

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., APRIL 10, 1891.

{ VOL. 8
No. 15 }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
CONTRIBUTED.	
Notes and Comments from the Capital	"Dixie," 8, 9
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	5
Parliamentary Review	6
News of the Week	6, 7
Poetry—Last Verses of F. S. Saltus	8
Book Gossip	9
Industrial Notes	9
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Trial—Marjorie Durant	12, 13
Mining	14, 15
Deaths—Checkers	17
City Chimes	18
Cheese	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.

Since the paragraph on the next page, relating to the couple who committed suicide at Newport, was in print, a feeling that our sympathy has been wasted has prevailed with us. There is reason to believe that the story is merely a fabrication with not a shadow of truth in it. Nova Scotian papers do not give it currency, but New Brunswick and Upper Province papers have it among their telegrams. We regret having wasted our sympathy, but still more our space!

Public attention has been drawn off from complications on this side of the water to India and the trouble at Manipur, in the Province of Assam. The fight, of which we gave a brief notice last week, originated in a dispute between the Maharajah of Manipur and his brother, a powerful chieftain. The dispute assumed a serious aspect, and the Maharajah took refuge in the British residency, leaving the State in an extremely disordered condition. Chief Commissioner John W. Quinton, who was dispatched to try and restore order, met with resistance from the Maharajah's brother and was taken prisoner. Some natives of Manipur who arrived at Rangoon report that the Commissioner and the party of officers accompanying him were killed on the first day of fighting. Four hundred and seventy Ghoorkas are reported killed, and it is believed that a detachment of 200 soldiers of the Bengal infantry and 80 Ghoorkas, who were marching from Shillong to Manipur, to reinstate the troops there were also massacred. The population of Assam is estimated at 5,000,000, and the tribes are well armed. They will probably give the British a good deal of trouble before they are subdued. A great blunder was committed by Commissioner Quinton in proceeding with an insufficient force to treat with the enemy. The Ghoorkas under his command defended the place as long as the ammunition lasted; then they fought their way out and escaped across the hills. The Manipurs then shelled the residency. Captain Thomas Boileau, who lost his life with the six other officers, is a first cousin of Captain Boileau of the Royal Artillery, now on this station. It is pointed out that the residency was provided with Martini rifles, while Quinton's escort were armed with Snider rifles. It was on this account that the ammunition gave out, the supply of cartridges at Manipur being of no use for the Snider rifles. It is well for all concerned that England has on the spot a man of such statesmanlike ability as Lord Lansdowne, who, immediately on learning the serious state of affairs, called an emergency meeting of his council. Every effort is being made to quell the revolt, and troops have been forwarded. Lord Lansdowne assures the Government at home that he will speedily restore order in the disturbed districts.

By private letters from Chili we learn that men who indulge in revolutionary talk in Valparaiso are flogged for it. Such a degrading punishment ought to teach them to hold their tongues, even if they do not side with the Government.

American papers are engaged in making atrocious puns on Baron Fava's name. One smart journal says:—"We must now settle our difficulty with Italy without fear or Fava." The recalled Minister is expected to sail for Rome to-morrow.

The federation of the Australian Colonies, under the title Commonwealth of Australia, will probably come to pass before a great while. The constitution, when adopted, will likely be ratified by Britain, and the Marquis of Lorne is spoken of as the first Governor-General. A proposition that the Governor-General should be elected by the people by a popular vote was defeated in the federation convention at Sydney 35 to 3. The chief representative of the Queen will be appointed, as in Canada, by the Queen herself. The Australia Colonies will probably never have reason to regret joining all their interests in one. Scattered Colonies are like single sticks, easily broken, but gathered together they form a strong combination. The "Commonwealth of Australia" sounds well for the Island continent, and is probably as good a name as could be selected.

The ingenious Mr. Ignatius Donnelly umquhile amused the world with his portentous Shaksperian theories. Another crank not long since published his sincere conviction of the non-rotundity of the earth. Another entertained an unorthodox hypothesis about the moon. Yet another maintained the existence of a huge aperture at the North Pole, which might be a "facilis descensus averni" but for the difficulty of getting at the entrance. Were we to lend ear to all who exercise small brains on little specialties we might die of starvation, for there is scarcely anything on earth we should venture to eat or drink. Yet again there is the monidealist, whose sole idea of virtue is a teapot, and there has been a species whom it gratified to believe, or pretend to believe, that there could be no such human phenomenon as a centenarian. With these several and multifarious idiots' history, science, observation and experience go for naught. Of course there is abundant testimony, from Jenkins and old Parr downwards, to the attainment of a century of age, and if the anti-centennial cranks had any perceptions of analogy the development of many animals might suggest a not improbable hypothesis that the age of virility bears to the duration of life a proportion of something like one-fifth. If, therefore, twenty be taken as the period of adolescence, why should not man live to a hundred? As a matter of fact modern conditions are so perceptibly lengthening the average of human life that the scriptural superstition of three-score and ten is fast dying out. Peers, Statesmen, Generals and Admirals, afford striking and extremely numerous instances of longevity, and to-morrow the most remarkable among them completes his hundredth year.

Admiral-of-the-Fleet Sir Provo William Parry Wallis, G.C.B., was born at Halifax on the 12th April, 1791. For many years this venerable officer stood second only on the list to the late Sir George Sartorius, who was a Midshipman at Trafalgar, and died in 1885 at the age, if we remember rightly, of 94. Sir George was a Captain of 1814. Sir Provo Wallis was five years his junior, his commission as Captain (equal to Colonel in the Army) dating the 12th August, 1819—seventy-two years since! The next oldest Naval officer is (retired) Admiral Sir Wm. Fanshaw Martin, Bart., G.C.B., "Rear Admiral of the United Kingdom," an honorary distinction which will cease with Sir William's life, as did that of "Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom" with the late Sir Michael Seymour. Sir W. F. Martin is in his 90th year, and his Captain's rank dates from 1824—67 years ago! There are ten years between him and the next senior retired Admiral, the Hon. Geo. Grey. But Sir Provo Wallis enjoys—besides that of his great age—the now almost unique distinction of survival of the wars of 1814-15. The venerable George Keppel, Earl of-Albermarle, who, at the age of 15 was an Ensign at Waterloo, died last month in his 92nd year. Men got commissions early in those days. Sir Provo Wallis is, however, further distinguished by his identification in no secondary degree with the memorable frigate-action, which, after several reverses, due to inequality of force, re-established the prestige of British seamen. Captain Broke, as everyone knows, was disabled by severe wounds. The First-Lieutenant of the *Shannon* was accidentally shot, and it devolved on Wallis, who was second, to take into his native port the victorious *Shannon* and the conquered *Chesapeake*. To this day, according to old accounts, Halifax has never seen the like excitement. So far as we are aware, Sir Provo, who is specially retained at the head of the Active List, still enjoys wonderful health for his advanced age.