

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Coal is now delivered at Plimonton, N. W. T., at \$3.50 a ton.

The traffic returns of the C. P. R. to 21st Nov. show an increase of \$45,000 for 1887. South-Eastern Railway is not included.

A branch of the Imperial Confederation League has been established at Ottawa, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, Q. C., M. P., being president.

The city of St. John is exercised at some startling developments of youthful depravity on both sexes. One portion of the revelations is quite of the *Pall Mall Gazette* type.

The Pictou Branch Railway was formerly opened on Monday with much festive ceremony. This additional step in development is matter of gratulation to the Province at large.

The length of the able and most interesting article "Diamonds and Gold in South Africa," written expressly for *The Critic*, has crowded out Musical notes from this issue.

Mr. H. Norman, the "special" of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is in Ottawa, on his tour round the world. Mr. Norman discovers a strong feeling in New foundland in favor of Confederation.

During the ten months of the current year, 16,286 immigrants have arrived in Manitoba and the North-West, being 6,221 more than the total immigration for the whole of last year.

A young colored woman, Miss Howells, outstripped all her competitors in the recent Halifax County Academy examinations. Her average was 83, a figure not reached by any other candidate for admission.

Wild fowls are remarkably plentiful in the neighborhood of Cypress Hills, North West Territories. 130 ducks and 18 geese are on record for a pair of guns there this season as the reward of four hours' shooting.

Judge Johnston has delivered judgment in the Halifax street car case, in which a driver was fined for driving, collecting fares, etc., on Sunday. He quashed the conviction of the lower court, and allowed the appeal with costs.

Large additions have been built to the snow sheds in the mountains of British Columbia during the past summer, and it is now thought that the railway is sufficiently protected against snow storms, and that no lengthy delays will occur as last winter.

The thermometer yesterday morning stood at about 8 degrees in the neighborhood of Halifax, and Mr. Donkin, the popular I. C. R. Conductor, reported it 2 degrees below zero at Truro, but at Winnipeg it was 30 degrees on the morning of the 28th ultimo.

The *British American*, a new journal, devoted to the concentration of the energies of the Anglo Saxon elements of the population of the United States to the highest political ends, promises to be a valuable addition to American journalism, and will call for further notice.

Quebec still carries on its organized and very discreditable efforts to drive the Salvation Army out of that city. Students are mixed with roughs in the demonstrations, and rowdyism seems quite acceptable to bigotry, which finds sanction from the greater part of the Quebec Press.

The *Herald* says Prof. Wiggins has broken out again, but the attack is a mild one. He says that there will not be a recurrence in North America of the disastrous earthquakes of the Southern States and Central America before 1900. He cannot say the same of Europe and the far east.

It is alleged that the steamer *Vancouver*, of the Dominion line, has made the fastest passage on record from Moville to Halifax. She left Liverpool Friday, Nov. 4, at 1.05 a.m., and arrived at Halifax at 8 p.m. on Friday the 11th, having been delayed four hours on the way by a break in the machinery.

The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, a Presbyterian clergyman, noted for independence of thought, has considerably excited the advocates of total abstinence in Toronto, by preaching a sermon opposed to their extreme views. No utterance, it is said, nearly so strong has been given for a long time by a clergyman of Mr. Macdonnell's standing.

Rockingham, formerly known as the Four Mile House, has remarkably increased its dimensions within the last two years, and among the evidences of rising enterprise is a newspaper, *The Sentinel*, of which we have received the first number. The new sheet is very creditably got up. A new journal, in the French language, *L'Evangeline*, has also made its appearance at Digby.

The traffic of the C. P. R. has become so great that it is the intention of the company to double the capacity of their freight rolling stock. They will build between this and next year four thousand box cars and two hundred locomotives. In order to do this, large shops will shortly be built in the east end of Montreal, with a capacity of turning out ten cars daily. This will give permanent employment to 2,500 men.

The originators of the new company who are asking for government assistance to establish steamers between Halifax and several ports in the West Indies and South America, propose to run four trial trips, as to establish the character and extent of traffic at the outset. As parliament is not now in session, these gentlemen want the post office department to authorize them to carry the ocean mails at a rate already established by the department.

The hundredth anniversary of the introduction of the waltz, which occurs on the 20th of December, is an event which will deserve more than slight remembrance in this jubilee year.

The Quebec mob continued its riotous and fanatical persecution of the Salvationists up to Wednesday evening. The matter is now to be brought before the courts, with a view to test the legality of the Salvationist parades, and the person in charge has been arrested to that end. It may, however, be doubted whether the Quebec populace will respect a legal decision should it run counter to their fanaticism.

