

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM. 1  
SINGLE COPY 3 CTS. 1

HALIFAX, N. S., AUGUST 21, 1885.

{ VOL. 2  
No. 34.

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## 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 3 cents.  
Remittances should be made to C. F. FRASER, Manager.  
Sample Copies sent free

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

According to the *New York World*, one hundred and sixty thousand Americans go to summer resorts during the hot season. We think that a few thousand of these could be induced to take some of their holidays in various parts of this Province. Some Americans evidently think so too.

Every preparation is being made to give the members of the Institute of Mining Engineers a magnificent reception. The citizens' committee have sub-divided their work among smaller committees of seven, and to each of these minor committees is entrusted the carrying out of some particular part of the programme. The city with its surroundings—the Citadel, the Public Gardens, and the Park—when visited by typical Americans, never fails to leave a pleasing impression upon the minds of the visitors, and there can be no doubt that, considering the favorable auspices under which the engineers are to be received, a still more favourable impression will be made.

The Governors of King's College have determined to put the University Building in thorough repair, and have secured the services of an able staff of professors to carry on the educational work of the College. Under the circumstances, the boldness and aggressiveness of this new policy commend it at once to the members and adherents of the Church of England, and should restore the confidence of those who had come to regard the very existence of the College as problematical. The Governors had a difficult task to perform, but they have sounded the war cry, "Old Kings shall live," and by it they mean to stand or fall. Success can alone be secured through unanimity of action, and they will have to rally under their standard every true friend of the University.

The notorious Louis Riel has been condemned to be hung by a party of his fellow countrymen, and hung he probably will be, unless the French influence be sufficiently strong to secure a commutation of the sentence. If, however, the sentence be carried out, we are prepared to hear the journals which now blow so hot and cold, denounce the government for its cruelty and severity. On the other hand, should Riel's sentence be commuted to imprisonment for life, these journals will be the first to condemn the government for not allowing the law to take its course. We should like to hear every journal in Canada express a direct opinion as to whether or not Riel should be hung; we might then hope for some consistency in the event of the execution or commutation of his sentence. For ourselves, we believe Riel to have been a designing, wicked and corrupt agitator, an unprincipled man possessed of low cunning, rather than ability, and an enemy of society and peaceful government. If any man in Canada ever deserved to be hung that man is Louis Riel, and no attempt should be made to interfere on his behalf. He has been fairly tried and found guilty; let him not escape the penalty of his crime.

The British Parliament has been prorogued, and the members of the House of Commons have returned to their constituencies to give an account of their stewardship. The pending election has in it a greater measure of uncertainty than any event of the kind for many years before. Two millions of the hardy sons of toil who are in Britain, but not of Britain, are to be allowed to exercise their rights as citizens, and the vote of this newly enfranchised class is an element of uncertainty which makes it difficult for the most astute politicians to give any forecast as to the probable result of the contest. If Salisbury has the unpopularity of Churchill with which to contend, Gladstone has likewise the Radicalism of Chamberlain, so that it is not at all likely that party lines will be as sharply defined as in former contests.

Several influential Liberal organs in Canada, including the *Morning Chronicle* and *Audius Recorder* of this city, have editorially announced their belief in complete free trade between Canada and the United States, or in what is known as a Commercial Union between these countries. Now this is precisely the policy which the *Toronto Week* has been pressing upon the Hon. Edward Blake, but as that gentleman has never publicly announced himself in favor of such a scheme, we may fairly assume that our friends in the *Chronicle* and *Recorder* offices are simply amusing themselves by flying political kites. Complete free trade, commercial union, and broad continentalism, may be very high sounding and attractive phrases, but when it is understood that these mean nothing more or less than annexation, people will learn to read between the lines and govern themselves accordingly. If Mr. Blake is prepared to lower the Union Jack and replace it with the Stars and Stripes, let him, as the leader of a great party, frankly proclaim his principles, but he should not stoop to a mean subterfuge in order to carry out such a disloyal purpose. Commercial Union means annexation, and the public would do well to bear this in mind.

For some years quantities of hardwood timber have been shipped to Liverpool, G. B., to be used in ship-building. If the iron miners of Cape Breton were turned to account, the iron ship-building industry would soon be flourishing at Sydney and North Sydney. In a future issue of *THE CRITIC* we propose showing that iron can be manufactured more cheaply in Cape Breton than in any other part of the world.

We really must decline to discuss any question whatever with the *Herald*, if it is going to attribute our editorial remarks by name to this or that writer, supposed to be connected with this paper. To every journal belongs the responsibility for its editorials. For any editorial of *THE CRITIC* that "incorporeal entity" called *THE CRITIC* ought to be praised or blamed. It is among the unique journalistic methods of our contemporary to attribute any distasteful remarks in the *Recorder* and the *Chronicle*, respectively, to Hon. J. W. Longley and the Provincial Secretary. We do not wish to imitate or to encourage this unconventional style of journalism, and we are glad to say that we have no inclination and no facilities for prying into the authorship of the editorials in our contemporaries.

In any case the answer which the *Herald* makes to our remarks upon the Provincial Librarian would need no comment. The assertion, that it was generally understood that the Librarian intended to resign at the close of the Session of the Legislature, is one for which Dame Rumor alone can have been responsible, and the falseness of which could easily have been ascertained. As the representatives of the people deemed a Parliamentary inquiry unnecessary, we think the *Herald*, having made all the political capital that it could out of the affair, should in deference to a long-suffering public allow the matter to drop once and for ever. If the public does not understand everything about the subject, it probably knows quite enough to judge between the *Herald* and Mr. F. Blake Crofton.

The following is from the Librarian's Annual Report. It is later than the Report of the Investigating Committee, and the Resolutions of the Library Commissioners, which were published in the newspapers; it was expressly accepted by the said Commissioners "as forming a portion of" their own Report; it was laid on the desk of every member of the Legislature, and was questioned by no single member; and it may, therefore, fairly be assumed to be the official account of the matter:—

"The duplicate books have barely increased in the year, and the pamphlets that were left uncatalogued by Mr. Calnek, as being either duplicates or worthless, have decreased by about 2000. This is mainly due, doubtless, to the following facts: Our storage space has recently been diminished by a room which was taken by the Government to be fitted up for the use of the Legislature. Fearing to inconvenience members by any delay that might possibly ensue from my consulting the Commissioners, I directed the messenger to burn, or give to be burned, certain things that I considered worthless to the Library, namely: some triplicate unbound blue-books (the largest of these have been counted as *books*), booksellers' circulars, and stray numbers of newspapers of later date than 1825. Some duplicate pamphlets were sent to Dr. Akins, with the assent of your Executive Committee; and the late messenger, in my absence, oversteer my directions (which he frankly admits that he understood), and sold as wrapping-paper things which I had not, as well as things which I had, condemned to be burned, as reported by your committee of investigation. It is needless to explain, gentlemen, how deeply I regret this occurrence. Unfortunately, it is impossible to specify what papers of those thus sold have been already destroyed. I know of no record of the uncatalogued pamphlets or of the unbound newspapers—or of the person or body owning them, except in detached cases where a donor had written the name of the donee upon the gift."