

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining and General News.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., JUNE 17, 1892.

{ VOL. 9
No. 2 }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
CONTRIBUTED.	
Art and Artists in Toronto	8, 9
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	5
Parliamentary	6
News of the Week	6, 7
Book Gossip	9
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—My Friend's Story	12, 13
Mining	14, 15, 16
Draughts—Checkers	17
Chess	17
City Chimes	18

THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

BY
CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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.

The closing days of June will find assembled in London a great business congress in which the principal boards of trade throughout the British Empire will be represented. This commercial congress has been called together to discuss many matters of importance to business men, and while one of the questions to be considered may be regarded as semi-political in its character, the questions as a whole bear directly on the trade and commerce of the Empire. We shall take occasion to refer to these questions in detail in this and subsequent issues of THE CRITIC.

The news of the death of Captain Stairs caused a thrill of regret in the hearts of all our loyal citizens. Young Stairs had won a most distinguished place for a man of his years, and wherever the story of Stanley's African expedition is told a high and honored place will be given to the name of our young Halifax hero. By his death Halifax has lost one of her most distinguished sons, and the Empire a young, brave and dauntless officer. THE CRITIC extends to the family and relatives of Captain Stairs its deepest sympathy in their sudden and lamentable bereavement.

The successful docking of the great warship *Blake* in the Halifax Dry Dock has excited a very widespread interest in the city this week. Measurements give little idea of the huge bulk of this great engine of war, but it is a source of pride, not only to the docking company, but to the citizens of Halifax to have the *Blake* docked upon the shores of our own harbor. The *Blake* has a length of 396 feet, a breadth of 65 feet and a depth of 46 feet. She registers 9,000 tons. It is a high and practical testimonial to modern mechanical skill to have such a great ship resting quietly upon the blocks in the dock, and to have accomplished this without the straining of a single plate.

Under the *nom de plume* of "White Rose" an ex-soldier writes to the *Evening Mail* taking THE CRITIC to task for what it had to say about the recent cowardly attack upon Postmaster Blackadar and others. The White Rose has some thorny remarks about our city police, and insinuates that the guardians of the peace are on friendly terms with certain gangs of Halifax toughs, and further on White Rose offers Colonel Rolph some advice as to the management of the regiment. These points may or may not be well taken, but it is surely a sorry excuse to offer for the cowardly attack to state that Halifax has many resident toughs who are constantly breaking the peace. If there be such, and they commit any lawless acts, they should certainly be brought to justice; but their existence should not excuse the lawlessness and cowardly attacks of a regimental gang, which is a disgrace to the fair fame of the Leicestershires.

Since our last issue the nomination of the Republican Convention at Minneapolis has been made, and Mr. Harrison has come out ahead with flying colors. Of the 904 votes Mr. Harrison's nomination secured 535, while that of his opponents, four in all, totalled but 369. Blaine and McKinley each received 182 votes, Reid 4 and Lincoln 1. The outcome of Harrison's nomination cannot as yet be fully conjectured, but it is safe to say that Blaine and Blaine's friends are disappointed beyond measure, and that Harrison need not count upon their active co-operation during the campaign. On the other hand McKinley's future will depend upon the support that he and his friends accord to Mr. Harrison, and hence the McKinleyites will be active Republican campaigners.

The series of letters and other documents published in the *Toronto Globe* show that Mr. McGreevy, familiarly known as "Uncle Tom," dispersed about \$112,000 in 30 constituencies during the elections of 1887. These revelations implicate Sir Hector Langevin and Sir Adolph Caron, and it is probable their publication will lead to serious enquiries as to the origin and disposition of these funds. It is said that the brutality practised upon the negroes, as pictured by Harriet Beecher Stowe in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," had a powerful influence in breaking down slavery in the United States. May it not be that the publication of the documents from Uncle Tom's Cabinet shall be instrumental in breaking down the political slavery which exist in constituencies where men barter their votes for gold.

One of the most important questions which is to be considered by the Imperial Congress of the Boards of Trade is that of the trade relations between Great Britain and her Colonies. This is to be considered in the light of the recent legislation in the United States, viz: the McKinley Bill, as well as with regard to the proposed renewal of trade treaties with European countries. From the programme we should infer that the outcome of the discussion of this question might lead to a proposal to form a British Zollverein; but Great Britain has so long been wedded to free trade, and her business men are all so out of sympathy with anything that savors of protection, that the idea of differential duties within the Empire will scarce be seriously entertained. At any rate it will take more than a passing agitation to affect the convictions of a people who have for two generations been indoctrinated in the principles of free trade.

Boards of Trade throughout the Dominion have pretty fully expressed their views with reference to the necessity that exists for the passage of an Insolvency Act by the Dominion Parliament. The unwholesome experience of the Act for insolvent debtors has made business men somewhat chary about recommending the re-enactment of a similar law, but bad as this was it was at least more advantageous to the general creditor than are the results of the preferential assignments of the day. Perhaps, however, it is well that no legislative action can be obtained upon this question for at least a twelve-month to come, as the interval will give time for the expression of the matured thoughts of our business men. So far the consensus of opinion discounts the idea of those extremists who would place insolvents in the category of incapables if not criminals. Practical business experience has taught the great majority of clear-headed men that business failures are as often the result of untoward circumstances as of speculation, bad management or incompetency.

A few days since our contemporary, the *Morning Herald*, published the synopsis of a paper read by Edward E. de Lancy before the New York Historical Society on the causes of the American Revolution. Mr. de Lancy it appears is giving to the citizens of the United States some very unpalatable truths with respect to the characters and aims of the leading founders of the Republic. A student of the histories of the Revolution which are in general use might be led to sympathize with Washington, Franklin and the Adams family, but deeper research does not shed much lustre upon the lives of these men. How many histories of the United States tell the correct story of the first vote taken in the Colonial Congress upon the question of independence. How many of them admit that this vote was a tie, and that it was Samuel Adams who influenced the vote of Pennsylvania so as to change the result when the second ballot was taken. George the Third and his ministers made many egregious blunders in the government of the American Colonies, but as time rolls by history will prove that the Revolution was brought about by self-seeking demagogues, who had all to win and nothing to lose from the severance of the ties which united Great Britain and the Colonies.