

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 three. 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.

A naval school for Canada is suggested.

A public meeting has been held in Kingston in favor of a dry dock for that city.

80 cabin, 85 intermediate, and 562 steerage passengers, arrived at Quebec in the *Parisian*, on the 12th.

The Galt felt works were destroyed by fire last Saturday. The loss is very heavy.

The crop prospects of the whole Northwest are reported to be brighter than for many years past.

The Cunard steamer *Umbria*, aided by smooth weather, has reduced the record to six days three hours.

The Allan Line are taking all their freight to Montreal, owing to the obstinacy of the Quebec ship laborers.

Time, the great ultimate redressor of wrongs, would seem to be vindicating the reputation of Mr. MacKenzie, as against the ambition of Mr. Blake.

It would seem a fortuitous coincidence that the first through train on the C. P. R. to Vancouver reached that point on the Queen's birthday, the 24th May.

Lieut. Dundas, of H. M. S. *Emerald*, rescued a man from drowning the other day at St. John's, Nfld., jumping in and keeping the man afloat till assistance came.

The very popular comic opera "Pinafore" was very creditably produced at the Academy last evening by the Operatic Company of H. M. S. Bellerophon, and will be repeated to-night.

The will of the late Bishop Binney has been probated. He leaves \$8,000 to his successor in office in trust for certain church purposes, and bequests to his servants. The balance of his estate is divided among his family.

The steamer *Acacia*, from Newport to New Orleans, loaded with railway iron, went ashore at Schooner Pond, C. U., on the 9th instant. Efforts were made to pull her off the rocks, but without success, and it is probable that she will be condemned.

Considerable interest was manifested in the trial at Truro of Mr. Bigney, editor of the *Week's Doings*, charged with publishing a libel against S. D. McLellan, the Liberal candidate for Colchester at the general election. The jury were unable to agree upon a verdict.

The Minister of Justice rightly thinks that no more unfortunate way of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee could be found than a general goal delivery, which would let loose indiscriminately on the orderly part of the community the ruffianism now confined in the penitentiaries.

Hanlan is reported to drink too much ale and sherry to satisfy his backers in the matter of training. His record has been a splendid one, but it is rare for any athlete to continue up to his highest powers for many years, and it would seem that Hanlan's supremacy is past.

Mr. Curry, of Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, was in the city last Monday. The firm have obtained the contract for the reconstruction of and erection of the additions to the building on Pleasant Street, purchased for the Presbyterian Ladies' College—their tender (\$15,600) being the lowest.

The first competition for the representation of Nova Scotia in the inter-provincial rifle match, took place at Bedford range on Wednesday. The ranges were 200, 500 and 600 yards with Martini-Henri rifles. There were twenty-three competitors, Capt. Bishop and Lieut. Fiske leading with a score of 90 each.

Uneasiness among the Half-Breeds and Indians in the North-West is again somewhat circumstantially hinted at. It would, however, perhaps, be scarcely their policy to rise at this time of year. They are said to have so profited by the insurrection of 1885 that they feel inclined to try for "better terms" by another.

A correspondent of the *Montreal Daily Witness* gratifies himself by calling Toronto the "county-town of the county of York," and expatiates in the matter of Mr. O'Brien, on the widespread reputation for provincialism that attaches to them (the local-minded denizens thereof) and is so marked a contrast to the cosmopolitanism that is said to be a characteristic of Montrealers!

The cricket match last Saturday between the Wanderers and the officers of the York and Lancaster regiment, resulted in the defeat of the former by five runs. On Monday the Wanderers played the St. John team. Very few runs were made by either side. At the close of the game it was found that the visitors were victorious, they having scored 91 runs as against 86 for the home team.

We have received the Jubilee number of the *Montreal Weekly Witness*. It is a most creditable issue, well printed on good paper. It is a portrait gallery in itself, being illustrated with likenesses of the whole of the Royal family, and of every prominent Canadian Statesman and Governor, from Papineau and MacKenzie to Lord Lansdowne, and is quite an epitome of modern Canadian History.

The closing exercises in connection with the School for the Blind took place last Friday evening. After a programme of instrumental and vocal music was successfully carried out, prizes for proficiency and diligence were distributed to the pupils. His Grace the Archbishop and His Honor the Governor expressed the delight of the audience at the progress made by those in attendance at the Institution.

Last Sunday evening, as a lady and gentleman were driving down Sackville St., the horse through some reason became unmanageable, which resulted in the occupants of the carriage being thrown out at Hollis St. The gentleman received very slight injuries, but the young lady in falling struck her head on an iron rail, and received such injuries that she has since been unconscious, and little hope is entertained of her recovery.

