

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 12. 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.

Women voted, for the first time, at the civic elections at Pictou on Tuesday.

Mr. Campbell (Liberal) has been returned to the Dominion Parliament for the County of Kent (Ont.) by a majority of 119.

The 63rd Rifles paraded on Monday afternoon to do military honors at the funeral of the late Major J. Scott Muchell, their paymaster.

The death is announced at Ottawa of Mr. A. Gaudet, M.P. for Nicolet County, of cancer. Mr. Gaudet was about 40 years of age.

The collapse of the St. John Building Society will be disastrous to the depositors, who are chiefly of classes that can ill-afford to lose even the smallest sums.

Owing to the large quantity of ice floating down the St. Lawrence, the *Vancouver* and *Nestorian*, which are at Quebec, are not expected to reach Montreal for several days.

Mr. Thomas Corbett, a graduate of Pine Hill College, and who was licensed last week by the Presbytery of Halifax, has received a call from the Presbyterian church at Glenelg, Pictou County.

The opening of the new building of the Seamon's Friend Society yesterday evening was attended by His Honor the Lt.-Governor, and numerous other notabilities. This institution is a credit to the philanthropy of our city.

The Allan Liner *Circassian*, bound to Montreal with a general cargo, 27 cabin and 800 steerage passengers, was towed into Halifax Harbor on Wednesday morning by the *State of Nevada*, having broken her propeller shaft in mid-ocean.

It is estimated that fully 5,000 farmers are leaving Ontario this spring for the Northwest, and a large number are going through to British Columbia. The vacancies caused by this minor exodus from Ontario are at once filled by new comers.

The *Moncton Daily Times* says:—"The final returns show anti-Scott-Act majorities much larger than at first reported, i.e., in Huron 1310, Dundas 2,134, and Renfrew upwards of 1,000. The aggregate majority in the nine counties which rejected the Act approximates 8,000."

Gabriel Dumont, who has been lecturing at Quebec, on the ill-treatment of the Half-Breeds (which it is to be supposed consists in demurring to furnish them with a new land grant as soon as they have disposed of the previous one) will not improve his prestige by impugning the conduct of the Catholic clergy in the North-West.

The *Montreal Witness* publishes an account from the *New York Sun* of the review before the Queen of the Cavalry of the Imperial Guard at Berlin, but in an editorial, remarks that it had to excise from it "an attack on the personal appearance of the Princess Victoria of Prussia so unmanly as to put the writer's judgment out of court."

The *Lunenburg Progress* tells a story of drops of beer rotting the wood of a bar if not immediately wiped off, and caps it with another, to the effect that the bar-tender placed a piece of raw meat on the counter, and dropped on it a little imported ginger ale, when, in five minutes the meat parted into little pieces, as though hacked by a dull knife!

The *Chronicle* sets down the attachment of Canadians to their own country and the British connection as arising from "the blind prejudice of sentimentality" generally, and the desire of Conservative politicians for titles. The "sentimentality" is not a sentiment to be at all ashamed of, and the "title" imputation is absurd. How many are likely to get what is called "title?"

It is much to be deplored that the Government's desire for economy should have taken the very objectionable shape of withholding the usual grant of \$10,000 in aid of the Dominion Exhibition. This ill-judged and mis-timed piece of parsimony is particularly aggravating when Nova Scotia was looking to its being held in Halifax this year with a sanguine and reasonable expectation.

A farewell service for the Rev. John Wier, held on Monday evening last in Robie Street Church, was largely attended. Addresses were given by the Methodist ministers of the city, who referred to the esteem in which the reverend gentleman was held by them. Mr. and Mrs. Wier left Halifax on Wednesday for Tokio, Japan. They go by the C. P. R. to British Columbia, and from thence in one of the company's steamers.

Albert Webber, a roundsman employed by the Chandler Electric Company, was instantaneously killed by the electric current on Sunday night, while attempting to remedy a defect in the light, at the corner of Agnola and May streets. The palms of his hands, which had been held to the supports by the current, were charred to the bone. It appears that in damp weather the current escapes into the iron supports, which should therefore never be grasped with both hands. Another fatal accident, at precisely the same post, and under identical circumstances, resulted in the instantaneous death by the electric current, of Geo. Crocker, on Tuesday Evening. The unfortunate deceased had succeeded Webber, who was killed on Sunday night, in his duties as patrolman.

A failure, which, if the circumstances are as reported, is anything but creditable, occurred in this city last week. It was that of a book and stationery concern, which has been in business for only a comparatively short time. The liabilities are stated at from \$22,000 to \$25,000, of which \$18,000 is for borrowed money in hard cash. The stock in hand is said not to be worth more than half the difference between the amount of the borrowed cash and the total liabilities. Every one, of course, wonders what became of the money that was obtained, since it evidently did not go into the business. Some sympathy is expressed for the junior partner, who seems to have been an unassuming and hard-working man, and many are disposed to throw the major part—if not the whole—of the blame on the senior partner, who has made himself very prominent in "good works."

