

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find receipt for the amount enclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Frazer.

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page 12. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

The dining room and parlor of the Y. M. C. A., have been much improved during the last few weeks and now present quite a handsome appearance.

Our contemporary the Colchester Sun is making manly efforts to surmount the heavy loss recently entailed upon it by fire—the second in little more than five years.

There were seven Allan steamers in Halifax harbor on the 9th inst., viz. the Circassian, Caspian, Hibernian, Nova Scotian, Sardinian, Acadian and Newfoundland, aggregating nearly 19,000 tons.

The Liverpool Times publishes a supplement containing notices of the business houses of that town, which suffice to demonstrate the business energy of its denizens. Liverpool is evidently a live place.

We notice the appearance of a new journal, the *Springhill Leader*, which gives promise of being a good paper. It has, to begin with, an article on the "Third Party." We wish our new contemporary every success.

The English sparrow here and there finds defenders. A North-West man says:—"He destroys countless insects, devours the grasshopper, eats the seeds of weeds in winter, and in June is busy with the seventeen-year locust, thus diminishing injury to vegetation generally."

A contract has been concluded for the construction at Glasgow of a steel steamer to run between P. E. Island and the main-land in the winter. Her dimensions are: length 200 feet, beam 32 feet, depth 21 feet. She is to have a speed of 15 knots, and her burthen is 200 tons. She is to be ready by November.

Two Scott Act convictions are reported from Moncton, on the sale of what, it seems, is called "Ready's beer." This exhilarating beverage, whatever it may be like, contains two per cent of alcohol. It really does seem somewhat absurd that people should be fined for vending a stimulant of this fearful degree of potency.

Toronto tradesmen, it appears, charge a discount of five per cent on notes of Maritime Province Banks. This is a most unwise, unpatriotic, and shameless practice, and is little calculated to promote the national feeling we should cultivate. Toronto ought to be ashamed of itself. But it is the same thing all over, anything, honest or dishonest, for five cents.

Lt. Col. O'Brien does not after all, it appears, go home in command of the Wimbledon team in place of Lt. Col. McDonald, whose services cannot be spared from his department. Lt. Col. Frank Bond of the 1st (Prince of Wales') of Montreal is the officer selected, and the team sailed in the Sarmatian from Quebec, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., for Liverpool.

The name of Major (retired) Hayter Reed, the Assistant Indian Commissioner, is mentioned in connection with the succession to Mr. Dewdney as Commissioner. If correct, the choice is a good one. Major Reed was an efficient officer as Brigade Major at Kingston, and as Adjutant of the Provisional Battalion at Winnipeg for some years, and his long experience in the N. W. has doubtless made him very serviceable in his present Department.

We have received a notice of the meeting at Montreal, on the 3rd to 5th July, of the "Dominion Prohibition Convention." This is calling a thing fairly by its right name, tho', in the further text of the notice the word "Temperance" is used to signify the general aims of the party. This, as we have often pointed out, is a confusion of ideas. You cannot be temperate in regard to a thing you never use. No doubt the meeting will be an important one.

We have before us the *Chebucto Cook Book*, published by the Amateur Athletic Club, of Dartmouth, and containing "200 reliable recipes, personally tested and vouched for by the ladies whose names appear over them." They are, therefore, no doubt, good and practical, but the recipes are entirely confined, we observe, to cakes, puddings, tarts, ices, sweet drinks, etc., and do not extend to the solids of a meal. The book was very neatly printed by James Bowes & Sons, and is now on sale at City and Dartmouth book stores.

It is satisfactory to know that the Board of Works has decided to preserve the Egg Pond intact, and to improve its banks. It is the one place left in that neighborhood on which youngsters can skate as their fathers and grandfathers did before them, and, situated as it is, it cannot be insalubrious. But it will be necessary for the Board to take efficient measures to put a stop to the continued shooting of loads of rubbish into it. Teamsters and others should also be prevented from driving across the Common from the round tree to Cunard street, a practice which has made a very ugly track.

The most important matter before the City Board of Works is the investigation into certain alleged irregularities on the part of Mr. Kemp, foreman of streets, which, it is said, is likely to involve several persons who are or have been in higher official positions than the accused. At its last meeting the Board deferred action for one week to permit its members to more thoroughly acquaint themselves with the matter. Meanwhile Kemp is suspended. Ald. Hechler objected to suspending Kemp on the ground that if guilty of the charges, he should be dismissed, if not guilty, the suspension was an injustice. The public will watch further proceedings with interest.

The Public Closing Examinations of the Halifax Academy, which take place to day, will no doubt be interesting to a large number of our citizens.

