

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM. }
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 9, 1891.

{ VOL. 8
No. 2 }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—A Shooting Star	6
A Presentiment	6
New York Letter	14
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
City Chimes	6, 7
Book Gossip	7
Magazines and Papers	8, 9
Commercial	9
Market Quotations	10, 11
Serial—My Lady's Walk	12, 13
Mining	13
Chess	15
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.

The fire fiend has been going the rounds this winter. Lockeport, Yarmouth and Pugwash have suffered severely, and Halifax, with its Globe Hotel blaze on the last night of the year, came in for a visitation too. These disasters have their lesson for us, and just now when the members of the Halifax Fire Department are not exhibiting that spirit of unity that we would like to see, it is especially necessary that vigilance should be observed in the protection of buildings.

The World's Fair seems to be progressing towards materialization in 1893. Letters from Chicago have a gilt stamp bearing the words "World's Fair, Chicago, 1893," which does its work in advertising the show. The Lake Front, and Washington and Jackson parks are definitely decided upon as the site for the fair. They are some distance apart, but a railway will obviate any inconvenience from this source. The date of inauguration ceremonies will soon be announced.

One of the most astonishing claims which have been brought forward in behalf of electricity is that by means of its vibrations of light it is now possible to see distant persons and things. According to the *Otago Times*, Dr. Guidrab, of Victoria, has invented an apparatus, called by him the electro-scope, which accomplishes this. The above mentioned paper says that a public test of this instrument was made in Melbourne in the presence of some forty scientific and public men. "Sitting in a dark room they saw projected on a large disk of white burnished metal the race-course at Flemington with its myriad hosts of active beings. Each minute detail stood out with perfect fidelity to the original, and as they looked at the wonderful picture through binocular glasses it was difficult to imagine they were not on the course itself and moving among those whose actions they could so completely scan."

The death of Alexander William Kinglake, the historian of the Crimean War, is announced. Mr. Kinglake was born in 1811 at Taunton. He was educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge, and afterwards entered the profession of law and acquired an extensive chancery practice in London. His well known work "Eothen" was written after an extensive tour in the East, and was pronounced at the time it appeared (1844) one of the freshest and most entertaining books of travel of the day. Mr. Kinglake sat in parliament as member for the borough of Bridgewater. He published little for some years after "Eothen" until in 1863 the first two volumes of the

history of "The Invasion of the Crimea" appeared. Two more volumes were published in 1868 and a fifth in 1874. The last volume made its appearance near the end of 1887, when the history came to a close with the death of Lord Raglan.

It now transpires that "Darkest England and the Way Out" was not written by General Booth at all, but by some professional writer who put the General's plan in proper literary shape. This kind of authorship has become fashionable of late years, but it appears to us that the honest course and the best policy to pursue would be to give each man his due share of credit for work performed. If General Booth originated the scheme well and good, and if some other man wrote the book let them be honest and say so. Commissioner Smith of the Salvation Army has resigned his position because of differences of opinion between himself and General Booth as to the methods to be employed in the scheme of relief. It is thought too that the substantial parts of the scheme of city and farm colonies originated with Mr. Smith, whose resignation at this juncture will be likely to seriously retard any progress. According to Commissioner Smith the enormous funds which have recently been asked for, and which have poured in rapidly, are so applied to relief work as to take the demand off other funds of the army. General Booth intends to answer the criticisms that have appeared in the *Times* in a pamphlet that he expects to publish during this month. He also states that a deed of trust for the funds is to be drawn up. Commissioner Smith intends giving any outside assistance he can to General Booth, and their relations are apparently not so strained as we were led at first to believe.

Educational questions are being very generally discussed at present, and the view is gaining ground that children must be taught to do things and not merely how they should be done. The practical is as far better than the theoretical as is possible to imagine. The ability to be useful in ordinary ways is another matter that deserves attention. One defect in public school teaching is to practice pupils in the reading of handwriting. They are taught to read print from the day they enter school until they leave it, but they seldom have to read any writing except their own and the teacher's, which if not legible comes in for much abuse. Script reading is an accomplishment necessary in many occupations, and it is one in which the average school boy or school girl is particularly deficient. The boys who go into stores, printing offices, telegraph offices and offices of professional men have much greater value when they can read ordinary handwriting at a glance. It is an art acquired by practice, it is true, but the practice should be begun and pursued all through the public school course. It is quite as practical as any study that can be named. A youngster who can read offhand the most of the manuscript met with in a lawyer's office or an editor's office is a jewel and worth twenty who are only educated in their legs and "run errands" speedily. It would be fun if teachers would occasionally bring in a bundle of business men's script and set the children to puzzle it out. This is just what they will be called upon to do a little later on when they are flung into the world to fight for a living. And just so with other useful accomplishments. They should be practiced during the school period in order to equip the pupil for active life.

The Queen Regent of Holland is showing unusual good sense with regard to the mourning attire of the young Queen Wilhelmina. It is always depressing to see children dressed in black, and the sombre hue must be far from beneficial to the health and spirits of young people. Queen Emma has revived the fashion of white mourning for her daughter, who will wear this color alone for the usual period. Under the old regime in France white weeds were worn by widows, and Mary Queen of Scots, as widow of the Dauphin, was so attired. At that time, however, the widow's dress was very unbecomingly made, with a cap or coif which actually hid the hair, and, moreover, it was the fashion for the aristocratic widow to remain for three months in a room hung with black and from which all natural light was excluded. A widow's lot is at best not a happy one, but it seems as if everything has conspired together to make it worse. In India suttie used to be the fashion, and consequently it was followed; in our own country, widows in their garb of woe are really sorrowful sights, and there are but few with the strength of mind to break loose from custom and appear in public without yards and yards of crape enveloping them from head to foot. Physicians well know the effect of these veils, and they ought to make it their duty to try and influence women not to wear them. Whether Queen Emma governs her own mourning as wisely as she does her daughter's we know not, but people who have been bereaved would do well to follow her lead in the matter of children's mourning, at any rate so far as not putting black on them goes. White costs too much for laundrying for people of small means to adopt it,