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GENIUS AND A CLUB.

Contemporary Criticism as an Unfair and Merciless Weapon.

The world has never seen an age in which there was more excuse for questioning the validity of contemporary judgment. It would be the height of folly to expect posterity to authenticate the vaporings of an appreciation which in shifting its stress from the universal to the personnel has changed from criticism into colloquy, from clinic into causerie. Indeed, it is nothing less than a truism that the experience of the artist in all ages, according to the verdict of history, is identical with itself.

In the words of Sidney Lanier, "* * * the artist shall put forth humbly and lovingly the very best and highest that is within him, utterly regardless of contemporary criticism. What possible claim can contemporary criticism set up to respect—that criticism which stoned Stephen, hooted Paul for a madman, bound Columbus in chains, drove Dante into exile, made Shakespeare write the sonnet 'When In Disgrace With Fortune and Men's Eyes,' gave Milton £5 for 'Paradise Lost,' kept Samuel Johnson cooling his heels on Lord Chesterfield's doorstep, reviled Shelley as an unclean dog, killed Keats, cracked jokes on Gluck, Schubert, Beethoven, Berlioz and Wagner and committed so many other impious follies and stupidities that a thousand letters like this could not suffice even to catalogue them?"

The verdict of the "intellectuels" has always been a veritable stumbling block in the path of genius.

"It is from men of established literary reputation," asserts Bernard Shaw, "that we learn that William Blake was mad, that Shelley was spoiled by living in a low set, that Robert Owen was a man who did not know the world, that Ruskin is incapable of comprehending political economy, that Zola is a mere blackguard and Ibsen is Zola with a wooden leg. The great musician accepted by his unskilled listener is vilified by his fellow musician. It was the musical culture of Europe which pronounced Wagner the inferior of Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer."

It is not enough to say with the brilliant author of "Contemporains" that contemporary criticism is mere conversation; it is often little more than mere gossip. One is often inclined to question with Lowell whether the powers that be in criticism are really the powers that ought to be.—From Archibald Henderson's "European Dramatists."

PRETTY SAFE PRISON.

Bloodhounds Guarded One Exit, Man Eating Sharks the Other.

Shark skin, shark teeth, shark oil shark meat and several other byproducts of the dead shark are articles of greater or lesser utility, but I have never heard of but one instance where the living shark was put to a practical use. This, says Lewis R. Freeman, was when they used him as a prison guard in the old days when British convicts were transported to Australia, the monsters serving this purpose for many years at the Port Arthur settlement, ten miles south of Hobart, the present capital of Tasmania. The prisons at this point, some of which may still be seen, were situated upon a peninsula whose only connection with the mainland was by a long, narrow strip of sand called, from its configuration, the Eaglehawk's Neck.

The convicts were allowed considerable liberty on the peninsula, but to prevent their escape to the mainland half starved bloodhounds were chained all the way across the narrowest portion of the neck. Several prisoners having avoided the "bloodhound zone" by swimming, the authorities adopted the effective but grewsome expedient of feeding the sharks at that point several times a day. In a few weeks the place became literally alive with the voracious man eaters, and from that time on the only convict who ever escaped accomplished his purpose by rolling himself up in kelp and working along, inch by inch, timing his movements to correspond with those of the other heaps of seaweed that were being rolled by the surf.—Wide World Magazine.

The Economist.

"It isn't by petty and ridiculous economies that men succeed," said John D. Rockefeller, Jr. "Some people seem to think that to get rich one must economize like Blanco. Blanco's faithful old dog had turned sickly and savage, and so Blanco said to his wife on arriving home from business Saturday evening:

"'I'll shoot Towser tomorrow morning before church.'

"Blanco paused, then added sternly:

"'So remember, please, that he won't need any breakfast.'"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Worse Yet.

"He's a frightful bore, your baron. Here he's been buzzing the whole evening long about Kant and Schopenhauer."

"You have my sympathy. For my part I detest philosophical discussions."

"Philosophical discussions, indeed! Kant and Schopenhauer are the names of the baron's two horses."—New York Post.

Breaking Him In.

"Do you want me to misrepresent the goods and say they are fine when they are not?" asked the new salesman.

"Yes," sternly answered the unscrupulous dealer. "Always remember that our assets are your lie-abilities."—Baltimore American.

A Complicated Case.

"Growcher always looks worried. Why doesn't he think of something pleasant?"

"Well, he has himself kind of whipsawed. The only thing he thinks of with pleasure is money. And he can't think of money without worrying."—Washington Star.

Nice Family Jar.

"Last night," said Mr. Happ[illegible], "I dreamed that I was in [illegible]."

"And was I there?" [illegible] his wife asked.

"Did [illegible] was [illegible]ain [illegible]

GREEDY FOR GOLD

India a Glutton In Swallowing Up the Yellow Metal.

HOARDS IT LIKE A MISER TOO.

Millions on Millions In Bullion and Golden Coins Flow Into That Country Every Year, Hardly Any of Which Returns or Is Ever Seen Again.

