

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to procure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page three. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send *The Critic* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with forty five of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Abbey's Uncle Tom's Cabin Company, with two bands, two Topsy's, and two Marks, plays at the Academy on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, with a matinee on Tuesday.

The "Three Elms" cricket club, of King's College, Windsor, will play the annual Cogswell cricket match this year with the old graduates of King's College. The match will take place on the college grounds on June 29th.

The *Toronto Globe* publishes a rumor that Mayor Howland, President Wilson, of University College, ex Governor Robinson and Goldwin Smith will be knighted before Lord Lansdowne takes his departure.

Fifteen thousand people assembled in Toronto to protest against William O'Brien's agitation against Lord Lansdowne. Very few patriotic Irishmen sympathize with this movement, and hence it is likely to be barren in results.

A mill valued at \$2,000, owned by Messrs. Barnes & Blenkhorn, of Parrsboro', and deals valued at \$3,000, the property of Mr. Upham, were recently destroyed at Moose River, Cumberland County, while the employees were absent at dinner. Both mill and deals were uninsured.

Colonel Worsley has recently inspected the band of the 93rd battalion at Amherst, and has expressed himself as much pleased with its efficiency. The colonel is evidently alive to the importance of good military bands, and his efforts to bring those in this province up to the proper standard are most praiseworthy.

The Canadian fishermen seized by the United States authorities for alleged trespass in the waters of the Alaska seal fisheries, have been released and their vessels returned to their owners. The fishermen claim \$120,000 damages for losses sustained, and \$40,000 damages for arrest. Uncle Sam will probably haggle over paying this claim.

The new railway bridge crossing Pictou harbor, which is now finished, is one of the finest bridges in the Maritime Provinces, and is about half-a-mile in length. The water in the harbor at the deepest point is about thirty-six feet in depth. The piers are built upon piles seventy feet in length, which were cut off on a line with the bottom of the harbor.

There is a general feeling of satisfaction among all classes to learn that the strike of the Pictou coal miners, which has lasted fourteen weeks, has at length terminated, and that the differences which have existed between Manager Poole and the men have been amicably settled. Active work will now be commenced in three of the Pictou collieries, which it is hoped will not again be interrupted in the same manner.

A press excursion from Halifax to Boston will leave the city to-morrow (Saturday) morning and proceed to Boston via Yarmouth. The new steamer *Yarmouth* will convey the excursionists from Yarmouth to Boston and return. The managers of the Windsor & Annapolis and Western Counties Railways have combined with the steamship company to thus inaugurate the placing of a first-class steamship on this popular route. As a *CRITIC* representative will take advantage of the excursion, our readers will be fully informed as to the accommodation, etc., that will be afforded travellers by this route.

Having been refused a public hall in Toronto, O'Brien, the Irish leader, held a mass meeting in the open air in Queen's Park on Tuesday last. It is estimated that 15,000 people were in attendance. The appearance of O'Brien was the signal for tremendous cheering on the part of his sympathizers. The anti-leaguers, not to be outdone, shouted, hissed, and sang "God Save the Queen." The noise and shouts of the contending parties became so great that it was impossible for the speaker to be heard except by a few. He charged Orangemen with raising the disturbance, and said that he blamed the *London Times* for seeking to incite Canada against him. The uproar continued till 7 o'clock, when the speakers abandoned the attempt to obtain a hearing. Several encounters took place, but were fortunately not of a very serious character. The whole proceedings were disgraceful in the extreme, and we trust will never again be repeated in this country.

The following sent in the correct answer to riddle published last week: Wm. T. Rees, Liverpool, Queens Co.; James Rand, Canard, Cornwallis; Ira Forbes, Brooklyn, Queens Co.; Hattie Verge, Mill Cove, Lunenburg Co.; Mrs. Geo. Ward, Stellarton; Bessie M. Tupper, Mahone Bay; Fred. W. Harris, Annapolis; P. W. Harding, Bridgewater; Mrs. A. Wilson, Elmhurst, Pugwash; Jas. V. Purcell, Jr., Port Mulgrave; Grace Sutherland, Shubenacadie; Daniel Dill, Hubbard's Cove; Wm. Verge, Mill Cove, Lunenburg Co.; Mrs. Henry Mosely, Dartmouth; Olga F. Allen, do.; John D. Matheson, St. Peter's; John M. Kemp, do.; A. J. MacCuish, do.; J. G. Morton, Milton; F. C. S., Custom House, City; Chas. A. Curry, Lorne House, do.; A. H. Fraser, 55 South St., do.; Goth Bayley, 79 Birmingham St., do.; Mrs. Rucks, 154 Spring Garden Road, do.; W. I. Wills, Halifax Club, do.; Miss Smith, 57 Hollis St., do.; Blind Asylum, do.; F. Patten, 125 Pleasant St., do.; J. R. Saunders, 163 Barrington St., do.; Andrew W. Herdman, 11 Creighton St., do.; Mrs. Maynard Bowman, 55 South St., do.; Wm. F. O'Connor, 27 Maynard St., do.; Rebecca Murphy, 28 Victoria Road, do.; C. H. Bennett, 52 Birmingham St., do.; W. B., 179 Brunswick St., do.; J. Ball, District Pay Office, Bedford Row, do.; Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. C. L. Waugh, No. 30 Married Quarters, Pavilion, do.

