

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 17, 1890.

VOL 7
No. 3

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Letter to Cousin Caryl	"Dinah Sturgle" 6, 7
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Poetry—Fire Sweat	6
Our Writers	7, 8
Industrial Notes	8, 9
City Chimes	8, 9
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—A Disgrace to Her Family	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
The Telephone Girl	14, 15
Our Cosy Corner	15
Chess	16
Draughts—Checkers	16

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 Montreal *Witness* says it is now bad form to offer wine on New Year's Day, and adds, that to escape the wine question many have given up the old custom of receiving visits on that anniversary altogether. It is probable that the whole custom is dying out, but what is really satisfactory is that it is certain there has been of late years a great increase of that voluntary spirit of propriety, which is quite sure to effect in the long run all that is desired by the advocates of arbitrary legislation on moral questions.

Attention has been lately again drawn to the question whether the business of the local legislatures might not be quite efficiently disposed of by biennial sittings. This measure of economy might not perhaps commend itself to our legislators themselves, but it is more than likely that it would to the taxpayers of the country at large. If, however, Maritime Union should ever become an accomplished fact, there would perhaps be work enough before the united legislatures to justify the usual annual sittings.

Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Provo. W. P. Wallis, is a personality who enjoys an abiding interest in Nova Scotia. This gallant veteran is now, if we mistake not, in his hundredth year, and we learn that he has had an attack of the prevailing epidemic of influenza, and are glad to be able to add that he has had strength to overcome it. This brave old officer's record of service is a wonderful one. It is 76 years since he brought the *Shannon* and *Chesapeake* into the harbor of his native city, and 70 years last August since his promotion to the rank of captain.

It is not generally known how ancient are some English families in what used to be called the humbler walks of life. Many will remember the noted cricketer Julius Caesar. His family, small farmers we believe, in Sussex, is of so great an antiquity that legend even connects it with that of the invader of Britain. The presence of the Phœnicians in Devon and Cornwall in pre-historic times is attested by the existence at Newton Abbot, Devon, of a family, also farmers, whose patronymic is Ballhatchet. This name is only a slight corruption of Baal-achet, Priest of Baal, and there are still on their farm very ancient remains of a temple of the Phœnician Sun-God, while immediately above it rises a hill known as Baal-town—the rock or hill of Baal. Only 30 years ago there died in Hampshire the last of the Purkises, who had held their land from father to son from the days of King Alfred—1000 years. It was one of this ancient family who carted the corpse of William Rufus from the spot at which he was shot in the New Forest to Winchester Cathedral.

We have been favored by the Secretary of Dr. Bernardo's excellent Institution for providing homes for Destitute Children with copies of the interesting magazines issued thereby. We are well-aware of the good done by Dr. Bernardo's homes in various parts of Canada, but have no opportunities of judging from our own observation or experience, as Halifax is a garrison town, and we have understood that Dr. Bernardo does not seek to establish his homes in places where troops are quartered. Dr. Bernardo is probably right, which in the case of Halifax is perhaps to be regretted.

The circumstances of the main trouble with Portugal in Central Africa seem to be pretty much as follows:—"Mr. H. Johnston, H.M. Consul at Zanzibar, was, it seems, sent to Lisbon, and concocted a scheme for pacific arrangement of differences which would probably have been ratified by Lord Salisbury but for the Scotch Missionary Societies, who consider that too great concessions had been made to the Portuguese, and the safety and even existence of their mission station endangered. Lord Salisbury then sent out Mr. Johnston as British Representative to Portuguese East Africa with very extended powers. "Mr. Johnston was instructed to make friendly alliances with the native tribes, and practically to do what seemed prudent and right in the way of consolidating British influence in the region which leads up to Lake Nyassa, and has the Scotch Missionary station as its capital." Mr. Johnston left England some months ago in high hopes of being able to successfully fulfil this mission, and to establish British supremacy up to the great Lake Tanganyka.

On his way up the Shireh river Mr. Johnston passed Major Serpa Pinto, the Portuguese explorer, who was leading a force of 900 rulers armed with Winchester rifles towards Lake Nyassa, and proceeded to make treaties of alliance with all the Makololo tribes on both sides of the river, and the British flag was hoisted at intervals all the way up the Shireh to Lake Nyassa. Major Serpa Pinto coming up behind Mr. Johnston discovered that he had been forestalled. He returned to Mozambique for reinforcements, and then swooped down upon the unfortunate natives with whom Mr. Johnston had concluded treaties. When the Makololo showed the British flag and declared that they were the friends of England, they were attacked by Serpa Pinto and hundreds of them were mowed down with Gatling guns, whilst two British flags were ignominiously captured. The Makololo being thoroughly subdued by these means have accepted Portuguese domination, believing themselves to be abandoned by England. Major Serpa Pinto, flushed with success, has determined to conquer the country in similar fashion up to Nyassa. This is a decided case of "diamond cut diamond," but if the account is correctly given, Major Pinto's action would seem to have been unjustifiable. Central Africa seems to be open to a general European scramble, and if this state of things is recognized, which it seems to be, success will go to the smartest, who seems in this case to have been Mr. Johnston.

The Federation idea, or as the English seem to prefer to call it "Home Rule," is evidently more and more assuming definite and tangible shape in the old countries. We do not consider the nomenclature a very happy one, and think the advocates of local parliaments for Scotland and Wales would improve matters if they would adopt the broader term of Federation; no doubt, however, a rose by any other name would lose none of its sweetness of perfume. We take it that the movement in Scotland, tho' marked in its inception by no great wisdom, will gain ground, while the Welsh "Home Rulers" have prepared a scheme which embodies the following tangible points:—A governor to be appointed by the crown for five years, and parliamentary members elected for three years, unless the governor dissolves parliament in the interim; elections to be by household franchise, one representative being returned by each district having over forty thousand and under sixty thousand of a population; members to be paid £1 a day for service at the House, and £10 travelling expenses for session; the governor to have power to reject any measure passed by the Welsh Parliament, but if the same measure is passed by two-thirds of the parliament again within ten days of the veto, the Welsh Parliament shall have power to appeal to the Imperial Parliament for final sanction to the measure. The scope of Welsh parliamentary legislation to include taxation for the purposes of the province, loans for the province, the appointment of officials of the province, prison maintenance and taxation for the purposes of administration of justice, education, religion and agriculture in the province. The Principality, moreover, develops an ambition to enlarge its territory, as it includes the county of Monmouth in its programme. It will no doubt be some time before these schemes will commend themselves to a majority, but as we believe Federation would prove a source of strength, rather than, as so many Englishmen seem to believe, weakness to the Empire, we wish them progress and ultimate success.