

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 6, 1888

{ VOL. 5
{ No. 14

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Queen and General Gordon	2
The Militia	3
Notes	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Our Government	7
The Late Archbishop Trench	7
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Industrial Notes	7, 8
Parliamentary Review	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—Saddle and Sabre	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Home and Farm	14
Chess	16
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.

Several old members of the Rifle Brigade, living in Ottawa, have presented Lord Alexander Russell with a gold-headed cane, with a suitable inscription. It is strange, however, that old soldiers should commit the blunder of addressing him as *Lieut.-General*, as Lord Alexander has been a full General this two years or more.

The *Philadelphia American* says:—"Recent instances go to show that the telephone is likely to become a much more important instrument than was supposed. We have now telephone communication for long distances, and it seems to be maintained under atmospheric conditions which put an end to telegraphy. In the recent storm there was not a telegraph line at work between Philadelphia and New York. But the telephone connecting the two cities continued to work, and was even used by the authorities of the railroads for their necessary messages."

The *Montreal Witness* finds itself exercised over the proposed erection of a statue of the Virgin Mary in the Mount Royal Park, and conceives "nothing more likely to breed civil dissension." We should imagine it would all depend on the artistic merit of the statue. There are worse ideals which might be put before the ignorant and impulsive. But we quite understand all that is intended by such a proposition. If it were not that we did so, we might be tempted to liken it to the proverbial red rag to the bull of bigotry, which is Protestant as well as Catholic.

The *Chronicle* of the 28th ult. has the following in reference to some recent trials of a disgusting nature:—"There ought to be some better method of administering criminal justice in the Supreme Court than in the presence of such a gaping crowd as is always attracted to hear the cases involving the making public of any unsavory details. * * * * The Court room was packed to the doors with crowds of people drinking in the evidence in criminal assault cases. The hearing of such cases in public can do no good, and, in so far as they minister to a depraved curiosity, do an infinite deal of harm. The interests of both the parties and the public would be best served by passing a rule excluding all but the press and the parties immediately concerned." We fully and entirely agree with the *Chronicle*.

We regret that limitation of space prevents our publishing in this week's issue a letter we have received from E. D. King, Esq., of Messrs. King & Bars.

We invite special attention to a note on Canadian Cotton Export possibilities furnished to our Industrial Column by a gentleman of minute and extensive knowledge and large practical experience. This gentleman's suggestions appear to us to be very valuable at a time so critical to the growth of our national manufactures.

The cheap martyr, Mr. Wilfred Blunt, recently made the outrageous statement, without any reservation, that Mr. Balfour had threatened to kill leading Home Rulers by cruelty in prison. Of course nobody was fool enough to believe it, but it had to be noticed, and now Mr. Blunt says that "he inferred from certain things that Mr. Balfour said," &c.

A new order of religious usefulness for women has been started in the States. It is known by the title of "Daughters of the King." Its badge is the Maltese Cross, with the letters I. H. N. (In His Name) in the centre, suspended by a "royal purple" ribbon. The members organize in bands of ten. Tens who sing for the sick in Hospitals and Prisons, sewing tens, tens who give their time and money to the poor, etc.

The *Court Journal* (G. B.) says:—"Enormous advances have within the last few months been made in the art of photography. By the newest process photographs can be printed from a stone with ease and alacrity, and with the most surprising results. We can now have photographs that cannot be distinguished by a casual observer from fine engravings. The result of this improvement will practically be the death of the art of engraving. This process will extend to the typesetter, and enable any number of copies to be taken."

The International Co.'s steamers *City of New York* and *City of Paris*, the former of which is launched, are the largest passenger steamers yet constructed, except the *Great Eastern*. Their tonnage is 10,500, length 560 ft., beam 63 ft., depth 44 ft. They are to be fitted with twin screws, and two sets of triple expansion engines, each set being capable of four-fifths of the maximum speed. Each ship has fifteen water-tight compartments, which can only be entered by descent from the upper deck. Accommodation is provided for over 2,000 passengers. A still further shortening of the passage is looked for from these boats. Meanwhile, what is doing for Canada in this direction?

The *Church Guardian* has the following paragraph:—"The attack upon the Church in Wales is not a simple attack upon a single institution. It is an end to be attained, but when attained it is to be the means to a further end, and an instalment of a still larger demand, the demand for a separate Welsh nationality. It is part of a process of national disintegration." The former part is no doubt true, but we believe in the absolute separation of the state from any church; and we see no reason to believe that the United Kingdom would be any the nearer to disintegration if both Scotland and Wales had their separate legislatures. Federation is no weaker a form of government than absolute centralization.

We should be glad if we could devote more space to our excellent contributor "Veteran," but the subject of his communications is a large one, and we have other matter on hand. We cannot, of course, dispute his personal knowledge and experience; and, we are, moreover, very desirous of accurate information as to the "exodus" and deserted farms generally. It is a subject on which reliable statistics are urgently required. We heartily wish our tariff were lower, but as every one is scared at the idea of direct taxation, whence is a revenue to come? And are we to give up our manufactures entirely, and be slaughtered by the Americans at their own sweet will, of the temper of which we have pregnant indications?

There really seems to have been some threatening of trouble in the N. W. from the combined discontents of Indians and Half-Breeds; but a correspondent intimates that the timely employment of a lot of the latter by the Government is likely to avert the danger. The Mounted Police, it seems, require reinforcement, both in men and horses. It should be remembered that the annual recruiting time has arrived, but it is a question whether the Force should depend upon this at so critical a season of the year. There is also a feeling, not ill-grounded, that the M. P. received but scurvy treatment in regard to medals and scrip after the campaign of 1885, and that they should be placed on the same footing as the Volunteers in this respect.