

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find receipt in next paper.

The commission appointed by the Provincial Government to make enquiries as to the treatment of the poor folk in Digby County has only served to convince those opposed to the system of farming out the paupers, that whatever may be said respecting the question no person can believe that in farming out the poor the comfort and well-being of the unfortunate is made the first consideration.

According to the Provincial Librarian's Report, Mr. Akins has dowered the Historical Society with the two, if not the three, oldest books in the library. These are *De Origine Urbis Venetiarum*, by Bernardo Justiniani, a beautifully printed volume published in Venice in 1492, of which the value is doubtless enhanced by the recorded fact that it had successively belonged to two noted bibliophiles; *Libertas Germanie*, a brochure published at Straesburg in 1519, to combat the pretensions of Francis I. to the Imperial throne of Germany; and an elaborately illuminated misal, date unknown, but thought to belong to the 16th or the first half of the 16th century. The handsome gift of Vice-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell to the Legislative Library was noticed in THE CRITIC last summer. A vote of thanks to the gallant donor was unanimously adopted by the Legislative Council last week.

In a Chinese Sunday School, in New York, each pupil is provided with a teacher. In the event of one of the teachers being absent, the young Chinese is obliged to remain without instruction, as each pupil looks upon his or their teacher as their property, and is jealous of any one who attempts to share in the lesson being taught.

In an encounter between the British troops stationed at Suakim and the rebels, 30 of the latter lost their lives. It is probable that the strength of the British army of occupation will gradually be reduced.

The Dominion Government is evidently determined not to permit American fishermen to use our inshore fishing grounds with impunity. The New England fishermen have belittled the privileges enjoyed by them under the Washington Treaty. Probably they will learn to appreciate them when driven off by the cutters which Captain Scott is now having fitted for the service.

The R. A. and R. E. Amateur Dramatic Club will appear on the boards at the Academy, on Monday and Tuesday evenings next. The reputation of the Club is such as to insure large audiences.

The Presbyterian *Witness* of last week contains an article on the Salvation Army meeting, held about a fortnight ago in the Academy of Music. After stating what took place, the editor concludes:—

"While this is a faithful report of one meeting I attended, other meetings must have been widely different, for I have heard men of excellent judgment speak commendingly of them. Let what I have reported go for what it is worth. If I were to judge of the Army by that one long meeting, I would be constrained to speak very unfavorably of it as an evangelizing body. A Fire Brigade's sleigh ride, or a Volunteer Parade, has as much religion in it as the greater part of the performance on Monday night. Still, I fondly hope that this was an exceptional and rare performance. Especially do I hope that the services on the Lord's Day are free from the folly so obtrusively manifest on Monday. Otherwise, may God in his mercy save our land from such evangelism."

We fondly hope that the editor of the *Witness* will in future refrain from harshly censuring an organization of which he acknowledges he knows but little. Had the editor been imbued with the spirit of fair play, he would have attended more than one meeting, so that he might be in a position to judge whether the "commendation" of his friends proved them to be men of excellent judgment.

In our issue of last week, a correspondent threw out a suggestion with respect to the old City Hall, which, in the event of Dalhousie College being purchased by the City, should be borne in mind by those interested in the Sailors' Home. The present city building could be easily remodelled as a Seamen's Home, and in respect of site, there could be none better found in the city.

The donations towards the Mansions House fund, for the relief of the unemployed of London, have been most liberal, but according to those best qualified to give an opinion, the genuine workmen are loath to accept the charity offered.

The programme of a complimentary concert given to Miss Emma Thursby, in New York, has been got up in most artistic style. It may be seen at the ware-rooms of S. Sichel & Co. By the way, this enterprising firm should endeavor to again secure the services of Miss Thursby. A Halifax audience knows good singing when they hear it, and their recollections of the concerts given last summer, in which Miss Thursby took such a prominent part, would induce them to go and hear her again, if opportunity offered.

A wonderful raft of deals, weighing 8,000 tons, is now being built six miles below the Joggins, Cumberland. It will be towed to New York late in the spring.

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An æsthetic decorator, in New York, having been called upon to furnish the establishment of a Fifth Avenue millionaire, astonished his employer by attaching one of his finest velvet pile carpets to the ceiling. The millionaire was delighted with the effect, and the decorator has gone off to Washington post-haste, to take out a patent for his new and original idea, which he claims will revolutionize household decoration.

