

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM,  
(SINGLE COPY 3 CTS.)

HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER 18, 1885.

{ VOL. 2.  
{ No. 38.

## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

<b>EDITORIAL.</b>	
Importance of Colonies.....	1
Commercial Union.....	4
The City Council and the Halifax Gas Company.....	4
Fruit Growing.....	4
Precautions against Small-Pox.....	4
Canada to the Front.....	4
Notes.....	1
<b>CONTRIBUTED.</b>	
Poetry "The Means to Attain Happy Life".....	6
Henry H. Wall.....	6
Prohibition vs. License.....	6
"Franc Tinsur".....	6
Justice to Cape Breton.....	6
"Philanthropist".....	6
The Anglo-Saxon Race.....	6, 7
Sartor Resartus.....	6, 7
The French Drama.....	7
"Erema".....	7
Snaps and Scraps.....	8
"Snarler".....	8
French and German in English Schools.....	8
"Germanicus".....	8
<b>MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
Our Bluebono Club.....	2
Religious.....	3
Mining.....	5
Union and Co-operation.....	9
Commercial.....	9
Market Quotations.....	9
Serial.....	10, 11
News of the Week.....	12
Shipping.....	13
Further Deluge of the Major.....	14
F. Blake Crofton.....	14

## 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 3 cents.  
Remittances should be made to C. F. FRASER, Manager.  
Sample Copies sent free.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

**PRIZE—TWENTY DOLLARS.**—In order to secure for the Christmas Number of THE CRITIC first-class reading matter, we have decided to offer a prize of twenty dollars for the best story, with the understanding that we are at liberty to select and publish the contributions of those who may compete for the prize. The story must not exceed three thousand words, nor be less than fifteen hundred. The regular staff contributors for THE CRITIC will not compete for the prize. The stories will be submitted to a committee of three gentlemen, and the prize will be awarded by them to the person sending the best. The *nom-de-plume* of the writer should be forwarded with the manuscript, the writer's real name being withheld until the *nom-de-plume* of the prize winner is announced in THE CRITIC. Stories to be forwarded to the Editor of THE CRITIC, 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, not later than Oct. 15th.

The favor with which lawn-tennis is now regarded by our young people, and the increasing popularity of the game in Nova Scotia, would indicate that it is to take a leading place among the amusements and pastimes during the next ten years. Gentlemen like the game, because, while affording them the means of pleasurable exercise, it does not debar them, as in cricket, from the society of the ladies. The fair sex appreciate the game, because they can engage in the sport as the equals, and not the inferiors of their more muscular brothers.

What good reason exists for the present division of the school term in this province, we cannot ascertain. Some time ago a reason for it was given—whether a good one or not it boots not now to inquire, as its cogency, if it had any, is confessedly no longer perceptible, indeed it is as obsolete as the laws of Lycurgus. As all our Inspectors of Schools, and many others that give thought to weaknesses in our educational legislation, are very pronounced in their preference of one long term in each year as compared with two short ones, it seems impossible that action in the matter will be much longer delayed.

The people of Prince Edward Island are awakening to the absolute necessity that exists for better communication between the Island and the mainland during the winter months. Senator Howlan, with characteristic energy, has succeeded in procuring from the New York Submarine Tube and Tunnel Co., a definite proposal, whereby the company undertakes to construct at a cost not exceeding \$3,000,000, a tunnel between Capes Traverse and Tormentine, from edge to edge of the board ice, a distance of four miles; the work to be completed within two years. As the engineering difficulties are not great, we may hope to see the work undertaken at an early date. A Dominion subsidy will be required, and should be granted without unnecessary delay.

The Canadian Niagara Falls Commissioners have decided upon the amount of land which they will recommend the Ontario government to secure for the Canadian side of the International Park. It will be about four times the amount appropriated by the Americans, and will cost only about one-fourth as much. It will be many years, however, before the Canadian side can be made as beautiful as the American, although it affords a much better view.

