

# 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., OCTOBER 20, 1893

{VOL. 10  
No. 42

## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES .....	3, 4
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry—The British Flag.....	Arthur John Lockhart 8
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles.....	5
Chess .....	6
Here and Elsewhere .....	6, 7
A Burglar and a Baby .....	8
The Man We Meant to Marry .....	9
She Broke It to Him Gently .....	9
Book Gossip .....	9
Commercial .....	10, 11
Market Quotations .....	11
A Wild Proxy .....	12, 13
Mining.....	14, 15, 16
Draughts—Checkers .....	17
City Chimes .....	18

## 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.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.  
SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

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.

**THE FAMOUS YACHT RACE.**—Now that the contest between the *Valkyrie* and the *Vigilant* is over, there is time for a dispassionate consideration of the two yachts as typical of the ship-building of Great Britain and the United States. The American built boats are lighter and swifter than the corresponding British built boats. Since the early days of wharf-fishing the American boat has outsailed the boats of all other nations. The Nantucket whalers and the ships built at Bath, Me., were both the swiftest of their kinds. The designers and builders on the Clyde can doubtless produce more seaworthy boats, but the advantage of speed is usually with the American craft. Another point of note is that the *Vigilant's* crew was made up of Norsemen, who, next to our Provincial men, are esteemed the best of sailors, while the *Valkyrie* boasted only a British crew, so that between the merits of the *Vigilant* as a swift sailing yacht and the merits of her experienced crew, her success was assured. Another feature of the affair is that in Great Britain yachting is merely a fashionable pleasure, while in America it is a business undertaking entered into with the same vigor which would accompany an election campaign.

**THE CASE OF J. V. ELLIS.**—There is nothing but general regret expressed among newspaper men over the arrest of Mr. John V. Ellis, editor of the *St. John Globe*, whom the court has adjudged guilty of contempt for its authority. The case is by no means a new one, for it has been before the public since March, 1887, when, in an editorial article, Mr. Ellis strongly condemned the action of Judge Tuck for prohibiting the recount in a Queen's County election. Judge Tuck at once entered a suit for contempt, and for the past six years the matter has been dragged from court to court, and the decision now given is that Mr. Ellis is to pay a fine of \$200 and costs and to be imprisoned in the county jail for thirty days. Mr. Ellis' counsel appealed for leave to present the case before the Privy Council, but this privilege the court at once refused, and Mr. Ellis is now incarcerated in the Fredericton jail. Our sympathies are entirely with the prisoner. While there are many subjects on which we are not agreed, we yet consider him one of the ablest of our Provincial writers, and it has been a matter of pride with us, that although St. John was his chosen place of residence yet Halifax had the honor of being the city of his birth. Mr. Ellis is a genial, kindly man, keen-brained and versatile in his mental make-up, and his most bitter enemies have never denied that he was possessed to the full of the courage of his convictions. In the case in question Mr. Ellis was undoubtedly in the right so far as the moral aspect of the affair was concerned, although his action in the matter may have been contrary to the strict letter of the law.

**A TURBULENT HIBERNIAN.**—There has been another little row at Chicago, and this time it is not the fault of the American hosts. Lord Mayor Shanks, of Dublin, a hardy son of Erin, is the offender. He arose at a Music Hall banquet last week to respond for an American commissioner, who was unwilling to remain until the close of the banquet. The Mayor first reviled the banquet committee for having omitted his name from the list of respondents, while they still were willing to use him as a stop-gap. Next he called the manager of the Fair to task for not having provided more spacious quarters for "ould Ireland," and continued in the same strain until the Director-General was obliged to insist on his withdrawal. The only excuse for the behaviour of Mayor Shanks that has been suggested is that he was under the influence of the ardent.

**A WORTHY WOMAN.**—We frequently hear of the sins of fathers being visited upon their children, but it is seldom that we hear of a descendant endeavoring to make amends for the ill-doings of the ancestral line. The Countess Firmean, an immensely wealthy lady who died recently at Salzburg, had all her life been tortured by a tradition that one of her ancestors, a hundred and sixty three years ago, had committed a terrible crime, for which no expiation had been made. Owing to his representation to the magnates of the Roman Catholic Church 30,000 Protestants were driven out of the country in the height of the winter season. As a natural result the greater number of the persecuted people perished of hunger and exposure, and the Countess has ever felt that some reparation should be made for this hideous wrong. Although herself a strict Catholic, she provided in her will that her entire property shall be held in trust for the benefit of Protestant orphan children; then when the document was duly signed and sealed, she gently breathed her last at peace with all mankind.

**THE NEW VOTING MACHINE.**—Politicians are taking a lively interest in the Myers Ballot Machine, which has been legalized in New York State by the unanimous votes of the Senate and Assembly. The new machine, it is alleged, will do away with much of the deception practiced at the polls, and it will totally prevent stuffing or tampering with a ballot box. The machine consists of a closed metallic booth, provided with doors at opposite ends, and one window, which is so arranged that the voter, while himself hidden, can yet, if necessary, ask questions of an outside official. Each name or question on which the vote is to be taken is inscribed plainly on the wall, and above each name or question an electric button is placed. These buttons communicate with a clock face somewhat similar to the registrar on a horse car, and as it is placed on the wall of a locked and sealed room, no inspection can be made until the voting is declared over. A special mechanism provides against double voting, for when the voter has pressed one button all other buttons are locked. Among the further advantages claimed for the machine are the reduction of the expenses of providing election officers and the absolute incorruptibility of the mechanical apparatus for counting the votes.

**PRESCRIBED TEXT BOOKS.**—A writer in the *Educational Review* tells of a child who inscribed on the cover of a familiar school text-book the famous quotation—"Who steals this book steals trash." It is probable that the child was innocent of the intention of joking, yet the question naturally arises as to which one of the text-books prescribed in our schools is most worthy of the motto. The child unwittingly wrote a truth which will apply with almost equal fidelity to a half dozen ordinary school books, and yet we cannot but think that the geography now used in the public schools is the book which perhaps best deserved the inscription. It is an unintelligent, ill-arranged manual. The facts which it contains are ill-assorted, and the study which should be made both popular and attractive is considered by the majority of school children as dull and wearisome. The grammar prescribed by the authorities is also a poor book. It fails in the great object of all grammatical teaching, namely, the improvement of the speech of its students. The prescribed arithmetic is another unsuitable text-book, and as a result our young people are not attaining that proficiency in mental calculation which we could wish. It is not our intention to libel the Council of Public Instruction, under whose authority the present text-books have been issued. We understand the difficulties in the way of their work, and especially we appreciate the difficulty of recalling a text-book which has not formally with their approval. What is now needed is a hard working committee who will obtain and compare the text-books in use in the various Provinces of Canada and in the United States. A comparative examination of this kind would result in the selection of the best text-books obtainable, and the result of the inspection would be that our Provincial schools would be greatly increased in efficiency, and that the other Provinces would gladly follow our lead in this direction.