

# THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.  
SINGLE COPY 7 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 18, 1890.

{ VOL. 8  
No. 29 }

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## 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 story of the life of Henry M. Stanley would read like a fairy tale. After a notable expedition in Africa he returns to England, is feted and feasted and honored by the great and noble ones of the land, and is then made happy by being united to the lady of his love. All the civilized world wishes him a long and happy life. Mr. Stanley's unfortunate illness, with which he was attacked the day before the ceremony, almost succeeded in postponing the wedding; but in spite of the painful nature of the malady Mr. Stanley exerted himself bravely and went through the ceremony without mishap. He has since been confined to his bed, but the complaint is considered to be of a temporary character, and he will probably recover speedily.

Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia for 1889 has been issued. Beginning on page 148 will be found an article replete with information about Halifax. An excellent cut of Dalhousie College adorns the page, and particulars as to the situation, cost, etc., of our public and other fine buildings are given. It is well up to date, and the information is correct. The article is well written, and with the illustration takes up three columns of the Cyclopaedia. The last clause of the description of Halifax ought to be useful in bringing summer visitors to the shores. It says Halifax as a watering place offers a salubrious air, fine scenery, bathing and historic associations. On page 162 the town of Yarmouth is done ample justice to; and the Province of Nova Scotia has a column devoted to it on page 615. These are the articles which first claimed our attention as of direct interest to all Nova Scotians, but of course the volume is full of valuable information on hundreds of other subjects.

The terrible disaster at Dartmouth on Friday evening last, when the new ferry boat *Annes 2* was entering the dock, has thrown a gloom over our sister city. After all the waiting and expectation the people were so anxious to see their new boat that they could not wait, but crowded down on the wharf, with the result that four lives were lost as a consequence of their impetuosity. This accident should be a warning to people against crowding to see anything new, and in this case there was no necessity for it. The *Annes 2* will in all probability be here for many years, and there would have been ample time to inspect her at leisure without running into danger. While all the deaths in connection with the accident are sad, particular sympathy is felt for the parents and relatives of Miss Bessie Foster, who was a bright young girl, and whose loss will be most severely felt by all

who knew her. Mr. Edward Foster, her father, who also fell into the water, has been very much prostrated, and at first his life was despaired of. Happily, he is now thought to be recovering. The manner of Miss Foster's death is particularly to be regretted. It is pretty conclusively proved that she was killed by a blow on the head, caused by scantling thrown into the water with good intentions, but little sense, by people on the wharf. Many gentlemen exerted themselves bravely to save the lives of those in the water, and deserve all praise for their efforts. It will be long before the arrival of *Annes 2* will be forgotten.

That male musicians favor odd styles of wearing the hair has long been a subject of remark, the chief feature of the style generally being the length of the hair. Curly or straight, stand-up, *a la pompadour*, or flat as the proverbial pancake, it is generally long. That there is something more than mere fashion in the custom might be learnt from the following story from an English paper, if we were not inclined to receive it with a certain amount of reserve:—"A well-known violinist, rejoicing in the euphonious name of Constantine Dudlesack, and renowned for the luxuriance of his locks, recently married an American girl, who accepted him on the condition that he should cut his hair and wear it like any ordinary mortal. Dudlesack nobly sacrificed his magnificent *chevelure* on the altar of Hymen, and, after a brief honeymoon, resumed the practice of his profession. It was, however, just a repetition of the story of Samson and Delilah. Shorn of his locks the violinist had no longer the power to draw audiences—he had, in fact, lost his capillary attraction. Mrs. Dudlesack yielded to the logic of the situation, besought her spouse to let his hair grow, and, according to the latest advices, a considerable return of popularity had attended the change." Of course the people love to see them bow their crested heads. It is an established part of the performance, but still it is to be doubted that a good violinist would lose his popularity because he lost his hair.

Sir Charles Dilke, after speaking favorably of the Militia defences of several British Colonies, commented very unfavorably on Canada at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute in the Hotel Metropoli, London, on May 13th last. Among other things, after referring to mere paper forces like the unorganized Militia of Canada, and to the fact that "the defence of Canada seems to be the weakest point," he goes on to say "she is hardly in a position to defend herself against even the most ordinary attack." These remarks brought forth a stronger reply from Lieut.-Col. Geo. T. Denison, of Toronto, who was present, and who proved conclusively that Canadians are no whit behind the other Colonies of Britain in bravery and loyalty. He gave instance after instance in which conspicuous loyalty had been shown by Canadian Volunteers. Among others he spoke of the Maine boundary difficulty. "I allude," said he, "to the occasion—many of you will remember it—when an English diplomatist, being humbugged with a false map, allowed the Yankees to swindle us out of half of the State of Maine. Well, at that time Governor Fairfield, of the State of Maine, ordered out all the Militia of that State to invade New Brunswick. The Nova Scotia Legislature at once passed a resolution placing every dollar of their revenue and every able-bodied man in the country at the disposal of their Government to be employed in the defence of their sister Province of New Brunswick. This vote was carried unanimously, with three cheers for the Queen; and their bid and determined stand once more saved the Empire from war, and yet I, an Ontario man, come here to England to hear the doubt expressed as to whether the Militia of our sister Province of Nova Scotia would help to defend their own capital city in case of attack." He told how we had spent something like \$150,000,000 in constructing a Railway across the continent, thus giving an alternative route to the east, and binding the Empire closer together. "And remember," said Col. Denison, "all the time we are developing our country, all the time we are spending these enormous sums, we do not live in the luxury you do here, and while we are perfectly willing to do a great deal, we cannot do everything all at once. With you everything is reversed. You have had nearly 2,000 years' start with your little bit of a country and your large population, and by this time I must say you have got it pretty well fixed up." He was reminded when passing through Kent, of the Yankee's remark:—"It appears to me that this country is cultivated with a pair of scissors and a fine comb." And as Canada has had neither the time nor the men to do this sort of thing she must be excused if she does not keep up a standing army. In case of war, every able-bodied man would fight, and the training of officers, the providing of an organization and machinery, the encouragement of a confident spirit in the people, and a feeling of loyalty to the Empire, are being well attended to and are more important than the keeping up of a standing army. Col. Denison deserves the thanks of all true-hearted Canadians for his defence of Canada against Sir Charles Dilke's attack on our Militia.