

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Christmas Number of *THE CRITIC* promises to be attractive to all classes of readers. In a future issue we will give the names of the contributors. The competition for the prize story, which closed on the 15th inst., brought out some of the best of our Provincial writers. The stories are now in the hands of the judges, and the *nom de plume* of the prize winner will shortly be announced.

The overcoatings which Clayton & Sons advertise this week will soon be in demand.

Dispensary Sunday has now become a fixed institution in Halifax, and as it affords many of our citizens a convenient way of contributing towards a noble charity, it will probably outlive many generations of Halifaxians. The Dispensary is doing a grand work in this city, relieving the suffering, sick and poor, without respect to creed. "To pity distress, is but human; to relieve it, is Godlike." Let the contributions on Sunday next be as full and free as charity itself. We may not all attend the sick, but we can each and all do something to relieve the sufferers.

As will be seen by advertisement, the London House has just opened up its new stock of Fall Goods.

Since our last issue two elections for seats in the Dominion House of Commons have taken place. The first, in Antigonish, in which the Hon. J. S. D. Thompson, Minister of Justice, was elected by a majority of 231. The election in St. John resulted in an overwhelming victory for the government candidate, Mr. Chas. A. Everett, his majority being about 400.

The brush of the painter has given to the Presbyterian Church at Bedford a handsome appearance. The work was done by the Painters' Association.

Halifax society has been unusually gay this week, for in addition to the quiet at-homes and the attractive teas in which the ladies number the men ten to one, we have had during the week two successful balls, the first being given by the lady of a prominent citizen at the south end, and the second by the Countess Clanwilliam at Admiralty House. The dresses were exceedingly rich and elegant. Hard times come again no more.

On Wednesday morning last St. Luke's Cathedral was crowded by the friends and relatives of the Morrow and Esson families, each and all anxious to witness the nuptials of Mr. Geoffrey Morrow, son of the late Robert Morrow, and Miss Marion Esson, only daughter of George Esson, Jr. The Church was artistically decorated with flowers. The bride, who was becomingly dressed in white satin and lace, looked very pretty and was much admired. The wedding presents, which numbered upwards of one hundred and thirty, included many handsome, unique and useful articles, all of which will find an appropriate place in the home of the newly wedded couple. Mr. and Mrs. Morrow left by train for New York and Baltimore, and carry with them the best wishes of their large circle of friends in this city. May the young couple enjoy to the full the sweets of conjugal bliss.

A report of Rev. A. J. Townend's lecture on "Sam Slick" will appear next week.

Mr. H. B. Clarke deserves great credit for the enterprise he displays in providing amusement for the Halifax public. In conjunction with Mr. Gregory he has re-opened the Roller Rink on South Park Street, and on Wednesday evening a very exciting five mile race took place between K. A. Skinner, G. A. Snowden and L. Saunders. The contestants were very evenly matched and kept close together throughout the whole race. Saunders won by about half a foot.

The *St. John Sun* of the 19th inst. says: "The Halifax *Critic* still believes that the Short Line may be diverted to Quebec. It advocates co-operation with the Quebec city council, sets forth that the interests of Quebec and Halifax are identical, and that it is not yet too late to carry the point." The following extract from the same paper would indicate that the *St. John Sun* agrees with *THE CRITIC* in believing that the Pope Line would not be advantageous to Halifax:—

"No matter who is elected, it does not affect the existence or strength of the government. The administration is strong enough to get along very well without additional gains. It can do without St. John, but the question is whether St. John can do as well with the Government. At present the vital issue for the citizens of St. John is, shall the government be strengthened in its efforts to give us the Short Line, or shall encouragement be given to the rival roads which are striving with might and main to leave St. John out in the cold? Whatever best serves the interests of our fair city, we should lay hold on, and thrust aside whatever stands in the way of the great result we all so much desire. This is not a question of party politics; it is a question of self-interest, civic interest, provincial interest. No previous election here ever brought us so directly face to face with an issue so full of importance to us all, and our votes to-morrow will go far to make or mar our future. A vote for Everett is a vote for St. John. A vote for McLeod is a vote for Halifax or Quebec!"

The "Alert" has returned from her voyage to the Hudson's Bay posts. Her experience in the ice-floes does not augur well for the proposed Hudson's Bay outlet for the Canadian North-West.

The Rev. Isaac Brock, the new president of King's College, is a relative of the brave General Sir Isaac Brock, who on Queenston heights died in the arms of victory during the last war between England and America. Brockville in Upper Canada takes its name from General Brock.

Our sportsmen are grieving over the scarcity of partridges; they declare that the birds were not hatched until late, and that the wholesale destruction of the coveys in September was unparalleled. Those interested in our game laws should not be content with a cast-iron rule made applicable to late and early seasons alike. In England, the time at which partridges may be shot varies according to the season.

