

## 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 twelve. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send *THE CRITIC* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with forty five of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

The New Brunswick Legislature prorogued on Tuesday.

Attorney-General Davies is forming a new government in B. C. He succeeds the late Premier Smythe.

A terrible wreck is reported off Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland, of the sealing steamer *Eagle*, in which 250 lives were lost.

The Dominion fishing cruisers are again on duty along our coasts, and Yankee fishermen on the lookout for bait had better keep to windward of them.

Stove plate moulders would do well to consult the advertisement of H. R. Ives & Co., on page 5. The firm is one of the most extensive in their line in the Dominion of Canada.

A Bowmanville, Ont., merchant recently received an envelope containing \$1.50 and the following letter: "I owe this much to you. Better for me to pay it in this world than in the next."

At the annual meeting of the Quebec Board of Trade a petition to the Federal government asking aid to the Quebec bridge was adopted, and it was decided to ask the Halifax and St. John Boards of Trade to adopt the same motion.

It is proposed to lay an iron sub-way beneath the waters of Hillsborough River, at Charlottetown, P. E. Island. It will be large enough for a carriage drive, a passenger walk, and a railway track. Its cost will be about \$250,000.

The officers of the garrison intend giving a Military Concert in Orpheus Hall on Wednesday evening next. The old reliable farce, "Box and Cox," will be presented by Capts. Rawson, Russell and Addison. See advertisement on next page.

All the French-Canadian St. Jean Baptist societies are to gather in Montreal in June, and hold high carnival. A similar gathering several years since attracted to the City of Quebec upwards of 30,000 visitors. Montreal will probably double these figures.

A gold piece, bearing the imprint "George III., 1869," and in weight about equal to a half sovereign, was unearthed the other day on Aug. Fenerty's farm at Upper Sackville, eight miles beyond Bedford. It is now in possession of Mr. J. L. Archibald, of Dufferin terrace, Cobourg road.

The Eagle Foundry, George Bush, proprietor, is one of the oldest in Montreal, and has already acquired an established reputation in the Maritime Provinces. Mill and mine owners would do well to remember it in asking for tenders on machinery, &c., &c. See advertisement on page 5. Sole makers of Blake's "Challenge Stone Breaker."

Owing to the breaking of a dam at Laing's Mill, Ontario, six persons were drowned. The dam was situated a short distance up a creek which empties into the Thames River. When it broke the torrent of water poured into the millyard and carried away bodily four tenement houses, three of which were occupied at the time. Some of the inmates were fortunate enough to escape injury, but six persons, four of whom were children, perished in the waters.

Owing to the crowded state of our columns we are obliged to hold over Mr. George E. Lavers' mammoth advertisement of the North American Life Assurance Company. Mr. Lavers may regard the crowding out of an advertisement as poor policy on our part, but then he will understand that our subscribers will appreciate such an unselfish policy quite as much as those who hold policies in the company he represents appreciate the stability and real merits of that company.

At a meeting of the City Council on Tuesday last it was decided to request the Dominion Government to take over Water Street, between North Street and the grain elevator, and construct a new street further up the hill. The proposal is to extend the terminal facilities of the I.C.R., so that freight may be delivered near the elevator. Freight coming over the W. & A. R., which now is delivered at Richmond, would then be delivered one and one-half miles nearer the centre of the city.

The poor of Halifax who have been shivering for the past month over their scanty coal fires, will be rejoiced to hear that the ice blockade at Sydney Harbor is at length at an end, and that several coal-laden schooners are already on their way to this port. Halifax should never again be caught with such a short supply as that laid in last autumn. Many of our church associations which have been in the habit of supplying the needs of the poor in their congregations during the severe months, have found it impossible to purchase requisite coals at any price.

The Province now owns the former P. & C. Hospital, which building cost \$38,000, and in addition, the handsome grounds, comprising nine acres of land in which it stands. The City of Halifax built the Hospital, and donated the ground upon which it stands upwards of twenty years ago, but the arbiters have awarded both to the Province without giving the city any compensation. This, on the face of it, looks like jug-handled fair play. It may be all right, but impartial legislators should satisfy themselves that it is, before consenting to enrich the Province at the expense of the citizens of Halifax.

The Ontario legislature is to be asked to condemn Lord Salisbury's Irish Coercion bill. The legislatures of Nebraska and Illinois have already done so. This is a case of minding your neighbor's business.

