

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

1 50 PER ANNUM. }
SINGLE COPY 3 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., MAY 21, 1886.

{ VOL. 3.
{ No. 21.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Land Question	2
Mad Dogs	2
A Wonderful Wheat Country.....	2
Repeal, or Maritime Union	2
Strikes	2
Notes	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—The Colonial Exhibition	6
The Hospital Investigation	6
..... Heber	6
..... Justice	6
..... Chas. D. High	6
A Humorous M. P. P., and Other Things	6
Events and Comments	6
A False Friend.....	6
..... F. Blake Crofton	6, 7
..... "Veteran"	6, 7
..... "Silex"	6, 7
..... G. R. Gibson	8
..... "Cumberland"	8
..... B. I.	8
..... Theo. Spendall	14
..... "Cumberland"	8
..... B. I.	8
..... Theo. Spendall	14
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Tit-Bits	3
News of the Week.....	4
Religious	5
Market Quotations	5
Our Fisheries	5
The Colonial and Indian Exhibition	7
A Thing that Needs to be Said	7
Political Review of the Past Week	8
Serial.....	10, 11
The Maritime Patron.....	12
Cosy Corner.....	9
Arbor Day Observance.....	9
Mining	13

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 3 cents.

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to C. F. FRASER, 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 his journal. Our readers are capable of forming or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper, and after making due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

An eminent Presbyterian divine, well known throughout Nova Scotia, writes: "I consider THE CRITIC an excellent paper, and I very sincerely commend it as one of the best papers we have." Recognition from such a source is encouraging.

It is said that in the new Anglo-Spanish Treaty our fishery interests have received due consideration. Should this prove correct there is a bright outlook for our fishery. With the Spanish markets open to our merchants, a brisk fish trade would soon be established.

Newfoundland is the only British American Province remaining outside the Dominion, and likewise the only colony in the British Empire not represented in the great Indian and Colonial Exhibition, now being held in London. Such isolation is inexplicable.

The Kentucky State officers are plucky. Not long since a prize fight was going on in a suburban village. The relentless dogs of the law surrounded it, arrested the entire audience and laid an injunction on the way that had carried persons to witness the encounter.

The seizure of the *David J Adams* has been somewhat of a surprise to our minded Americans. They had been led to believe from the perusal of United States journals that Canada had no right to prohibit the sale of fish and ice to American fishermen, and in fact to believe that the Dominion Government had no right to do anything that would be distasteful to Americans. Now they wake up to find out that Canada is in earnest in the matter, and that Senator Frye and his friends are mere demagogues. We tried to arbitrate with Uncle Sam with respect to our fisheries, but having failed this, he must be prepared to abide by the consequences.

Gladstone's Irish home rule measure has evidently failed to satisfy the British public, but the principle of self-government which it embodies has been accepted by the great majority of the electors as sound. An Irish Parliament may not at present be feasible, but the day of castle rule is doomed.

It is current—but we do not vouch for the rumor—that Messrs. Gayton, Corning, and Dr. McLennan, of the House of Assembly, are not likely to be opposed if they seek re-election in their respective counties. Viewed from an independent standpoint, they are all good men whom we should like to see again in the House.

We were under the impression that most persons were capable of distinguishing an earthquake shock, but it appears that many slight vibrations of the earth's crust entirely escape our notice. A delicate instrument similar to a pulseometer has been invented at Lick, which perfectly indicates the slightest shocks of earthquakes.

Interesting experiments have been made by E. Nichol on the quantity of coloring matter which must be mixed with a perfectly white powder (carbonate of magnesia) before the human eye can detect it. From these experiments it appears that red and yellow are most easily detected, 16 and 17 parts respectively being sufficient for detection when mixed with one hundred million parts of white powder.

The celebration of Arbor Day was this year surrounded by many attractive circumstances. The gloomy weather seems to have brightened up for the occasion. In the forenoon the large assembly room of the Academy was filled with people, who listened for two hours and a-half to addresses and music. The latter, which was the most pleasing feature of the proceedings, could not but suggest a desire to see music regularly taught in our schools. Many of the schools already have teachers who are able to give a good training in vocal music; and the city has several professional instructors in this subject whose services might be obtained. We doubt whether the expenditure necessary for this would not be the best possible investment of the public money.

The timber supply of the future must inevitably fall short of the demand, if timber continues to be used as at present. The forests, worthy of the name, are fast disappearing, and are being supplanted by a second growth of birch, ash, poplar, etc. People are already looking around for something to take the place of wood, and fibre pulp is pointed to with some degree of confidence. It is claimed that, by submitting wood and other pulp to hydraulic pressure, a substance can be made which will be an excellent material for window-frames, doors, panelling, furniture—in fact almost anything which is now made from solid wood. The second-growth timber will make excellent pulp; and the tropical plants will yield an inexhaustible supply. It is further claimed by the paper enthusiasts that, by a mixture of wood pulp with some cheap mineral, an incombustible material can be formed, thus cutting off one source of loss in the shape of fires.

The present Colonial Exhibition promises to be at least as successful as any previously held. Canada's exhibit will certainly surpass all her former efforts in that direction. Though less striking and attractive to the merely curious visitor at the Exhibition than the Indian display, it will, to the minds of the thoughtful, appear more creditable. The difference in the character of the exhibits sent by these two leading dependencies of Great Britain is due to the fact that Canada wishes to attract the emigrants while India does not. The most characteristic feature of the Indian display is a trophy composed of a piece of jungle, filled with the beasts and serpents which destroy annually so many lives. The ingenious workmanship of the native population is also largely represented, but little or nothing to attract the emigrant. On the other hand, the Canadian section is filled with the products of the soil, the mine, the forest, the water, or the factory—things which have some bearing on the life of the inhabitants.

The Antigonish *Casket*, which is more apt to blame than to praise public men, has the following: "Hon. Mr. Thomson is adding day by day to the great reputation he achieved by the first exhaustive speech on the Riel Question. It passes without saying that on the score of parliamentary ability, he has not a superior in the Commons. Better than all, his high and irreproachable personal character very much enhances the value of his assertions, and the force of his eloquence. His speech on the Home Rule debate is thus briefly described in the *Montreal Gazette*, by the most capable newspaper correspondent in Ottawa: 'The special feature of the debate was the ringing speech of the Hon. Mr. Thompson in support of Mr. Costigan's amendment, in the course of which he riddled the arguments of Mr. Blake and exposed that newly found champion of Ireland as a blatant and hypocritical demagogue. The Minister of Justice fully sustained his reputation as a parliamentarian, proving his skill as a debater and his power of eloquence.'"