

The closing exercises in connection with the Normal School took place at Truro on Tuesday. The total number of students for the year is 176, of which number 140 were ladies.

Mr. Wm. Redmund, Mrs. Thomas Barry, Mr. Frank Torrence, and the other members of the Redmund Barry Dramatic Company, arrived in Halifax by steamer Worcester from Boston Monday evening, and are stopping at the Halifax hotel. They will open a three weeks' engagement at the Academy of Music commencing Monday, July 18th. "A Midnight Marriage," the play selected for the opening night, is the one that so greatly pleased Halifaxians when it was produced here two years ago by the same company. We cannot do better than quote the criticism that appeared in THE CRITIC at that time:—

"The theatre-goers of Halifax have, during the present week, enjoyed no ordinary dramatic treat in the performances of the Redmund Barry Company in the Academy of Music. On Monday, the opening evening, a large and enthusiastic audience gathered to welcome the distinguished dramatists, and the play, which is one of Charles Osborne's best works, retained its interest throughout. The name of the drama is somewhat misleading, 'A Midnight Marriage,' suggesting something of a startling nature, whereas the play is full of quiet romance, dignified dialogue, and pretty rather than flashy scenic effects. Mr. Redmund held his audience from the first, and his representation of Count Casimir was at once natural and impressive. Mrs. Barry is in many respects a wonderful artiste, her winning sweetness of manner, coupled with her splendid elocutionary attainments, marking her as a star of the first magnitude. Mr. Redmund and Mrs. Barry were well supported, and some of those who took the minor parts displayed ability and acting which were fully appreciated by the audience.

Two thousand French-Canadians are on the verge of starvation at Manville, R. I., on account of low wages for months, which has ended up by a shutting down of all the mills.

Lord Aberdeen has been banquetted by two hundred Irish and other American citizens at St. Paul. His Lordship was welcomed as the first Englishman who had ruled Ireland for the Irish.

The National Division of the Sons of Temperance is being held this week at Boston. Among the representatives from the Maritime Provinces is Sir Leonard Tilley, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick.

A fire broke out in the theatre at Hurley, Wisconsin, on the 9th instant, and within an hour the entire business portion of the town was in flames. Eleven persons, including a number of actresses, perished in the theatre.

A terrible disaster took place near New York on Monday. A sloop-yacht left Ruffle Bar, an island in Canarsie Bay, loaded almost to the gunwales with women and children, and when en route for Canarsie capsized, and only thirteen out of forty on board were rescued.

A paper on the Panama Canal was read before the American Society of Civil Engineers recently by one of the French engineers who had charge of a portion of the work. He stated that of 140 millions of cubic metres to be excavated, only one-fifth of that amount had been removed. The climate was exceedingly severe, as appeared by the fact that the death-rate among the whites had been eighty per cent. The work can be continued only four months longer with the funds now on hand.

The Sultan persists in his refusal to sign the convention regarding Egypt, although pressed to do so by Germany and Italy.

The Gladstonians have recently retrieved in bye-elections, two seats previously held by Unionists—Spalding and Coventry.

Mr. J. H. O'Donnell has commenced a libel suit against the Times. Probably some truth will leak out in the course of it, if it comes to trial.

The Queen reviewed 60,000 troops at Aldershot on the 9th inst., amidst the cheers of both soldiers and spectators. The number is unusually large for an English review.

A lunatic attacked a party of haymakers in a field near Rothbrilind, County Down, last Saturday, with a bill hook, and killed four and wounded two. He was captured standing up to his chin in a lake.

The Pall Mall Gazette describes Lewis Morris as the "lieutenant laureate," and is of the opinion that this rising poet will become full laureate when Lord Tennyson disappears. The Gazette regards Mr. Swinburne as the only rival whom Mr. Morris may fear.

The American testimonial to Gladstone was presented to the ex-premier last Saturday, in the presence of a large number of Americans. Mr. Gladstone spoke of the feeling of kindness always manifested towards him by America, and prophesied a speedy victory for home rule.

Information regarding the whereabouts of Stanley has been received. The expedition left Bolobo on May 11th., and was expected to reach the Congo at its confluence with the Arontronim by June 6th., where it was intended to encamp and await the arrival of Tippoo-Tip, who is approaching from Stanley Falls with provisions, and a force of several hundred men.

The Russian newspapers unanimously disapprove of the election of Prince Ferdinand to the Bulgarian throne. They all pronounce the choice of him by the Sobranje, the result of Austro-German intrigue, and urge the Powers to recall their representatives from Sofia. The Novoe Vremya says, Russia in no case will allow Prince Ferdinand to go to Sofia, and adds that if he arrives there with an Austrian escort, Russia will tell Austria to keep her hands off.



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