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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
Our Government	1, 2
The Militia	2
Notes	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Our Government	2
Shall and Will	6
..... "Veteran."	2
..... "Franc Tireur."	6
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles...	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Canadian Journalism	7, 8
Parliamentary Review	7, 8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	8, 9
Serial—Saddle and Sabre	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Homo and Farm	14
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.

An ancient Japanese coat-of-mail is reported to have been unearthed recently near Victoria, B. C., in digging a well four feet below the surface. It is such an armour as was made by the Japanese 200 or 300 years ago. Some years since a number of Japanese coins were found in the neighborhood of Victoria. These finds indicate a visit of Japanese to the region.

We have before us another number of the Halifax *Philatelist* (No. 2 of Vol. 2), and we must confess that before reading (or rather glancing through) the numbers that have come to hand, we had no idea how many curious points could be made in a pursuit we have, in common with others, formerly regarded as somewhat of a harmless fad. Our limited capacity, however, is enabled to see this much, that whereas, in the early days of collection, number alone was the object, the pursuit has now assumed a decided phase of intellectuality.

Panic doors for public buildings are now being manufactured in London, and so far as we can judge, they afford an excellent means of escape in the event of a conflagration, that is when the main floor of the hall is level with the ground. These doors are placed in the sides of the building, and can only be opened from the outside by unlocking them, but any pressure from the inside will at once make them open outwards, and thus allow a crowded hall to be speedily emptied. We have been so fortunate in Nova Scotia, that we scarcely realize the necessity of such precautions against a stampede, but there are many of our churches and other public buildings in which loss of life would ensue, if the crowds which frequent them were at any time to become panic-stricken. Most people will remember the horror, a few years ago, of the cathedral at Valparaiso, where a holocaust of women was entailed by the simple fact of the doors opening inwards. It is, however, by no means sufficient for safety that doors should open outwards. Recent fearful sacrifices of life imperatively demand that theatres should, in the first place, stand detached. Ample doors should open outward from each side of every tier of boxes or gallery, on to iron stairs, six or eight feet wide, descending outside along the sides of the building. We saw a capital illustration of this some weeks ago in the *Graphic*. In the erection, at all events, of new houses, the expense of this plan should not be allowed to weigh. Legislation should be imperative.

The *Church Guardian* goes into a long explanation of the refusal of the Bishopric of Nova Scotia by Bishop Perry. No doubt there was a good deal of misunderstanding in the matter, and very possibly Bishop Perry's discourtesy was more apparent than real. One thing only is certain, that the offer of a Canadian See to an American Bishop was an ill-judged step on the part of a Canadian Synod. It is fortunate that "all's well that ends well."

The pessimist who views with alarm the ever-increasing consumption of the earth's stores of coal, petroleum and natural gas, and predicts that posterity must suffer from the extravagance of the human race, must certainly have lost faith in the powers of mankind. Are we not even now on the threshold of a discovery that promises to make mankind more than ever independent of such resources? As yet the door which opens up to us the uses of electricity is but slightly ajar, and who will dare say that we may not utilize this agency for heat as well as for light.

The recent death of Mrs. Proctor, widow of Bryan Waller Proctor, generally known by his *nom de plume* of "Barry Cornwall," recalls a name prominent enough in his day as a poet of a secondary standing. Proctor himself was born about 1790, and died at a ripe age in 1874, his accomplished daughter, Adelaide, having predeceased her father in 1864. The lately deceased lady was 88. Proctor's poetry was not of a kind to ensure immortality, but he is still remembered by some of his songs, such as "The Sea," which are well adapted to music, and always refined in sentiment and diction.

There has existed in England for the last three or four years an association called the "Liberty and Property Defence League," having for its object resistance to over-legislation, the maintenance of freedom of contract, and the advocacy of Individualism as opposed to Socialism, entirely irrespective of party politics. Many prominent men of all parties appear among its members. In view of the increasing tendency of the day to multiply interferences with individual liberty at the instance of all sorts of cliques, rings, combinations and parties, the idea might be well worth the attention of Canadians.

Legal proceedings, it appears, have been taken by Mr. Millikin, the contractor for the new City Hall, against the Corporation of Halifax. It is quite probable that the course adopted by the City Council will, before they see it through, entail heavy expenses on the rate-payers. It has not been for want of warning that the Council has entered on this more than doubtful course. But the only warning likely to be effective in such cases would be the decided action of the citizens themselves, if Halifax can ever rouse itself from its inherent inertness and apathy to vigilantly watch the first intimation of measures affecting its welfare, and to take prompt and vigorous steps to make the power of the citizen felt by his representatives.

The call to form a Maritime Press Association was largely responded to, some thirty-five representatives of the daily and weekly press of the Lower Provinces meeting in convention at the Halifax Hotel on Friday last. Besides those present, letters were received from the proprietors or editors of ten leading periodicals, all advocating the formation of the Association, and applying for membership. As the delegates were all of one mind, and enthusiastic in their support of the objects that had called them together, the Association was speedily organized on a broad and liberal basis, which is a guarantee of its permanent success. That the members of the press have no sympathy with long-winded speeches, was proved by the celerity with which the preliminary work was accomplished, and other organizations would do well to profit by the wise example. A thoroughly representative list of officers was elected to serve until the next annual meeting, before which time, if we do not greatly mistake the signs, every newspaper man in the Provinces, entitled to the privilege, will have enrolled himself as a member of the Association. Great good has already been accomplished in bringing together so many members of the press, not alone in the interchange of ideas and the formation of friendships, but from the general expression of opinion that the evils of personal journalism would be greatly mollified if not entirely abolished through the medium of the organization.

OUR GOVERNMENT.

Our esteemed contributor, "Veteran," favors us in another column with some explanation of his previous article, on which we made one or two remarks last week.

We—that is to say the peoples which have grown up in the parliamentary traditions which constitute, in fact, the unwritten English constitution