

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The only correct answer to Double Acrostic published last week was received from Miss Emmie Kellogg, 174 South St. City.

Gladstone has once more taken the helm of the British Ship of State. Should he succeed in carrying through Parliament a measure of land reform he will retain office for some time to come; otherwise his ministry will be short-lived.

The text of the Treaty between France and Madagascar shows that the French have succeeded in obtaining a permanent foothold in the Island.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* calls attention to the coincidence that the fall of the Salisbury ministry and the death of General Gordon both occurred on the 25th of January.

A base plot to assassinate President Barrillas and his family to set fire to the Grand Hotel and Theatre when full of people, to seize the barracks and sack the city, has just been discovered in Guatemala. Fifty of the conspirators have been arrested.

The monuments to be seen at the warrooms of Griffin and Keltie are unique in design and finish. Public taste with respect to monuments has undergone a change for the better during the past few years.

General Grant died a comparatively poor man; but he left to his widow the copy-right of the book—the finishing touches to which he wrote out upon his dying bed. Mrs. Grant has just received from the publisher, Charles L. Webster, a check for \$250,000 as her share in the proceeds of the sales to date.

Don Pedro, the Emperor of Brazil, is in a precarious state of health, and his physicians hold out no hopes of his recovery. Don Pedro has proved himself an enlightened, capable, and popular monarch. His demise would be regretted by his subjects although his heir, Donna Isabella, is said to be the idol of the people.

The bell telephone patent is, according to the American papers, likely to be forfeited on the ground of its having been obtained in an irregular manner. Mr. Bell's patent rights are also assailed by those who claim his invention to have been borrowed.

Halifax is sadly in need of a city hall. The building now used for this purpose is unsuitable in every particular, and a movement is on foot to purchase Dalhousie College at the northern end of the parade, and remodel it into a city hall worthy of the metropolis of Nova Scotia. The expenditure for the purpose is not to exceed \$100,000.

The Socialists have had a pow-wow in Chicago; have screamed themselves hoarse over what they intend to do; have thundered out their threats of using dynamite and the assassin's knife to accomplish their ends; and have adjourned in order that the members might return to their daily avocations. What a farce it all is. Do these blood and thunder ignoramuses imagine that mind is to be enslaved by matter?

A correspondent of the *Kentville Chronicle* has been giving the readers of that journal some interesting facts as to the cost of manufacturing road fences. He advocates the substitution of fruit trees for the unsightly Virginia snake fences which now adorn our country highways, and claims that farmers in the valley of the Cornwallis now make a needless outlay of \$14,000 per annum upon the latter.

The will of the late Bennett Smith, of Windsor, who died worth \$600,000, is creating much talk in that place. Public opinion characterizes the will as unfair, and it is understood that the heirs will endeavor to have it set aside.

The Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery show a profit on their year's business of \$5,500. The directors complain that upon some grades of sugar the Refinery has been obliged to pay heavier duties than those paid by Montreal importers. The complaint is also made of unfair discrimination in the freight charges on the I. C. Railway. \$300,000 of new capital will be required to pay off the existing liabilities of the Company so as to enable the Refinery to make a fresh start.

The Law Students of Halifax have debated the question of the Franchise, and have pronounced by a large majority in favor of Manhood Suffrage. When the reins of government fall into the hands of the rising generation of to-day, we may hope to see each man in the country enjoying the full birth-right of citizenship, from which he is now debarred.

Tea is as generally used in Nova Scotia as is coffee in Turkey. J. E. Morse & Co. of Halifax, who are large importers of tea, can testify to its increased use by our people. While the quality of tea has not fallen off the price has in late years steadily declined, thus placing the better grades within reach of the working classes.

The capital stock and surplus of the Phenix Insurance Co. of N. Y. now amounts in round numbers to \$5,000,000, which should be a pretty good guarantee of security to those doing business with the Company. Messrs. Twining & Twining, Agents of the Company, have worked up a good business in the Maritime Provinces, and both fire and marine insurers have had every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company.

Red handed civil war has placed Spain upon the verge of bankruptcy. A little more than a century since she possessed the greatest Colonial Empire of any European power. Her galleons came home freighted with the gold, silver and rich products of Spanish Colonies, but internal strife has reduced her to a second-rate power, and her annual deficits have destroyed her credit. According to the latest budget speech in the Cortes the Spanish deficit for the past fiscal year was 22,000,000 piastres.

