

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page 16. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send *The Critic* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

The *Halifax Philatelist* for October contains matters of interest to collectors and connoisseurs of postage stamps. It is a well got up little publication.

The *Militia Gazette* urges the transfer of the B. Infantry School Corps from St. John's, (P.Q.) to Montreal, and there is no doubt the change is a very desirable one.

The *Montreal Gazette* is of the opinion that hanging is going out of fashion in Canada. There have been fourteen murders since the year opened, and only one execution.

It is reported that the invention of Captain Greville Harston, of the Royal Grenadiers, of Toronto, for converting the Martini rifle into a magazine weapon, has been adopted by the small arms committee for the British army.

The official count in the E. Northumberland, Ont., local election gives Dr. Willoughby (Cons.) a majority of three. There appears to have been a good deal of dodging and shuffling about this count, the returns having been kept back an unnecessary time.

There is every sign of activity in pushing forward the Chignecto Ship Railway. Mr. Ketchum, C.E., arrived at St. John last week, and every preparation seems to have been made to expedite the work, which was already more advanced than the Engineer expected.

The following paragraph appears in the local press:—"Viscount Vanbrook, one of the oldest members of the British Peerage, prides himself on never having read a novel." Who is meant by "Viscount Vanbrook?" We are at a loss to remember any such title.

There are rumors of a fresh outbreak on the Railway in Cookshire, owing to what would appear to be a gross breach of faith on the part of the company. If the Italian riot breaks out again it is thought it will be a very determined effort. The militia is said to have been again called out.

H. M. Ships *Bellerophon*, (Flag of Vice-Admiral Lyons,) Capt. Bouverie Clark; and *Comus*, Capt. T. S. Jackson; sailed on Wednesday for Bermuda. Halifax will rather regret that the genial little Admiral will not be seen again in her social circles, as he will change his flag in December, on the retirement of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Chas. Eliot.

A large emigration of crofter fishermen to British Columbia is probable next spring. A number of the leading cannery owners are arranging to emigrate 120 families, about 600 souls, to take the place of Indians and Chinese in the canneries at fixed wages. The movement is regarded as an important one, in view of the drawbacks of the Chinese element in the Province.

A Canadian official report on the great Yukon River shows that for 600 miles it is in British territory. This includes about 200 miles of the gold mining region, where the chief camps are situated. The river is 2300 miles long, of which 2000 are navigable, without a rapid or portage. Its breadth is six to seven miles in some places. Little of the region traversed is fit for agriculture.

The Bank of Nova Scotia recently mentioned as being liable to a heavy fine for notes in circulation exceeding the amount prescribed by law is not, it appears, a transgressor in this respect. It has the privilege of issue accorded by charter to the Union Bank of P. E. I., which is amalgamated with the Bank of Nova Scotia. This Bank was permitted to issue notes to the value of three times its capital.

Lieut.-Governor Schultz, of Manitoba, refuses to summon a special session of the Legislature. The provincial programme provided for a special session of the house at which legislation would be enacted getting over the difficulty presented by the determination of the C. P. R. not to allow the Red River Valley railway to cross its track. The provincial ministry threaten to resign. All is quiet at the crossing.

Says the *St. John Sun*:—"There is a war of rates between Halifax and Boston, the first result of placing the new steamer *Halifax* on the route. The old company have reduced their fare to Boston from \$7 to \$3, and it is said they are prepared to come down to one dollar." The accommodations of the *Halifax* are so superior—the second-class being about equal in comfort to the first-class of the old line—that the new boat is not at all likely to be affected by any measures of this description.

The Moulton-Bennett Company, though not the best that has occupied the Academy, has given some very acceptable performances. "Boccaccio" and "The Black Hussar," especially the former, gave much satisfaction, and Balfe's still popular old opera, the "Bohemian Girl," was yet more decidedly appreciated on Wednesday evening. It has, no doubt, been better sung before, but it was, on the whole, very well rendered. Miss Greenwood in "I dreamt that I dwelt in marble halls," and Mr. Annand in "Then you'll remember me," were deservedly encored, and Mr. Richard scored a decided success in "The heart bowed down." Last night, the "Beggars Student" was to be on the boards, but we are unable to notice anything that takes place so late as Thursday evening.

Wenham, Mass., has a monument to the memory of a cat that lived to the age of 20 years and two months.

The session of Congress just ended is the longest on record, having lasted 323 days.

The yellow fever maintains its hold on several localities in Florida with unusual tenacity, though it does not seem to be quite as malignant as at first.

