

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page sixteen. For \$2.00 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with forty five of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

The fishing cruiser "Terror," which played such a conspicuous part in the fisheries protection during the past season, has been purchased by Halifax parties, and is to be engaged as a trader.

Lieutenant Stairs, son of John Stairs, of Halifax, is to accompany Henry Wm. Stanley in his expedition for the relief of Emin Bey. Mr. Stairs has spent several years in New Zealand, and about a year ago was appointed to the Royal Engineers.

Manitoba has placed her hoof upon the railway disallowance act, and all candidates whether in favor of or opposed to the government are obliged to put themselves on record, as prepared to annul this obnoxious clause in the agreement with the C. P. Railway Company.

General Middleton has been interviewed by an enterprising reporter as to the prospects of war with the United States, arising out of the fisheries trouble. General Middleton emphatically states what every sensible man in the country believes—that there will not be war, and why should there be.

From a private letter received from St. Pierre it is learned that a very dangerous type of measles now prevails in the Island. Seven hundred persons are reported as having been attacked by the disease, and eighty deaths have so far resulted. Much uneasiness is felt by those who have friends in St. Pierre.

There is great excitement in St. John's, Newfoundland, over the disallowance by the British Government of a colonial act forbidding the sale of bait to foreigners. Newfoundlanders believe the only way out of the difficulty is to make the ancient colony one of the provinces within the Dominion of Canada.

The Carnival in Montreal this week has proved an unprecedented success. The arrangements for the carnival, the weather and the number of visitors are all that the most ardent Montrealer could have desired. Montreal is a live city and is increasing in population at a rate which must astound the oldest inhabitant. During the past five years the population has increased from 150,000 to 185,000, being at the rate of 7,000 per annum.

A few days ago a boy was arrested in Toronto for coasting on the street. The boy contended that he had a right to coast on the street so long as he kept from the sidewalk. The police magistrate sustained his contention and the case was dismissed. Appropos of this, a prominent legal gentleman of St. John has expressed his decided opinion that the corporation cannot compel any citizen to remove the snow from the sidewalk in front of his premises.

The Halifax branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, is one of the many charitable organizations which add to the reputation of our citizens of being charitable to a fault. Through the society between two and three thousand dollars are annually disbursed among deserving poor, and the organization, which numbers among its numbers some of our leading citizens, has reason to feel proud of its record. For the past thirty-three years the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been engaged in charitable work in Halifax.

The rolling-stock of the Intercolonial railway is notoriously inadequate for the demands upon it for transportation of through goods from Canada bound for Europe, and for merchandise coming the reverse way. In order to well fulfil its mission, this railway should have its carrying capacities more than doubled without any unnecessary loss of time. As matters now stand, goods going over the line often occupy two or three weeks in transit, whereas as many days would suffice if the rolling stock was equal to the requirements.

The Carnival number which is being issued this week by the Montreal Witness, will, we believe, command a most unprecedented sale, as it is published at the extremely low price of 15 cents, or two copies for 25 cents—all free by post. It contains 24 pages, literally crowded with excellent colored pictures and engravings of the principal scenes of the Carnival, correctly as well as beautifully executed. The idea of sending two copies at such a reduction is a capital one; everybody can afford to buy one copy to keep, and at least one other to send to friends at a distance.

Says the Cape Sable Advertiser: "On Friday morning Howard Smith went on the beach at Hawk Point, Cape Island, for the purpose of shooting ducks. It was just after daylight, and while passing a ledge from which the tide had ebbed, his dog suddenly rushed among the rocks and tackled furiously some animal which began to fight back with equal pluck. When Smith reached the spot he found his dog bleeding and badly bitten by a large sized seal, which was floundering towards the water, while the dog retreated. Smith fired at the seal but in the darkness he missed his aim. He then threw down his gun and seized the seal by the hind flippers when the encounter begun in earnest. The animal snapped and bit viciously, but Smith twisting the flipper he had hold of around the side of a rock fixed his captive there for a few minutes till the seal, by a kind of flank movement, reared up over the rock and tumbled on to his captor whose clothes were torn by the seals teeth, which he said were 'as sharp as needles.' The encounter lasted till near the water's edge, when Smith finally managed to cut the seal's throat with a jack knife and thus stopped the encounter."

