

# THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.  
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER 7, 1896.

{ VOL 7  
{ No. 45

## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
Chess	4
News of the Week	4, 5
Poetry—The African Sphinx	6
A Jewish Lullaby	6
Smokeless Battles	6
Book Gossip	7
Industrial Notes	7
City Chimes	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—Incognito	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
What wo Girls Like	14
Draughts—Checkers	15

## 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.

It is no bed of roses, that of the English Conservatives, holding power through their alliance with the Liberal-Unionists. It must have afforded huge amusement to Mr. Gladstone and his followers to hear Mr. Courtney, himself a leader among the Liberal Unionists, declare the other day that the Conservatives were only kept progressing in a career of usefulness to the Empire by the incessant prodding of the Liberal-Unionist party. The Conservatives are taking Mr Courtney's remarks with a very bad grace, and it would almost seem as if the connection between these unequally-yoked allies might come, ere long, to an abrupt conclusion.

Archdeacon Farrar's difficulty with his publishers, Messrs. Cassell, is attracting much attention on both sides of the Atlantic. The Archdeacon complains, not of any breach of contract, not that they have not been just and paid all they agreed to, but they have not been generous. A great deal has been said on both sides and nearly every opinion respecting the relations between author and publisher has been ventilated. The beginning of it was when the Archdeacon, in his recent address on the ethics of commerce, made some reflections on the honesty of his publishers, and the Messrs. Cassell in consequence wrote to the *Times* disclosing the amount they had paid the Archdeacon for his well-known "Life of Christ." This was regarded as a grave breach of trust—a thing they had no right to do, and at the same time they threw no light on their own profits out of the transaction, which is what the Society of Authors and the public would like to investigate. It appears to us that if publishers pay an author the sum of money agreed upon, take the risk of publication, and fulfil all their part of the bargain, an author has no right to complain if the publishers make a good thing out of it. It sometimes happens that publishers lose heavily in bringing out a book, but in a case like that who ever heard of the author settling the bills? Even if the heart were willing the means are not usually forthcoming, and the poor author is apt to think the loss of his work quite enough without anything more. The question of meum and teum as between authors and publishers is a difficult one to settle. It certainly seems hard if a book turns out a very great success, and the publishers make five thousand instead of five hundred dollars upon it, that the author should not be able to participate in the benefit; but on the other hand it may be considered that the prestige gained thereby will tell upon the price of his future work and that he will be the gainer to that extent. Publishers as well as authors have to live, and it is hard to say whether the surplus earnings should be divided or belong strictly to the first party. In its legal aspect they certainly do, just as in the case of a loss the publishers would have to meet it.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Sir Henry Tyler, in reviewing the position of the Grand Trunk Railway at the annual meeting in London on Friday last, ridiculed the idea that the McKinley Tariff would interfere with the Company's prospects, inasmuch as Canada's surplus of eggs, barley and other natural products, which have heretofore gone to the United States, will in future be sent to England, necessitating a longer haul over the Company's line.

The Canadian *Militia Gazette* of the 30th., ult., contains the following announcement of interest to Nova Scotians:—"We are authorized to state that in the selection of a commander for next year's Bisley's team, preference will be given to a Nova Scotian, in recognition of the claim of the riflemen of that Province upon the honor. A couple of weeks ago we expressed a hope that were a candidate put forward from the Maritime Provinces, those already mentioned from Ontario and Quebec would gracefully retire in his favor, and we are glad to hear that these in authority in the Association have, by making this early announcement, taken the best step to prevent the appointment of any other than a Nova Scotian being urged."

The young women of our country who enjoy the inestimable blessing of good homes and kind friends may well feel thankful for them, for they may depend upon it there is no place in the world where they can be so happy. Visions of going to the States to find work may float through the minds of many and in some take shape, and the result is that a certain number of exodians depart from home yearly. This is all very well for young women of fine abilities who depart with a certainty of entering a good situation in what is to them a land of promise, but it is sadly different for the mediocre workers, the ones who are destined by nature to take a middle or low place in the throng of struggling bread winners. To have this borne in upon one, Mrs. Katherine Pearson Woods' article, "Queens of the Shop, the Work-room and the Tenement," in the current number of the *Cosmopolitan* magazine should be read. In this powerfully written article Mrs. Woods treats of many of the ghastly wrongs done to women workers in New York, and her statements are made from a personal knowledge of the facts. She tells us of the pitifully low wages earned by doing a day's work of from twelve to eighteen hours. One woman, of whom she speaks, said she could make six dollars a week at cloak making if she was kept busy all the time and no delays occurred, and this is by no means the minimum. The great cause of all the "sweating" system is the competition of reformatory work, which is done at so low a contract that business houses cannot compete, and consequently the workers have to suffer. Thus the reformatories undo at one end what they are trying to accomplish at the other—for what is more likely to happen, than that women who cannot make an honest living, because of reformatory competition, will turn to vice to get the means to live? "Is it possible," says Mrs. Woods, "to live pure, upright lives under such conditions? Thank God! it is possible, as is attested by the thousands who maintain their integrity in spite of all hindrance; but it is more than hard. It has been well said that while men's wages cannot fall below the starvation line women's can, since the paths of shame are always open to her. This is a terrible factor in our political economy." The difficulty of obtaining wages due from employers has been very great, but "The Working Women's Protective Union," which has been in operation for twenty-seven years, has been instrumental in breaking up many methods of defrauding employes, and can collect to the "utmost farthing" what is due. It cannot, however, interfere with the fines system, by which a woman who receives from two to eighteen dollars a week may be fined thirty cents for ten minutes tardiness. Oh, that Mrs. Woods' article could effect some change! But the rich will still look to the bargain counter and buy from stores where the treatment of employes enables the proprietors to sell their goods at heart-breaking prices. It is the business of women to rectify this, for it lies in the hands of the purchasers to buy where they see things well conducted for their sisters. A consumers' league was formed in May, 1890, in New York for this purpose, but whether it has been effective we know not. How can any Nova Scotian girl bear to leave a good home and seek her living in the States in the face of these facts. There is, however, one bright spot in Mrs. Woods' black list of employment for women, and that is literature. "To the credit of the noble profession of letters let it be spoken, it knows no distinction of sex. 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female,' when one comes within the sound of a printing press, chiefly because what is wanted is work of a certain kind and grade; and also in the lower ranks of the profession because of the intelligence and strong organization of the Typographical Union, which admits women upon exactly the same footing as men. Compositors receive on an average twelve dollars a week; their work is piec work entirely, their hours are comparatively short, and the wages in almost every instance sure."