

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

NO PER ANNUM. }  
SINGLE COPY 3 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 4, 1887.

{ VOL. 4.  
No. 5.

## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
Here and There.....	2
The Follies of Great Men.....	2
Our Army in Halifax.....	1
Notes.....	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—"Only a Suit of Armour".....	7
Safety Stoves for Railway Cars.....	8
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chuckles.....	3
News of the Week.....	4
Religious.....	6
Chit-Chat.....	6
Marvels of Memory.....	7
How Performing Animals are Trained.....	7
Keeping the Secret in the "Times" Office.....	8
Our Copy Corner.....	8
Commercial.....	8, 9
Market Quotations.....	9
Social.....	10, 11
Notice to Subscribers.....	11
Mining.....	12
The Maritime Patron.....	13, 14

During 1886, eight peaks of the Alps, hitherto inaccessible, were ascended by adventurous parties, but eleven persons lost their lives in climbing, ten being killed and one frozen to death.

The Historical Society of St John have determined to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by erecting an iron railing with stone approaches around the old Loyalist burying ground. St. John is the oldest colonial city in the British Empire, and the Historical Society has done well to thus use its best endeavors to beautify the spot where lie many of the honored founders of our sister city.

Attracted by the profits that have been derived from the rearing of ostriches and the sale of their feathers, enterprising individuals have at various times exported these birds from the Cape of Good Hope to such divergent quarters as India, South Australia, the River Plate, and New Zealand; and in all these it is said that the birds are thriving, notably so in the last-named colony, from which a first consignment of feathers was recently brought to England. The Cape will, therefore, no longer be able to boast of monopolising this industry.

The news from Europe is less warlike than that of last week. Well may the European powers pause before entering upon a struggle, the political effects of which are so uncertain. The cost of maintaining their present enormous armies is small when compared with the burden of heavy war debts, and the maintenance of the families of those who have been killed in battle. As a result of the Franco-Russian war, there were in one Province of Russia no less than 12,000 widows and over 22,000 children who had to be supported by charity.

The advance of \$2 or \$3 per ton in the price of coal since the strike of the handlers in New York, is a serious matter to the managers and proprietors of manufacturing establishments; but these wholesale consumers, most of whom have laid in their winter supply, suffer but little as compared with the thousands of poor people who buy their coal by the scuttleful. To them, the advance of from seven to fifteen cents means cheerless, cold apartments, and thus it is that the laboring classes invariably are the greatest sufferers from these ill-advised strikes.

Our North-West Mounted Police are armed with Winchester rifles, which should be all that they require, even were they called upon to use them. It is stated that these Winchesters are to be called in, and the forces armed with the new Manchester rifle, just now so popular in England. Such a change is uncalled for. If there is any extra money to spend, let the boys be properly mounted, not like those of Prince Albert, with sixty horses to two hundred men; but with a horse apiece, and a good one at that. With a good sturdy pony and a Winchester rifle, a mounted policeman is equal to half a ton of red men.

Among Maritime Provincial men, Dr. Grant, Principal of Queen's College, Kingston; George Stewart, editor of the *Quebec Chronicle*; Robert Burdette, of the *Brooklyn Eagle*; Prof. C. G. D. Roberts, of Kings College, and Mr. J. Hunter Duval, the poet of Prince Edward Island, have won distinction in the literary world. With the spread of education and the improvement in the literary tastes of our people, we may hope that the now small army of literateurs who are either natives or residents of the Maritime Provinces, will be greatly augmented. We understand that Mr. J. Hunter Duval is about to publish a new drama, entitled *Roberval*, the Companion of Jacques Cartier.

The Windsor and Annapolis authorities have at length come to the conclusion, that, in complying with the reasonable demands of the public, they can best serve their own interests. The much-needed early train to Halifax, which the citizens of Kentville and Windsor have so long asked for, is in a short time to be put on, and the run from Kentville to Halifax, instead of occupying, as it now does, upwards of five hours, will be made in less than three. The news of this new departure will be received with pleasure all along the line of railway; and it will likewise be good news to hundreds of our citizens, who will be able to leave the city after business hours on Saturday, spend the Sunday in the country, and again return to town on Monday several hours before the boom of the twelve o'clock gun.

The ice palace erected at Montreal this year is one of the grandest structures of the kind ever yet built. Nearly a century and a half ago, Anna, Empress of Russia, caused an ice palace to be constructed at St. Petersburg upon the bank of the Neva, which lasted from January to March, in 1740, and elicited from the gentle English poet, William Cowper, one of the most magnificent apostrophes that ever issued from his touching and sympathetic pen. "No forest fell," he wrote, addressing the "Imperial mistress of the fur clad Russ," "When thou wouldst build, no quarry sent its stores to enrich thy walls; but thou didst hew the floods, and make thy marble of the glassy wave." How insignificant would the palace on the Neva appear in Cowper's eyes, as compared with the magnificent crystal palace now to be seen near to the banks of the mighty St. Lawrence.

## 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 3 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 his 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 marriage link in the United States is brittle, divorces having increased with alarming rapidity. In Europe there is but one divorce in every 300 marriages, while over the border, one in sixteen of the marriage ties are ruthlessly snapped. By many people of the United States marriage is regarded as a civil contract, but such people have a most uncivil way of observing it.

The reputation of the writer of a magazine article has really more to do with its financial value than has the literary merit of the contribution. \$1250.00 was recently paid to the Hon. W. E. Gladstone by the publishers of the *Nineteenth Century* magazine for his article on "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," at least \$1000 of which the grand old man pocketed on account of his prominent position as a British Statesman.

Those who feel an interest in securing humane treatment for the poor in Digby County, and are satisfied that Messrs. Adams and Ambrose, who have so vigorously denounced the white slavery which exists in that section of the Province, can give tangible expression to the same by subscribing towards the expenses incurred by Mr. Adams while defending his course in the civil courts. Mr. Adams should not be allowed to shoulder the burden of these costs. He made his stand against the farming-out system in the interests of humanity, and humanity is the common platform of all men possessed of hearts capable of understanding and sympathising with the oppressed poor. Contributions forwarded to the Rev. J. Ambrose, Digby, will be gratefully received and promptly acknowledged.

Theosophy, or Christian scientism, which at the present time is being taught in Halifax, Truro, Kentville, and other cities and towns in the Maritime Provinces, will be better understood when we say that it is transcendentalism. It is the transcendence of mind, soul or spirit over matter. According to the apostles of this faith, sickness and death have no existence excepting in our mortal beliefs; and so soon as men can bring themselves to this high level of spirituality, sickness and death will disappear. From our partial investigation and study of this subject, we are led to the conclusion that Christian scientism itself has never reached its own ideal. The wonderful mind cures which are reported, have, so far as we can ascertain, been made upon persons suffering from nervous disorders, and we have yet to learn that these scientists have succeeded in producing any effect when organic diseases existed.