The modern Greeks display many of the characteristics of their Grecian ancestors. Their restlessness and love for adventure has induced them to assume a bellicose attitude towards Turkey, which John Bull does not approve of. In the event of the Grecian fleet attacking that of Turkey the British Mediterranean squadron will take part with the latter country.

After reigning twenty-three years King George of Greece has grown weary of the ever changing phases of Grecian politics and has indicated his intention of resigning the Crown and leaving the land of the Olive. He will, it is said, take up his residence at his old home in Copenhagen.

The Citizens of Halifax are to be treated on Sunday next to an address from Mr. Studd. This gentleman is said to be one of the most florid and persuasive christian lecturers of the day. His influence among College Students and young men generally is recognized in the United States as most surprising, but those who are personally familiar with Mr. Studd claim that his popularity is due to the common sense way in which he deals with serious questions. Do not miss hearing him.

The Y. M. C. A. show by their annual report that the Association has made steady and satisfactory growth during the past year. It commences the New Year with an increased membership, a healthy state of finances and a popular and enthusiastic crop of officers. The hand of the President, Mr. J. S. Maclean is plainly visible in the work of the Association, as it is in many other Christian and benevolent institutions in Halifax.

The *Baddeck Island Reporter* hits the mark when it says that the differences among Cape Breton people as to the location of the Island Railway only serve to prevent any action being taken towards its construction. Had Cape Breton a Parnell we should soon be able to chronicle the speeches of her members at the banquet to take place at the driving of the last spike. Unite, gentlemen, and the local government will at once doff its hat.

Handel's sublime Oratorio "The Messiah," was given last week, in Yarmouth, by the Philharmonic Society. The Society is of only a few months growth, the chorus numbering about fifty-nine voices; but the spirited way in which the choruses were given, and the excellent time that was kept, together with a most intelligent interpretation of the composer's work; passages for the music-lovers of Yarmouth a high class of entertainments. The Society is fortunate in having for conductor, Mr. W. H. Holt, organist of Holy Trinity Church, in whom they have a genuine artist. The strict attention paid to the baton shows that Mr. Holt has his chorus well in hand. Perhaps the best choruses of the evening were—"And the glory of the Lord," "All we like Sheep," The "Hallelujah," and "Worthy is the Lamb." The parts were well balanced, and the tone colour excellent throughout. The solos were, as a whole, well rendered, showed careful preparation, and in many cases, evidenced a true appreciation of the great master's work. As a performance, the Society may congratulate itself on having scored a decided success; and the people of Yarmouth may justly feel proud in possessing so much real musical talent.—*Com.*

An admirer of "Franc-Tireur" writes as follows:—"Allow me to congratulate your correspondent "Franc-Tireur," on the free, honest, and outspoken manner in which he writes, and the live and interesting subjects he discusses. I am particularly prompted to this, after reading his "Odds and Ends" in the last issue of THE CRITIC. A great change is now taking place in religious thought, and the teachers of religion will have to trim their sails to the charging breeze, or be left far behind on the track of progressive thought. "Franc-Tireur," noticing the changes of belief and doctrine, and discussing them in a live journal, shows that he is a reformer, in the broad sense of the word, and a profound advanced thinker. I hope your readers will, in future, be favored with several columns weekly from the pen of "Franc-Tireur," and not unfrequently on the subject touched upon in last week's CRITIC."

Brazil annually exports about \$60,000,000 worth of coffee. Trade is controlled by resident British merchants. The best grades are shipped to England, while the poorer qualities are sold in the United States.

A French scientist predicts numerous volcanic disturbances during the present year, which he anticipates will be more terrible than those of any other like period during the century.

Much dissatisfaction exists with the present tariff rates upon the I. C. Railway, and Halifax merchants complain bitterly of discriminations in favor of St. John, N. B. The Intercolonial should not be run in the interests of any section; it is the people's road.

Mr. Moody, the well-known evangelist, is very properly decrying the use of church basements for Sunday School and other purposes. He has struck the key-note of a reform much needed in Halifax. The secular training of Halifax children is carried on in the spacious rooms of handsome public buildings, their religious training is usually obtained within the four walls of a gloomy and unwholesome cellar, dignified by the name of a basement.