

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page sixteen. For \$2.50 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.

William Burton, Robert's son, of Northeast Margaree, committed suicide a few days ago, by hanging from the limb of a tree.

The Cable Company has now established direct communication with Halifax, and new offices have been opened in the Queen building.

Dr. L'Esperance, of Arichat, who was unfortunately addicted to drink, took, by mistake for brandy, a heavy dose of laudanum, which resulted fatally. The circumstance requires no comment.

Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor-General at Ottawa, narrowly escaped being burned to the ground on Monday last. The fire was extinguished not, however, without having damaged the parlor and room adjoining.

Snow has fallen to the depth of many inches in the Northwestern States, and a less depth in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. So far, our snow in Nova Scotia has come in the form of rain, which, at this season, is preferable.

A steamship plying on the upper Canadian lakes was recently blown to pieces by the bursting of her boiler, and thirty five people were reported as having been killed. The inspector of boilers for that district should be interviewed.

A young named Murphy was burned to death while sleeping in a barn near Windsor last Saturday night. The origin of the fire is unknown, and the owner, Mr. Francis Palmer, is estimated to have lost property to the value of two thousand dollars.

Mr. Robichau has been re-elected to represent the County of Digby in the provincial legislature. His majority, though not as large as that which he obtained in the June elections of 1886, is still large enough to prove that he is popular among his constituents.

Last week an attempt was made to wreck a train upon the Fredericton branch of the New Brunswick railway, which was discovered in time to prevent an accident. Is flogging too severe a punishment for those guilty of making cold-blooded preparations to wreck trains and destroy human life?

Among other things, Prince Edward Island can boast of what is probably the smallest chartered bank in the world. It is known as the Farmers' Bank of Rustico, and it is just what its name implies, a bank for the farmers of Rustico. The total paid up capital amounts to less than nine thousand dollars.

Gordon and Keith's new factory is now about ready for occupation. It is only about two months since their former factory was burned, and the firm deserve credit for the enterprise they have exhibited in having the new building erected in such a short space of time; it means steady work to a score or more of men for the ensuing winter.

During the past week a chapter of horrors has been recorded in the Maritime Provinces, among the most appalling of which was that of the burning to death of widow Greer, her son and adopted daughter, in their home near Fredericton. One son escaped from the burning building without even having been able to warn his relatives of their danger.

At length it has been definitely settled that Judge Augers is to occupy the gubernatorial chair of the Province of Quebec. Judge Augers is a man of strong political bias, but it is not probable that he will allow his political sympathies to interfere with the discharge of his duties as chief provincial magistrate. His opponents believe he will, but his friends, who know the man best, have every confidence in him.

Mr. John A. MacDonald, of Baddeck, C. B., has been re-nominated by the Liberal Conservative Convention of Victoria to contest the seat for that County, recently made vacant by the court, owing to bribery having been indulged in by Mr. MacDonald's agents. It is to be hoped that the coming campaign will be fought out upon strictly party issues, and that boodle and boodle-agents will be conspicuous by their absence.

Halifax promises, musically speaking, to be a pleasant place during the coming winter. In addition to the musical societies which were in operation during last season, we are to have a new Oratorio Association under the presidency of the Rev. Dr. Hole and the leadership of Professor S. Porter. There is plenty of room for the new society, and we trust its success will be such as to warrant its being made a permanent organization.

One of the most deserving institutions in the City of Halifax is the dispensary, which, by its kindly and timely care of the sick poor, ameliorates and oftentimes prevents great suffering. Next Sunday every man in Halifax, who has the right to the name of man, will be called upon for his annual contribution towards the support of the dispensary, and it is hoped that the call which is to be made in the churches will meet with a spontaneous and liberal response.

Monday last was a sorry day for Montreal, the wind blew a hurricane throughout the day, and the fire-alarms were constantly calling out the men to extinguish conflagrations in different parts of the city. At least two hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of property was destroyed, and many persons rendered homeless. As the fires are supposed to be the work of incendiaries, the City Council has offered one thousand dollars reward to any person who may give information which may lead to the arrest of the guilty parties.

Judge Taylor has been appointed chief justice of the supreme court of Manitoba, in place of the late Chief Justice Wallbridge.

