

# THE CRITIC:

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES .....	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—Two Sonnets .....	"M. J. W." 6
Letters to a Country Friend .....	"S. C." 6, 7
Letter to Cousin Garyl .....	"Dinah Sturgis" 14
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles .....	3
News of the Week .....	4, 5
Draughts—Checkers .....	7
Industrial Notes .....	8
City Chimes .....	9, 9
Commercial .....	10, 11
Market Quotations .....	12, 13
Serial—A Lover from over the Sea .....	15
Mining .....	
Chees .....	

## THE CRITIC,

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The editor of this 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 idea of holding a World's Fair in 1892 was to celebrate the fourth centennial of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. Chicago succeeded in getting the preference over New York as the place for the event, but now that it has been postponed until 1893, many people would like to know why it is to be called the World's Columbian Exhibition, and how it can celebrate the fourth centennial of an event which occurred in 1492.

Mr. Mark Curry, of Windsor, has set an excellent example to men of means in Nova Scotia by founding a chair of political economy in Acadia College, which means a donation of \$20,000. The alumni of Acadia are founding a chair of physics, so the college is prospering. Educational institutions require an immense amount of money to carry on their work successfully. Dalhousie College is very short of funds for general purposes, although well endowed in special departments. The sum of \$50,000 is required to place the college in a good financial condition.

It is to be hoped that there is no truth in the report that Great Britain intends ceding the island of Heligoland to Germany. Although but little more than two and a half miles in circumference, Heligoland, situated as it is at about thirty-five miles from the mouth of the Elbe and somewhat nearer to that of the Eider, has always been considered of great strategic importance, and consequently much coveted by Germany. In the time of the first Napoleon, when British goods were excluded from the continent, the island served as a depot from which they were smuggled into the foreign markets, and it might now be used, in the event of a war with Germany, as a naval arsenal and rendezvous for the British fleet, from which it would be easy to attack German commerce. Heligoland, the "Holy Land," was in the days of Saxon paganism deemed sacred to the goddess Hertha, the earth, who had a temple at the spot. The island was long held by Denmark, but was seized by Great Britain in 1807, to which power it was finally ceded in 1814. Heligoland was formerly very much larger than it is now, but has been gradually washed away by the sea. The principal mass is the "Oberland," elevated about 200 feet above the sea, on which most of the inhabitants are settled. The total population amounts to 2,800, mostly seafaring men, Frisians by race, who pride themselves on being Englishmen. Their houses, most of which are grouped, form a little town with a lighthouse serviceable to passing shipping.

The *Herald* wisely suggests that the capitalists of Halifax unite in organizing a strong company to build and operate a line of fast ocean steamships, with the objects of securing the government contract and subsidy, and bringing about rapid transit between Quebec, Halifax, England and France. The first trans-atlantic mail line owed its existence to the energy and business sagacity of Sir Samuel Cunard, a Halifaxian, now let us prove our enterprise by establishing the finest modern line.

Mount Shasta, one of the most imposing and symmetrical of Pacific coast mountains, has collapsed—the top has fallen into its own crater. "The eternal hills" is a figure of speech which is losing its significance. In 1885 Krakatoa, a great island mountain, blew up and totally disappeared, leaving behind it nothing more tangible than a succession of gorgeous sunsets to show where the dust had gone to. The ocean alone is left as an emblem of the enduring—"Man marks the earth with ruin; his control stops with the shore." The mountains may shake and fall but the ocean is ever the same.

"Handcuffs for Alcoholism" is the title of a volume, addressed more particularly to the members of the Roman Catholic Church, but which we judge could not be read by anyone without benefit. It aims to teach the baneful effects of alcohol on the system, especially of Americans, who being the most nervous people in the world, are the most injured by the alcoholic poison. Educating the public in this way is, we have always held, the best way to secure that most desirable end—temperance. The Rev. Mr. Zurcher, of Buffalo Plains, Erie Co., N. Y., is the author, and the circulation of his book should certainly be an aid to national temperance.

Why is it that the citizens of the United States are content to go on stealing the brains of foreign writers? Surely the Republic is wealthy enough to pay honestly for its reading matter. Stealing is quite disgraceful enough, but the recent mutilation of H. Rider Haggard's new novel "Beatrice," published by Messrs. Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago and New York, is an additional aggravation to authors. Mr. Haggard has written to the firm mentioned, and protested strongly against such manifest injustice, since all that is left to an English author in America is his reputation as a writer, and if his works are garbled he loses even this. He asks that the pages being passed off as his be withdrawn from circulation, and that his letter of repudiation be given every publicity.

A bill has passed the United States Congress establishing a board of nine members to have general supervision over tariff appraisements. The commissioners will have full power to examine the appraisements made at different ports of entry, and to arrange a system that shall be the same all over the country, thus preventing any one city or section from reaping unfair advantage by carelessness or want of knowledge on the part of the appraiser. A board with similar powers is equally necessary in the Dominion, as complaints are frequently made that appraisers differ greatly in their valuation of dutiable goods, the skilful and experienced staff in large cities appraising up to the full value, while appraisers at less important points frequently greatly undervalue, giving merchants and importers in the country a great advantage over city men. A board to equalize appraisements, therefore, seems one of the necessary evils of the tariff system, and the sooner something is done in this direction the better for the commercial interests of the country.

The ladies of the Women's Enfranchisement Convention, recently in session in Toronto, are indignant, and justly so, over the manner in which their greeting to the Ontario Medical Association was treated. Dr. Richardson, of that association, deprecated the receiving of such greetings, and declared that he had received at his house "pamphlets destructive to morality and decency," and protested against the answering message of the Medical Association, which was on that account withdrawn by the mover and seconder. Dr. Hannah A. Kimball, of Chicago, a member of the Canadian Association, "spoke in meeting" on this matter, and moved that a messenger be speedily despatched to the Doctor's residence or office with marked reports, and portions of those reports of the methods and aims of the body, then in session, in order that the Doctor might have every opportunity to change his views. Doctor Richardson must surely have made a mistake in thinking that these ladies circulated immoral literature, and whatever opinion may be held as to the aims and objects of the Enfranchisement Association, it is a shameful thing that they should be offered such an insult before the whole country. The ladies passed a resolution expressing thanks to Dr. Price Brown and Dr. Mordhouse, who understanding the aims of the society kindly expressed themselves in their behalf. They accepted the message of the Medical Council and repudiated the charges made by Dr. Richardson in which they were glad to know the council did not share.