

# 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., NOVEMBER 6, 1891.

{ VOL. 8  
No. 45 }

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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.

After considerable deliberation over the appointment of a Superintendent of Education, it was announced on Tuesday that the Government had chosen Principal A. H. McKay, of the Halifax County Academy, for the position. This appointment will meet with approval from all quarters. We heartily congratulate the new Superintendent upon his promotion.

The people of St. John have done themselves honor in erecting a monument to the brave young man Fred Young, who sacrificed his life a year ago while trying to save a comrade from drowning. The monument was handed over to the city by the contractors on October 30th in the presence of between 2,000 and 3,000 people. It is situated on Kings Square, and cost upwards of \$3,000.

The memorial album which the *Toronto Empire* is this year presenting as a premium to its subscribers will be highly appreciated by all admirers of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. It contains fifteen handsome engravings including two portraits of the dead chieftain, one of the Baroness Macdonald, of Earncliffe, and one of Sir John's mother, as well as views of Earncliffe, the funeral procession, the grave, the interior and exterior of Westminster Abbey, London, where the memorial service was held, and the interior and exterior of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, in which a memorial tablet is to be erected. The album is a fine piece of work, and will be valued as a souvenir of our late Premier.

The trouble between Chili and the United States is not unlikely to become serious. All through the civil war the United States appeared to favor the President, and the part she played is deeply resented by the now victorious Congress. Minister Egan is naturally not on good terms with the Junta on account of several differences of opinion, and may at any moment be presented with his passport, in which case it is not improbable that Chili will strike the first blow by attacking the cruiser *Baltimore*. A party of sailors from this ship were recently set upon and beaten, one of them being killed, by a mob in Valparaiso, and upon remonstrance being offered by Minister Egan the Chilean Government replied that judicial investigation is secret in Chili, and that until the time arrives to disclose the result of inquiry it cannot admit that the disorders at Valparaiso or the silence of the department should appear as an expression of unfriendliness towards the government of the United States, which might put in peril the

friendly relations between the countries. Meanwhile the United States is determined to satisfy its outraged dignity, and is waiting a reasonable time for the inquiry to result in something, while on the other hand animosity towards the United States is not abating in Chili. An offensive toast, "destruction to the North American Republic," is said to have been proposed at a ball in Valparaiso recently at which a number of Englishmen were present. The Englishmen refused to drink the toast and it was withdrawn. England has been inclined to be friendly to the Congressional party, but the United States has a serious grievance in the Valparaiso outrage, and England will see fair play. It would be thought that Chili, just emerging from a bloody revolution, would have had enough of war, and as for the United States, she is not sufficiently equipped to engage in naval warfare even with Chili.

Every now and again the project of uniting the three Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island under one government comes up. THE CRITIC has always been in favor of this union, and has urged it many a time; and we are glad to see that it is being advocated in several quarters at present. In the older provinces of Canada they seem to think that advice on this subject from them heretofore has been met with discourtesy from us, but, however that may be, there are many dwellers by the sea who would be glad if the expense of maintaining three governors, three governments, three legislative councils and three assemblies for a total population of 808,905, could be reduced by substituting one government for the three provinces. Sir Charles Tupper in 1865 made an earnest attempt to effect this union, but it fell through, and now, although the larger federation of Canadian provinces has to some extent removed the pressing need of Maritime union, it is still required, and as the *Toronto Mail* says, "The party that will take it up will do itself and the country some service." The saving in expense would not be the only or the greatest advantage to be secured by the union. The additional importance and dignity attached to representatives from one large province would tell at Ottawa in a manner that would be gratifying. The chief difficulties in the way lie in local prejudices and in each province having a decided objection to giving up its capital. This might be overcome by having the parliament house of each province used in turn, but it would be better once for all to have one seat of government and have it of some importance. The *Toronto Week* appears to think that the sea-board section of the Dominion has managed not only to hold its own, but to secure a good deal more than its own share of influence at Ottawa. We have certainly sent some influential men there, who have taken prominent places in the government of the Dominion, but we fail to see that they have secured more advantages for us than we deserve. If it be possible that greater ends may be achieved by union, then speed the day.

Self interest is one of the strongest lovers in the transaction of business, but when Governments are called upon to legislate so as to further the self interest of the few to the detriment of the many, it is time to call a halt, and ask the Government for an accounting. For centuries gold has been the standard of value for exchange, and its worldwide recognition as such is fully illustrated in the international commerce of the globe; but some misguided and self-interested parties in the United States are now endeavoring to force the Government of that country to legally adopt both gold and silver as standards of value, the strange part being that while gold is to stand at its current value, that of silver is to be advanced to a premium of thirty per cent. In other words one dollar's worth of gold, when coined, is to be stamped by the Government as legal tender for one dollar, while seventy-five cents worth of silver is to be stamped by the Government as legal tender for one dollar. Mr Edward Atkinson, in the *October Forum*, points out that when a Government obliges its people to accept as legal tender for services or for debts due notes or coins which are of less value than their faces represent, it commits a fraud upon its citizens. He denounces the acts of legal tender as being of corrupt origin, and claims that if the Government would sweep these acts out of existence the free coinage of silver could be allowed without let or hindrance. He points out that while speaking of a pound in weight the pound avoirdupois is generally intended; there are two distinctive weights of this denomination, viz, the pound avoirdupois containing 7,000 grains, and the pound troy containing 5,760 grains. In like manner in many States when the rate of interest upon a loan is not mentioned the law states that six per cent. may be legally collected, but it does not prevent a contract being entered into for the payment of a lower or higher rate of interest. In the same way Mr. Atkinson believes that silver would soon find its proper level if all contracts were specific as to currency in which payments were to be made, with the understanding that when the currency was not specified the settlement should be made upon a gold basis of value.