

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

Mr. Colin Wm. Macdonald requests us to state that he did not send, or authorize to be sent, the solution of the puzzle which appeared in the Critic on Friday last.

The terrible cyclone which last week swept over a portion of the State of Minnesota, and destroyed the business portion of St. Cloud, was one of the most terrible ever experienced in the Western States. The loss of life and the destruction of property were fortunately not as great as was at first supposed. Nova Scotia may have its drawbacks, but our people have much to be thankful for. Cyclones, blizzards, earthquakes, and other natural phenomena are here unknown.

The several Provinces which form the Dominion of Canada started in 1867 with a balance to their credit. Some of them are now in debt for large amounts, the bonded and floating debt of New Brunswick now being \$1,600,000. There is a scow loose somewhere.

On Saturday week the streets of Halifax will present an unusual scene of bustle and activity, and the stranger will be surprised at the innumerable number of furniture-laden trucks which are to be seen in every direction. The 1st of May is the annual moving day in Halifax.

A company is now being incorporated for the construction of a bridge to connect Isle Madame with Cape Breton. Within a few days the Government purchased from the Avon Bridge Co. of Windsor the only remaining toll bridge in the Province. But some enterprising persons in Richmond County, C. B., propose to perpetuate the toll bridge system. If the present communication between Isle Madame and the mainland is not satisfactory, a bridge should certainly be constructed, but it should not be a toll bridge.

Great Britain has come out at the close of her financial year with a deficit of \$12,000,000, which is mainly due to the falling off in the Customs receipts upon imported spirits. Gladstone attributes this decline in the importation of alcohol to the improved habits of the people. The estimated expenditure for the ensuing year is \$452,000,000. An average of \$12.55 per head of the population.

The American historian Bancroft, refers to Nova Scotia as a land in which there are nine months winter and three months cold weather. If those who accept Bancroft's statement as correct, could have been in the Province on Sunday and Monday last, when the thermometer stood at 75° above zero, they would have come to the conclusion that even Bancroft was not infallible.

The Gordon memorial fund has almost reached £3,000, the sum required for the statue.

It is understood that El Madhi's successor at Khartoum has sent a deputation to the Khedive of Egypt with a view to the peaceful settlement of the Sudanese difficulties. If this be true we may hope to see peace restored in the region of the Upper Nile.

The wheat crop in England for 1885 was 2,000,000 bushels less than the previous year, the acreage under cultivation being about 93 per cent. of that of the former period. The total yield of 1885 was about 75,000,000 bushels.

Mr. Clay, the emigration agent, has sent a cablegram to Miss Rye requesting her to at once send out one hundred English servant girls, places having been secured for them in Halifax and in other towns in the Province.

The Fruit Grower's Association are to hold their quarterly meeting in Windsor on Tuesday next. The object of the association will readily commend itself to the consideration of the citizens of the town, and the farmers in the surrounding country. For the growth of pears, plums, quinces, cherries, and other fine qualities of fruit, the soil and climate of Windsor cannot be excelled in the Province.

The canard circulated to the effect that Sir John A. Macdonald had resigned his position as Premier of Canada has naturally aroused much speculation as to who Sir John's successor would be in the event of his resignation. Conservatives believe that Sir Charles Tupper would be the only man who could successfully lead the party, and this opinion is probably correct.

The citizens of Calgary, N. W. T., are agitated over the loss of the town seal and the public documents of the Municipality. No explanation for their mysterious disappearance has yet been published.

The government of Manitoba has decided to grant a subsidy of \$1,000,000 towards the construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway. It by no means follows that the building of this railway will be at once commenced, as it is to be presumed that no company would be willing to undertake its construction until it had been proved beyond doubt that the water route via the Hudson's Bay and Strait are clear from ice for a sufficient period to warrant the road being used as a second outlet from the North-West Territories.

The medals for the voyageurs engaged in the Nile expedition have been received by the Governor-General, and will at once be distributed.

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The sons of William Vanderbilt have given \$250,000 towards the erection of a memorial building in connection with the college of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. Vanderbilt's sons have shown their good sense.

The Canadian Club of New York have re-elected Erastus Wiman as their President for the ensuing year. The club appears to be in a healthy financial condition, and has taken up its new quarters in the rooms formerly occupied by the St. Nicholas Club. A grand dinner is to be given by the club on Dominion Day.