We are indebted to Mr. J. E. Wilson, of Halifax, for the account we publish this week of the loss of the *Barque J. W. Ellwell* by fire in the Pacific ocean. The narrative is rendered interesting by the sufferings of the crew for seventy-two days in an open boat and the extraordinary endurance of three of the survivors, one a woman. It is a record of exposure and privation pushed to the verge of human powers of endurance.

Some fine hauls of mackerel were made last week on the eastern coast of the province. A large number of American fishing vessels were reported along the shore, and the cruisers were kept busy in their efforts to protect the fisheries. A despatch from Washington states that Rear Admiral Lowe, of the North Atlantic squadron, has received instructions to cruise in Canadian waters and to look after the interest of American fishermen.

The Church of England choirs' festival, which took place in St. Luke's Cathedral on Tuesday evening, was a most pronounced success. In the procession there were about one hundred clad in the white surplice, and among the number were many of the clergymen of the city. The singing of the choirs, under the leadership of Mr. R. King Pooley, left little room for criticism. Miss Pickford's solo, "O rest in the Lord," from "Elijah," was especially deserving of all praise.

The Chief Justice is evidently a terror to evil-doers. Stanley Steele, who, it will be remembered, sought some time ago to take the life of Mr. Robert Currie, of the Agency of the Merchant's Bank at Antigonish, with the intention of robbing the bank, has just been sentenced by the learned judge to imprisonment for life. In the case of the Queen against William McDonald, convicted of rape, the prisoner has had passed upon him the sentence of 24 years' imprisonment.

The lovers and admirers of base-ball will note with gratification the liberal offer of the gentlemen connected with the *Evening Mail*, of a prize to be known as the "Evening Mail Trophy," which, being desirous of stimulating interest in the matches between the "Atlanta" and "Social" Clubs, they have caused to be provided for competition. The trophy is in the form of a cup, which has been ordered from a leading jewellery house, and which will be placed on view when manufactured.

The match between the York and Lancaster and the St. John cricketers, which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, was looked forward to with considerable interest. In the first innings the visitors scored 87, and the garrison 38. In their second innings the St. John men made but 22 runs, and it was hoped that the officers would still be enabled to gain the day, which, however, they were not able to do, being put out for 57 runs—thus leaving the visitors the victors by 14. We congratulate them on their success.

The sales of the Amherst boot and shoe company last year aggregated \$290,611.00, being an increase of nearly \$60,000 on preceding year. The amount paid out in wages and salaries was \$45,680. A dividend of seven per cent. was declared payable immediately, and a fair sum was placed to rest account. The company employ 140 hands. This is certainly a fine showing, and is largely due to the superior quality of goods that the factory turns out. We call attention to the advertisement of the company on page 12 of this issue.

We have received from Messrs. McGregor & Knight two volumes of the *Canterbury poets*. The volumes sent us contain selections of the poems of Sydney Dobell and Allan Ramsay, with introductory biographical sketches. The price, 30 cents, is extremely low, and seems to imply that, at least in bound books, England is surpassing the United States in cheapness of issue. The printing (on tinted paper, red-eged, and with red marginal lines) is excellent, and the binding of singularly good taste. They are most graceful little volumes, of very convenient size, and of sterling selection.

The telegraph has already conveyed the rather startling information that a German Syndicate had made proposals to the Dominion Government to purchase the Intercolonial and erect large smelting works at or near Pictou. As the Intercolonial has already cost \$44,000,000, and has never more than paid running expenses, the despatch was considered by some as a stupid hoax. The offer is, however, a *bona fide* one, the German capitalists seeing that mismanagement and the hostility of the Grand Trunk, were the cause of the road failing to pay. Mr. Kamper, who is from Hamburg, Germany, is conducting the negotiations for the Syndicate at Ottawa, and Hon. Mr. Chapleau confirms the report of the offer, which has not as yet been considered by the government. Mr. Kamper has been interviewed by a reporter of the *Ottawa Journal* and says in substance that in addition to purchasing the Intercolonial and the extension in Cape Breton, the Syndicate intend to build the bridge across the St. Lawrence at Quebec and purchase the North Shore line from the Canada Pacific, thus securing through connection with Montreal. They have no doubt of their ability to make money, if they can secure the roads, and their offer, whether accepted or not, is an emphatic endorsement of THE CRITIC's contention that a bridge at Quebec is a public necessity.