St. Andrew's day was duly celebrated on Wednesday evening by the customary dinner at the Halifax Hotel. About 100 gentlemen sat down. The banquet was on strictly total-abstinence principles, but was in every way a success. Greetings from various North British Societies in other provinces and countries were received, and patriotic toasts and excellent songs filled up the programme. The efforts of Mr. Hesslein and his staff gave every satisfaction.

A special from St. John's Nfld., says:—"The Government of the Island is preparing to enforce the Bait Act. Three steamers are being built, which will be placed on the coast to prevent smuggling on the part of the French fishermen. There will be no interference with exportation of frozen herring to the United States in February, as these are not for bait, but for commercial purposes. The French fishermen will not be seriously injured as all their nets will be sold in France for a good price, and all will be required there. This will greatly lessen the surplus in future for exportation after the French markets are supplied."

Harper's for December contains a finely toned engraving of Murill's "St. Anthony of Padua." An episode in a Russian state ball, treated in a dramatic way by T. B. Aldrich, is remarkable for mellifluous blank verse, well nigh faultless, yet instinct with the fire of naturalness. The Editor's Easy Chair has an appreciative reminiscence of Jenny Lind, blondest with recollections of her great contemporaries, Grisi, Albani, Persiani, Mario, Lablache, and others. A charming article on Old Garden Flowers, two or three serials of merit, some more flowing verses, and "Precious Stones in the United States," with a well-colored illustration, make up the number.

The first concert of the season was given by the Orpheus Club with the Ladies' Auxiliary, at the Orpheus Club hall on Tuesday evening last. The audience was large, and, to judge from the comparative infrequency of *tele-a-tele* during the performance of the members, it must have included many lovers of high class music. The Club itself, with the Ladies Auxiliary, made a decidedly good impression. No. 1, the Bridal Chorus, was most pleasingly rendered, and with the exception of the closing bars, in which the sopranos lost confidence in themselves, the number was one of the most enjoyable of the Club's performances. No. 3, Spring's Message, by Gadi, was well sung, the harmonic effects being conscientiously given. No. 8, Chorus of Bacchantes, in which the contrasts are striking, fully tested the Club's ability to render successive *fortzando* and piano passages effectively, the work being so well done that an encore was insisted upon by the audience. No. 10, a Motett by Coumoud, which was the last number given by the Club with the Ladies' Auxiliary, was a glorious piece, but it should have been placed near the commencement of the programme, as coming after the lighter numbers, after the audience had been attentively listening for nearly two hours, its beauties failed to be appreciated as they otherwise would have been. Of the soloists, Mrs. Kennedy-Campbell has evidently had the greater advantages as to thorough musical training. Possessed as this lady is of a winning manner and a pleasing, well-trained voice, it is scarce surprising that she took the audience by storm, and was called upon for an encore. Mrs. Campbell's rendition of Scotch songs is simply inimitable, and, as she throws herself fully into the sentiment of the song which she is rendering, the effect is magnetic, and her audience feels drawn toward her by a secret yet irresistible influence. Mrs. Taylor sang in her sweet old way two charming songs, and her rich voice and clear articulation might well be envied by many professionals. Mr. Gillis sang "The Last Watch" with characteristic energy. Captain Colhoun, who has a fair natural voice, misinterpreted a very pretty song by singing "truew, truew, till death." Herr Klengenfeld delighted the audience by the playing of a violin fantasia, in which he brought out the fullest, richest, deepest and most majestic notes of his fine violin. Herr Klengenfeld's delicacy of expression and faultless execution, stamp him as a master of no second grade, and we have reason to congratulate ourselves that such an artiste is to make an extended stay in our city. If Mr. Porter, the conductor of the Orpheus Club, is able to give, during the season, four such concerts as that of Tuesday night, the subscribers for tickets will have no reason to regret the small outlay to which they were put to secure two seats for each evening.

A son of Joaquin Miller, the poet of the Sierras, is said to be in gaol in Nevada for horse-stealing.

Three Sioux Indian confined in jail at Helena, Mont., for horse-stealing, stabbed and killed two white prisoners. Two of them then hanged themselves.

One of the most atrocious crimes on record has been committed in Chicago. A German fiend named Hetzke, literally flogged his stepson to death with a strap, after a long course of brutality, from witnessing which the boy's mother had sickened and died.

A cold wave was experienced in the U. S. earlier than by us. At St. Paul the Ther. stood at 16 degrees below zero on the night of the 27th ult., at 28 degrees below at Fort Buford, at 10 degrees below at Helena, at 2 degrees above at Chicago, and the Mississippi was closed at La Crosse, where the temperature was 20 degrees below.