Lt.-Col. Jackson, D. A. G. of 'No. 1 Mil. District, (London,) retires with a gratuity of two years' pay, and is succeeded by Lt.-Col. H. Smith, Commandant of the London Infantry School. By his retirement Lt.-Col. Taylor, late D. A. G. at Halifax, becomes the second Lt.-Col. on the active list, Lt.-Col. D'Arcy Boulton, of the 3rd Cavalry, being the Senior. Two Nova Scotian officers, Lt.-Colonels Starratt, 69th Batt., and Chipman, 68th Batt., stand third and fourth. Lt.-Col. Harwood, D. A. G., of No. 6 Mil. District, retires with a gratuity of two years' pay, and is succeeded by Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, D. A. G. of No. 4 District, the charge of which is assumed by the Head Quarters Staff at Ottawa, Both Lt.-Col. Jackson and Lt.-Col. Harwood are officers of long service, and a gratuity of two years' pay is but a poor retiring allowance to men over 63 years of age, the period of compulsory retirement. They may have means or they may not, but "it is not creditable to the country," as the *Militia Gazette* justly observes, "that the possibility of being reduced to want in their old age should stare in the face any public servant."

The fourth and last subscription concert of the Orpheus Club, with the Ladies Auxilliary, was given on Tuesday last at Orpheus Hall to a very large, though not a very appreciative audience. The first part of the programme, which consisted of Gounod's "Gallia," a charming sacred musical composition, was rendered by the club in excellent style, the closing chorus winning well-merited applause. Miss Schaefer sang the solos with great precision, and in her last solo, "Jerusalem, O turn thee to the Lord thy God," displayed great taste and power. Miss Schaefer's voice has much greater breadth, and is more flexible than it was a year since, but there is still a marked rigidity in the manner in which she delivers her tones, which practice alone can overcome. We should like to have heard this young lady sing in something which afforded a better opportunity for a display of feeling than does Gounod's "Gallia," but this no doubt we will have in some concert yet to be given. Cowen's "Sleeping Beauty," which formed the second part of the programme, is in many ways a remarkable composition, but when rendered simply as a musical work, without regard to dramatic effects, and with a pianoforte as a substitute for an orchestra, it must be owned that it fails to win that appreciation to which, under other circumstances, it is entitled. Mr. Payne did splendid work as accompanist, in the interludes, when performed upon a piano, are decidedly tedious. The soloists were Miss O'Dell, Mrs. Taylor, Dr. Slayter, and Prof. Currie, and although they received no encores, it may be said that each and all sang admirably. Miss O'Dell, in her solo, "A Cloud," and Mrs. Taylor in "The Spinning Wheel," displayed those qualities of voice which have made these ladies so popular with the music-loving public of Halifax. The chorus work in the fourth scene was excellent. Mr. Porter deserves the thanks of Halifaxians for having given them an opportunity to hear this composition, and although it is as a rule considered as beyond the capabilities of many vocal clubs, it must be confessed that the Orpheus Club came through the ordeal with flying colors, notwithstanding the drawbacks under which the composition was rendered.

The Centennial of the Presbyterian church in the United States takes place next month in Philadelphia.

The President has appointed Melville B. Fuller, of Chicago, to be Chief Justice of the United States. The nomination seems to give general satisfaction.

The *Boston Post* speaks very sensibly and reasonably on the Fisheries Treaty, and deprecates the unreasonableness and designing factiousness of Senator Frye, and the ring of Gloucester fishing capitalists.

At a school exhibition in Ohio last week, the floor gave way and precipitated a full audience of about 400 people about 20 feet. About 50 persons, chiefly women and children, were seriously injured, and several killed.

The circular of J. H. Bates' advertising agency, (38 Park Row, corner of Beekman St., N. Y.) indicates great facilities for advertising, and it is evidently well worth the while of advertisers, particularly on a large scale, to bear Mr. Bates' address in mind.

The *New York Sun*, which is nothing if not desperately American, waxes frantic about Canada having to "come into the Union, or starve out in the cold," and is ridiculed by the *Chicago Canadian-American*, which concludes an article thus:—"Canada is warm, and contains a warm-hearted people, who have a warm admiration for their relatives in the United States, notwithstanding the ravings of such cranks at the *New York Sun*."

Mr. H. H. Warner, (of "Safe Cure" notoriety) is a remarkable instance of American energy and enterprise. He had amassed a fortune previous to his engaging in the manufacture of his patent medicines, which have made him much wealthier. He is an energetic and public-spirited citizen of Rochester, and takes so strong an interest in science that he has erected an observatory, one of the telescopes of which cost \$13,000, and in connection with which he awards munificent prizes.