

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page fifteen. 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.

Vessels arriving at Bermuda report passing through miles of logs.

The *Springhill News* comes to us in an enlarged form, and with every appearance of being a very "live" and well written paper.

Diphtheria is reported to be ravaging a settlement on the Gatineau, in Ottawa county. One man lost his entire family of 6 children.

A new government, under the premiership of Mr. Greenaway, has been formed in Manitoba. The new cabinet is understood to be Liberal.

The lumber trade and shipping interests of Quebec have assumed an encouraging aspect under the impetus of increased demands for lumber from Great Britain.

The population of Montreal is estimated, on grounds given in detail in the *Montreal Witness*, at 241,000, including some suburbs annexed to the city since the last census.

The snow storm of Wednesday was a very heavy one. At Truro and Liverpool the drifts were piled up to a great depth, but the railway trains have only been slightly delayed so far.

Springhill and Oxford are aspiring for the county-township of Cumberland, *vice* Amherst, which, since the burning of the Court House there, is discovered to be not so central as is desirable.

Next week will appear in THE CRITIC some of the replies with which we have been favored from a number of prominent representative men whose opinions we solicited as to the means of "Success in Life."

Mr. Purcell (Liberal) M.P. for Glengary, has been unseated and disqualified for bribery. The case seems to be a peculiarly flagrant one the Judge having intimated his intention of reporting the constituency to Parliament.

Mr. Justice McMahon has given judgment at Hamilton, Ont., for the defendant in a libel suit brought for the publication of a bogus marriage notice, both judge and jury taking the view that but little damage was done. The decision seems questionable.

A deaf mute, named Petipas, was found dead in the woods near D'Escousse, on Wednesday. An axe was found near him, and a deep cut in the arm leads to the supposition that he cut himself accidentally, severing an artery, and bleeding to death.

A terrific explosion occurred on Monday at the Albion mine, Stellarton. Fortunately, the men were at dinner, and no life was lost. A horse standing near the pit's mouth was killed, and two or three men near it injured. The damage done is enormous, and about 300 men will be thrown out of work.

The second of the series of amateur theatrical performances, in aid of the School of Art and Design, is fixed for Wednesday, the 25th inst. Gordon's Comedietta, "Dearest Mamma," and Morton's Farce, "A Regular Fix," are the pieces for presentation. The distinguished success of the last performance will no doubt be repeated, and be as well deserved.

There is a good deal of squabbling between Mr. Goschen, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the G. T. R., and C. P. R. Railways, and the Government of British Columbia, about the terms of settling in the N. W. a number of crofters who are in trouble in the Highlands, but no doubt the differences will be arranged, in view of the urgency of deporting some of them.

We have received from the *Grip* Publishing Co. of Toronto, the "Epistles O'Arlic," being a collection of letters that appeared in Canada's comic paper. We would advise our readers to send ten cents to the publishers for a copy, as nowhere can they purchase for the money a book containing so much Scotch humor, and of such good quality. Scotchmen certainly cannot afford to be without this publication.

L. Woolrich, traveller for W. & C. Silver of Halifax, committed suicide by hanging himself, on Tuesday morning, at the McKenzie House, Sydney. The deceased, who was about 24 years of age, was a Lieutenant in the 63rd Rifles, and displayed a most honorable spirit in 1885, when he resigned a commercial business in New York, and joined the Halifax Battalion at Montreal, a line of conduct in marked contrast to that of some young officers who suddenly found themselves very much indisposed (to face bullets) about that time. The unfortunate young gentleman seems to have labored under some morbid conviction of having committed a great sin, and must have been temporarily deranged.

Several deferred applications for licenses were discussed on Tuesday by the City Council, and most of them granted. An Alderman is reported to have criticized the "presumption" of Colonel Luck, of the Y. & L. Regiment, in addressing the Council in opposition to the granting of a license near the barracks, when he (Col. L.) "permitted a canteen where liquor could be had." This remark is not only in very bad taste, but displays great ignorance. A commanding officer has not only as much right as any other citizen to oppose a license, but, as a commanding officer, it is his positive duty to do so if he considers it detrimental to his command. Further—he has no option as to "permitting" a canteen. It is a subject of "Queen's Regulations." Moreover, no spirits are allowed in a military canteen.

It is our desire to draw the attention of the public, the Legislature, and medical men, to the contribution to our pages in this issue, entitled "Leprosy." The writer, we believe, knows his facts, and they are such a demand attention, and remedial and preventive measures.

