

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

NO PER ANNUM. }
SINGLE COPY 3 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 28, 1887.

{ VOL. 4.
{ No. 4.

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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 3 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 his 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 news from Europe is daily becoming more ominous, and may almost be taken as premonitions of war, not that any single European power is particularly anxious to fire the first shot, but each is preparing at tremendous cost, for a struggle which is regarded as inevitable. Whether Germany and France, or Austria and Russia will strike the first blow, is the problem which remains to be solved.

Two hundred thousand new voters have been enfranchised under the Dominion Act; two hundred thousand, not forty thousand, as stated in our editorial, "The Political Battle." These will constitute an element of uncertainty which the party whips and old political wire-pullers will have difficulty in placing. Hereditary predilections or surrounding circumstances may make some of these new voters strong partisans, but the majority of them will vote from conviction, and their action will be applauded or decried according to whether conviction has led them to support or oppose either of the two great parties.

Our American cousins are not wont to make a fuss over nothing. They represented our fisheries as worthless, and when we take them at their word and force them to respect our laws, they become irritated and threaten dire vengeance if we do not immediately allow them all the privileges that our own fishermen enjoy. If the fisheries are worthless, Uncle Sam's legislators are making a terrible to-do about a small matter. Possibly there is another side to the question, otherwise these long, wordy resolutions, threatening non-intercourse between the United States and Canada, would scarce attract so much attention.

We publish in another column a brief letter from Miss Frances Power Cobbe, well known throughout Britain for the interest she has evinced in preventing cruelty to animals. Miss Power Cobbe has quoted from our news columns an item which we had no reason to believe incorrect, but as that lady has sent us a carefully prepared paper, giving in full the names and nationalities of fifty-two persons who died after having been inoculated in the Pasteur Institute, we hasten to correct the impression conveyed by our news note. The paper in question was published in the Parisian *Journal de Médecine*, November 7th, and in it, it is stated that the medical opinion on facts as reported, was that the deaths were due not to hydrophobia, but probably to Pasteur's inoculations, the symptoms not being those of any known disease. Miss Power Cobbe's description of the inhuman treatment which results from Pasteur's system, is in itself sufficient to turn most persons against it.

The dramatic critic of a well known New York journal thus describes Mrs. Langtry in "The Lady of Lyons":—"Lakes of Como glisten in her bland eyes, and her pearly brow stands like Chillon over Leman's waters. Alabaster lamps are swinging and music in the midst of roses exhales while she croons. Bougereau, Titian, Paul Veronese—where are you? Where indeed? And common sense where are you?"

Owing to a panic which ensued from a false alarm of fire in the Princess Street theatre, London, 17 persons were trampled to death by the crowd, in its endeavor to obtain exit. In this instance the alarm was evidently a mistake, but there is no evidence that it was intentional. We refer to the matter more particularly to remind persons attending public entertainments, that their chances of escaping from the building without injury are much greater if they remain for a few moments in their seats until the rush is over. Even should the alarm of fire prove correct, there is always sufficient time for an audience to disperse before any real danger threatens them.

The railway disasters which follow each other with such rapidity, emphasize the need that exists for some better method of heating passenger cars than that at present employed. Collisions and derailments have their own terrors, but the prospect of being buried alive in the debris and roasted to death, within hail of those who are powerless to save, makes travelling anything but a safe pastime. Heat without fire is difficult to obtain, but the man who succeeds in inventing some process for some less dangerous way of heating railway carriages than that at present in vogue, will soon have a round million to his credit in the bank.

Dr. Ross, who has recently resigned the premiership of the Quebec Government is sick, sick politically, we presume. The doctor made an excellent first minister, but his friends deserted him on account of the stand taken by him on the Riel issue, and the prospect of meeting the new parliament with a chance of being hoisted into the cold shades of opposition on the very first vote, was enough to give any politician the ague and rheumatism and probably the phthisic as well. The Hon. L. O. Taillon has undertaken the task of forming a new Conservative ministry. No doubt he will be able to form a Cabinet, but will the legislators support it. There's where the rub comes in.

The conduct of Sir John Pope Hennessy, Governor of Mauritius, has been proved to be not only unconstitutional, but in direct opposition to his instructions from the Colonial Department. Sir John has a faculty of rousing class against class, creed against creed, and nationality against nationality. The Mauritius afforded him an excellent opportunity for the practise of his special gift, there being in the Island 120,000 whites, principally of French descent, and 250,000 coolies, native and imported. Sir John espoused the cause of the latter, and by unconstitutional methods, sought to over-ride the decisions of the elected representatives, with the result that he has been recalled from his post with name and fame tarnished.

The Fruit Growers Association have probably done more to advance the interests of this province during the past few years than any body of men in it. At their annual meeting, which took place in Wolfville last week, facts and figures were adduced which proved beyond question that fruit-culture was the most profitable investment that a married man could make. The business is as yet in its infancy, for the day will yet come when, instead of exporting 20,000 or 30,000 barrels of apples, we shall be shipping at least 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 barrels annually. Young men of intelligence and industrious habits should investigate the paying properties of fruit-raising in Nova Scotia before purchasing a ticket for Chicago.

The American Institute has recently had a lively discussion over the photograph of a young lady which was alleged to have been due to the direct action of a flash of lightning. As we mentioned some weeks ago, the picture appeared upon the surface of a brass plate which the young lady was holding in her hand at the time of a severe thunderstorm. During the discussion at the American Institute, Mr. T. C. Martin read the following paragraph, which appeared in the *Operator* for January 1, 1876:—"We learn that within the last two weeks a singular discovery has been made at the house of Jesse Garth, for many years deceased. It is said that a distinct and accurate likeness of Mrs. Garth, who has been dead for twenty years, can be seen on a pane of glass in the upper sash of one of the windows, presenting very much the appearance of a photograph negative. The discovery is said to have been made by a woman who was washing clothes in the yard, who imagined someone was watching her through the window, and went inside to see who it was. We gather these facts from Dr. Charles Brown, who has himself seen the singular picture. Dr. Brown remembers that about twenty years ago Mr. Garth told him that his wife, while standing at the window, was stunned by a sudden flash of lightning, and the doctor's theory is that the outline of her features was photographed on the window at the time. The youngest daughter of Mr. Garth, and others who were acquainted with Mrs. Garth, have seen the picture and pronounced it a striking likeness."—*Electrician*.