

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 \$2.00 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.

Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, have issued a very neat and pretty calendar. Another proof of their business enterprise.

Laurie Hennessy, twenty-two years old, was killed a mile west of Alton tank, on the Intercolonial R. R., by falling between the cars.

The Toronto Globe, St. John Telegraph, and other influential Liberal journals are repudiating and condemning Editor Ellis' annexation sentiments.

There were five Allan line steamers in port Saturday, and four Sunday. They were the *Polynesian*, *Peruvian*, *Nova Scotia*, *Circasian*, and *Austrian*.

We are indebted to M. B. Daly, general agent at Halifax of the Imperial Fire Insurance Co., for a very handsome calendar issued by his company.

E. F. Clarke was elected Mayor of Toronto on the 2nd of January by about 1000 majority. McLeod Stewart was re-elected Mayor of Ottawa on the same date by 300 majority.

S. G. Kerr & Sons' Vegetable Evaporating Factory at Canning was totally destroyed by fire, the evening before last. The loss to Messrs. Kerr is, it is feared, very heavy.

The unrevised statement of immigration for the past season shows the arrivals to be 143,000, an increase of about 45 per cent. over the previous season. The figures will represent about 80,000 actual settlers.

It is reported that the city of Montreal is shortly to obtain possession of Logan's Farm, for many years used as a Militia camp-ground. It is to be made into a park, and a large sum will be expended on its embellishment.

A fire in St. John, on New Year's eve, badly damaged a brick building on Prince William street, owned by Lewis J. Almon, and occupied by Thos. Bates, J. F. McMasters, A. R. McLean, and others, all of whom suffered more or less.

Sir Henry Grattan Esmonde, M.P., and Mr Arthur O'Connor, M.P., the delegates of the Irish National Land League, who have been addressing meetings in the United States and Upper Canada, will likely be in Halifax the middle of this month.

It is stated that Mr. Cochrane's majority in East Northumberland is 24, not 126. Intelligence has sometimes to be put in at the last moment, with no time for verification. If errors occur in this way, they are due to the unvaracity of partizan-journals.

Word has been received that the government has decided to locate the experimental farm at Nappan, and that the Roche and Pipes farms have been purchased, the price being about \$16,000. These farms are located about five miles from Amherst.

Sir John Macdonald, who has hitherto represented two constituencies in parliament, has resigned that of Carlton, and will hereafter sit as the member for Kingston. This will necessitate a new election in Carleton, which will take place in the immediate future.

The City Brigade of Militia is ordered to parade at 2 p.m. to-day in review order, with great coats, to attend the funeral of the late Lt.-Col. Milson, formerly Brigade-Major in the Lower Provinces, and afterwards in Toronto, whose death, on the 3rd inst., we regret to record.

The Hon. Senator Schultz, so well known in the early history of Manitoba as Dr. Schultz, and who narrowly escaped the clutches of the late lamented Mr. Riel with his life in 1870, has been appointed Lt.-Governor of the Province he has so loyally served. The appointment cannot but be popular.

Col. James Baker, a member of the British Columbia legislature, and a brother of the late Baker Pasha, has arrived at Ottawa from England, where he says he has been successful in inducing capitalists to assist in his scheme of colonizing alpaca goats, from South America in the mountains of British Columbia. Col. Baker confirms the report that a few days before his brother's death Her Majesty gave her consent that he should be restored to his rank in the British army, but the Pasha died before he heard the news.

There seem to have been few business changes in Halifax on the opening of the New Year. Mr. Alexander Keith has been admitted a partner in the firm of Gordon & Keith. Mr. W. A. Lyons, solicitor, has been admitted into the firm of Lyons & Mooney. And the firm of Twining & Twining, Insurance, has been dissolved. H. St. George Twining has formed a partnership with Russell Twining, under the name of H. St. George Twining & Co., and the new firm continues in business at the old stand. J. T. Twining will conduct a general insurance business at 22 Bedford Row.

The following shows the deposits and withdrawals from the Dominion savings' bank at Halifax for the year ending Dec. 31.—

	Deposits.	Withdrawals.
Jan. 1 to July 1.....	\$368,939 06	\$384,787 36
July 1 to Dec. 31.....	215,793 80	377,560 02
Total for 1887.....	\$584,682 89	\$762,347 38

The deposits for the last past six months are over \$150,000 less than for the former half year. This was occasioned by the limit of accounts being reduced from \$1000 down to \$300.

The members of the cabinet have for some days been discussing the advisability of postponing the date for the opening of parliament, owing to the fact that several of the ministers will be wholly engaged in connection with the fisheries convention during the present month. It is understood that the matter will be finally decided at the council meeting on Tuesday next. It is rumored that February 23rd will probably be selected.

