

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., DECEMBER 18, 1891.

{ VOL 8
No 50

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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.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The threatened commercial war between Newfoundland and Canada has begun. Immediately following the Dominion action in enforcing the duties on Newfoundland fish, Newfoundland placed heavy duties on Canadian products. The merchants affected by these restrictions, both in Newfoundland and Canada, will probably take means to test the legality of such duties being imposed by Newfoundland. Such a state of affairs will not be allowed to last. It calls for Imperial interference.

The Russell divorce case is having a curious sequel. In the course of his evidence the Earl stated that he had betrayed a Miss Williams, who at one time was housemaid in his employ. This statement the young lady indignantly denies, and has brought suit for damages against Earl Russell, bringing medical testimony in her support. Miss Williams states that she was obliged to flee to her mother for protection from his Lordship, and that he did not succeed in betraying her. Someone is lying, that is certain, but which, the Earl or Miss Williams, is the question.

The Russell divorce case has once more set people thinking on the absurdity of having such men as Lord Russell sit in the House of Lords. True he gained his case, but he made an exhibition of himself that was by no means edifying, and showed that his title was about all the nobility he possessed. It is not right to judge the nobility as a class by the few black sheep that come before the notice of the world, but it would be a good thing if some means were taken whereby such black sheep could be ousted from holding positions of importance. Peers of Scotland and Ireland are elected representative by votes of their order. It would be well if this were the case with Peers of England.

The successful transportation of a body of 400 sailors across the Continent from Vancouver to Halifax by way of the Canada Pacific, Canada Central and I. C. Railways will strengthen the ties that bind us to the Mother Country. The transport arrived at Bedford on Friday night, and as the preparations for receiving the men were not complete, the train was detained there until Saturday morning, thus disappointing many people who were on the watch to see it come into Halifax. The distance from Vancouver to Halifax, about 3,800 miles, was covered by actual time in 6 days, 6 hours, counting all stoppages. The men were in the best of health and made a comfortable journey. The train, with the men and officers brought out by the

Tyne, started on Saturday on its return journey, and doubtless by this time is near Vancouver. The Canadian route saves about 12,000 miles in distance over the Panama route and two months in time; it is in the temperate zone all the way, and there is apparently nothing amiss with this new way of forwarding troops to the Pacific coast. It is understood that Lieut. Colemore and Capt. Rooke, who are to report on the matter, will strongly recommend the route, and the need of barracks at the dockyard will also be mentioned.

The case of Charles Bremner, of Battleford, whose furs were, by some mysterious process, taken from him during the rebellion in the Northwest, has again come into public notice. General Middleton was by many people held to be responsible for the value of these furs, which were without doubt fraudulently gotten from Bremner, and largely distributed among Government officials. But General Middleton did not suffer in his pocket for his action as to the furs; he simply had to give up his position and leave the country. Bremner naturally wants to be paid for his property, and a short time ago he made a petition to the Government praying to be paid the sum of \$19,859 with interest from June 7th, 1886, for losses sustained by him during the rebellion. The Government has dismissed this petition because there is evidence to show that Bremner was a rebel, and it does not want to establish a precedent that might bring up a reconsideration of claims of other rebels which it before refused to pay. This is very hard on Bremner, but probably the Government's wisest course. If Mr. Bremner should proceed to law and be able to prove himself guiltless of rebellion he might possibly obtain the compensation he desires, but "the Law's delays" would probably prove so costly that he would not make much by it.

M. Gounod, the French composer, says, "There are in history certain men who appear destined to mark, in their sphere, the point above which no man can go. Such as Phidias in sculpture and Molière in comedy. Mozart was one of these men." The Frenchman's opinion is shared by many who consider the famous German the greatest of abstract musicians, standing as an all-round artist at the head of his fellows. As the fifth of this month was the centenary of Mozart's death, the *Musical Times*, London, has issued a finely illustrated supplement devoted to his life and works. It is edited by Mr. Joseph Bennett, and contains a great deal of much interest, especially the engravings which should make it valuable to every lover of music. How the present-day homage to the great composer contrasts with the circumstances of his burial just a century ago! The latter was a disgrace to the country in which he died. On the day after his death, during a wintry storm, his remains were deposited in a pauper's grave without one friend to witness the last service to the dead, who was worthy of all honor. Because it rained, Van Swieten and Süßmayer, two of his "friends," whom we name in order to give them the renown their deed deserves, turned back with three others and left him to be hurried alone to his last sad resting-place. The search for his grave proved fruitless, and no one knows the exact spot where Mozart was buried.

"Mark Twain" has opened a curiously interesting subject in his paper on "Mental Telegraphy" in the December *Hurper's Magazine*. He says: "This age does seem to have exhausted invention nearly; still, it has one important contract on its hands yet—the invention of the phrenophone; that is to say, a method whereby the communication of mind with mind may be brought under command and reduced to certainty and system. The telegraph and the telephone are going to become too slow and wordy for our needs. We must have the thought itself shot into our minds from a distance; then, if we need to put it into words, we can do that tedious work at our leisure. Doubtless the something which conveys our thoughts through the air from brain to brain is a finer and subtler form of electricity, and all we need do is to find out how to capture it and how to force it to do its work, as we have had to do in the case of electric currents. Before the day of telegraphs neither one of these marvels would have seemed any easier to achieve than the other." The great humorist does not intend to be funny when he says this; he is evidently serious, and he tells a marvelous story about some experiences of his own. If he wants any one to write him a letter, he sits down and writes such a letter as he desires to himself, all in due form, signs it with person's name, and puts it in an envelope. This sounds simple enough, but what follows is somewhat peculiar. He says a letter exactly similar to his own will come from the person whom he wished would write to him in due time—that is as soon as the mail can bring it. This is strange, and we would like to hear more about it before putting our trust in the plan. We fear when "Mark Twain's" "phrenophone" arrives there will be a break-down of the present social system, in which diplomatic prevarication plays an important part.