

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 5, 1891.

{ VOL. 8
No. 23 }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	5
Parliamentary Review	6
News of the Week	6, 7
Poetry—Which?	8
The Old Love	8
Book Gossip	8
Women as Physicians	9
Success and Failures among Advertisers	9
Industrial Notes	9
Commercials	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—The Young Squire's Return	12, 13
Mining	14, 15
Draughts—Checkers	17
City Chimes	18
Chess	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.

It is with extreme regret that we learn that Canada's greatest statesman is dying. When news of Sir John Macdonald's sickness reached us we fondly hoped that his iron constitution would take him over the critical period and he would still be spared to lead his followers. All hope has since, however, been abandoned, and nothing but that wonderful constitution has delayed the end. It was always his desire that death should find him still in the field, fighting fairly in accordance with his honest opinions. When he is gone, and time has passed for both political parties to judge him impartially, his fame will be still greater than at present. Those of similar views to his own will continue their veneration, and those who now oppose him will, when the flush of recent argument has died away, look upon him as one who was without doubt great, and had the interests of his country firmly and lovingly at heart. At that future time his work will be rightly estimated by all, nor will his character suffer by the scrutiny.

The famous baccarat scandal has come to a head. The trial was commenced on Monday before Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, with distinguished counsel on both the plaintiff and defendant sides. The Prince of Wales is one of the witnesses called to testify to the general record of Sir William Gordon-Cumming for square dealing, and from the preliminary memorandum of questions proposed to be asked of His Royal Highness, it appears that the gambling adventures of the heir apparent and his satellites will have been pretty well exposed by the time the trial is over. Mrs. Wilson, the lady at whose house the alleged cheating took place, has been socially boycotted for some time, despite the efforts of the Prince of Wales on her behalf. The only way in which the lost social position can be regained is by proving a crushing case against Gordon-Cumming—and it is said that both Mrs. Wilson and her daughter are able to swear to two distinct acts of cheating, and their testimony would be corroborated by the defendants. On the other side, it is said, Gordon-Cumming will deny everything, and as he is not only a man of keen intellect, but of immense courage and nerve, his demeanor in the box, and his brilliant career as a soldier, will undoubtedly tell strongly with the Jury. Such an interest is manifested in the trial that the court room was filled with distinguished and fashionable people among which ladies predominated. The display of brilliant spring costumes was positively bewildering. Probably by the time this appears the course of the trial will have decided where the blame lies, and whether a distinguished soldier is to sustain for the rest of his life the odium of having cheated at cards in the house of his friend.

Many people laugh at the idea that pain can be felt in an amputated limb, and not a few of us have been amused by the experiences of Old Tom, in Maryatt's "Jacob Faithful," who wrapped his timber toes in flannel to keep the rheumatism away. A physician who believes in the sensation explains it as follows: "Many of the nerves that furnish communication between the brain are not injured in their activity by the amputation of the lower portion, and convey sensation as readily as ever. The brain fails to recognize the fact that the function of the nerve has changed, and that the part in which it formerly terminated exists no longer. Therefore, when a sensation is felt conveyed by a nerve that in the unmaimed body led to the foot, the feeling is the same as if the foot were still in place. If certain nerves in an amputated leg be touched the feeling is exactly the same as if the foot were touched, and the sensation of pain is felt not where it is applied, but where the mind has been in the habit of receiving communications from the nerve in question."

The teachers of Quebec High School have been instructed by letter from the local board of Protestant School Commissioners to keep a book hereafter containing a record of the sentences passed upon delinquent pupils. This book, says the *Quebec Morning Chronicle*, must contain the names of the pupils, the number of floggings administered to them, with details of the crimes committed, etc. This is certainly progressive. The citizens and parents of Quebec are highly indignant at the innovation, and are asking if they have a Squeers in their midst. Education is a good thing, and the keeping of certain records for future reference is also advantageous, but when the educationists—who appear to be yearly putting on greater authority—undertake to introduce a whipping register, and instruct teachers to keep minute records of the spirit in which the different pupils bear the infliction of the leathern strap, it is time a halt was called. Free-born citizens rebel at such a high-handed act, and the teachers themselves will probably refuse to degrade their calling by making it the excuse for compiling a criminal record from the petty misdemeanors of the children under their charge.

The opinions expressed regarding Mme. Blavatsky, the recently deceased theosophist, are startling in their variety. To some people she appeared as a complete fraud—one of the most remarkable imposters the world has ever produced. The *New York Sun* is one of the papers that represent her in this light, while on the other hand the *Tribune*, of the same city, takes her part with fervor, and says that though malice and ignorance did their worst upon her, there are abundant indications that her life work will vindicate itself, that it will endure, and that it will operate for good. Mme. Blavatsky was undoubtedly a remarkable woman, and in view of her energy in spreading her peculiar views, we can scarcely believe that she was a self acknowledged sham, "who chuckled over the credulity of her dupes." In 1875 she organized the Theosophical Society in New York, the doctrines of which are to Gautama Buddha what Neo-Platonism was to Plato. It recognizes the universal brotherhood of man, the existence of occult powers, a succession of lives and the Buddhist idea of Karma, or retribution. In America and in England there are many branches of the parent society and numerous periodicals to aid in spreading theosophical views.

The passage of the Act to carry out treaty obligations by the Legislature of Newfoundland has had the immediate effect of deciding the Imperial Government not to proceed with the Knutsford Bill. This is well, for had Britain been obliged to coerce the people of Newfoundland nothing but unpleasantness could possibly result. As it is, the situation is not too satisfactory. The feeling in St. John's is very much against the action of the Legislature, which passed the Local Coercion Bill with closed doors, and the Queen's birthday was totally disregarded in consequence of this feeling. Reports of high-handed acts by French war ships at St. George's Bay have reached here. According to these dispatches the French claim territorial possession of the waters of the Bay, and the French Admiral has forbidden Newfoundland fishermen to do any fishing whatever, and has put out patrol launches, whose crews have taken up the local fishermen's nets, seines, and traps, and have put them all ashore. Further, he would not allow traffic between American and Newfoundland fishermen in bait drawn from the waters of Bay St. George. The end of the trouble is not yet in sight, but we are of the opinion that Britain would find it advantageous to buy France off, even at a heavy price, for unless some such arrangement be arrived at there is no telling where the difficulty will end. Should Newfoundland by any possibility become annexed to the United States, it would only be a matter of time before Canada, flanked on all sides by her republican neighbors, would follow suit. That such changes could be accomplished bloodlessly is almost beyond belief; but we hope that a more satisfactory solution of the matter may be arrived at.