Sir. J. E. Commerell, President of the Halifax Graving Dock Company, has been in the city for the past two weeks, and on Tuesday last addressed the City Council with respect to some alterations that the company desired to obtain in the terms of the contract. The company in order to satisfy the Admiralty had agreed to widen the dock from 58 to 70 feet, and had been obliged to pay \$40,000 more for the site than the original estimate. In view of this increased expenditure the company asked the Council to agree to a portion of the walls of the dock being built with concrete instead of granite, and the laying of a hard pine floor on the bottom instead of a granite bed, as stipulated in the contract. The City Board of Works reported in favor of these concessions being made, and the Council finally agreed to Admiral Commerell's proposals.

Baddeck says: "Talk about women being capricious, what do you think of the caprice of Baddeck politicians? We had made up our minds the millenium was on us when the parties united to nominate and elect Duncan McDonald as an Independent, and we had settled back comfortably, meaning to watch the political scuffle elsewhere with satisfied complacency. But, alas, the solemn compact, the friendly agreement and the unanimity of parties has come to grief as suddenly as a house built of cards. Mr. W. F. McCurdy and Mr. John A. McDonald are the respective straight nominees of the Liberal and Liberal Conservative parties. The harbor is at length caught and the ice is already sufficiently strong to bear light teams. The interior arrangements of the new Post Office have at last been completed. For some time, owing to a defect in one of the flues, people had an excuse to grumble, but the defect has now been remedied."

We congratulate Mr. C. J. Ross and his choir upon the success of their annual concert, which was a decided musical treat. The selections in the miscellaneous part of the programme were excellent, but would have been heard to more advantage had they come after instead of before the portion of Mendelssohn's Elijah, which formed the second part of the programme. In the balance of parts the choir is fairly good, but Mr. Ross deserves special credit for the precision in time and careful attention to expression, which was displayed in some of the more elaborate choruses. We have been so accustomed to mere exhibitions of lung power that it is a relief to listen to an intelligent interpretation of such a masterly work as Elijah. In this respect the soloists were not on a par with the choir, but we presume as is too often the case, the solos were reckoned as secondary parts, and their practice postponed until it was too late to give them the careful study they require. The Swabian Volkslied "Come, Dorothy Come," which is a charming piece of music, was admirably rendered and should be repeated if a second concert be given during the season. Steiermarkers Liebschen (Landeler) for the violin and piano was most acceptably performed by the Messrs. Henry. Mr. H. McD. Henry is one of the most pleasing amateur violinists that it has ever been our good fortune to listen to, and considering the limited amount of time which Mr. Henry must have at his disposal for practice, his execution is very creditable. Mr. Henry appears to best advantage in andante passages, in which his violin clearly portrays the depth and fervor of his own musical conceptions. An annual concert from Mr. Ross' choir is not sufficient, semi-annuals or quarterlies would, we think, be popular.

Electors put this list in their hats, it will be useful for reference after the returns begin to come in on the 22nd inst. We have consulted old probability as to the prospective result of the elections, but he refuses to give us any idea as to how they are going. Presumably, both sides are going to win—at least they expect to:—

	Liberals.	Conservatives.	Independents.
Annapolis.....	Ray.	Mills.	
Antigonish.....	McGillivray.	Thompson.	
Cumberland.....	Pipes.	Tupper.	Bulmer.
Colchester.....	S. D. McLelan.	A. W. McLelan.	(Pro.)
Cape Breton.....	Murray.	McDougall.	
	Slattery.	McKeen.	
		Gillis.	
Digby.....	Vail.	McLeod.	
Guysboro.....	Kirk.	Campbell.	
Halifax.....	Jones.	Falconer.	Cadegan.
	Fuller.	Stairs.	(Rep.)
Hants.....	Curry.	Kenny.	
Inverness.....	Macdonell.	Putnam.	
Kings.....	Borden.	Cameron.	
Lunenburg.....	Eisenhauer.	Woodworth.	
Pictou.....	McLeod.	Kaulbach.	
		Tupper, Jr.	
Queens.....	Mack.	McDougall.	Bell.
Richmond.....	Flyan.	Freeman.	
Shelburne.....	Robertson.	Paint and 2 others.	
Yarmouth.....	Lovitt.	Laurie.	
Victoria.....	McCurdy.	Kinney.	Hatfield.
		McDonald.	(Rep.)

The Scotch plaid, instead of overcoat, and the Highland cap, and streamers make a fashionable costume worn by some New York society young men.

The Union Pacific officials have decided not to introduce the twenty-four hour system of counting time, as President Adams looked upon it with disfavor.

Baggage smashers for a few days will be careful in handling trunks. At Pittsburg a baggage master threw a small trunk on top of other baggage, when an explosion occurred heavy enough to demolish the car.