The Methodist Conference, which has been holding its session in Halifax since the 20th inst., has done itself honor by the principle it has assumed as regard to the "Third Party movement" urged by the Rev. Wm. Brown, the meddling gentleman who undertook to instruct the jury in the Preerer case during divine service. The duty was recognized of preaching vital doctrines, and exhorting on questions of morality, but coercion as to conduct in doubtful politics, and obstruction of the Government of the day were deprecated. A church, it was held, may organize for Christian work, but not for persecution and political intrigue. The action of the Conference will be recognized as eminently sagacious.

One of the most flourishing enterprises of the city is the Globe Clothing house on Buckingham street. A walk through the establishment demonstrated the fact that this house has one of the largest and best selected stock of goods in this line in the city. Here may be had entire suits of clothing of all kinds, from what will come well within the range of the most modest purse, to those that command higher prices on account of style and finish. Here will be found everything that goes to the outfitting more especially of the workingman, artizan, mechanic, seaman and others to whom good material at the lowest possible figure is a desideratum, and there are the customers Mr. Salterio more especially caters for. In addition to an efficient staff of obliging salesmen he has secured the services of Mr. H. A. Sampson, late of Clayton & Sons, whom our French speaking friends will doubtless be well acquainted with, as he speaks that language fluently. His long experience and thorough knowledge of the business render him a valuable assistant. Push and enterprise of this kind are always to be commended and will doubtless secure the success they merit.

A subscriber wishes us to call the attention of our readers to Nova Scotia's Natural Mineral Water—"Spadeau," now bottled and sold by our leading Halifax chemists. He says:—"Apart from the curative or hygienic properties it affords a most refreshing, invigorating and delicious beverage, quite equal in my opinion to the popular and much vaunted Appolinaris water so much imported and drank in the United States." We believe that our neighbours who know what is good will not be long in discerning the virtues of Spadeau and will be glad to avail themselves of the benefit of a beverage so near their own doors. The Springs of Wilmot, Annapolis Co., have long been known in the neighbourhood for their virtues; enterprise and capital alone have been needed to make them known to the public. The new and commodious hotel just completed and opened by Capt. Hall, at the Springs, affords every facility for deriving benefit from the water, and is a delightful health resort during the summer season. As Appolinaris is really not at all nice, here is apparently a good opportunity of patronizing our own production, a principle we think far too little about.

The General Presbyterian Assembly which has just closed, attended to a large amount of business—few lengthy speeches were delivered, as the members were determined to waste no time in unnecessary talk. The principle debates took place on the Deceased Wife's Sister question and the Report of the Temperance Committee. The speeches on both occasions were exceedingly able and reflected credit on the Assembly. The reports of the Colleges showed gratifying progress during the year, especially the report of Queen's College, Kingston, which through the efforts of Principal Grant, has now an additional endowment of \$250,000. From the report of the Committee on Statistics we learn that there are in the Church 41 Presbyteries, one of which is in India, and 785 Pastoral charges. There are 845 Ministers in addition to probationers; the total number of churches and stations is 1831, of which number 490 are in the Maritime Provinces. The number of families is 78,649; communicants 146,640; Sabbath School scholars 112,940 and teachers 12,976. In the church there are 349 Missionary Associations and 396 Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies. The sum of \$1,393,226 was raised for congregational purposes; \$43,073 for Home Missions; \$32,562 for Augmentation; \$22,752 for French Evangelization; \$69,606 for Foreign Missions; total amount for all purposes \$1,730,232. It was decided to hold the Assembly next year in Toronto.

The Orpheus Club Ball on Tuesday evening at the Exhibition building was a pronounced success. Between 250 and 300 ladies and gentlemen enjoyed it, we imagine, thoroughly. The music of the Y. & L. and the 666 Bands was entirely efficient, only we think in this, as in most indoor band performances, just a little stronger than necessary, but this is so universal an oversight that it is almost invidious to allude to any one instance, and we only do so now as a remark of general applicability. The drawing room arrangement of comfortable seats, with variegated lamps tastefully arranged amongst clumps and pyramids of flowers and ferns, was simply perfect, and reflected the greatest credit on the decorators. Flags, admirably displayed, lent the charm of color which, in the absence of uniforms, was a desideratum. The floor had been got into excellent order, and no more gracious group of ladies could have been found than those selected to the honor of reception. Many dresses were very charming. We refrain from particularizing, or we might take up a column with what struck our eye. We can only notice that several ladies seem to be aware of the perfect effect of black and yellow for complexions suited to that contrast. The supper was excellent. A large number of spectators seemed to derive considerable enjoyment from studying the many evolutions of the dance, and when carriages came, about half past two, they probably bore away none dissatisfied with their entertainment.

At a meeting of the Governors of King's College, held June 13th, the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Willets, Head Master of the School at Windsor, was presented and accepted. It was directed that a resolution expressing the following sentiments be prepared and presented to him. "The Govern-