A good many Halifax pedestrians complained bitterly of the state of the sidewalk on the east side of Hollis Street, between Bishop and Morris Streets. Crossing this sidewalk are several disused cobble-stoned driveways, over which the pedestrian has to pick his way as carefully as he would have to upon a rocky sea shore. If the Alderman in charge of this section of the city would give this matter his attention, a long suffering public would be grateful.

Murders are fortunately rare things in this peaceful land, but perhaps this fact makes us take a deeper interest in those which do occur. Just now the community at Musquodoboit are busy discussing the murder of a man named Peter Doyle, who was evidently approached from behind by some cowardly villain, and shot in the back from a few yards distance. Doyle's death was probably instantaneous, but who it was that fired the fatal shot is still a mystery. Doyle's wife and hired man were the last persons who were known to have seen him alive, and, as it was through the wife's intimation that the whereabouts of the body was discovered, a strong suspicion rests upon these persons.

The North Sydney *Herald* says:—"The Uisge Ban Falls are situated on a stream which empties into the Baddeck River, and were discovered last season. Since that time another fall has been discovered further up on the same stream as the original one, whose perpendicular height is 126 feet. Last week Mr. J. J. Forbes, of this town, while in Baddeck, and accompanied by Mr. Anderson, proprietor of the Bras d'Or hotel, followed the stream, which has its source in springs on top of the mountain, and discovered still another fall, which quite equals, if it does not surpass the first two. It is about 159 ft. high. It is a difficult climb to reach the top of this fall, but Mr. Anderson proposes making a road which will enable tourists to see the falls without difficulty."

Mr. John R. Clarke, who is unquestionably one of the most powerful speakers that it has been our privilege to listen to for many a day, lectured twice in the city during the present week. His first effort, "To and Fro in London" was a most interesting description of many of the great buildings for which London is famed, the lecturer incidentally referring to the noted men and women who were in any way connected with them. Many of Mr. Clarke's periods were beautifully rounded, and as he possesses a strong, clear voice, and has an impressive style of delivery, he frequently won well merited plaudits from his auditors. The lecturer can scarcely be classed as a man of culture, indeed, in the use of metaphor and simile, he is decidedly commonplace, but his keen sense of humor, his high appreciation of noble character, and, above all, his unmistakable sincerity give him a power over his audiences, which cannot fail to elevate and improve the moral sentiment of those whom he may address.

Charles G. Francklyn, formerly the New York agent of the Cunard Steamship Company, has been seized and thrown into jail on a warrant, for misappropriation of funds. Mr. Francklyn is president of the famous Horn Silver Mine, and it is supposed that it was in connection with this enterprise that the misappropriated funds were used.

The Duke of Marlborough, who is in bad odor in English society, has recently been the recipient of most marked attention from the leaders of fashion in Newport, R. I. The editor of a New York journal called *Truth*, undertook to make public some alleged facts respecting the Duke's past life, whereupon Marlborough instituted a libel suit against him. The pleas set up by him in this suit have now in turn been seized upon by the editor of *Truth*, who has instituted a suit against Marlborough, and claims \$25,000 damages.

A club has been formed in Athens to promote the confederation of Bulgaria, Servia, and Roumania.

Kitab, a town in Central Asia, has been totally destroyed by fire, fully half of the inhabitants perished in the flames.

The Royal Clyde Yacht Club at Glasgow have resolved to challenge for the America's cup in the name of Charles Sweet. The new champion will be a cutter.

The fifty Spanish soldiers who took possession of Poxape, one of the Caroline Islands, have been massacred by the natives, and six priests suffered a like fate.

France has abandoned her designs upon the New Hebrides, and has evacuated the military posts. Henceforth Great Britain and France are to be joint protectors of the Islands.

The Government of India has prohibited the wholesale slaughter of plumaged birds, which, for many years, has been carried on at great profit to those trading in ornamental feathers.

Evictions in Ireland are met with most determined opposition, scalding water and hot pitch being poured upon the bailiffs when they attempt to force an entrance into the houses of the tenants.

Heretofore goods exported to China have been passed through the customs houses directly on arrival, but the Chinese Government has now consented to the erection of bonded warehouses for storage purposes.

The graziers business in Ireland is in a very bad state. They find it impossible to sell their cattle and sheep even when offered at exceedingly low prices, and bankruptcy will, in many cases, have to be resorted to.

Poverty among the lower classes in the city of Vienna is said to be very extreme, and a fund is now being raised to supply a daily meal for 4,000 school children, who are said to be emaciated from want of nourishment.