A heavy rain set in on Monday, and continued all day, almost putting a stop to New Year's calling in Halifax. The Governor held his usual levee, which, considering the weather, was well attended, but otherwise there was little going on. Most citizens remained at home nursing their colds, which, unlike the weather, refused to moderate. The electric light, or rather the lines of the two rival companies, crossed on Salter street, and the result was that the city was left in darkness. Some severe shocks were communicated to passers by the falling wires, and by crossing with the Bell Telephone some of the telephone boxes were burnt out, and the switch-board at the central office set on fire. Fortunately, no serious damage was done.

The second concert of the Orpheus Club will take place on the 11th inst., when Gounod's "Redemption" will be given, one of the greatest and most suggestive works of this celebrated composer. Those who enjoyed its successful performance last winter will doubtless listen with increased appreciation. The parts sustained by Dr. Slayter, Mr. C. J. Ross, and Prof. Currie will, we conclude, remain unchanged, as they could not be in better hands. The choruses have been brought by their zealous and skilful conductor, Mr. C. H. Porter, to a point of careful finish, which disarms criticism, and is indispensable to this sublime work. The lovers of really good music who do not hear the "Redemption" next Tuesday evening may count it among their lost opportunities.

During the year 1887 there were 44 fires in Halifax. Many of them were very slight, several being extinguished without water from the department. The most serious conflagrations were the Heisler Bros', Granville Street fire on 6th January; Henderson & Potts' paint factory, North West Arm, totally destroyed, 14th April; Gibson's planing mills, Freshwater, totally destroyed, 18th June; Gordon & Keith's furniture factory, Donald Street, 23rd August; J. K. Bent's mineral water and soda works, Brunswick Street, 19th October. Two very serious fires occurred in Dartmouth during the year—Mumford & Sons' foundry and machine shops, and W. S. Symonds & Co.'s foundry and machine shops. The department is badly in need of a new fire engine, the present machines having outlived their usefulness.

The unfounded rumor of the death of the Emperor of Germany appears to have reached all parts of the civilized world, and to have considerably affected the stock markets in London, New York and Montreal. The originator of the rumor is, of course, not known, but it no doubt started in the brain of some speculator who wished to bear the market. It will be remembered that some years ago the bulls in the New York exchange reported the safe arrival of the S. S. *City of Boston*, which had been given up as lost, and thus gained a temporary rise in stocks. Speculators appear calloused to all those feelings which prompt most persons to have a regard for truth, and induce them not to spread rumors which are calculated to cause needless pain to those immediately interested, or to awaken false hopes in the breasts of those who think themselves bereaved.

The shipping interests of the Maritime Provinces continue to show a decrease in the number of ships built as well as in the registered tonnage. Nova Scotia has now 2840 vessels, with a tonnage of 503,125, being seventy-four vessels less than at the commencement of last year, with a decrease of 25,501 registered tons. New Brunswick has at present 1,026 vessels, the register showing 255,667 tons. Last year New Brunswick had 16 more vessels, and her registered tonnage being 13,657 greater than now. Prince Edward Island has, at present, 225 vessels, showing 29,031 registered tonnage. The number of vessels is the same as last year, while the registered tonnage shows a reduction of 1627 tons. Windsor, Yarmouth and Halifax, respectively, hold the first, second and third places as to the registered tonnage or shipping, while Halifax, Yarmouth and Windsor stand, respectively, first, second and third, as regards the number of the vessels owned. Shipbuilding operations are likely to be more brisk in Hants County than they have been for several years past. A number of large ships, as well as several barquentines and three-masted schooners, will probably be launched before the end of the year.

The performance, in aid of the School of Art and Design, of "Check-Mate," and "The Little Sentinel," by an amateur company on Wednesday evening, may be said to stand apart and above the general run of amateur performances. It was exceptionally good throughout, and none of the performers could be singled out as having failed to contribute a full share to the success. Mrs. A. E. Jones displayed great histrionic talent, and, in spite of the drawback of a severe cold, continued to merit the applause her grace and skill of impersonation in the character of Charlotte Russe, ensured her. Mrs. W. Tobin, always a favorite, played a difficult part in the pleasantest manner, and constantly "brought down the house." Major Bagot was excellent alike in each of the opposite characters of gentleman and groom. Mr. L. F. Fuller and Capt. Ross (Y. & L. Regt.) as groom and head-waiter at the inn, respectively showed great comic talent. The pieces were indebted, to the full extent and value of parts consistently well played, to Messrs. Daly, W. Duffus, Maule, and W. A. Henry; and last, but not least, to a bevy of damsels—fairer, it is said, than is usually seen together even in Halifax—who composed the household of Miss Charlotte Russe—Miss Duffus, Miss Meynell, and Miss Harvey. Mrs. G. Morrow and Miss Kate Kenny earned well-deserved applause in the "Little Sentinel," as did also Capt. Hunter and Capt. Boileau. The object of this unusually excellent performance is a most praiseworthy one, and an