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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Oh!-Chat and Obnoxies.....	5
News of the Week	6, 7
Chess	7
Poetry—Music	8
In November	8
Divided	8
The so-called Labor Problem	8, 9
Book Gossip	9
Industrial Notes	9
Commercial.....	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—The Toss of a Ball	12, 13
Mining	14, 15, 16
Draughts—Checkers	17
City Chimes	18

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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.

It is stated by telegraph from Ottawa that the engrossed address presented to the Marquis of Lorne by the Presbyterian General Assembly, nine years ago, is now being offered for sale in a second-hand store in the Capital, it having presumably been left behind among other rubbish when the Marquis of Lorne left Rideau Hall. This is "the most unkindest cut of all!",

Mrs Malaprop, who prided herself upon a "fine derangement of epithets," appears to have some followers in Halifax. In the much-discussed Thanksgiving sermon of one of our clergymen the "timber of our social fabric" was referred to. What did the Reverend gentleman mean by so speaking? We can imagine the expression, "the warp and woof of the social fabric," or "the timber of the social structure," being used to embroider a speech or sermon, but not a mixture of the two. In a *Chronicle* editorial of Monday morning defending the Rev. Dr. Burns from the *Herald's* onslaught we were surprised and amused to see that the late Sir John Macdonald was "a corruptionist of the first water." We can speak correctly of a gem of the first water; meaning of the greatest purity and value. Does the *Chronicle* mean that Sir John was a corruptionist of the purest sort, or what conclusion are we to draw from its mixed metaphors? We once saw a musical criticism which spoke of a singer as a "full-fledged star." What can have caused the *Chronicle* to adopt this style of descriptive writing?

In an article on Nova Scotia in general and Halifax in particular, which appeared in the *Chicago Graphic*, there are a few statements which do not agree with our ideas of the city in which we live. Firstly, we do not think the tourist of the present day could see the "interesting ruin" which was once the home of the Queen's father, for it has disappeared, and we are afraid the music-house is what strangers usually regard as the former residence of that severe disciplinarian. Noble quarters indeed for Prince Edward and Madame de St. Laurent with their numerous retinue! It is news for us to hear that the Prince was governor of the Province, for we were accustomed to know him as commander of the forces at this station. The writer has also added another new name to our roll of governors, namely Judge Strange, whose portrait, by the great West, graces the walls of the Legislative-Council chamber. We have always looked upon his robe and wig as distinctive of a judge and not as pertaining to the governorship. When the writer affirms that the paintings in the above-mentioned chamber are the only ones of note in Halifax, she casts a slur upon the city which is not altogether merited; for while in no way renowned for the rarity and number of the

pictures which adorn our private dwellings, still there is a proportion of the work of famed painters which would speak of us as not altogether so devoid of artistic appreciation as our writer supposed. According to our fair writer, one would also believe there is but one wharf in the port, and that she speaks of in various places as "the wharf." What she denominates the rest of our dockage we are not aware. Further on she states that as a commercial centre Halifax is not important, which assertion would require more authority than her *ipse dixit* before it could be accepted as correct. As to our Public Gardens being perfectly conventional and the flower-beds prim, we wish to dissent therefrom, for the greatest variety of treatment may be found in the few acres of ground which constitute that lovely breathing place. Why the modest civilian should hide his diminished head, as she speaks of it, when in the presence of the military officer, we are at loss to understand, especially in these days of competitive army examinations. Where do we find the men now-a-days who compare with the dashing, manly chaps—dare-devils, if you will—who were stationed here in the old conservative times, which were probably the heyday of the service. Why should we hide ourselves from the present wearers of scarlet?

Can we moderns be astray in our ideas as to the reformation rather than the punishment of criminals? Recently published statistics would rather indicate that the modern methods of reformation only serve to increase rather than to reduce the numbers of the criminal class. According to a Massachusetts authority fifty years ago when that commonwealth had a population of 700,000, its proportion of criminals was about one in eight hundred; now that the population has trebled there is one criminal to each four hundred of the population. The records show that of the criminal commitments during the year 1890, which numbered 33,000, over 17,000 were made for persons who had previously served a term in prison, while closer investigation proved that many of these outcasts of society were committed regularly every autumn. Fifty years ago criminals were flogged or were made to do hard labor, to-day they are treated to roast beef, plum pudding, flowers, fruit collations, lectures and sometimes orchestral performances, so that the prison now offers to many degraded and idle men comforts and luxuries which they cannot obtain for themselves, but which are provided for them at the public cost. Floggings and fruit collations are after all the extremes of the two systems, between which there should be found a happy medium.

Conflicting reports have been received from Brazil during the past ten days, and as usual one cannot tell which to believe. That there has been a revolt in Rio Grande do Sul is reasonably certain, but whether the disaffection extends to other provinces we have no means of knowing. The liability of South American States to convulsions of this sort is well known, and it is now only two years since the world was startled by the report that Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, had been deposed and a provisional government proclaimed, with Marshal da Fonseca as President. The change was quietly accomplished, and in January of 1890 the new republic was recognized first by the United States and afterwards by various other powers. This republic, with Fonseca as President, is now apparently in the throes of internal strife. Strained relations between Fonseca and the Congress are reported, the President being denounced as a would-be dictator. It is further said that Fonseca is suffering from a fatal disease supposed to be cancer, and that he is unable to sustain the strain of a struggle for supremacy. The reports at the time of writing this are not alarming, and it may be that the difficulty will be settled peaceably by an election. On account of the difficulties the United States has run into with South American States indulging in fraternal fisticuffing, she is most anxious that her diplomacy will not be any further taxed to maintain a discreet attitude towards Brazil, and most ardently desires that a peaceful settlement shall be effected. The Chilian civil war was the direct cause of the United States' dispute with Chili, and the Barrundia matter in Guatemala was also productive of considerable trouble. Disturbances have taken place in Central America as well, which belongs more to South than to North America, the different states of that small area being exceedingly unlike a happy family; Bolivia was the scene of an unsuccessful revolution in May, 1890, and later on in the year civil war enlivened the monotony of affairs in the Argentine Republic. It is scarcely to be expected, then, that the new republic of Brazil would escape the fate of other states, and be allowed to enjoy peace within its borders. The province of Rio Grande do Sul lies in the southern portion of the republic, is largely colonized by Germans, and, although small, is important on account of being almost the only province well outside the tropics and suitable for Europeans to live in. It is within the bounds of probability that the sturdy Germans may refuse any longer to be under the thumb of the Spanish or Portuguese grandees, who obtain the highest offices in the State, and by maintaining a determined front succeed in establishing a government of their own.