

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., JULY 3, 1891.

{ VOL. 8
No. 21

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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 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.

A Moscow correspondent writes concerning the expulsion of Jews from that city that the police have 12,500 Jews on their lists, and of these more than 7,000 have been expelled. To the Grand Duke Sergius is attributed the original desire of ridding the city of its Hebrew population, and he is said to have declared, prior to his assumption of office, that the Jewish question must be solved before his arrival in Moscow.

A large steel vessel has recently been built in Norway, among whose fittings is a patent oil-distributor, by which oil can be thrown on the waves during severe storms. Within the vessel there is an iron reservoir, from which a pipe extends alongside of the vessel near the water-line, and as close to the bow as possible. A valve in the pipe, close to the reservoir, regulates the distribution of the oil. This is probably the first case in which provision for throwing oil upon the waves has been made from the first designing and building of a vessel.

Few people can form a definite idea of what is involved in the expression, "An inch of rain." It may aid such to follow this curious calculation. An acre is equal to 6,272,640 square inches; an inch deep of water on this area will be as many cubic inches of water, which, at 227 to the gallon, is 22,000 gallons. This immense quantity of water will weigh 220,000 pounds, or 100 tons. One-hundredth of an inch (0.01) alone is equal to one ton of water to the acre. We leave it for some of our mathematicians among the fairer sex to estimate how many tons of rain fell in Nova Scotia during the past week. As the wind is still in the East at the time of writing this, we do not feel equal to making the calculation for ourselves.

At a meeting of the Scottish Horticultural Association, held at Edinburgh on the 2nd June, an interesting paper by Mr. Alexander Hutton, of Dundee, on "The Leaf," was read. When, it was stated, we looked usually at the green leaf, we were apt to forget the important offices it performed in nature. Humble as its appearance was, without the leaf our world would be a desert. It was the great purifier of the atmosphere; it was in fact the source of all life in the world. By its agency inorganic elements were changed into organic matter, and the whole circle of life kept in healthy action. The paper went on to deal in detail with the functions of the leaf, it being suggested that were it not for these functions the conditions of the world would not be compatible with the existence of animal life.

A deputation of the Imperial Federation League recently waited upon the Marquis of Salisbury to request the Government to call a conference of the British colonies to debate the question of a unification of the empire. The Premier expressed his sympathy with the views of the delegation, saying that he considered federation the ultimate future of the great empire, and that an early maturation of the matter would be an advantage. He concluded, however, by telling the deputation that he could not summon a meeting of colonial statesmen until some definite scheme had been prepared. This statement has called forth a good deal of criticism, and it is thought that Lord Salisbury's sympathies are anything but great, and that he has adopted the above plan of defeating for a time the object of the conference. Still as long as the premier is responsible he has to act cautiously, and it is doubted whether the home Government is constitutionally justified in taking the active steps suggested by the delegation. The only course for the league to pursue, is to summon a conference on its own responsibility and devise a more definite policy. Should the promoters of the scheme fail in this, it will doubtless cripple very much the cause they have at heart.

A most curious religious order has recently been founded in Africa, called the Warrior Monks of the Sahara. It is intended that they should not only be ready to preach the word of God, but, if necessary, be also prepared to use the more worldly power of warlike arms. They will prepare the ground for the seeds of Christianity by first gaining the sympathy and goodwill of those among whom they are cast, and then, after showing them the advantages of civilization, they will gradually introduce the germs of their religion, which will more quickly flourish because of the previous preparation. Thus, although Christianity is the primary object, yet it will be the last in order in the operation of these novel missionaries. They hold that this is the proper and only way to convert the people among whom they will be engaged. Cardinal Lavignerie, the founder of the order, has given the subject long and careful study, and has come to the conclusion that the present conventional manner of making Christians in Africa is utterly wrong. He considers the heroism of our unarmed missionaries has been of no avail, and that the gospel must be supported if needs be by the sword. It is truly a new idea to us, and we shall await with interest the result of the scheme. The headquarters of the order are at Biskra on the Algerian borders of the Sahara Desert.

The inhabitants of Windsor, N. S., are evidently not afraid of the old traditional and erroneous idea that the planting of trees in close proximity to a house is injurious. In that pretty town we find wooden houses completely overhung by masses of foliage, while the porches and sides are often partially covered with honeysuckle, rose or Virginian creeper. It is to this appreciation of arboriculture that the place owes nearly all its beauty. No one is afraid of trees, and they are placed where the greatest effect is produced upon an artistic eye. There are few things more beautiful than a pretty house peeping shyly from masses of leaves or glancing with well-bred reserve from among tree-stems and shrubs. There is something so refined, so genteel and retiring, about such a place, so different from the glaring show which pleases a mind to which the charms of nature are less plainly interpreted. In the town in question the houses are seldom built on the street, but placed a little back, and nearly shut from view by elms, locusts, chestnuts and other trees, which lend an air of loveliness to the plainest building. It is a pity people do not more generally recognize this. A large house erected just on a public way has a flashy appearance, and is not in such good taste as the same building situated somewhat back and set off by foliage, which acts as a foil. The former reminds us of a face without eyebrows—the other features are beautiful in themselves, but the general effect is unfinished, displeasing. It is argued that trees, by keeping off the sun, produce dampness in a house—so, for the matter of that, does the roof. It is said that water drips from them and injures the woodwork—but water can only come from trees when rain is falling or the air is saturated with moisture, therefore the house is damp at such times anyway, and the trees need not be blamed. Everyone thought once that ivy produced dampness and decay, but it has been scientifically shown that the very opposite is the result. The old-fashioned and mistaken aversion to being surrounded by trees is known to be a popular fallacy, and it is to an adherence to this belief that Halifax owes much of its dinginess and want of beauty. When our people acknowledge its incorrectness, or are willing to accept a little fancied inconvenience in order to obtain good results, they will begin to be worthy to hold a candle to Windsor in the present matter, but not before. We have often heard people admire the latter place, but beyond vaguely saying it was owing to the trees, they did not seem to know exactly where the beauty lay.