

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 15, 1889.

{ VOL 6
No. 7 }

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We have several times dwelt on the misuse in public writing of the words "shall" and "will," and "should" and "would." The last time, we gave at great length the detailed strictures on this ungainly and awkward fashion of Professor Mathews, of Chicago University, who has proved himself an able champion of purity of diction. So far we might apparently as well have gone to the top of Blomidon and read Dr. Mathews to the winds of heaven, but we have now the pleasure of learning that Sir Daniel Wilson has taken the subject up. Perhaps the numberless offenders will hear him!

"Max O'Rell" begins his witty and good-humored sketch "Jonathan and His Continent," with a pleasantry doubtless suggested to him by Carlyle's pungent satire on the people of England. The population of the United States, he says, is "sixty millions—mostly colonels." The title of M. Blouet's book, by the way, is an adroit titillation of American vanity; but it is not yet Jonathan's Continent, and Jonathan has so well succeeded in generating Canadian dislike to his institutions, his manners, his customs, and his morals, that if there ever existed a remote possibility of such a culmination it has now dwindled to a vanishing point.

We give, in another note, the somewhat startling substance, as we found it, of an alleged report of a committee of the "British Medical Association." We do not ourselves feel confidence in the authenticity or authority of the statement, and it is only fair to indicate that these are impugned by more than one respectable Prohibitionist correspondent of the daily Press. It is pointed out that there is no proof that the report is that of a committee of the "British Medical Association," which is, however, not, as we think it was implied by one of the correspondents, a doubtful title, but is a real, and, we presume, responsible society, whose President is (or was) Professor Gairdner, M. D., of Glasgow; President-Elect, C. G. Wheelhouse, F. R. C. S., Leeds; offices, 429 Strand, London. It is also urged that insurance offices discriminate in favor of abstainers.

We note in the estimates that the sum of \$17,000 has been set aside to extend the Intercolonial along the water front in St. John. In Halifax some wide-awake merchants have taken up the question of extending the Intercolonial along the water front of the harbor, with branches or sidings running down the numerous wharves, and have had plans and surveys made showing the practicability of the improvement. As far as we can learn, this much needed extension, that should greatly increase the value of water frontage, is blocked by a few owners of wharf property, who demand an exorbitant price for the privilege of extending the railway across their lands. These "penny wise and pound foolish" individuals should be settled with in some manner, as an improvement so vitally important to the commercial interests of the city must not be longer delayed.

The *Empire*, in a forcible article, points out that many of the most valuable "timber limits" in Ontario have been granted to citizens of the neighboring Republic, who would, had it not been for the wise action of the Dominion Government, have stripped the forests, and then have shipped the logs to the States, to be converted into lumber, thus depriving Canadians of even the small employment now afforded. In mining matters there has been still more unjustifiable action, the finest deposits of iron, copper, lead, &c., having been granted to foreigners, who refuse to put up works in the Dominion to treat the ores, but ship the product of the mines to be treated at their own smelting works in the States. As the citizens of Kansas and other States are legislating to prevent foreigners from owning real estate, the *Empire* concludes that, as far as the Dominion is concerned, the policy is decidedly one-sided, and if the States continue their illiberal policy it is about time for the Dominion to retaliate by the enactment of protective laws.

Some extraordinary and startling statistics of Divorce have been recently published. It appears that from 1868 to 1888, inclusive, 135 divorces have been granted in Canada. Of these 19 belonged to Ontario, and 7 only to Quebec. The Maritime Provinces, which have their own Divorce Courts, show, we regret to see, a higher figure. They stand as follows:—Nova Scotia 52, New Brunswick 42, and Prince Edward Island 15. Great Britain is justly alarmed at having had 6,381 divorces in 30 years, which is sad enough, but this large total sinks into utter insignificance beside that of the United States, which, from 1867 to 1886, inclusive, adds up to the shameful figures of 329,003. The lowest figure is that of 9,926 in 1867, which exceeds the whole thirty years' iniquity of Great Britain by over 3,000. It is supposed that 30,000 would be a moderate rate at which to place the further divorces of the last two years, unenumerated above. It is no wonder that thoughtful men begin to think the sacredness of the marriage tie to be the most burning question of the day.

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.

It is satisfactory to learn that Dr. Goldwin Smith's candidature for the Presidency of the St. George's Society, of Toronto, has been rejected. It is impossible for anyone to say with certainty what Dr. Goldwin Smith is, but the Society, with whom we entirely agree, are certain that he is not at this juncture a fit and proper person to be its head.

The St. John *Gazette*, although a strong supporter of the Dominion Government, is forced to condemn in no measured terms the action of the Intercolonial authorities in so raising the freight rates on coal as to compel the shutting down of the Spring Hill mines. That some one has made a most serious blunder is quite evident, but we trust that, now the matter has been brought to the attention of the Government, the rate will be at once reduced to the former figure.

The Montreal Carnival is over. No doubt Montreal makes a good deal of money out of this festival, which seems to have become a recognized institution, but we doubt if it does not do more harm than good to the country at large, by sustaining the idea that Canada is nothing if not icy. This objection would not lie to a Summer Carnival at Halifax, the suggestions as to which are said to have come too late last year. It cannot be said to be too late now that the matter is again brought before the public.

Recent events leave no possible doubt that there is a storehouse of weapons kept always ready at Berlin to be used against anyone, native or foreign, who dares to oppose Prince Bismarck. Ambassadors cannot help feeling that if they cross him, he or his newspapers will be at their throats. It is not in honorable human nature to stand bullying, while Prince Bismarck has developed into a thorough bully, and his promising son follows in his tracks with all his father's insolence, but without his father's brains. Long tenure of absolute power and influence has developed the Chancellor's despotic temper 'till it has, so to speak, run away with him, and led him into demonstrations which can only be called childish. Both Bismarck and his ill-conditioned master are making themselves so generally obnoxious that even they may be made to feel that it is not well to have no friends.