The following are the mortuary statistics of Canada for the month of September:—Montreal, 1,220 deaths; Toronto, 187; Quebec, 193; Halifax, 67; Hamilton, 58; Winnipeg, 37; Ottawa, 52; St. John, 59; Kingston, 33; St. Thomas, 13; Charlottetown, 15; Guelph, 15; Belleville, 21; Chatham, 10; Sherbrooke, 16; Peterborough, 15; Sorel, 24; Fredericton, 8; St. Hyacinthe, 22, and Galt, 8. The total number of deaths in these cities for the month was 2,073, so that those in Montreal aggregated more than half by nearly 200. There were 829 deaths from small-pox in Montreal, one in Quebec, one in Ottawa, and three in Sorel.

Says the *Toronto Educational Weekly*:—"In Nova Scotia the school year begins on the first of November, and is divided into two terms of six months each, the second term commencing upon the first of May. Teachers are engaged by the term, and consequently all changes of teachers (which are extremely frequent) are made while the schools are in session. A more awkward and absurd custom for hindering the progress of education cannot be conceived. The Halifax *Critic* has instituted a crusade against the absurdity, in which we wish it every success. We have grievances enough in our Ontario system, but surely none so unnecessary and easily remediable as this."

The *New York Weekly Witness* says:—"Canada is very active in seeking immigration from Europe. Her last move in that direction is a proposal to form at Quebec a landing-place so attractive that persons arriving there may be agreeably impressed the moment they step on shore. For this purpose the great Louise embankment—one of the most extensive stone wharves and breakwaters in the world—is to be utilized. It will be turfed, ornamented by trees and garden plots, and have erected upon it ornamented receiving-houses, finished in native woods. These buildings will outdo Castle Garden with little effort."

Capt. Mathews of barque *Ella*, at Portland recently, communicates the following to the U. S. Hydrographic Office: "In regard to my experience in using oil for the prevention of the breaking of seas over the ship, I will say that several times while lying-to in a gale off Cape Horn I have used it with perfect success. By filling a gunny-cloth bag with oakum, saturated with linseed oil, and placing it over the lee bow so that it was dipped in the sea by the motion of the vessel, I found that, as we drifted to leeward, the oil covered the surface of the water on the weather bow and prevented the seas from combing and breaking. Have seen the same effect produced by oil slowly dripping from the lee scuppers, and have also tried kerosene and found that it answered the purpose as well. I firmly believe that oils brought into common use for this purpose would prove a substantial benefit to those who traverse through waters."

The honor of being the largest primary wheat-market in the world is now claimed by Minneapolis. By figures for the year ending September 1, she claims to have beaten Chicago by 11,000,000 bushels.

A GREAT EXPLORATION FEAT.—Lieut. Henry T. Allen, of the Second Cavalry, has arrived safely at San Francisco after his Alaska explorations, having completed the journey through the regions of the far north which, in the opinion of Gen. Miles, excels all explorations on the American continent since Lewis and Clarke, and the world's record since Livingstone. Lieut. Allen left Sitka last February, and journeyed to the mouth of the Copper River which he followed until he reached the great Alaskan range of mountains. These he crossed on snow-shoes to the head of the Tannah River, in itself a marvellous accomplishment. For seven hundred or eight hundred miles he followed the Tannah, until it emptied into the Takon, the great river of the north, to its mouth, a distance of four hundred or five hundred more. Upon the completion of his great journey Lieut. Allen repaired to Fort Michel or Behrings and returned on the steamer "Corwin." The explorations of the Tannah and Takon rivers has been the ambition of explorers long before Alaska came into possession of the United States, but the Russians failed each time it was attempted. Since then several explorations by American officers have ended in failure until among army officers on the Pacific Coast the feat came to be considered well nigh impossible. Lieut. Allen's companions were a sergeant and an officer of the signal corps, with Indians whom he persuaded to join him.

Too much of a good thing is what the Connecticut farmers are experiencing in Connecticut with their apple crop, which is so superabundant that "there must be a great waste all over the State, even if cider presses are kept running night and day."

The report of the massacre of seven thousand Christians in Annam has been confirmed.

It is considered probable that the ex-Empress Eugenie will leave the bulk of her fortune to the Princess Beatrice.

CALCUTTA, October 14.—King Thebaw of Burmah has answered the communication sent by the Chief Commissioner for British Burmah in accordance with instructions from the Indian Government with reference to the dispute between the Burmese Government and the Bombay and Burmah Trading Association. The King replied in an arrogant and insulting manner, and refused to discuss the claim of the trading company with the Indian Government. The Chief Commissioner has asked for 8,000 reinforcements before sending an ultimatum to Mandalay.