

THE CHRISTMAS CRITIC.

HALIFAX, N. S., CHRISTMAS, 1885.

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THE CRITIC.

Fourteen months have now rolled by since the establishment of THE CRITIC, and its promoters have reason to congratulate themselves upon the large measure of success that has been accorded to this new journalistic enterprise. We promised in the outset that THE CRITIC should be a first-class literary and commercial weekly newspaper, independent in politics, and devoted to the encouragement of our mining, fishing, manufacturing, and agricultural industries; whether or not we have fulfilled our promises we leave our readers to decide, feeling certain that their verdict will be in our favour. We have endeavoured to make of THE CRITIC a superior family journal, and with this end in view our editorial, contributed and miscellaneous matter has always been carefully written and selected. Of course we are aware that had we pandored to the sensational cravings of the age, we might have gained an unenviable notoriety, and at the same time have increased our circulation and receipts, but we recognized that notoriety gained by such a course could be but short-lived, and preferring the more straight and direct road to success, we have aimed at publishing a journal at once newsy, elevating and instructive. The special attention which we have given to mining has had the effect of advertising the mining capabilities of Nova Scotia far and wide throughout Canada and the United States. Our commercial department has been managed in such a manner as to win the confidence of our subscribers, and our market quotations are now recognized by buyers and sellers of produce as reliable in every respect. If in our political utterances we have evinced a tendency to abdicate our critical and uncomfortable position upon the fence-top, we have thereby shown our true independence; for we have in every instance placed the interests of country before party, and of the people before those of individuals.

During the past six months the circulation of THE CRITIC has nearly trebled, and it still continues to increase. In presenting to our subscribers and friends our first regular Christmas number, we beg to extend to them our cordial Christmas greeting. May the holly and mistletoe brighten their hearths and homes, and may the happy Christmas time bring to them a full share of the joys and pleasures with which the season is freighted.

THE CRITIC.

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Remittances should be made to C. F. FRASER, MANAGER.

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JELLY PRESERVES—Jams and Jellies Strawberry, Raspberry, Plum, G. 1c. per 25 lb. Pails, 16c.; 10 lb. Pails, 17c.; 5 lb. Pails, 18c.; People's, 13c. and 14c. All the above varieties, excepting People's in 1 lb. Pots, Goblets and Tumbler, 2 doz. in case, at very low rates. Strawberry Raspberry, Red Currant and Apple Jelly in 12 lb. Pails, 13c. per lb.

A full stock of Sugars, Teas, Molasses, Tobaccos, Butter, Cheese etc., at very low prices.

MACKINTOSH & CO., JERICO WAREHOUSE, HALIFAX.

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A Turn with the French Police.

WRITTEN FOR THE CHRISTMAS CRITIC.

YOU have frequently crossed over to France, have you not, Bersemeji?
 "Yes," replied I, "It being the most convenient route home for me from England."
 "Did you ever have any trouble? I mean in the way of politics."
 "Once, and once only. But I shall not forget the occasion. If you care to hear it, I promise you what I had, a good laugh at the French police, that body of cleverest and most intelligent men in the world."
 "By all means," returned Prescott, assuming that expression of rapt inattention common to the whole tribe of listeners.

"You are aware, I presume, that I was, years ago, a participant in these revolutionary measures which emanated from the fertile brain of Mazzini for the liberation of Italy, and had shared in the not unfrequent, though I am glad to say now abortive, plots of Hungarians against the despotism of Austria. I have given up that sort of amusement, though at no time no more fervent or blood thirsty conspirator existed than your humble servant, Eugenio Bersemeji. I still have in my possession copies of letters and pamphlets written by me which breathe the true Carbonaro spirit, and any one of which would have sufficed to procure me gratuitous board in either Spielberg or Fenestrola.

By great good fortune, I had managed to escape to England at the close of the revolution of '48, which sent many a maguato to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow in exile, but I kept up my relations with most of the leaders of the movement, seceding gradually from those who, calmer and wiser, understood the hopelessness of redeeming the cause by conspiracy and plot, and attaching myself more and more to the men of the Mazzini type. Even my ardent patriotism, however, revolted at the idea of enlisting assassination on our side, and after the Orsini affair, I resolutely broke off with the party I had so long adhered to. I cannot doubt that in so doing I acted wisely, aware though I am that my defection gained me numerous enemies among the men who had lately been my fellow workers.

In the autumn of 1864, I found myself in England, having only just left Germany, where I had made a prolonged stay in the vain hope of effecting an entry into Hungary from which I was still exiled. Letters which I then received induced me to go over to Paris where it was arranged I should meet and confer with one of my former chiefs—the turn events were taking in Austria holding out a hope to us of a speedy and safe return to home and kindred. From Paris my way was to lie Belgiumwards, Brussels, as you know, being at that time the headquarters of V.