A steady stream of gold has been flowing for centuries into India. One might say streams of gold flowing thence, for since India produces comparatively little gold herself she lays the whole world under tribute. Hardly any of this gold returns. It is as if the earth of India had opened and swallowed it up. The American tourist in India who parts from a sovereign or a five dollar gold piece may be pretty certain it will go straightway out of circulation and nevermore be seen in the country of its minting. In one year alone India has been known to import over $300,000,000 in bar gold and English sovereigns.

What has become of this vast accumulation of gleaming treasure? To what use is all this gold put, since India has not minted a gold coinage of her own for many generations? The puzzle becomes a bit curious when it is remembered that as a whole the three hundred odd millions of natives refuse absolutely to deposit their savings, gold or otherwise, in banks and will take no part financially in such productive enterprises as railroads, irrigation works or factories.

The sharpest and most astute get-rich-quick bucket shop artist that ever soaked a gullible occidental public could no more beguile the mild Hindu to buy a share of stock with the glittering promise of a thousand point rise in value than the government has been able to induce him to invest in solid guaranteed bonds.

It has been estimated that "the visible hoarded wealth of India in temples, the treasure chests of princes and in the jewelry of the Indian men and women amounts to $1,800,000,000"—a simple portable treasure that would look like a pretty respectable pile even for our day and make the old time buccaneers set sail for India in a hurry. Part of this any American tourist can see for himself in such toys as the two gold cannon of the gaekwar of Baroda, each containing 280 pounds of pure gold, and from glimpses caught of temple images of solid or thickly plated gold and blazing with jewels. As a special favor he may be permitted to glance within the iron bound treasure chests of some highness and plunge his arm to the elbow in ancient gold mohurs.

But this would hardly account for the greater part of that golden current set toward India since the beginning of the record. It is into the earth that current sinks, year after year for hundreds of them, to be forgotten or lost trace of in the violent social upheavals, plagues and famines that have swept over the country. In India man has but to relinquish his fight against the jungle growth for a short space to result in the tearing down, overwhelming and utter obliteration of all his work. Therefore it is scarcely a flight of imagination to picture the black cobra nesting in some hole of ruined temple masonry stuffed with gold and jewels or the tiger seeking a lair in the dazzling throne room of a long forgotten dynasty buried in the jungle.

For the reason of this curious gold problem of India apparently one has not far to seek. Until the English went to India the country was swept repeatedly by invasions and conquests. Each newcomer was bent chiefly on plunder, but if he decided to remain he set up a government in which all life and property were his sole and undisputed possession. The only rights the conquered Hindus possessed were those he chose to grant. These consisted principally in providing the conqueror with splendid palaces, jewels, gorgeously caparisoned elephants, dancing girls, a host of swashbuckling retainers and costly tombs. That is why the American tourist in India gets a surfeit of palaces, temples and tombs.

As to the people, they seem to have come to the conclusion pretty far back that it was advisable for them never to display signs of overmuch wealth. The plundering soldier or tax gatherer was always at the door, so apparent poverty was the best shield of defense. Besides, as hasty flight was recurrently necessary before the ravaging armies of Tartar, Afghan and Mogul, gold and jewels were the easiest forms of negotiable security to transport or hide in the earth. In this way Delhi was sacked and sacked again until John Ireland, the New York traveler, visiting that city in the middle of the eighteenth century, thought Nadir Shah must have swept it clean of treasures in his last $200,000,000 raid. Delhi looked to him a poverty stricken place. Yet a century or so afterward, when the British troops stormed it in the mutiny, the Thomas Atkins of those days was pretty soon seen bartering jewels for drinks and playing quoits with gold anklets and bangles.

Since then Delhi has probably accumulated another hoard of treasure, for the people's yearning in that respect seems to be explained by their never having got over their scare of the invader plundering and squeezing them for ages or the dread terror of a plague taking its toll in millions. Something then unchanging in value to fly with or bury would appear to be their sole idea of security, and without doubt this is best represented in gold and jewels.—New York Tribune.

Aid to Genius.

Our idea is that there ought to be at least three children in every family, so that if one of them should become a genius the other two could support him.—Galveston News.

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Fancy Box Handkerchiefs,	Mince Meat,
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We have the best assortment this year since we have been handling TOYS... Beds, Cradles, Dolls, Irons and Ironing Boards, Baby Carriages, Pool Tables, Auto... the kind that run; Stoves, Drums, Tables, Wash Boards and Tubs, in fact everythi... that is wanted to make a child happy at Xmas time.

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We have as usual (for we only handle candy at Xmas times) the cheapest and b... line of CANDIES in town, and they are fresh. We handle the very best NUTS th... are to be had, no inferior grades here. If you are looking for something good, we ha... them, no old ones here. Oranges, Grape Fruit, Malaga Grapes, Figs, Dates, etc.

Fancy Glassware

A beautiful display of Fancy Celery Dishes, Ash Receivers, Syrup Cups, Cre... Pitchers, Cups and Saucers, Salt and Pepper Tumblers, plain and cut glass patterns. I... really worth your while to look them over and save money for your other Xmas presen...

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Our line of good things to eat was never in a more up-to-date condition than at... present time. Always buy the best and you keep your system in a healthy conditio...

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Mr. J. W. Bordley, the Rat King, will be at my place with his ferrets and dogs on and after Monday, Feb. 2nd, for one month. All who need him, write to me at once. Yours truly,

B. S. SUTTON, ::: Black's...

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