

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find receipt in next paper.

We have been obliged to hold over the contributions upon the "Irish Question" and "Of Interest to all." These will appear in our next issue.

Zera Semon knows well that honesty is the best policy. He gives an entertainment well worth the price of admission, with prize presents into the bargain. The most attractive features in his programme are the varied performances of the marionettes, which never fail to please both old and young. Zera Semon's prize presents are genuine and are frequently worth many times the value of the ticket.

Poundmaker, the Indian chief who played such a conspicuous part during the North-West rebellion, and who was recently released from the penitentiary, died suddenly on the reserve of Crowfoot, having ruptured a blood-vessel. Poundmaker is a dead Indian and therefore he is a good Indian.

The little youngster who a few weeks since, first opened his eyes as King of Spain, is crippled by a load of names more weighty than his crown. Here they are:—Alfonso-Leo-Fernando-James-Mary-Isidoro-Pascal.

Housekeepers are now having their attention called to a new apparatus, styled the Automatic Steam Cooker, which it is claimed, is as near perfection as it can be. The patentee, who is having his work done in Halifax, has already received several voluntary testimonials as to its merits.

Those who believe that Montreal dealers control the business of this province, should learn from such firms as Anderson, Billing & Co., that this is far from being true. The above firm, the history of which dates back to the early days of Halifax, has by prompt attention to business, by the admirable system by which it carries on its trade, and by always keeping on hand a large and well selected stock, fully prepared itself to compete with any of the large houses in the upper provinces. We have no doubt but that terms quite as liberal and convenient to the purchaser can be made with Messrs. Anderson, Billing & Co., as with any house in Canada.

"Maitland" says, "The late political contest is still the absorbing topic of conversation. The lack of rain will cause a serious reduction in our hay crop, which we cannot now hope to make up. The heavy bush fires which have of late been raging in this vicinity and which have caused much damage to property have now subsided. Mr. Cameron's big 2400 ton ship, which is now being built at Five Mile River, is nearly completed, and will be launched in about six weeks time."

The newest rose of the season is styled "Her Majesty." It has the largest bloom of any rose yet grown, and the sweetness of its perfume is in proportion.

The New York *Sun* has undertaken the task of compelling the authorities of that city to do their duty towards cigarette dealers who display indecent photographs in their windows. The result will probably be an end of the abomination.

"Milton" says, "The salmon fishing during the past month has been the best known for many years. Twenty-five beauties were caught on the 28th ult.

It has often been said that Halifax cannot compete in general manufactures with other cities of America. The statement does not hold good in the case of the Nova Scotia Brewery of this city. A. Keith & Son, have within a few weeks, received from Boston four orders for their cream pale ale and two for their porter. In one of the Boston letters a very flattering reference is made to the porter manufactured by the Nova Scotia Brewery, in which it was favorably compared to that of Guinness.

The shad, which were late in putting in an appearance this year, are now being caught in the Avon by the boat load, and shad breakfasts are the order of the day.

"Windsor" says, "The sad death of Policeman Anthony, who was thrown from a horse on Tuesday morning last, is regretted by all who knew him. Thanks to our fire department the fire which broke out at midnight on Monday, was soon got under. Mrs. Burke's millinery and dry goods were seriously damaged, but the loss is, we understand, covered by insurance. Strawberries are plentiful, one gentleman having picked from vines set out last year 136 quarts.

The American schooners seeking bait supplies along our coast are beginning to realize that the Canadian coast guard ships are not mere shams. Within the past ten days three American skippers, "who sailed out from the west," have had reason to believe that the Canadians meant business, having been obliged to surrender their smacks to the Canadian authorities.

One of the most serious results which has followed from the late troubles in Ireland is the notable fall in Irish securities. Stocks which have in previous years been quoted as being at 10 and 20 per cent. above par, now find few buyers at prices ranging from par down to 30 per cent. below.

We note with pleasure the appointment of Mr. J. A. Mackasoy to the position of Licence Inspector for the city of Halifax. Mr. Mackasoy has a reputation for thoroughness in that which he undertakes, and in his new duties this characteristic will make his services doubly valuable.

Much credit is due to Messrs. Sullivan & West, proprietors of the Halifax Printing Company, for the precision and excellence of their typographical work. The Exhibition Number of THE CRITIC, which our readers receive to-day, has been successfully stereotyped in the office of this young and enterprising firm.

The small fruit crops in the United States have been unusually large, cultivated strawberries and raspberries being marketed at figures such as should rejoice the housekeeper's heart.