During the St. Lawrence season, recently closed for Liverpool and Bristol, steamers of the Dominion line embarked 9,938 cattle, of which 992 were landed alive, two in carcase, and sixteen were put overboard on the passage; the percentage of loss being only one in 572 head.

The *Recorder* published on Monday a supplement of remarkable interest, containing a *fac simile* of its first number, issued on the 19th January, 1813. Singularly enough, it contains the report of Capt. Dacres of the *Guerriere* of the capture of his ship by the *Constitution*, and the letter of Vice-Admiral Sawyer, enclosing it to the Admiralty. Another point of interest is a letter from a very competent gentleman, giving some of the palpable conditions which chiefly cost us the loss of three frigates, and some smaller craft. We intend to give shortly some brief but yet fuller details than the writer alluded to has furnished, and to extend them to the other frigate actions referred to. These, without any depreciation of the skill and conduct of the Americans, demonstrate beyond question that no discredit whatever attached to the captured English ships. It is pleasant to see that Capt. Dacres bears willing testimony to the courtesy and humanity of Commodore Hull and his officers to their prisoners.

Two more Gloucester schooners, with 24 hands, are reported given up as lost.

Mrs. Garfield, mother of the late President, is reported to be ill, and growing weaker.

New York has gone in for high license—from \$500 to \$2000 for spirits, from \$100 to \$400 for light wines and beer.

Montana has now a population of 130,000. The new alien law is hurting the development of mining property, yet the results are quite large.

Intense cold was experienced in the North Western States at the end of last week, and a stage coach was reported to be lost between Washburn and Bismarck (Mont.) in a blizzard.

A sleeping car on the Southern Pacific Railway (Cal.) broke loose last week from the train to which it was attached, dashed over an 80 foot embankment, and took fire. It was full of sleeping emigrants.

Sullivan, Smith and Mitchell, as well as some of the scullers, seem to be more occupied in abusing each other and bragging, than in anything else. Their mean and suspicious natures show out very clearly.

Fears are entertained concerning the French steamer *Britannia*, which left Gibraltar on the 22nd ultimo with 850 steerage passengers. The steamer *Venice* passed through 30 miles of logs from the broken Nova Scotia raft.

Two more railway accidents, one a collision in Iowa, in the other 8 cars jumped the track at Pittsburg; one killed in each case, and others injured. It used to be said in England that accidents would go on 'till they smashed up a bishop, a duke, and a countess or two. It is doubtful if they will diminish on this continent 'till half a dozen railway men are hanged.

The unprecedented cold weather in Minnesota, Montana, Kansas, Wisconsin, Tennessee, and other States, continued into this week, with a great storm in Minnesota, which, in addition to heavy damage, has caused the death, it is reported, of 152 persons. There is great suffering among the poor. The thermometer is reported to have been as low as 62 degrees below zero at Chippewa Falls, Wis.

A crew of Phippsburg men, owning some hundred lobster pots, have secured a vessel and go out miles to sea and tend their traps. The result is they obtain larger and better lobsters. They are known as deep water lobsters, and are quoted at \$7.50 per hundred in the market, many being sent to the city of New York. The unprecedented mild weather of the winter so far has facilitated matters, and they are meeting with good success.

A Mr. and Mrs. French, and a child 8 years old, of Camden, N. Y., have been terribly bitten by two mastiffs. The little girl was playing with them, as she had often done before, when they suddenly attacked her, and Mr. and Mrs. French, going to her rescue, were almost killed before the former succeeded in driving the beasts out with a poker. Fears are entertained for Mrs. French's life. The dogs, which had never shown vice before, have been shot.

The reports of death from the fearful cold and blizzards, with which the N. W. States have been scourged, continue to be most lamentable. Loss of stock is enormous; 15 persons perished in Custer County, Neb., alone; 133 deaths are reported in Dakota, among them a school teacher; and 16 children in Edmund county. One brave school teacher, a Miss Freeman, preserved her charge by tying them together three abreast, taking the youngest in her arms, and managing to get to a farm-house three quarters of a mile distant.

Switzerland sent 28,925 watches to Japan in 1887.

The Queen of Sweden is going to Bournemouth (Eng.) for her health. Sullivan, the pugilist, is said to have netted \$25,000 by his exhibitions in the United Kingdom.

Ex-President Grövy has had a second shock of apoplexy, and has been since confined to his bed.

Marmaduke Blake Simpson, the late city editor of the *London Times* left an estate valued at \$620,000.

Sir Morrell Mackenzie has so far received upwards of \$43,000 in fees for attending the Crown Prince of Germany.