

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining and General News.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., JUNE 19, 1891.

{ VOL. 8
No. 25 }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—Nova Scotia	J. F. Herbin. 8
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	5
Parliamentary Review	6
News of the Week	6, 7
Poetry—A Country Song	8
Liberty	8
Book Gossip	8, 9
Musical Sands	9
Industrial Notes	9
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—The Young Squire's Return	12, 13
Mining	14, 15
	16
Draughts—Checkers	17
City Chimes	18

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 news that Rudyard Kipling, the popular young author, is fatally ill of consumption will be received with deep regret by the readers of his books. He has been ordered to Italy, in hopes that the change of climate will benefit his case.

Hon. Edward Blake has spoken again on the political situation. He takes a rather gloomy view of things, but he is right in saying that any person occupying the position of First Minister will not find it as easy an office as many suppose it to be. He says Canada is an immense country, a land of vast possibilities, an inheritance which every Canadian is proud of, and none more so than he is, for it is the land of his birth, and destined to occupy a prominent position among the nations of the earth; but to achieve all that is claimed for it as possible, our legislators must be required to so frame the legislation of the country, either Federal or Provincial, as to steer it clear of shoals or breakers. He, however, gives such a gloomy outlook that the task would appear well-nigh impossible.

The little republic of Hayti is a hot place at times, and it has just been having one of those times. Two attempts to overthrow the government of President Hippolyte were made—the last on May 28th. After the first revolt the President had very many people arrested, and failing to find General Sully Guerrier, he arrested and put in prison the wife of Guerrier. Generals Sully Guerrier and Badere, an old political offender, then headed a mob which they led against the prison, and secured the keys and liberated the prisoners—among them Guerrier's wife and all political offenders. They then proceeded to try and gain control of the arsenal and the arms and ammunition it contained, but were frustrated by the quick movements of the troops under Hippolyte, which dispersed the mob, killing about forty people in the process. The shooting discipline of Hippolyte has continued to be carried out *ad libitum*. Two hundred or more people have been shot down in the streets of Port au Prince, and arrests are daily made on little or no pretence. Fred. Douglass, the United States Minister in Hayti, is said to be in fear of his life. Two or three men per day have been shot since the revolt, the only offence of some of the victims being their failure to rise and shout, "Vive la Hippolyte!" when the mighty man rode by on his horse. This is the eighty-eighth year of Haytian independence, and to judge by reports, the President must be a regular old Turk.

In Japan they do not seem to have any prejudice against cremation. That method of disposing of the dead would appear to be extensively practical, for we read that in the month of November last 836 cremations took place in the capital of that country.

The Governor-General took his time in calling a successor to Sir John A. Macdonald. For over a week he was without responsible advisers. This appears to us to have been altogether unnecessary; a Prime Minister might have been quite as easily found several days earlier.

After abiding in a state of patient expectancy for a week, the people of Canada learned on Monday morning that the man selected by Lord Stanley to form a new Cabinet is the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, leader of the Government in the Senate. We in the Provinces by the sea are not as familiar with Mr. Abbott as we are with Sir Charles Tupper and Sir John Thompson, the two men whose names have been mentioned most frequently in connection with the high office of Premier during the last week. Mr. Abbott is a lawyer. He represented Argenteuil, P. Q., in the House of Commons for some years, but in 1886 he declined to be again nominated, and dropped out of political life for a time, until in May, 1887, after nearly thirty years' service in the House of Commons, he was called to the Senate and given a portfolio without office—a position he has held up to the present. Mr. Abbott is seventy-one years of age, and it is probable that the present arrangement is but temporary. As far as we can see, there is no cause for dissatisfaction in the appointment. At the present crisis, the chief consideration was to appoint a man upon whom the party would be agreed for the present, and leave the more definite settlement of the question in abeyance for a time. Most Nova Scotian supporters of the Government would like to see Sir Charles Tupper made Premier. Sir John Thompson stands next, but his being a junior member of the Government doubtless weighed against him. In lieu of the Premiership, it appears most likely at the time of writing that Sir John will be the real leader in the Commons, with Sir Hector Langevin as the nominal head.

Natural scientists will be interested in the formation at Montreal, on the 29th of May last, of the Botanical Club of Canada. This club was organized by a committee of the Biological section of the Royal Society, which recently met in Montreal. In view of the fact that the exploration of the floras of the various sections of the north of the continent has been very deficient, the formation of this club to stimulate botanical investigation and the publication of local lists ought to prove beneficial. Neither constitution nor bye-laws have been adopted, but a corps of officers, which can be increased by appointment, was selected, and the members are at liberty to advance the work in whatever manner each may find most effective. For this year Professor Lawson, Ph. D., F. L. S., F. R. S. C., etc., Halifax, is President, and Principal Mackay, Halifax, Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretaries for the Provinces are as follows.—Ontario—Prof. John Macoun, M. A., F. R. S. C., etc. Botanist of the Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa. Quebec—Prof. D. P. Penhallow, B. Sc., F. R. S. C., Montreal. New Brunswick—G. U. Hay, Ph. B., St. John. Nova Scotia—E. J. Lay, Esq., Amherst. P. E. I.—F. Bain, Esq., Charlottetown. Newfoundland—Rev. A. C. Waghorne, St. Johns. Manitoba—Mr. Burman, Winnipeg. Alberta—W. H. Galbraith, Lethbridge. British Columbia—Dr. Newcombe, Victoria. They are expected to stimulate botanical exploration in every section of their territory by stirring up local botanists; by setting collectors at work in every possible locality, and thus develop new botanists; by having published in the local papers the lists of all plants in each section of the country as the work of exploration goes on; by collecting and critically examining and correcting such lists; by forming field clubs; and by transmitting suggestions and a summary of the work done in the Provinces to the central officers before the end of 1891. To cover expenses of postage, circulars or bulletins with lists of members, an assessment of 25 cents per member has been authorized. There are hundreds of people in the country who have unvalued opportunities to assist in this work. Many perhaps are well acquainted with places where rare plants are to be found, but for lack of having their attention directed to them never think of speaking of them. All such people who take the slightest interest in the promotion of scientific objects ought to commence botanical work at once and communicate with the nearest officer of the club. Interesting botanical news will be welcomed by the Press. All such local news will be summed up in the general Canadian botanical records, which will doubtless go far towards solving many curious and important problems of general interest to the public at large, as well as to the scientific. No study could be more delightful than botany, and we are sure that those who engage in it will feel well repaid for their trouble.