

# THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal

DEVOTED TO

Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining and General News.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.  
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., AUGUST 12, 1892.

{VOL. 9  
No 33

## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES .....	3, 4
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles .....	5
News of the Week .....	6, 7
Poetry—The Old Homestead .....	8
Being his Mother .....	8
Book Gossip .....	8, 9
Industrial Notes .....	9
Commercial.....	10, 11
Market Quotations .....	11
Serial—My Friend's Story .....	12, 13
Mining.....	14, 15, 16
Draughts—Checkers.....	17
Chess .....	17
City Chimes.....	18

## 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 5 cents  
SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The women of Sweden rejoice in a flourishing Matrimonial Insurance Company. The object of the company is not to insure married women, but to insure spinsters against the failure to marry. All of the members are young and eligible women, who pay a small monthly tax. The company looks up husbands of all varieties, and if, at the age of forty years, their clients are still unmarried, a weekly allowance is guaranteed.

Many experiments have been tried on logs in order to preserve them from the effect of water. A new method has been introduced in Austria which promises to become widely used. As soon as the tree is felled a solution of zinc chloride is driven throughout the timber by means of a force pump. When a sufficient force has been obtained a sap of zinc chloride will be seen issuing from the furthest end of the tree. The wood thus impregnated is said to be impervious to any form of moisture.

The city of Boston, that hub of the Universe, where the most refined essence of Freedom is in vogue, has a new law upon its statute books. The city Board of Aldermen are thin-skinned, the dignity of their august body has been assailed by the press, the street gamin, and, worst of all, by the actors of the theatres. This last straw was too much for the majestic corporation—henceforth it is decreed that any theatre manager who permits any jocular reference to an alderman shall straight-way lose his license. Is this democratic tyranny?

The Canadian Government, after receiving reports from experts, has wisely decided to protect the oyster fisheries of the Maritime Provinces. It appears that some of the methods practised by our fishermen are expensive and destructive. The bivalves of all sizes are raked up, the unmarketable ones being destroyed instead of being returned to the water. The experts found that in a raking of two hundred oysters there were only fifty suitable for commercial purposes—therefore they conclude that three oysters are destroyed for every oyster marketed. They also report that winter fishing is abused, that the refuse oysters are left on the ice until spring when they crash down upon the beds and destroy the young shells. It would certainly be a calamity if our once excellent oyster beds should be allowed to deteriorate, or that the supply should be diminished. The newly patented oyster-cage, which we have already noted in our columns, seems to us one of the most economical and safe devices ever brought before oyster-culturists.

Statistics have recently been taken on the very interesting subject of

the sexes in relation to crime. In the prisons of the United States for instance, there are confined for the cause of some degree of criminal homicide, 17 male offenders to every female offender. For minor crimes there is a showing of 11 males to every female offender. Even in Europe, where women receive far less kindness, and where that powerful incentive to crime, poverty, is more prevalent, the male offenders are largely in the majority. In France and England the criminal rates are 5 males to every female, Germany is within a fraction of the same, and Austria shows 14.8 females to every 100 males. It would seem from a study of these statistics that the superior moral power of women was vindicated, but political philosophers very ungallantly ascribe this comparative immunity of females to crime, to their feeble physical powers, and their sense of social restraint. While we do not doubt that these sexual restrictions encourage morality, we are confident the sentimental philosophers are not far astray when they affirm that the moral standard of women is loftier than that of men.

Although trouble is threatening in Afghanistan which possibly may result in war, there is still a greater probability that the affair will be diplomatically arranged. Afghanistan is what is known as a "buffer state." It is under the protection of the Indian Government, from which it receives money, arms and ammunition so long as it is loyal to British interests. Russia, though bound to respect the British Protectorate, has on several occasions encroached upon Afghan territory. Recently a large body of Turks, commanded by Russian officers, took up a strong position in the Pamir. The Ameer of Afghanistan has resented this invasion, and one indecisive contest has already taken place. Great Britain is pledged to defend the State, but as the tribesmen resent even a friendly invasion of their territories, and as Great Britain is unwilling to be drawn into an enormously expensive campaign, no action has been taken. If Russia's policy is to provoke a contest the Mahomedans of India and Central Asia will speedily unite with the British forces for the protection of the whole continent. The most serious difficulty with which Britain has now to deal is the failing health of the Ameer. In the event of his death a successor to his position must be found who will be friendly to the Protectorate, popular with the people and impervious to Russian bribes.

The Carnegie Riot has been beneficial to the United States in some very unexpected ways. Some interesting side issues have sprung up, among others a very vigorous protest against Foreign Immigration. It now transpires that nine tenths of the mob of strikers were foreigners, that is, that the so called "murderous element" was non-American. So long as the present immigration laws are in force, just so long will the American laborer be displaced by the foreigner who can work for less wages. At the Carnegie works it was necessary to employ interpreters to accompany the inspectors, so great was the foreign element. Many of these immigrants were lawless in their native country—their departure was encouraged and aided—in short, a good proportion of the refuse of Europe has been dumped on the American shore. There is a great field for these immigrants in the far west, but few of them leave the seaboard cities, where they are but at best a drag upon the public. The poor houses are sought by thousands of these creatures, as if to receive charity in the United States had been the object of their journey. What is needed is not the stoppage of immigration, but some legislation by which the immigrants may be removed to the districts where their labor is needed, and where they will not enter into an unjust competition with the American laborer of the seaboard.

The method used in modern Greek elections is both simple and thorough. The rival candidates are each backed by ten "sponsors," who help to put up the sum of 200 francs for each man, towards defraying the expenses of the election. Each candidate must call personally on every member of his party and on all voters who are not identified with any party. The American methods of "booming" candidates by processions, exhibitions of portraits and the wearing of emblems are resorted to. The balloting itself is secret, and a church or a school-house is usually chosen as the polling place. The voters enter singly, their right to exercise the franchise is ascertained, and a small lead ball handed to each. The ballot box which in appearance is not unlike a magic lantern is divided into two parts. If the ball is dropped into the right hand division a vote is counted for the candidate whose name is written on the outside of the box. If the ballot is put in the left division a vote is counted against the candidate. The elector is then given another ball which he deposits as he chooses in the box bearing the name of the rival candidate. In case there are several candidates the same simple method is followed, each elector voting for or against every candidate. When the polls are closed the balls are run through apertures in the bottom of each section into grooved boards. One board contains the votes cast for the candidate while the other registers the votes against him.