

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH 30, 1888

{ VOL. 5.
No. 13.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Legislature and its Library	2
Civic Reforms	2
Country Courting	2
Notes	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Egypt and the Israelites	7
Our American Cousins	7
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Industrial Notes	6
Parliamentary Review	7, 8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serfal—Saddle and Sabre	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Home and Farm	14
Cheese	16
Draughts—Checkers	16

A very important measure is about to be introduced in the British Parliament. Extended powers of Local Government are to be conferred on bodies which will be, in effect, County Councils. It will, if carried out with full breadth, be highly satisfactory to the public, and will relieve Parliament of a mass of local legislation with which it is at present hampered.

An exchange says "John Bull and brother Sandy have a quiet way of doing big things. When the Brooklyn bridge was building, all the world was given to understand that a most gigantic work was in progress, as indeed was the case. But at this moment a bridge is being built over the Frith of Forth that consists of two spans, each longer by 100 feet than the main span of the Brooklyn bridge. But nothing much is being said about it. The bridge will be built and opened in a quiet sort of way; and, though it will be by far the greatest bridge in the world, John and Sandy will not think they have done anything tremendous. The chief question with them will be, what to do next."

Instantaneous photography has been employed by Mr. S. W. Gardner to demonstrate by optical proof the fact that the upper part of the wheel of a vehicle in motion travels more quickly than its lower part. Mr. Gardner has taken an omnibus wheel en route, and in this photograph, while the lower ends of the spokes immediately adjacent to the ground are not perceptibly unsharpened by the motion, the tops of the upper spokes show an angular motion corresponding to about ten degrees. The photograph also most successfully expresses the fact that the wheel it represents is in rapid motion. Instantaneous photography, at the rate it is going on, will soon have no more worlds to conquer.

The list of persons entitled by the Bye-Laws of the Legislative Library to visit it and consult its contents is very fairly liberal; but we notice a restriction in one class of persons which we fancy was not really contemplated in compiling the regulations. In the class of citizens referred to, the "chief officer of the Militia" is the only individual privileged. To say nothing of Regimental Commanders, it is to be supposed that not only their Field officers, but every Active Volunteer Militia officer (not to mention the Retired List) is a person of intelligence and of a certain position, who may be reasonably supposed to have occasional intellectual wants requiring satisfaction. The Library cannot be expected to be rich in Military works of authority; but if it possesses a work of so general and untechnical a nature, even as the "Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World," there is in it food for thought to the military student, and every Militia officer should be a military student all his life. We venture to suggest this point to the Library commissioners.

There is good news looming up for zealous Militiamen. At a lecture recently delivered in London by Col. Maurice, R. A., of the Staff College, on simplifying drill, the story was told of the late Col. Valentine Baker having, by one of his clever but simple movements, at the first autumn manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain, attacked the 60th Rifles in the rear. But Col. Hawley was also himself one of the sharpest and most unconventional of drills, and at once faced his men about, saying, "the 60th had no rear." The same thing was done by the rear rank of a German skirmish line at Gravelotte, which was similarly attacked by an admirably handled regiment of French Cavalry. After the lecture Lord Wolseley said the Duke of Cambridge had been doing his utmost to simplify drill, that he had lately cut out a lot of useless matter, and that a new simplified Drill Book would soon be issued. Lord W. added that the Regulars were under great obligations to the Volunteers, whose practical business ideas tended to set things free from the conventional grooves.

Mr. King, of King & Tarss, in his lengthy address before the Council of the Bar Society, in defence of the charges of unprofessional conduct made against his firm, implied that THE CRITIC had, in an editorial, on professional etiquette, wilfully distorted the facts to their (King & Barss') prejudice. At least, we presume that he intended so doing; but what, as reported, he really did say, was—"With the general tone of the article I have no fault to find, but I will say with regard to what I have quoted, that if the editor of THE CRITIC wished to prejudice our case, while under investigation, he might, at least, have confined himself to a truthful statement of the facts." If confining ourselves to a truthful statement of the facts would have prejudiced the case, surely Mr. King has to thank us for not, as he thinks, doing so? Seriously, the statement of facts complained of was taken from the daily press; and when writing the article, we had no desire to say anything for or against the firm of King & Barss. In the future, if Messrs. King & Barss desire any advertising, we must refer them to our business manager.

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.

Professor Russell's recent lecture before the Y. M. C. A. was a very valuable one. Men of all "Creeds and Confessions" will do well to lay its breadth of precept to heart, and carry it out in their lives. It is really time that educated persons should lend the weight of the independence of thought which ought to result from culture, to the inculcation of the little intrinsic importance of many of the dogmatic tenets so sedulously cherished by different sects.

We very much regret to see by the Annual Report of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty, that this valuable Institution is likely to be crippled for the lack of funds. The amount of cruelty prevented or punished by the zeal and energy of Mr. Naylor in behalf of humanity, induces the belief that the charitable and humane citizens of Halifax will not permit the operations of this Society to be thus paralyzed. These virtues are so conspicuous in our city that we feel confident appeals for aid will be liberally responded to.

There are folks who discern eternal condemnation in the glass of beer; others who find dissolution of the nervous system in a dish of tea; dyspepsia in a cup of coffee; and numberless other pseudo-hygienic idiocies run the rounds of the press; but perhaps the supremest ass yet struck (he ought to be struck with a good stout club) is an English surgeon who has discovered blindness and deafness to be induced by rocking-chairs! We wonder how this cheap and squeamish person would feel on a fore-top-gallant yard in a lively breeze and a cross-sea?

Two special organs in the United States are doing a great work. They are the *British American Citizen*, Boston, and the *Canadian American*, Chicago. Their main object is to promote the naturalization of British and Canadian citizens of the United States, with the special one of making their powers felt in the direction of political truth and purity, and their success has already impressed American politicians with the strength of the new power they have to reckon with. Counteraction of Hierarchical antagonism to the public schools is one, and a popular one, of their aims. It is indeed time that the British element, which is very strong in the States, should assert its legitimate position and influence.