It is reported from Buffalo that conversation through the Telephone has been carried on with perfect ease, audibility and success, over a distance of 800 miles.

Patrick Egan is said to deny the authorship of the disreputable "Murichison" letter which imposed on the softness of Lord Sackville. Whether the denial of this worthy is worth a row of pins is another question.

The New England potato crop will be an average one, but the short crop in Europe will probably send prices up to 75 cents a bushel in Boston and New York. This means .40 to 50 cents a bushel for provincial farmers.

Another couple in Ohio have been murdered, and their homestead set fire to, because the man was idiot enough to keep large sums of money in his house. And yet these Yankees are looked upon as so extra smart. The fact is, there is far grosser ignorance in rural districts in the States than in Canada.

The *Herald's* Washington special is reported to say that the President is about to issue a proclamation putting in force the Retaliation Act against Canada. This would be a nice outcome of Lord Sackville's gullibility, and a strong instance of the necessity of Canada being more directly represented at Washington.

The startling intelligence has reached San Francisco that 13 whalers are shut in by ice on the coast of Siberia. As they were only victualled for a cruise which was to end by the 1st of November, the gravest fears are entertained for the survival of their crews. One vessel had been already crushed at the date of the sad news.

The *Etruria* has again beaten her own record by five minutes, having reached Sandy Hook Bar from Queenstown in six days, one hour and fifty minutes. Best day's run 400 knots. On her trip in June she made on one day 503 knots under sail as well as steam. On the last trip she was delayed thirty minutes taking a pilot on board.

The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania, which left this city for the Orient last summer, has been shipwrecked in the Ægean Sea. The expedition was to have reached Palestine about the beginning of October, and would have proceeded thence directly to the site of Babylon and Nineveh to begin archaeological excavations.

The *American Magazine* has passed into the hands of a new editor, Mr. John Gilmer Speco, a gentleman whose attainments and ample experience leave no doubt of this excellent Magazine maintaining its high standing. The November number will contain another of the very interesting histories of "America's Crack Regiments," and one on the Theatres, a subject of perennial interest to people of taste.

It is said that the telescope which Mr. Alvan Clark, of Cambridge, Mass., is to construct for the new California Observatory will be powerful enough to bring the moon within 60 miles of the earth. Mr. Clark's last triumph, now in operation in the Lick Observatory, brought our satellite within 200 miles. If the present anticipations turn out to be correct, there will be a promise of fresh strides in astronomical discovery.

A diabolical piece of vengeance was recently reported from South Carolina. A young man named Harris, said to be of good social standing, finding his attentions to a young lady named Hammond unacceptable, deliberately rode her down, and trampled her under his horse's hoofs. The young lady is not likely to recover, and the ruffian fled. Armed bodies were in pursuit, and, if caught, he will no doubt be lynched.

It is not unnatural that Washington rumor should have pointed "to a prominent Canadian official" as the probable successor of Lord Sackville. Of course Sir Charles Tupper is the man referred to, and it is pretty certain the British Government could not do a better thing than appoint him. Sir Charles, at least, would not have been duped as Lord Sackville has been. It is a splendid chance to give Canada her due weight in foreign considerations.

For three weeks a band of gypsies were encamped near Littlestown, Pa., and on Wednesday Jacob Felker, an old farmer, conferred with them and was told that any money he might hide on a certain spot on his farm would double itself in a night. To test the matter he placed \$10 on deposit and the next morning found, as predicted, \$20. This so elated him that he went to the Littlestown Bank, drew out \$800, and made a like deposit, but next morning, to his dismay, the \$800 were gone, and so were the gypsies.

Mr. Bayard has curtly dismissed Lord Sackville. The churlish tone of the Secretary's letter may be only an offset to the Republican advantage afforded by Lord Sackville's lamentable indiscretion, but it is conclusive that nothing short of direct insult and brutality will satisfy the ferocious rabble which controls the elections. It was not enough for the refined American instincts that Lord Salisbury had already conceded the recall of Lord Sackville. The electoral campaign of 1888 will be memorable for the disgrace of the United States among civilized nations. And this is the country with which some among us desire to be incorporated!

The stoppage of the sale of Sir Morrell Mackenzie's book in Germany has been declared illegal, and the decree prohibiting its sale has been rescinded.

A train, returning from the recent fêtes at Naples, was crushed by a landslide of about 500 cubic metres of rock. About 100 persons were killed, and as many injured.