

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The only correct answer to double acrostic published last week, was received from Wm. Macdonald, 9 Broadon Row, City.

The writer of the Christmas story over the *nom-de-plum* of Mario-Louise, will kindly notify us as to whether she desires the story sent in by her, published over her *nom de plume* or her real name. The story will appear in the regular issue of *THE CRITIC*, next week. All persons who have sent in stories competing for our Christmas prize, are requested to forward to this office their real names with the name of the story written by them, and the *nom de plume* they assumed.

The firm of MacGregor & Knight appears to be fully alive to business; they recognize that the growing literary tastes of the people must be satisfied, and they have, therefore, stocked their establishment with first class reading matter. In addition to the works of standard authors, they offer a choice selection of books of travel suitable for Christmas boxes.

Portland and St. John are two thriving cities in New Brunswick, which have long been divided by an imaginary line. Civic wedlock is now proposed.

Available building lots in the growing town of Windsor have become so scarce that it is now proposed to memorialize the Imperial government, with a view to securing the extensive fields surrounding Fort Edward. The *Windsor Courier* leads off in this agitation for more room.

Bauld & Gibson have just received a car load of California raisins of a superior quality, just the right thing for family use. Their Christmas stock includes figs, currants, nuts, almonds, peels, jams, and confectionery, all of which are for sale at the lowest market rates.

The early demise of the young King of Spain has again aroused the hopes of the strong Republican element in that kingdom. As however, the army has declared in favor of Alfonso's youthful heir, no serious disturbances are anticipated.

The enterprising firm of Clayton & Sons, as will be seen by advertisement in our Christmas number, is reaping the benefit of confederation and the national policy. We all go in for protection, especially in winter weather; and this firm is prepared to furnish protection in the way of clothing to all that are in need of it. Customers are guaranteed satisfaction.

The sudden illness of Don Carlos has dampened the ardor of the Republican agitators in Spain.

The well-known establishment of Brown & Webb is fully stocked to meet the Christmas trade. The firm offers at the lowest holiday rates a large variety of fruits, peels, spices, essences, syrups, etc., besides a large stock of perfumery and fancy goods.

King Thebaw who is to be sent into exile at Arcot, near Madras, will probably find in his banishment that freedom from anxiety, which he sought in vain in his own country. His allowance of gin, his favourite alcoholic beverage, will probably be somewhat curtailed, to which the despot may object, but in all other respects he will fare as well, if not better, than he did when seated upon his inlaid throne at Mandalay.

Dealers in flour will do well to note in our Christmas number the advertisement of H. F. Worrall (Power's wharf). The best Canadian and American brands are now in stock, and can be supplied at short notice. Prime P. E. I. pork, tea, tobacco, soaps, sugar, molasses are also offered to the wholesale trade.

The annexation to the British empire of a few thousand square miles of territory, more or less, is now considered of such small moment that even the French failed to utter more than a feeble protest. Burmah would have made a fine French province, had it not been that perfidious Albion wanted it.

The press had prepared us to expect a serious riot upon the burial of Louis Riel, but the body of the misguided rebel was laid quietly at rest beneath the Cathedral of St. Boniface, without any manifestations of undue excitement worthy the name.

With the cold weather comes the demand for furs which Thomas & Co. are always prepared to supply. Bargains during the holiday season are offered to purchasers.

The British elections have left matters in the mother country in a critical state. The Grand Old Man finds himself at the head of a party without a working majority, and with internal evidences of weakness. Lord Salisbury cannot count with certainty upon the Parnellite support, without which he fears it will be impossible to carry on the government. Parnell who holds the trump card, awaits developments.

THE CRITIC will be found on file at the Hotel Lorne, Yarmouth. This hotel is run in first class style, and its genial proprietor, F. C. Ryerson, never fails to provide for the comfort of his guests.

The reports of the managers and superintendent of the Halifax school for the blind, show that institution to be in a satisfactory condition. By dint of economy the school comes out at the close of its year free from debt, but the wrinkled purse which the managers display, gives no promise of further and much needed improvements. Probably the Provincial Legislature will not be averse to increasing the grant per pupil.

