH HONORS FOR MONKEYS**—Prof. Garner, who has been domiciled with monkeys in the wilds of Africa for the past few weeks, has announced that he has learned, in part at least, the monkey language. He avers that it consists of not more than twenty or thirty words, and that it is not a difficult speech to acquire. His nimble-footed brothers have benefited by his sojourn among them by memorising such sentences as he has taught them, and one highly intelligent orang-outang can say "Good day, stranger" in Maori, or *mutter Donner und blitzten*, in the exact tone of the Professor's German valet.

**A WELCOME TO THE MIOWERA.**—It is with pleasure that we note the actual working of the new steamship line between Canada and Australia. The new vessel, the *Miowera*, made excellent time on her voyage. The Australian produce which she carries—meats, fruits and butter, will find a ready market on the Pacific coast, and on her return Canadian goods will be shipped for the Australian market. The Governments of New South Wales and of Queensland are so delighted with the success of the enterprise that, notwithstanding the pressure of hard times in the far-away colonies, they have cabled their consent to a further subsidy of some \$60,000 to the new line.

**A SWINDLE EXPOSED.**—The vicious habit of *booming* towns and cities in the United States has increased to such an extent that the interests of many private individuals have been tampered with, and the credit of the boomed places seriously impaired. A few years ago four capitalists undertook to boom Sioux City, Iowa. They were known as "The Big Four," and their financial standing was such that many were induced to enter the speculation because of the weight given it by the free use of the names of such prominent men. A Union Loan and Trust Co was formed, a general banking business was done, and notes, stocks and bonds were in constant circulation. As good interest was paid on all money put up, funds poured into all Sioux city investments. At last the crash came, and the Sioux city syndicate fell through with liabilities amounting to over \$8,000,000. The fact that 500 small banks were injured by the fall proves conclusively that the fraud was well and cleverly perpetuated. This is by no means the full extent of the damage done, for all the companies connected with the Big Four have of necessity gone down, and the enormous sum of \$55,000,000,

has been swallowed. The city itself is terribly injured, for the heavy debts incurred in the days of inflation are yet to be paid. We have to thank Providence that the vile practice of *booming* does not prevail in Canada.

**A CHINESE VIEW.**—There is much bitter feeling in China over the present status of the Geary law, which even in its state of non-enforcement is galling to the Chinese resident in America. In particular the Chinese Government dwells upon the policy of the American Government in inaugurating and encouraging Chinese emigration. The laborers were brought in, despite the protests of the Chinese Government, to perform the pioneer labor of the Pacific coast. The immigrants did the rough work of the country—they built the Central Pacific and the Southern Pacific railroads, and owing to their labors the retrograde movement, which was begun at the close of the civil war, was counteracted. Since the foreign laborers have been employed in work so beneficial to their adopted country it seems scarcely fair that, since their work is no longer deemed necessary, they should be driven out by the very people who invited them to the continent.

**TOO LATE TO BE REMEDIED.**—It is greatly to be regretted that a livelier interest has not been taken of late by Canadians in the Imperial Institute. It is true that the sum of \$100,000 was voted towards the building fund of the vast edifice, and at one time and another much has been said and written of the interest of Canada in the scheme which was to bring her so prominently before the British public. The facts of the case, however, are that the display of Canadian products and manufactured goods in the department allotted to the Dominion is extremely poor, and has elicited little commendation from the visitors who have thronged through the newly opened halls. The exhibits from Cape Colony, from Australia and from other British dependencies are spoken of and admired, but Canada, notwithstanding her vast resources, has only creditable exhibits from Manitoba, British Columbia and from Ontario. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are represented by a few exhibits left over from the Colonial Exhibition of 1886. There is not an article or a word to tell of fishing interests, fruit growing, dairying, lumbering or of the vast stores of mineral wealth. It may be urged in excuse that all our efforts have been directed to securing a good showing for the World's Fair, but it should be remembered that the British market is a grand one for Canadian produce, and that British capital is needed to develop our latent resources. Since first impressions are deemed to be the most lasting it may be difficult for us to erase from the mind of the British public the impression which the bareness of our exhibits must have caused.

**BETTER NOT GO TO LAW.**—In proof that it is often well worth while to allow a small wrong to remain unredressed, we give a short summary of a case which since March, 1891, has been before the courts in Upper Canada. The appeal for legal rights has been expensive, the costs have already reached many hundreds of dollars, and the probability is that they will speedily become greater. It appears that one Hamilton O'Donovan St. Clair Blair, of Belleville, being sorely pressed in financial matters, applied to the local manager of the Bank of Montreal for relief. The manager responded to the appeal by directing his man-of-work to fill a wheelbarrow full of wood and give it to the petitioner—the wood to be regarded in the light of a gift and the wheelbarrow as a temporary loan. Hamilton O'Donovan St. Clair Blair then made the mistake which led to the serious after complications. Instead of wheeling his barrow straight home he placed it for a few minutes across a private alleyway while he visited a neighboring grocery store. During his absence the owner of the alley espied the fuel, which he at once rashly concluded had been stolen from his own wood-pile, and in a short time a warrant was issued for the arrest of an innocent man. When the case was brought before the police court, Blair was all but committed to the Central Prison for a year, when a timely message from the Bank of Montreal corroborated his story. Mr. Blair brooded, as was natural, over his ill-usage, and finally began an action against the suspicious proprietor of the alleyway for "malicious arrest and prosecution." At the second trial Mr. Blair was awarded \$40.00 of his claim for \$200.00 damages, upon which the defendant carried the suit to the court of appeal. Then the plot thickened indeed, for Blair died, bequeathing the suit to his daughter. Owing to the fact that she was a minor, a guardian was appointed by the courts, yet this did not prevent her marrying without notifying her council and again delaying the suit. The man-of-all-work, who was the only witness in the suit, is also dead, and of the original interested parties only the defendant parties remain. The value of the original gift of wood is estimated at 8 cents, and the squabble over it has already cost the country dearly, while there is as yet no certain probability that what would seem but a proper recompense will be awarded to the family of the plaintiff.