

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page three. 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.

Sixty papers by prominent Canadians were this week read at the meeting of the Royal Society of Canada held in Ottawa.

Lord Alexander Russell has just received news of the death of his brother, Admiral Russell, who resided in the Isle of Wight.

W. A. Henry and Charles Annand, Jr., will be the Halifax contingent in the Canadian cricket club which is to visit England this summer.

When the next evening concert is given in the Public Gardens in Halifax, visitors will have reason to thank Mr. Wm. Miller, of London, who has recently presented the Garden Commissioners with ten gross of colored lamps.

THE CRITIC's representative who went on to Boston with the press excursion in the new steamship *Farmouth*, has extended his tour to New York. When he returns he will give the readers of THE CRITIC a pithy account of his experiences.

The proposed Ottawa ship canal, to connect the lakes with tide water at Montreal, will, it is estimated, cost between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000. As this great highway would be frozen up for six months in each year, it is doubtful if it will ever be constructed.

The managers of the Seaman's Friend Society have been fortunate enough to secure for the new Sailors' Home the land and building at the corner of Bell's Lane and Water Street. The position is in every way suitable. The price paid for the property was \$10,500.

Great distress prevails among the families of the poor men who lost their lives in the coal mine disaster at Nanaimo. Thirty-nine widows and one hundred and six children are left destitute, and subscription lists towards their assistance have been opened in the principal cities of the Dominion.

The general observance of Arbor Day, both in Halifax and throughout the Province, will tend to prevent vandalism, and will instill into the minds of our young people a love for tree culture. The Jubilee trees which have been planted will be special objects of interest when the youth of to-day have become the fathers and mothers of the next generation.

A great deal of dissatisfaction is expressed with the annoying delays which have resulted from the indecision of the City Council with respect to Jubilee matters, and it is feared that these may mar the brilliancy of the celebration. The citizens' committee having the matter in hand are wide awake, but the backing and filling of the Council as to the expenditures are a serious hindrance to any definite arrangements being made.

The Jubilee number of THE CRITIC will be forwarded to any address upon the receipt of ten cents. It is printed in first-class style, on calendar paper, contains twenty-four pages, replete with interesting articles and poems, all of which have been prepared for this special number. As the publishers anticipate that the sales will be large, intending purchasers should send in their orders within the ensuing week. Remember, single copies, ten cents; one dozen copies, one dollar.

The *North Sydney Herald* is responsible for the following paragraph: "A certain house in the vicinity of Brook Street, has of late been nightly visited by something bordering on the supernatural. It appears that this unseen substance, be it 'bird or devil,' commences at one corner of the house outside and goes the whole round of the house emitting strange monotonous growling sounds. Now we do not pretend to offer any solution of this mystery—although we might suggest various theories—but the fact remains that it is there, as vouched for by several who have heard and believed. The most careful investigation, tearing up the platform and the embankment has, as yet, failed to disclose the source of this noise."

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" drew crowded houses on Monday and Tuesday evenings, and at the matinee on Tuesday afternoon the Academy was filled with children, even babies in arms being taken to view the performance. The actors were very inferior, and, as there were not enough of them, some had to take double parts, thus St. Clair and his wife also figured as the escaped slaves, George and Eliza. Miss Ophelia was one of the best characters, her tongue and knitting needles vying with each other as to which could go the fastest, and her horror at Topsy's tricks creating a great deal of laughter. Legree's whip curled round Uncle Tom in a very realistic manner, and many little ones thought that he "must be hurt," one little girl exclaiming, "Its vevzy witted to beat y'om so."

The news that William O'Brien, the Irish agitator, had been stoned in the streets of the city of Toronto, created much surprise among those who knew the efficiency of the Toronto police. We have condemned O'Brien's visit in no measured terms, but the same love for fair play leads us to condemn most emphatically the treatment that he received at the hands of the Torontonians. To shout down a public speaker as O'Brien was shouted down in attempting to speak in the Toronto Park, is a species of ill-breeding which Halifaxians, after the Tupper-Jones meeting at the Drill Shed, cannot afford to criticize; but to stone a defenceless man in the streets of a well-ordered city is a crying shame, and the perpetrators should be dealt with under the law in an impartial and summary manner. O'Brien's visit was ill-judged, and his language intolerant, but his right to come and go in peace is as unquestionable as that of the Governor-General himself.

Mr. George Moffat, Conservative, has been elected by acclamation as member for the County of Restigouche, N. B., in the Dominion House of Commons.

Truro's Jubilee Park will be quite extensive, and will be one of the prettiest pleasure grounds in the Province. It will include about one hundred and fifty acres in hill and dale, with a fine stream of water and a natural waterfall.