The number of female clerks employed in the inside Canadian Civil Service is annually increasing, and it is affirmed by those best qualified to know that as respects efficiency, these pen women are equal if not superior to those of the sterner sex. As civilization advances, woman's sphere of usefulness will widen and extend; and if the revolution be accomplished without blunting her finer sensibilities, and detracting from her peculiar feminine graces, mankind as well as woman kind will be the gainers thereby.

The credit of Nova Scotia and that of the Dominion of Canada have recently been called in question by the action of the firm of Messrs. James Graham & Co., 10 Moorgate St., this firm offering for sale bonds of the Nictaux and Atlantic Central Railway, guaranteed by the Dominion and Nova Scotia Governments. As no such guarantee has been given by either Government, and as the representatives of the Company disavow any knowledge of the affair, investors are at a loss to understand the true inwardness of the transaction. So far, no explanation has been made of the mystery.

W. Scott, Publisher, London, has just brought out a selection of the poems of the marvellous boy-poet, Chatterton, who perished three months before reaching his eighteenth year. To this edition is prefixed a very interesting biography of Chatterton. The latter seems to have been treated by Walpole with the tyrannous arrogance which rude-minded men in high places usually show to struggling genius. Walpole is even said to have been indirectly the cause of the poor boy's early death. It was of this unfortunate that Coleridge said: "Had he lived he would have been as far above Shakespeare as Shakespeare is above me."

The elections now pending in England, have again brought into active operation the societies advocating and opposing the passage of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill in the British Parliament. Those who favor the adoption of this measure in Britain, have been for many years actively engaged in securing its passage through the several parliaments of the Colonies, and having thus paved the way for its becoming law in the mother country, they are determined to leave no stone unturned to accomplish their purpose. The opponents are making an active canvass against those known to be favorable to its adoption, hoping thus to outwit their adversaries.

The Ontario government has decided to postpone the erection of the new Parliament buildings for a year. The cost, as first estimated, was to be \$750,000; but later estimates show that it will exceed \$1,000,000. There is a curious joke in connection with the location of the old buildings, which most of our readers may not have heard. The buildings stand on one of the corners of King and Simcoe Streets, Toronto, the other three corners being occupied by Upper Canada College, St. Andrew's Church, and a hotel. This corner is therefore called the corner of the four 'ations'—legislation, education, salvation, and—well, another 'ation' which temperance people say follows the frequenting of hotels.

A comparatively short time since the world's petroleum was thought to be limited, but in later years the discoveries of inexhaustible wells of oil have followed in quick succession. According to a London paper, the petroleum field of the Russian Empire is of almost incalculable vastness. Spens's encyclopedia estimates it at 14,000 square miles. In the region of the Caucasus and the Caspian alone there are three oil-bearing strata, running direct from the Crimea to the Balkan hills, a stretch of 1,500 miles long and ten broad. At Baku the supply seems absolutely inexhaustible. The more the ground is tapped the faster the fluid seems to flow. Many pumping wells have been worked for years without the level of the oil being lowered in the slightest degree, or the wells in any way affected by discharges from adjoining fountains, proceeding from greater or lesser depths. The peninsula of Apsheron is probably honey-combed with thousands of oil cells. One of these cells has already given 1,500,000 barrels of oil, and yet the pump draws the oil as freely and as readily to the surface as when the basin was first tapped by the boring ten years ago. In America a depth of 1,000 feet is thought nothing of in boring for oil, a man is not particularly discouraged if he penetrate as far without discovering petroleum. In Baku, however, an engineer begins to look for it at 100 feet, and no well has yet got lower than 825. In 1883, two flowing wells in less than a month upheaved nearly 30,000,000 gallons of oil apiece, from a depth of 700 feet, and when they were finally plugged, to "cork up" their supply for future use, they were still flowing at the rate of 20,000 gallons of oil per diem. In America there are a number of wells in the Bradford region 2,000 or 3,000 feet deep. America has 25,000 drilled petroleum wells, Baku only 400.