We have received, as have also all Provincial exhibitors, a diploma and bronze medal from the executive committee of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition. The medal is very neatly got up—on the obverse side is stamped in relief the head of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, with the inscription, "Albert Edward Prince of Wales, Executive President;" on the reverse side, surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves, is the inscription, "Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London, 1886." The diploma and medal have been awarded to *THE CRITIC* on account of our special Exhibition number, issued last summer, copies of which were regularly entered for exhibit.

It is stated that a bill is about to be introduced in the House of Assembly favoring the issuing of licenses for the sale of ale, beer and porter in the City of Halifax. It appears that since the new Temperance Act came into force, the sale of ale has been reduced to one-tenth of what it previously was, and there has been a corresponding increase in the sale of spirituous liquors. Under the existing law the distilleries will not suffer appreciably, but the breweries will have to be closed up. Whether the Legislature, of whose members about one-third are teetotalers, will consent to change the law, is doubtful. The truth is, that the temperance sentiment is now so strong that even representatives who habitually or occasionally use liquor, fear to follow the dictates of their common-sense, being awed by the fear that if so dealt with, their action would be found a troublesome matter to explain away when the next election comes round.

Thirty Chinamen gave a concert in a Jersey City (N. J.) church the other night.

John L. Sullivan is to have a new champion belt containing 300 diamonds.

The Connecticut Supreme Court decides that land belongs to a man who gains by the change in a river's channel.

Every minor under fifteen years of age is to be pardoned out of the Tennessee penitentiary by the governor of that State.

The Ohio legislature has passed a bill abolishing all discrimination against colored people. This legalizes marriage between persons of the two races.

The British societies of Boston are to make an attempt to induce James Russell Lowell to address them on the day on which they celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee next summer.

It is estimated that Mr. Beecher during his life-time earned fully \$1,000,000, by preaching, lecturing and writing. Of this he leaves an estate said to amount to \$150,000 or \$200,000.

A gentleman of Edgartown, Mass., has a coin, found lately in the woods of that town, which is pronounced a relic of the old Norsemen, the date, 1302, being discernible by the microscope.

Rev. M. C. Julien, of New Bedford, who is mentioned as a possible successor to the late Mr. Beecher, is one of the handsomest men in New England. He is also an excellent story-teller.

Last summer Dr. Talmage took his congregation on a trip to Alexandria Bay; next summer he will marshal them on board the steamboat *Pilgrim*, and sail for Martha's Vineyard, where they will be received with a profuse display of fireworks.

Mrs. Cleveland is spending her Lenten leisure in studying French. She finds that her present position demands a knowledge of the French tongue. Her instructor says that his pupil is making rapid progress and will be able to converse fluently in French when the next social season opens.

The idea of a monument to Mr. Beecher reared by a popular subscription, apparently meets with much favor in Brooklyn. It has been suggested that \$25,000 or \$50,000 should be raised by popular subscriptions and that a statue be erected, either in front of the city hall or at Orange street and Columbia heights.

A member of the Salvation Army is to be hung in Warsaw, N. Y., for the murder of his girl's half-brother. On the trial an album was offered in evidence, filled with the pictures of young women and inscribed on the cover in his handwriting, "The Conquests of Happy Bob, of Canada, with the names and ages of my mashes while in the Salvation Army."

There is no good reason, says the *Boston Traveler*, why railroads, at least for their through express trains, should not be in possession of as perfect passenger lists as are steamship companies, and the trouble and expense would, after a little time allowed for the development of the system, be slight. Such lists might also, doubtless would, be found an excellent detective agency, and furnish marked aid in apprehending fugitives from justice.

Colonel Flad, President of the Board of Public Improvements of St. Louis, suggests a new and somewhat novel solution of the telegraph and telephone wire trouble in cities. Colonel Flad's plan calls for iron towers 100 to 150 feet in height at each second street intersection, the towers to consist of four wrought-iron columns. The base of each to be implanted at the corner of the sidewalks, these columns coming to a common centre in the middle of the street, to furnish a resting place for all telegraph, telephone and electric light wires.

Queen Victoria, who is now taking a short continental tour, has arrived at Cannes, and has been enthusiastically welcomed by the inhabitants.