

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., MAY 22, 1891.

{ VOL. 8
No. 21 }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	3, 4
CONTRIBUTED.	
Notes and Comments from the Capital	"Dixie," 8, 9
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	5
Parliamentary Review	6
News of the Week	6, 7
Poetry—A Song	8
Book Gossip	9
Industrial Notes	9, 10
Commercial	10, 11
Market Quotations	11
Serial—A Ne'er-Do-Weel	12
"The Young Squire's Return"	12, 13
Mining	14, 15
	16
Draughts—Checkers	17
City Chimes	18
Chess	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
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.

The forthcoming visit of Emperor William to Great Britain is being prepared for in right royal style. The Corporation Council of London has decided to spend £3,000 for a reception and luncheon for the royal visitor, and to decorate at a cost of £500 the route which will be followed by the Emperor, and to extend an invitation to the queen to take part in the ceremonies. The visit will create renewed interest in the friendly relations existing between Britain and Germany and the policy of which the young ruler of the great military empire is the exponent.

As a specimen of American opinion of Mr. J. Ewing's refusal to drink the health of our Queen the following from the *New York Sun* is worth reading:—"At Vancouver, B. C., there officiates as United States Consul an American Jackass. In token of his refusal to stand on his hind legs when the national anthem was sung at a public dinner, which he officially attended, his ears might be appropriately enwreathed with a chaplet of thistles. Chicago will be faithless to her trust if she does not secure for her fair this noble specimen of the Indigenous American Ewing or Wild Ass."

The Chilean steamer *Itata* has not been heard of since her escape, but a telegram dated May 16th from a naval officer on board the *Charleston* says that the *Charleston* arrived at Acapulco on that morning, passing close to the *Esmeralda* as she entered the harbor. The *Charleston* was at once cleared for action and made ready for any emergency. In a formal interview between Captain Reny, of the *Charleston*, and the Captain of the *Esmeralda* the latter stated that the *Charleston* should never take the *Itata* until the *Esmeralda* was sunk. Captain Reny replied that he had orders to take the *Itata* and that the fact that the *Esmeralda* was present would make no difference whatever. However, as the *Itata* is not on the scene there will probably be no fight. The United States, rather in a fix because of its own precedent in the *Albatross* incident, when she mulcted Britain of \$15,000,000, is obliged to make a show of trying to capture the *Itata*, but that she is really spoiling for a fight is not probable. The United States did its duty when it put an officer in charge of the ship, but it did not do it effectively. The result is the *Itata* has been nicely fitted out with supplies in a United States port, and is now safely away with them in spite of the farsighted American Eagle.

Sympathy appears to be strongly on the side of the insurgent party in Chili. A private letter dated March 28th recently received from Antofagasta, states the insurgents had landed troops there and taken possession of the town, quietly, and without killing a single person. The reason of this was that the garrison had deserted and gone out on the railway, taking all the locomotives with them. The insurgents disembarked some locomotives from a vessel and sent a party in pursuit. The soldiers are constantly joining the insurgents despite the fact that many are shot daily for sympathizing with the opposition. A lively duel between the *Encalada* and one of the forts was fought with big guns the day before the town was taken.

All books arriving from the United States in this City are redolent of some substance used in fumigating which smells terribly bad. We received some books recently which have been airing for some days in an open window, but they are still too odoriferous to be pleasant to read. Whether the disinfecting is done here or in the States we do not know, but we would like to suggest the use of something less offensive for the purpose. One would rather encounter the grippe or any other microbe than smell the stuff used to drive out these undesirable tenants. At any rate, by the time those books are ready to yield up their stores of wisdom to our receptive brain, we will be willing to guarantee that if fresh air has any purifying influence all the microbes will have moved out.

Queen Victoria's recent visit to Grasse has been productive of amicable feeling all round. The attention and respect paid to our Sovereign lady in a foreign country cannot fail to be gratifying to all her loving subjects. Wherever the Queen went in France she was received with spontaneous and hearty demonstrations of respect and affection. When she was leaving Grasse she was literally oppressed with the number and variety of the floral offerings presented to her—offerings composed of the most rare and costly flowers, for Grasse is the centre of an immense floral industry, and the flowers are beautifully arranged by a people remarkable for their artistic taste. The tributes were partly presented on account of her qualities as a woman, but whether as woman or queen she has been the recipient of homage that is an augury of peace and good-will between the two nations. To turn around and fight over the Newfoundland lobster pots after such friendly proceedings would be anomalous.

At such a distance from a reliable source of news it was difficult at first for us to determine which side was at fault in the recent disaster at Manipur, India. More recently, however, additional news has been forthcoming, and it looks as if official blundering was the principal cause of the trouble. The letter of Mrs. Grimwood, widow of one of the murdered officers who were taken prisoners by the Jubraj and Senaputty, published in the *Times* of April 29th, gives a terribly realistic account of the fighting and the awful experiences she went through before reaching a place of safety. English press comment on the Manipur dispatches, which were presented to parliament on Friday last, is very severe. The *News* says the blue book establishes most decisively that the Government is to blame for the disaster. Other papers speak of the fatal incompetency of Mr. Quinton, and blame the Viceroy for failing to see that an adequate force was employed. It appears that the Senaputty, head of the Manipur army, was wanted by the Government for some reason, and was to be summoned and arrested by the Commissioner; but, according to Mrs. Grimwood's story, the crafty Manipuris must have had a pretty good idea of what was up, and the summoning was easier in theory than in practice. Failing to arrest the Senaputty, an attack was made on the palace of the Jubraj. After a while the Government officers, finding the 8,000 Manipuris rather too much of a match for 450 men, came to the conclusion that terms would have to be made. The officers, who were afterwards massacred, accordingly went, at the request of the Jubraj and Senaputty, to negotiate terms. The palace gates were shut upon them, and all that we know further is that on refusing the Rajah's sole terms of unconditional surrender the British officers were put to death on the spot. It is worthy of remark that the guns and ammunition which the Manipuris used with such effect in the fight were presents from the British Government, which in an unguarded moment sought to encourage fine feelings in the tribe. Since those events Lieut. Grant, with a force of 80 Ghoorkas and two guns, has won his spurs by holding a small fort against 2,000 Manipuris. The Senaputty was killed, and since that the Rajah has written to the Viceroy disowning connection with the massacre—doubtless deeply concerned for his own welfare. It is unlikely that any further resistance to the British will occur, and the general opinion is that the annexation of the State of Manipur will result from the affair. The Rajah will probably escape hanging and be taken care of in the usual luxurious style the British Government provides for captive native prisoners.