The British force in Egypt and the Soudan, now numbers upwards of 14,000 men, but the force under the now Mahdi, Caliph Abdulla, has increased so rapidly, that the British government have determined upon the immediate dispatch of reinforcements.

The establishment of Wm. Bannister, Granville street, has been haunted of late by the forerunners of Santa Claus who have been purchasing watches, napkin rings, small plush clocks, and a variety of other articles to fill the stockings of our young folks. Housekeepers have also found out that the silver and plate tableware are sold at most reasonable prices.

The servant girl question may be of absorbing interest, but the housekeeper's question should be given a fair show. No one denies that servant girls should be well treated and well paid; but many persons affirm that housekeepers who thus treat their help, are frequently subjected to intolerable annoyances. When Betty undertakes to be mistress it is time for the mistress to draw her pay.

Mr. J. E. Wilson is prepared to supply at low rates, marble mantles, register grates, heating and cooking stoves, ranges, etc. Housekeepers should note this fact.

No parlor or drawing room is now complete without its piano or organ. And while the paterfamilias is aware of this fact, he may find it difficult to decide upon the make of the instrument he wishes to purchase. Let him read the advertisement of W. H. Johnson, upon outside page of Christmas number, in which first class instruments are guaranteed to be sold at a discount upon regular prices.

Advices from Mandalay state that the sacred white elephant is dead. The customary ceremony of keeping the body lying in state for three days, was prevented by the British officials for sanitary reasons. The funeral was attended by an enormous crowd.

Rev. A. J. Townend has been assigned garrison chaplain duty in Dublin.

Major General Laurie has gone to the seat of war on the frontiers of Servia and Bulgaria, as commissioner from the National society for furnishing aid to the wounded.

The new militia D. A. G. for this district, Lt.-Col. Wolsley, was a captain in the 60th Rifles.

The proprietor of the Albion Hotel after adding to his establishment one of the large flats in Harrington's building has lately added another suit of rooms on the second flat of the above building, together with a large and convenient office adjoining. The rooms lately added have been engaged for the season by members of the legislature. These rooms overlook Hollis and Sackville streets, and have been fitted up in first class style.

The Dickens carnival which is to be held in Sarre's rink on the 11th of January, is under the management of the Ladies' Royal Auxiliary S. P. C. Three hundred persons representing some of the famous characters in works of Dickens, are to appear upon the ice. Mr. Squeers, Dora, Sloppy, Little Nell, Bill Sykes and Bella Wilfer, will thus have an opportunity for mutual introductions. The idea is a grand one, and should be carried out with zest.

Forty-two Nova Scotian and New Brunswick boys left on Monday last to join the new corps of the Northwest Mounted Police. They carry with them the best wishes of their many friends.

The establishment of Moir, Son & Co., in which over one hundred hands are employed, presents a scene of bustle and activity, which in these dull times appears quite refreshing. The wholesale and retail confectionery departments are kept busy in filling town and country orders, while the hands in the bread and biscuit bakeries find no lack of work. The establishment throughout, presents a bright and attractive appearance, quite in keeping with the merry Christmas time. The display of candy toys and figures, which are manufactured in the establishment, is unusually good, and find a ready sale.

The Mayor's address to the members of the city council, a copy of which we have before us, appears to be elaborate and exhaustive. By it we learn that the gross assessment in 1885-86, amounted to \$268,919. That the valuation of real and personal property is \$21,211,000, and that the public debt stands at \$1,680,919.93.

The thanks of our tax paying citizens are due to those members of the city council who endeavour, in every reasonable and proper way to lessen the present burden of taxation in Halifax.

The government of the United States has lost \$45,000,000 in its endeavour to force upon the country silver circulation.

A Port Hood correspondent, writes: "The man whom the Salvation Army carried away, has returned, and says that he feels the better for his experience. He is as zealous as ever in his endeavours to proselytize denominations other than his own."

A youth, just starting in his trade,
Unto an ancient merchant said—
"Pray tell me, Sir, what you confess
To be the secret of success?"

The nabob's eyes full knowing shone,
And he replied in shrewd tone,
"There is a secret, as you think,
And it is found in *prayer's* ink."