

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 5, 1889.

{ VOL. 6
No. 14 }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Chess	5
Poetry—Canada	6
Popular Errors about Snakes	6
Manners	6, 7
Scientific Temperance	7
Industrial Notes	7, 8
City Chimes	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—Maitland's Mystery	10, 11
Parliamentary Review	12
Mining	12-14
Home and Farm	15
Draughts—Checkers	16

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 Committee of the House of Commons has approved Lord George Hamilton's scheme for the increase of the Navy by 251 to 75. No doubt the details will be fought over, but the measure may be considered safe.

We believe we are not wrong in surmising that the spirit infused into the "Haliburton" is in no small degree due to the energy of Professor Roberts. It is precisely this executive capability which lends weight and force to Mr. Roberts' literary capacity, and which will prove a serious loss to Kings, and a substantive gain to Dalhousie, should he be removed to the latter institution.

It is to be feared there will be much distress in Pennsylvania from the action of the coal owners, who, after having kept ten thousand men on starvation wages for the whole winter, have condemned them to six weeks' complete idleness. The "pauper laborer" of Europe could hardly be treated with less consideration than these highly protected miners in the land of the brave and the free.

A Montreal ruffian named Andrew Manille was recently convicted there of indecent assault upon a little girl, and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment (we presume with hard labor) and 15 lashes, to be administered at the end of the first fortnight's imprisonment. This is all right in principle, but deficient in quantity—at least as to the item of Cat. One taste of it is not sufficient. It is our opinion that for all such offences there should be at least two floggings to leave a permanent impression on the ruffianly mind, and that each should not be less than a dozen lashes.

The discussion of the question of how long it will be before the English coal fields are worked out, has recently been renewed. In 1861, Sir William Armstrong calculated that all the coal within 4000 feet of the surface would be exhausted in 212 years. A few years later Professor Jevons, an excellent authority, estimated the period at 110 years. In 1878, Professor Marshall corroborated Jevons and disagreed in every particular with Sir William. The latest contributor is Mr. Price Williams, who confirms the two last named. The importance of these predictions can scarcely be over-rated. They make us feel that it is full time for electricity and other generators of motive power to hurry up.

The last days of March are so frequently inclement that the sharp cold of last Sunday, and the succeeding snow, rain and slush of Monday and Tuesday, probably caused no one much surprise, and bad weather had better come now than later. Nor is the disagreeableness of this particular period apparently of any new fashion, for we find it recorded that on the 31st of March, 1829 (sixty years ago), a terrific snow storm prevailed throughout New England, accompanied with intense cold, while on the previous day the weather was so warm that people had sat at their open windows.

The last few weeks have been prolific of disaster to men-of-war. The fine English iron-clad *Sultan* went on a rock in Maltese waters, and afterwards drifted off and sunk to her upper works, and it is doubtful whether she can be raised. Three German and three American corvettes were driven on shore at Samoa, and two at least of each nationality are total wrecks with heavy loss of life. The loss to Germany is severe, but the U. S. vessels were old, and it is not improbable the Americans may take it philosophically as a clearance of some of their obsolete craft. The wreck of the *Sultan*, if she cannot be raised, will constitute an additional argument for Lord George Hamilton's great scheme for the augmentation of the British Navy.

We have before us the Annual Report of the Legislative Library, concerning which the Commissioners justly observe "that for purposes of reference and research it is notably inefficient, and a very large addition is needed from the works of the past, to say nothing of the provision to be made to keep pace with the wonderful advancement of the times in furnishing new books." * * At this date it is impossible to pursue any subject of learning exhaustively within this Province." In view of the great public value of this library under the liberal regulations to outsiders sanctioned by the Houses, we cannot think that any section of Nova Scotians would begrudge a handsome increase of the vote, could the Government at all see their way to it.

The Province of Ontario has, it is reported, added more than 20,000 immigrants, mostly from the British Isles, to its population last year. This is perhaps scarcely a correct way of stating it, because we have been also told that there has been a very considerable emigration from that Province to the N. W. At all events the immigration will probably obviate depletion. The direct immigration to the N. W. is also likely to be very large this year, and the general outlook is discouraging to pessimists. There may, however, remain to them some crumbs of the dreary comfort they cultivate in the announcement of the Italian Astronomer Tacchini that the present will be the minimum year of sun-spots, as there is a theory that the minimum of sun-spots corresponds with extreme droughts, crop failures and famines, and a famine in Canada would be a perfect god-send to the amiable politicians whose congenial pastime is a propagandism of discontent.

The *New York Sun* speaks of the new administration "maintaining supervision and control over the seal fisheries in the eastern part of Behring's Sea according to the intent of the treaty with Russia" Anything that can be gained by tall talk, the Americans, especially the American newspapers, will get, if tall talk can do it. The *Sun* is evidently trying that little game on, though it must well know that the maritime nations of the world will never acquiesce in such a piece of presumption as that involved in the wish to shut them off from an open sea. The idea is preposterous, and could never be conceded even if America had not ruled herself out of court at the outset by repudiating the similar claims of Russia when she had a stronger case, than the United States, by reason of her ownership of both coasts. Russia, moreover, in 1824, by special convention with Great Britain and the United States, relinquished her claim to exclusive jurisdiction in these same Pacific waters.

Although quite expected, the death of the Rt. Hon. John Bright cannot but excite a melancholy feeling. There can be little doubt that the influence of such morality in statesmanship will survive him. Without professing to be, or indeed having pretension to be styled a great statesman, he was a perfectly pure and disinterested social reformer, a thoroughly honest and clear-handed politician, and perhaps the first orator in England—at least the late Lord Derby and Mr. Gladstone were the only two who rivalled him. That his ideas were sometimes Utopian was incidental to the absolute purity and rectitude of his character, and his most peculiar political acts were the outcome of the unshrinking courage of his convictions. The grace and force which distinguished his brilliant oratory was not wanting in his conduct and manners, for Quaker and strong Liberal as he was, it is well known that of Mr. Gladstone's ministers, the most respected by and personally acceptable to the Queen was John Bright. It may be long before we look upon his like again.