In welcoming to Halifax the old and well known firm of T. E. Harriman & Co., of New York, who are about to open a branch office in this city: we feel confident that very great advantages can be derived by our citizens through the system of brokerage proposed by this company. The success which has attended the operations of this banking house in other cities of the Dominion, will doubtless induce many of our commercial and financial men to embrace the opportunity offered through this company for further extending their business relations with Canada and the United States.

From the London papers we clip the following respecting the volcanic disturbance in New Zealand:—The volcanic eruption in the Tarawera district is of so violent a nature that whole villages have been buried in ashes. The surface of the country is in a disturbed condition for miles around. Twenty six bodies have been recovered, but the total loss of life is up to the present unknown. The New Zealand government has despatched the following telegram to Sir F. D. Bell, the Agent-General in London, respecting the volcanic eruption in the Tarawera district:—"The volcanic eruption is on the east side of Tarawera Lake. Many natives have been killed by the falling matter. Wairoa is covered with 16ft. of ashes. It is feared that the Maori village on the lake is destroyed. Only one Englishman has been killed. The volcano is now subsiding."

Through freight can be sent via the I. C. and C. P. Railways direct from Halifax to Vancouver on the Pacific coast. The first through freight train on the C. P. R. was made up of 20 cars.

The descendants of William Black, the apostle of Methodism in the Maritime Provinces, now number 1500, all of whom are reported by Mr. Cyrus Black of Amherst as being in comfortable circumstances. If the increase in this family continues in the same proportion for the next 111 years as in the past 11, the Yorkshire emigrant will in 1997 have two and a quarter millions of descendants. The Smiths and Browns will have to look sharp after their laurels.

In the past ten years the population of Toronto has increased 43,000. In 1875 Toronto boasted a population of 68,000, it now being 111,000. The taxable property has increased in proportion, in 1875 it amounted to \$45,000,000, it is now estimated at \$68,000,000. Toronto has a nice little back-load in the form of a public debt of \$7,500,000, being an average of \$67 per head of the population. The average per head in Halifax is less than \$45.

Modern fashions are invading the precincts of ancient heathenism. At a recent Parsee funeral in Calcutta half of the mourners followed in carriages, which was a flagrant violation of traditional usage.

Two swallows taken from their broods in Pavia, Italy, were carried to Milan, twenty miles distant, and on being released made their way back to their nests in thirteen minutes, or at the rate of 87½ miles an hour.

At present writing the defeat of the Gladstone Ministry is almost a certainty. From the indications at hand the Gladstonians and Parnollites will number less than three hundred, the Conservatives will probably carry three hundred seats, and the balance of seats be in the hands of the Unionists. The boroughs in which the Irish vote is strong have turned against the Liberals, and Hodge is everywhere found in the counties upholding the cause of Salisbury and Harrington. The triumph of Morley at Newcastle and the defeat of Goschen, Unionist-Liberal, at Edinburgh, gave the Gladstonians temporary encouragement, but it is now feared by the supporters of the Grand Old Man that Salisbury will have a majority in the Parliament.

The King Hedley Company, now occupying the boards at the Academy, should draw large houses, as it is one of the best that has appeared in Halifax for many months. "Lynwood," a play which has had a successful run in the United States, was well brought out last evening, the actors, one and all, doing justice to their several parts. Lovers of the drama should not miss this opportunity of seeing and hearing a really good company.

The well-known Clairmont House at Bedford, and the Mansion House, Halifax, and a cottage 78 Pleasant St., are now to let. See the advertisement of F. W. Cunningham in another column.

"Baddeck" says, "Our revising barrister, S. L. Purves, passed through Baddeck a few days ago, on his way to the north, where he will hold his courts. Dr. Allison was here last week and visited the schools. Quite a number of Americans are at the Telegraph House, among them Prof. Bell of the 'Bell Telephone Company.'"

"Cape Breton" writes. "Mr. Bell, of Telephone fame, and Professor McElwane, of Philadelphia, with their families, are summering in Cape Breton. E. D. Perkins, of the *Chicago Times*, has spent two weeks here, and is now visiting Prince Edward Island. Summer travel has fairly set in. There are a few American gentlemen on the Island who have already satiated themselves with the pleasure to be had at the happy fishing grounds of Inverness and Victoria Counties. Two Quebec gentlemen are shortly to visit the copper deposits at Whycomoham to see what they will see."