

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., OCTOBER 21, 1892.

{ VOL. 9
{ No. 43

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	5
News of the Week	6, 7
Poetry—Tennyson	8
The Lunenburg's Mistake	8, 9
Book Gossip	8
Industrial Notes	9
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—Matt	12, 13
Mining	14, 15, 16
Draughts—Checkers	14
Chess	15
A Solville Miracle	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.

There seems to be a vast difference of opinion in regard to the true worth of the discoverer of America. In this year, when the four-hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus on our shores is being celebrated with many elaborate ceremonies, etc., and the nations of the world are uniting in the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, a few men have arisen in strong denunciation of the character of the man who is being held up in this nineteenth century as a hero of heroes. Dr. Parkhurst at Boston declared that his life was "one of fabrication and greed for gold."

A very sensible movement has been started in some of the public schools of Pennsylvania with the object of giving all school children an idea of their duties as citizens. All the young members of the patriotic league are imbued with the idea of their coming citizenship—a bright intelligent interest in civic matters is soon aroused which in course of time is bound to extend to State and national affairs. Best of all the work begins at home. The child is held responsible for a proper discharge of his duties as a pupil of the State, and is taught to look after and use his influence with children who are not taking advantage of the free schools of his district.

The simple dignified arrangements which were made for the removal of the body of the late Lord Tennyson from his home to his final resting place have satisfied even those who would have preferred a more imposing ceremony for the last rites of the famous singer. No flaunting of funeral finery was permitted, in fact not even a hearse was used when the body was taken from Halsemere to the railway station, yet everything was done decently and in order, with every respect and deference to the wish of the deceased, and after the solemn burial service at "Westminster Abbey," he who was not afraid to "cross the bar" was laid at rest most fittingly by the side of Robert Browning.

The Venezuelan revolution is at an end—for the present at least. The too-ambitious president was not content with the legal term of office, and in his endeavor to retain his position lost all. Crespo is now the people's favorite. At the head of the people's army he has assumed possession of the State capital, Caracas, and the future government of the State will be in great part according to his will and pleasure. Months ago Crespo could have quelled the revolution, but, like a born diplomat, he preferred to wait until the Palacio party should be so torn by dissensions that victory should be assured. This strange civil war being over, the Venezuelans are hoping for a more peaceful condition of public affairs.

Our Montreal friends, who have been so delighted at securing an electric street car service, are finding that their troubles are not over. Several telephone subscribers have made complaint to the effect that owing to the noise of the street service they are unable to hear through their telephones. As the streets of Montreal are too narrow to admit of double tracking there seems at present to be no means of remedying the trouble.

Sir Chas. Tupper is still combatting that firmly rooted belief that it is necessary for young would-be settlers to pay fees to some person or agency before making their homes in Canada. In every country there is a class of people who use their wits for dishonest purposes, and Canada alas is not without her share of these sharpers, who extort fees for correspondence and information which may readily be had for nothing. Numbers of young men come out ostensibly to "learn farming," for which purpose they pay large fees to well-to-do farmers. The lessons are seldom given, though in this case the farmer is not always at fault, as the young men are too frequently from the "no'er-do-wells" at home, and are more desirous of having a good time than of taking part in any serious occupation.

Among the breach of promise suits which now and then cause a ripple of amusement in our Canadian courts, an interesting case has been settled, in which the gentlemanly victim claimed to have been badly used. Notwithstanding the promise which his fickle lady-love had given him, and the flowers, grapes and original poetry which he lavished upon her, she decided abruptly that single blessedness was preferable to marriage with a man who at any moment might break into verse. The plaintiff estimated his feelings to be damaged to the extent of \$150.00 by the transaction, but the jury, who seem throughout the trial to have been most hilarious, decided in favor of the changeable maiden. Can it be that masculine affection is undervalued in our courts, or did the charms of the defendant entirely captivate the jury?

We have all at times, no doubt, been surprised at the ease with which people will give opinions on matters with which they are thoroughly unfamiliar. Travellers, especially, are guilty of this habit, greatly to the annoyance of more well-informed persons. Just now a New Yorker and his wife are emulating Columbus. They seem to have left Gotham with the distinct idea of discovering something, and they have been so far successful that they are now publishing a series of articles dealing with the northern shore of Lake Superior, entitled, "Darkest America." The natives of this fabulous district seem to be a curious uncivilized people, and blood-curdling adventures are met with each day. The lady claims that she is "the first white woman to set foot in these wild regions," and is seemingly ignorant of the fact that there are thousands upon thousands of settlers' wives and daughters not far removed from her summer resort. This sort of talk is ridiculous and hurtful to the extreme, and such arrant falsifying should be discouraged by all sensible people who have the welfare of their country at heart.

Since Henry Labouchere has been thoroughly convinced that his talents were not considered necessary in the cabinet of his country, he has begun to initiate the people of the United States into the political life of Great Britain. There is of course great ignorance of old world politics and of British politics in particular among the American people, and they are only too apt to accept as truth the statements which Labouchere is now making in the *North American Review*. They are for the most part cleverly incorrect, having just that dangerous admixture of truth which makes it so difficult to deal with. The facile writer finds fault with the past policy of his government. He attacks Lord Salisbury's policy in Egypt in the utterly untrue statement: "That the entire future of Egypt is subordinated to paying interest on a debt." He upholds the action of Russia when in 1878 the Czar's forces were sent to subjugate Bulgaria on the ground that Russia "wished to free the people from the intolerable oppression of the Turks"—which is certainly a new phase of Russian policy. But perhaps his crowning achievement is the effort to convince his readers that England wantonly destroyed the peace of Europe "by refusing to recognize Napoleon as Emperor of the French," when it is known to every reader of history that it was the refusal of England to recognize Napoleon as "Dictator of Europe" which led to the famous struggle. Labouchere compliments the Government of the United States in some rather uncalled for ways. The people for whom he is writing are by no means devoid of humor, and wholesale complimenting of two opposing political parties is not calculated to be widely beneficial. We cannot close this short criticism more impressively than by quoting a novel doctrine which the disappointed aspirant to political honors is promulgating: "Happy the nation that has no foreign policy," or when a foreign policy is an absolute necessity, "let the example of the United States be followed."