Senator Alexander has the bump of originality very largely developed. He proposes that Sir John A. MacDonald be appointed Viceroy of Ireland. We fear that even the chieftain, with all his suavity, would find it difficult to settle the Irish question satisfactorily.

Labouchere's motion, which was aimed at the hereditary peers, was lost in the British House of Commons by the narrow majority of thirty-six. If this vote may be taken as an indication of the feelings of the people, it sounds the death knell of hereditary peerage and the abolition of the House of Lords.

The fortifications in and about Halifax are to be greatly strengthened, and it is probable that the Garrison will again be increased to two regiments.

The United States Congress is at a loss how to expend the surplus millions of the Republic. One thing, however, it has been decided to do, and that is to expend during the ensuing eight years \$77,000,000 in supplementing the work of education, which is under the control of the State Legislatures.

The St. John Board of Trade are endeavoring to secure a subsidy from the Dominion Government towards the establishment of a steamship service between St. John and the ports on the Basin of Minas. St. John business men have the reputation of being wide awake. They certainly have a keen eye to business with respect to the proposed service.

The consumption of spirits in Canada averages one gallon per head of the population. This is less than the consumption in 1872, but greater than that during the hard times of 1877-78.

One out of each thirty-six persons in Great Britain is a pauper, and yet the value of the real and personal property in the United Kingdom exceeds \$43,000,000. Somebody must have more than their fair share of wealth.

Eighteen-eighty-five will be long remembered by Englishmen as remarkable for its rain-fall. According to the meteorological reports no less than 155 days were put down as rainy.

With a half-billion dollars in the Court of Chancery, and fifty thousand expectant heirs, the London lawyers must enjoy a continual feast. The heir who succeeded in proving his right to property, after it has passed into Chancery Courts, will indeed be fortunate, if he finds anything left to him after the lawyer's fees are paid.

The managers of the Parisian theatres and Concert halls are raising a protest against the extent to which the dead head system is carried. They claim that the free list of Paris costs the managers \$800,000 annually.

Young men who have the right to vote and who have not yet sent in applications to have their names placed upon the official voters lists, should do so at once, as there is no time to be lost.

The snowstorm on Tuesday evening last prevented the customary procession of the various Irish societies being carried out. The turnout on the evening of Wednesday was most creditable to those taking part in it. The memory of St. Patrick is always fresh in the minds of the Sons of Ireland.

A compromise has been made between the Toronto Street Railway Co. and the drivers who were out on a strike. The street cars are again running as usual.

It might have been supposed that the phlegmatic Dutchmen would have escaped the Socialistic fever now so prevalent in European cities, but late reports show that the Socialists have gained a footing in Amsterdam and are threatening the authorities with revolution should they not at once provide work for the unemployed.

The Steamship *Oregon*, built some three years since, was run into off New York harbor by an unknown schooner, and sunk in the course of a few hours. The passengers were taken off without loss of life. The *Oregon* was one of the fleetest of the ocean grayhounds. She was built for the Guion Line, and subsequently purchased by the Cunard Co.

Rumors as to Gladstone's intentions with respect to Ireland are said to be without foundation. Some of the members of his Cabinet are, it is understood, dissatisfied with his Irish policy. The cost of expropriating Irish land would not be less than \$750,000,000.

Correct answers to the Diamond Puzzle published last week were received from Miss Annie Salter, 49 Hollis St., City; Miss Ethel Dimock, 9 Carlton St. do; Mrs. J. S. Dimock, 84 Agricola St. do; R. A. and R. E. Mess, do; E. M. P., 72 South Park St. do; W. Owie Brown, 7 Dreden Row, do; J. A. Bennett, 52 Birmingham St., do; A. A. Buchanan, Business College, do; Douglas Clark, Cor. Cedar and Chestnut Sts. do; R. Ladd, Lovett House, do; G. H. Paton, 264 Gottingen St. do; Miss Julia Jones, Windsor; Miss J. E. Thompson, do; T. R. Woodworth, do; "Numskull," do; Miss Lucy H. Sherman, Port Mulgrave; Amos. B. North, Canning; A. W. S., Hubbard's Cove; B. E. Logan, Acadia Mines; C. A. Snyder, Mahone Bay; E. Larder, Bridgewater; A. D. Curtis, Dartmouth; George Creed, South Rawdon; R. E. Fuller, Amherst; Eugene Macdonald, Antigonish; "Honesty," Bridgetown; S. C. Alward, Butternut Ridge; N. B. and V. B. Thorne, Hamlock Corner, N. B.