

# 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.

**A NEW ELEVATOR.**—The new elevator bids fair to be one of the most important of the minor inventions of the age. It is unlike the well-known vertical elevator in its construction, and as the ascent is made on an inclined plane, the disagreeable sensations which are aroused by the start and stop of the present elevator are wholly avoided. It is also said that there is less danger of the common elevator accident when the new apparatus is in use.

**STILL TIME.**—Provincialists who mean to take in the "World's Fair" should make no delay. President Palmer, despite the petitions of thousands of influential men, has announced that the Fair is to be closed on the 31st of the present month, and his mandate will in all probability be carried out. The October exhibit is an excellent one. Our Provincial fruits are now in good order and condition, and in fact the whole exhibit from Canada has been greatly improved. The trip can be made very comfortably and cheaply, and we trust that many more of our people may be able to make their appearance at the "White City" ere the gates are finally closed.

**A STEAM MAN.**—A clever American inventor has just perfected a mechanical man which in many ways is the equal of the original animal. The metallic gentleman stands six feet in his stockings and his martial bearing impresses all beholders. His costume is aesthetic, and as it is necessary that his clothing shall conceal a furnace, boiler, engine, as well as other mechanism, the armor of a mediaeval knight has been represented with absolute fidelity. The top of the funnel is concealed by the plumes of the helmet, and a cigar held in the mouthpiece of the face mask acts as an escape pipe. This curious machine is intended to be used as a drawing power, and is said to be capable of covering the ground at the rate of five miles an hour.

**A PROGRESSIVE FRENCHMAN.**—A French gentleman who has been visiting the World's Fair has been struck with the peculiarity of the exhibits sent by his nation. Many of the most beautiful show cases are from France, and thousands of sight seers stand before them each day lost in wonder and curiosity. Here the interest ceases, for there is no exhibitor to explain the cases and to answer questions as to the process and cost of manufacture. The interest aroused by the exhibit perishes at once for want of nourishment. The suggestion that the traveler makes is not an unreasonable one. He avers that if the French Government would but send over a number of English speaking clerks, a grand harvest of orders and sales would be the result.

**TO SAVE LIFE.**—In New York and Buffalo a new device has been secured to prevent the repetition of the horrible accidents on the electric cars. The new invention resembles a wide door mat. It protects the front of the car, and reaches to within two inches of the ground. The mat is made of interlaced metallic piping, rubber hose and tarred rope. Between the mat and the car there are strong spiral springs. A person who is standing on the track or who has fallen on the track is picked up and tossed out of the way. Already in Buffalo fifteen cases of what would otherwise have been fatal injuries have been reported. It is probable that the new fenders will be introduced in all places where the electric car system prevails.

**NOT OURS ONLY.**—The American prints seem to take especial delight in recording all disasters in the British navy, and in commenting upon them in a manner which, if it were not for the ignorance of the writers, would be wholly laughable. It is now however the turn of the U. S. navy to get into maritime difficulties. The new and much bragged of war ship the *New York*, which was supposed to rival the *Blaze* in speed, strength and size, is now pronounced a gigantic failure, and she will either be condemned or entirely reconstructed. The smart little cruiser *Montgomery* has also managed to ground herself, and it was only with great difficulty that she was floated. When our friends across the border realize a little of what it means to keep up a navy they will not perhaps be so critical of the navies of other nations.

**FOLLOWING OUR EXAMPLE.**—There are some very fair-sized cities on this continent, and our American friends are never weary of boasting of the mammoth proportions of New York and Chicago. An effort is now being made to unite the city of Brooklyn and its 1,000,000 of inhabitants with the city of New York, whose population is said to be fully 1,700,000. As is the case with all similar propositions, there is a good deal of feeling in the matter. Brooklyn is not desirous of losing its co-operative identity, and except in so far as numbers are concerned, New York is content with its separate Government. If the union takes place the dual city will rank as the second largest in the world, and its vast proportions will be eclipsed only by those of London. While it is generally admitted that the union of small cities and towns is beneficial to the citizens, it is doubtful whether the union of two enormous and sturdy municipalities is of necessity beneficial to either party.

**TWO NOVEL SUGGESTIONS.**—Two conferences which have been held of late are of singular interest to newspaper men. Emile Zola and a number of clever men of his stamp have been expounding the doctrine of anonymous press writing. In fact they are agreed that anonymous work only should be put before the public in the shape of newspaper articles. At the same time Mr. Strachan, the celebrated English journalist, has gathered about him a number of the most brilliant press writers in Great Britain, and they have agreed that the salvation of the press lies in the formation of a legal profession of journalists, and that all editors and contributors to newspapers should be licensed by the School of Journalism. This school should, in their opinion, exercise a censorship over all its members, such as the Inns of Court does over the English Barristers and the Law Society over members of the Canadian Bar. It is not, however, probable that the conclusions of either of the informal bodies of pressmen will be of permanent importance.

**THE GULF CYCLONE.**—It is not many weeks since an appalling storm swept over the whole eastern coast of our continent. The damage done on the land by the wind was great, and hundreds of vessels at sea were dashed to pieces on hidden reefs. On the coast of South Carolina the storm seemed to reach its greatest force. Several millions worth of property were destroyed, and the number of human lives sacrificed will never be known. A yet more terrible cyclone has now made havoc on the coast of Louisiana. Without warning, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico suddenly rose, and the giant river Mississippi overflowed its banks. The dyked canals were flooded, and an immense tidal wave swept over all the low-lying country. The reported loss of life is frightful, and when the returns are all in it will be found that over 2,000 men, women and children, were drowned in their homes. The wind swept through the country, levelling houses, barns and orchards. Bridges were washed away, and the whole railroad system disorganized. It is thought that the estimated property loss of \$5,000,000 does not represent more than a fraction of the injury done. In after years, 1893 will stand, we trust, unique in the history of the century. The destructiveness of the elements has been continually before us, and we cannot find in the past history of the continent any indication that such severe storms were of frequent occurrence.