

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., DECEMBER 29, 1893.

{ VOL. 10
No. 52 }

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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 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.

RUSSIA IS PRUDENT—Although Russia and France are avowedly on the most friendly and intimate terms yet Admiral Avelan, of the Russian Navy, has declined in the name of the Czar to accept Franco's offer of a permanent naval station in the Mediterranean. Russia has long wished for a southern coaling station and for a permanent home in the Mediterranean and it is a matter of surprise that the arrangement has not been made. The reason assigned by Admiral Avelan is that he could not depend upon the loyalty of his officers and men if they were permitted to visit French ports regularly; but he does not state the exact nature of the difficulty. Whether it is that he fears the attractions of the French manner of life and the effect upon his men, or that of the contrast between the rigorous life of the Russian sailor and the comforts and freedom of the Frenchman, or whether he is doubtful of the permanence of the international friendship and objects to building upon an unsteady foundation, he does not state. We should fancy the last cause was the more likely as the durability of the friendship is greatly to be doubted.

A SHAMEFUL SALE—During the past summer THE CRITIC laid before its readers the project then entertained by the Dominion Government of selling a number of the far-famed Thousand Isles of the St. Lawrence. In the whole world there is probably not a region so grand in the diversity and beauty of its scenery, and the sea of islands is of itself a geographical curiosity. These islands were long ago set aside as the property of the Indians and any income accruing from them is used for the needs of the aboriginal inhabitants. In the past many islands have been leased to wealthy men and to hotel proprietors and in this way several have been subtracted from the free public island park. It is true that the islands so leased have been beautified by their holders and that the airy castles which they have built and the illuminations which they are ever ready to make add not a little to the beauty of the island sea, but the downright purchase of any of the islands should not be permitted. The remaining islands should be preserved as a pleasure ground for the whole of Canada and under certain wise restrictions they should be free of access to camping, pleasure or picnic parties. The proposed sale is a sad mistake and will be deeply regretted when it is too late for the Government to make reparation.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.—The days of 1893 are numbered, and we will soon be called upon to greet the morning of the new year. The past has brought us its measures of joy and sorrow, of prosperity and adversity. It is well if we accept all in a proper spirit, the good with thanksgiving, the ill with resignation; but may we not at the close of the year profit by our experience and open the yet unwritten page of 1894 with stronger wills and wiser minds, determined to make fewer errors and to record more good deeds than in the history of any previous year of our lives. To THE CRITIC'S readers a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

WANTED—AN ANGELIC SERVANT.—It is always best to have a plain understanding between employer and employe, but a British Mary Ann, who is suing her employer for wages, is making a lively protest against too much of an understanding. When she "took her place" she was requested to subscribe to a set of rules which had been compiled for the guidance of previous Mary Annes, and she has found that some of the restrictions are incompatible with any enjoyment of life. Among the requirements are some that would try the patience of an angel, not to mention the nervous temperament of the average domestic. There are to be no conversations at the door with trades-people, and no absolutely free day or hour. If the master is irascible the maid must stand meekly by showing no temper and making no answer, for the master "cannot stand that sort of thing." The meals must be on time to the half minute, and a general earthquake may be expected if a hot towel is not taken to the dressing-room at twenty minutes past eight. Mary Ann having failed in some of these important respects, was discharged minus her wages, and our sympathies are entirely with the Amazonian damsel in her efforts to recover some portion at least of her lawful earnings.

THREE BRAVE SOLDIERS—A very fitting and proper recognition of three Canadian heroes has been made recently in Kingston, Ontario, where in St. George's Cathedral a brass tablet has been placed to commemorate the deaths of Huntley Brodie Mackay Captain in the Royal Engineers, who rendered distinguished services in B. Mansard, and who afterwards acted as administrator to the Imperial British East African Company. Following his name upon the tablet is that of William Henry Robinson, Captain of the Royal Engineers, who, after rendering valuable services on the west coast of Africa, was killed in his attempt to blow up the gate of a stockaded village. Perhaps most familiar of all is the name of William Grant Stairs, the soldier-hero of Halifax, whose courage and integrity were so indisputable to Stanley in his African expeditions and whose death was so deeply regretted throughout this Province. It is with pride that the officers of the military college at Kingston point to the tablet and say "these are our sons and their valiant deeds reflect credit on the training which we gave them;" and it is with a similar pride that we of the Maritime Provinces claim Robinson and Stairs as fellow-provincialists who laid down their young lives, so full of promise, at their country's call. There have been many men whose deeds in the martial world have made a stir who could boast of a Provincial origin, and we cannot but take a natural pride in the fact that the race of heroes among us is still far from extinct.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S GOVERNOR—Nova Scotians as well as New Brunswickers have been deeply interested in the matter of the appointment of a Lieutenant-Governor to take the high office left so sadly vacant by the death of Governor Boyd. After much debate, a successor has been chosen who will probably be in all ways satisfactory to the public. The Hon. John James Fraser, the new appointee, is of Scotch descent, being a son of Mr. John Fraser who came to Halifax in 1803. Governor Fraser was born at Miramichi in 1829. He received his education at the Newcastle Grammar School and afterwards was a law student in the same town. In 1850 he was admitted to the bar and in 1873 he was created a Q. C. His political career may be said to date from 1865 when he was elected to the New Brunswick Legislature as an anti-confederate. In 1870 he was given a seat in the Legislative Council which he occupied until 1872 when he resigned in order to contest York County. Mr. Fraser was successful in the general elections of 1874 and 1878. He was made President of the Executive Council, and afterwards obtained the offices of Provincial Secretary and Receiver-General which he held until 1878 when on Mr. King's (now Judge King) retirement from politics he became Attorney-General and Premier. In 1883 Mr. Fraser retired from local politics and was defeated in his contest with Mr. John Pickard for a seat in the Dominion Parliament, and in the same year, after the death of Judge Duff, he was given the seat then vacant on the judge's bench. Personally, Governor Fraser is a man whose gentle, genial and generous disposition have won him hosts of friends and we have no doubt his large knowledge of social duties will serve him admirably in his new office.