Nothing demonstrates the advance of Halifax more than the general improvements that have of late years been made in the interior and external decorations of its shops and business premises. Always abreast of the times, Mr. William H. Johnson, the popular dealer in pianos and organs, has had his extensive sale-rooms at 121 and 123 Hollis Street, decorated and fitted up in the most aesthetic style. An open arch connects the large sale-room, which is 72 feet by 20 feet, with the piano room adjoining, which is 40 feet by 20 feet. The old partitions have been torn down, and a handsomely finished partition of hard wood and glass now separates the private office from the sale-room. The walls have been papered with heavy gold paper, the ceiling neatly tinted, and the hard wood floors waxed and polished until they shine like mirrors. Neat chandeliers, with colored shades, furnish a subdued and pleasant light, and the shops have been provided with new projecting show windows, which add largely to their appearance. The rooms themselves are as attractive as a ball room, but are rendered doubly so by a magnificent display of pianos and organs which line the walls two deep, and number over one hundred of the finest instruments manufactured. In the piano room are displayed instruments by such celebrated makers as Wm. Knabe, Chickering, Hallett & Davis, Hans, Bebe Bros. & Co., (the latter provided with the latest valuable improvement called the "Muffler," a description of which appeared in a late issue of THE CRITIC), the Wheelock, Dominion and Stovenson. Organs by Wm. Bell and the well known Dominion complete the list of one of the largest stocks of first-class instruments in the Maritime Provinces. A large room for the display of second-hand pianos, and a workshop and packing room are in the basement, and are reached by an easy flight of stairs. On Monday evening Mr. Johnson invited a few of his friends to view his establishment, and those who availed themselves of the invitation were well rewarded. Professor De Anguera, Mr. Johnson's able and talented assistant, played some brilliant selections, which proved the merits of the instruments, and an adjournment was then made to the St. Julian, where a supper prepared in Marr's best manner was thoroughly relished, and proved a most fitting conclusion to the evening's enjoyments.

The Bell Telephone Company earned \$3,097,000 for 1886, against \$2,767,884 for 1885.

Captain Paul Boynton has successfully accomplished his feat of swimming 130 miles in the Hudson River.

A party of travellers recently made the journey from San Francisco to London *via* New York and Liverpool, in a trifle less than fourteen days.

In the cabin of Hale H. Cary, a hermit, who lived in the woods near Sugatown, N. Y., and died there on Sunday, were found coin, jewelry, etc., valued at over \$70,000.

Whalers at New Bedford, Mass., say that a result of the Inter-State Commerce law will be a resort to the old method of bringing cargoes of oil and whalebone from San Francisco around Cape Horn.

Mr. George W. Vanderbilt, before recently sailing for Europe, ordered plans to be prepared for a building which he proposes to give to the New York Free Circulating Library. It will cost about \$50,000.

The United States find a market in the West Indies for 400,000 barrels of flour each year. If we in Canada had reciprocal trade with these islands, we would supply the islanders with most of their flour.

Oliver Dalrymple, the bonanza farmer of Dakota, will this spring grow 32,000 acres of wheat. In his opinion, Dakota will next fall give to the world a bulk of wheat that will surprise the wildest speculators.

Such is the desire to ascend the Washington Monument, in Washington, that during the year ending April 1, no less than twenty-seven thousand permits were issued, and it is estimated twenty-five thousand were used.

When Armour & Co., the hog kings of the West, wish to punish a town for boycotting their meat, they at once open two or three shops there, and undersell until they ruin the trade for every one but themselves. A lesson this is the way they served Akron. (.)

The following is the purport of a letter written by U. S. Consul Twichell, stationed at Kingston, Ontario, to the Government at Washington. The Consul says:—"Canada's high protective tariff, in which there is no prospect of reduction, has made us apprehensive from the first, of the effect of the increased railroad rates on imports from the United States to this section of Canada. Since the 4th of April, these rates, as shown by freight bills paid here, have been increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent, with no change on Canadian roads. After waiting 30 days for effects, I have made a partial canvass of the importers of the city of Kingston, with the following result:—Coal dealers are preparing to bring from Nova Scotia coal for all purposes where Nova Scotia coal can be used, two factories which have always used American coal have put in their orders for Nova Scotia coal. In pressed tinware, orders have been changed from American to Canadian houses, on account of freight. In groceries there is the same complaint. Products of countries outside of the United States they now expect to get by way of British Columbia and Halifax. The unpleasant feature in connection with my canvass, has been the general expressed desire to find out how and where they can make purchases without coming in contact with American railways."