The first Victoria Cross that has been awarded to a member of Canadian militia has been won by Mr. Arthur Hamilton, who is but twenty-four years of age. The deed for which the V.C. was awarded him is thus narrated by the *Canadian Military Gazette*: "In one of the conflicts in front of Candahar, Lieut. Patterson, of the 9th Lancers, fell off his horse badly wounded. Hamilton, among others, saw the officer fall; but the trumpeter was the only one that went to his assistance. When the rescuer got near enough, he dismounted and assisted the wounded officer to mount. As soon as the officer was safely seated, the ambulance started at full speed for the British camp. This left Hamilton alone on foot. When the Afghans observed him several hundreds rushed down upon the trumpeter. Taking to his heels, he soon got ahead of the main body; but the advance guard was nearing him. Suddenly wheeling round, he faced his opponents, sent one to his long home, seized one of their horses, mounted and rode to the woods, where he remained two days, when he joined reinforcements on their way to Cabul."

The Clara Louise Kellogg Concert and Opera Company, which came to Halifax highly recommended by the press of the United States, is well deserving of the encomiums which it has received. The large audience which filled the Academy on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening prove that Halifaxians thoroughly appreciate first-class talent when they have the opportunity of listening to such successful singers as Miss Clara Louise Kellogg and Signor Spigaroli. Miss Kellogg has a pure, rich voice of great flexibility, and her execution is graceful, easy and charming. Her manner is winning, and she never fails to captivate her audience. Signor Spigaroli is a tenor of no mean type, his voice, while powerful and telling, is remarkably sweet in tone, and the impression which he leaves upon his hearers is that which a cultured artiste could alone produce. Miss Clara Morse has a pleasing voice and sings with much expression, but cannot be said to be a star of the first magnitude. Signor Greco can scarcely be ranked with the other members of the company. His style is unquestionably bad, and, although his singing shows signs of careful culture, he has evidently contracted some of the objectionable habits sometimes indulged in by opera singers. The piano accompaniments were performed in a charming manner, and were by no means the least enjoyable feature in the concerts. It is to be regretted that Halifax has not an opera organization, but until it has we will have to be content with such selections as can be performed by a few individuals. We trust that Manager Clarke's success will induce him to bring to Halifax such companies as the Kellogg Concert Company—for the more we can hear of such singing the more will our own singers desire to rise above mediocrity.

"Arichat" writes: "The harbor is at last free of ice, after being for the past two months 'everything by turns and nothing long' on account of the drift ice. There has been, on account of that visitation of the ice, no need here lately of a Dominion cruiser, as no Yankee skipper could risk the dangers of the coast for the sake of bait, and nature supplied the defensive protection required by the fish sojourning within a larger area of our coast waters than three marine miles. The coast trade vessels are beginning to make their first trips, and business generally has wakened up. The lobster factory, established here a couple of years ago, is, I believe, about resuming operations, which gives employment to quite a number of the young men and women of the county. New lobster factories are being started at L'Ardoise and River Bourgeois. Those industries, though their names may not sound very suggestive of profitable dividends, are not likely to result in the insolvency of their managers, who, I am informed, do comparatively well in the business, and only for the labor provided by them for many of the people of the place, the number that daily left the county for the States during the past few weeks would have been much larger. The License Act is bewildering the vendors of liquors here. They do not know whether to sell it by the pint, quart or glass, but wait for further developments, there being doubts as to whether the Act can apply to the county until after the January meeting, on account of the too recent appointment of the inspector of licenses. My own opinion is it does not, but it takes time to teach the people concerned that fact for nothing. Professor M. McKinnon, of the Academy, has been succeeded by a Mr. Patterson, a graduate of Dalhousie. No steps has been taken here to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, although many of the residents will be glad to take part in celebrations elsewhere in honor of Her Gracious Majesty when the time comes."

Prairie fires have been raging in the far west, and the homes of many settlers have been destroyed.

The Cambridge University boat club will row a race with the Harvard club in America some time during September.

Masters of foreign fishing vessels are prohibited from landing tar for repairing seines at American ports, unless they pay customs duties.

The Americans have been feting the Queen of the Sandwich Islands; the United States desiring to secure a permanent naval station near Honolulu.

A thunder-storm in Ohio last week, which lasted forty minutes, destroyed \$20,000 worth of property. Six horses were killed and four men seriously crippled.

The earthquake in Arizona must have been one of great force. In one section a fissure several inches in width has been traced for twenty-five miles. The land on one side of it has sunk several inches.

Last evening the Hon. Benjamin Butterworth lectured before the Canadian Club in New York on "Commercial Union between Canada and the United States." Mr. Butterworth, it will be remembered, introduced at the last session of Congress resolutions favoring commercial union,