Black's wharf presents quite a scene of bustle and activity. Improvements are going on in every direction. The North wharf, which has once again been taken by the old firm of Black Bros., is being extended into the harbor and otherwise improved. Alderman Worrall will be remembered by those whom he has provided with work at a most opportune time.

Great suffering is reported in Stry Galacia, where nearly the entire village has been destroyed by fire. Upwards of six hundred houses have been burnt to the ground.

Among the articles of daily use, aside from wearing apparel, there is probably nothing more in demand than the brush and broom in all its various shapes and sizes and nothing that would be more missed if it had to be dispensed with. It is a matter for congratulation that many of these useful articles are now manufactured in our midst instead of having to send abroad for them as formerly. Of the largest manufacturers of these goods in Canada, are T. S. Simms & Co., of St. John, N. B., who are manufacturing all the ordinary kinds of House Brushes, Painter Tools, etc., etc., as well as Corn Brooms and Whisks, and are turning out goods that will compare favorably both in price and finish with any of foreign manufacture. In fine Brushes for painters, they are having quite a demand from Montreal, beside supplying most of the trade for these Provinces and Newfoundland. This firm has been established about 15 years, and have grown from a small beginning to a large and well-equipped factory, employing about fifty hands and turning out from 400 to 500 dozen brushes and brooms each week.

The appeal made by the Legislature of Prince Edward Island to the Home authorities with respect to the communication which, according to the terms of the union, was to be constantly kept up between the Island and the mainland, has resulted in nothing, it having been shown that the Dominion Government has made persistent efforts to improve the present means of communication.

The rumor that cholera has broken out in Venice lacks confirmation, but is supposed to be correct.

The Grecian forces are being rapidly pushed to the front, and it is thought that hostilities between Turkey and Greece cannot long be avoided. The Greek Consul in the Island of Crete is stirring up the inhabitants of that Island to revolt.

In St. John, N. B., the Scott Act has been defeated by a majority of 77, while in the sister city, Portland, N. B., the Scott Act was carried by a majority of 185. St. John and Portland are divided by an imaginary line passing along the centre of a street common to both cities. The late elections will have the effect of legalizing the sale of liquor on the St. John side of the street and making it unlawful over the way.

During the street march of the Salvation Army on Monday evening, a crowd of roughs undertook to prevent its progress. A brawl ensued in which stones and sticks were freely used. Several citizens were roughly handled by the "hoodlums." If it is lawful for the Army to make these street parades, it should have the protection of the law. If it is unlawful, the marches should not be allowed. The roughs should not be encouraged to make and execute the law.

The lecture upon the Rise and Progress of the Salvation Army, delivered at the Academy of Music on Monday evening last by Marshal Ballington Booth, was well received by the audience. Mr. Booth acknowledged that the methods of the organization were peculiar, but he thought that church bell-ringing, the distinctive dress of the clergy, etc., would be thought peculiar by Christians had they not the sanction of time honored custom. He thought that Christian men and women in judging the Army, should look not to the means employed in forwarding the work, but to the motives of those engaged in it and the results obtained. Marshal Booth claimed that through the instrumentality of the Salvation Army, thousands of drunkards have been reclaimed, and he pointed to the converts sitting upon the platform as the best testimony to the effectiveness of the organization in reaching the non-church-going classes. Mr. Booth is a fluent and impressive speaker, possesses a cultured mind, and a heart full of sympathy for all classes of human beings. The Salvation Army throughout the world now numbers 500,000.

A petition has been presented to the Legislature signed by between three and four thousand citizens of Halifax, praying that the bill now under discussion with reference to the liquor question and especially that portion of it referring to the city of Halifax, might not become law until the City Council had signified its approval of the measure.

Just below the City of Montreal an ice dam has been thrown up in the river, thus causing the water to rise and overflow the banks on either side. No such flood has been experienced in Montreal during the past 25 years. A large portion of the lower part of the city and several villages adjacent are under water to the depth of from five to eight feet. Thousands of families have been cooped in the upper stories of their dwellings, and owing to the want of systematic relief have endured terrible hardships. Business in Montreal has been entirely suspended. The losses on account of the flood will be enormous. According to the latest accounts the water is now subsiding.