

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1 50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 3 CTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 2, 1887.

{ VOL. 4.
No. 48.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Yearly Sacrifice.....	1, 2
The Civic Disfranchisement of the Responsible.....	3
Mr. Goldwin Smith.....	3
The Tash and the Cell.....	1
Notes.....	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Diamonds and Gold in South Africa.....	6-8
A Trip to the Eastern Gold Districts.....	12, 13
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles.....	3
News of the Week.....	4, 5
Industrial Notes.....	8
Commercial.....	8, 9
Market Quotations.....	9
Serial.....	10, 11
Mining.....	12, 13
Home and Farm.....	14
Religious.....	15

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 3 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 proposal, which really seems to be seriously regarded by some American newspapers, to buy the Maritime Provinces for \$50,000,000, is, after all, but a legitimate outcome of the action of the Annexationists. The idea of being sold with the land, like a lot of cattle or a flock of sheep with a ranche, is probably not in the least repugnant to men without a spark of patriotism.

Every year the United States export to Great Britain millions of pounds worth of every description of farm produce. It is difficult to understand how the country which sends away annually an enormous surplus of food, is likely to realize to the Canadian farmer the splendid prices for cattle, grain, etc., which are being persistently dinned into his entranced ears by the Annexationists.

Halifax is indebted to the Archbishop for a suggestion for lighting the harbor with a line of electric lights down to the automatic buoy, to enable ocean steamers to come up in foggy weather. His Grace thinks about 15 lights on suitable buoys might be sufficient. We have also received from a contributor a suggestion to establish electric lights as danger-signals along railroads, on eminences, natural or artificial, to give notice of the stoppage of the line by accidents, and prevent further collisions. We do not feel competent to form a judgment, but we should be inclined to think His Grace's suggestion by far the more practicable of the two.

The Rate-Payers Association, in opening up the question of tax-exemptions, have touched upon a most important subject. The exemptions in the 1887-8 Halifax assessment amount to the decidedly large sum of \$1,650,000, divided as follows:—Churches, \$629,000; Sectarian Institutions, \$181,000; Other Institutions and Halls, \$850,000. While in the past 25 years the assessment has increased only about one-sixth, the tax exemptions in the same time have doubled. These facts should provide food for serious thought. While purely benevolent institutions might perhaps claim exemption, we have doubts about the advisability of exempting church property, halls, and colleges. The cities of the United States have, we think, shown wisdom in sweeping away all exemptions. We might do worse than to follow in their footsteps.

We need an energetic Advertising Agent. A good business is assured to the right man. Liberal Salary, Commission and Travelling Expenses. Apply at once personally or by letter to

A. M. FRASER, Manager of The Critic.

England has recently quietly annexed a tract of country in Africa known as the Niger Country, which is said to be half as large as Europe. This is not altogether so bad for an "effete old monarchy," but we hope the whole territory is not so deadly in climatic influence as was the theatre of the "Niger Expedition" of 1840, or thereabouts, most of the survivors of which were debilitated and shattered in health for life. If not, the extensive colonization now going on by several nations, must enhance the value of fresh acquisitions in the Dark Continent.

It is reported that retirement with a step in rank will cease with the present year, after the end of which officers will retain only the rank they hold at the time. This order will no doubt induce a large number of retirements before the 1st January. The authorities are probably becoming alarmed at the portentous increase of the "Retired Lists." From the publication of the Army List for March, up to a fortnight ago, no less than 56 Colonels have retired from active service with the honorary rank of Major-General. This is piling it up with a vengeance.

A portion of the Press is luxuriating in elaborate accounts of the terrible character and tendencies of Prince William of Prussia, most of which are probably pure fiction. A wonderful mine of special knowledge seems to have opened itself to the compiler of newspaper yarns from the moment the Crown Prince was known to be suffering from a throat disease. Frederic the Great is likely to be nothing to William, and war will be proclaimed as soon as he ascends the throne. He declines to drink champagne because it is not a German wine, and would probably prefer French blood as a beverage. There is nothing he cannot do, and he is altogether an awful and gruesome young man.

The malcontents who devote themselves to decrying our duties on American imports, may not unprofitably take cognizance of a material advantage which has accrued to Manitoba from that policy. The people of that Province had, till lately, to pay a tax on imported coal, which, we believe, raised its price at one time to \$14 or \$15 a ton. Good coal, both hard and soft, has now been found within our own domain. If it has taken say sixteen or seventeen years to find available deposits with American coal at \$15 a ton, it seems more than probable that without the stimulus of that high figure, exploration would have been less energetically pushed, and that Manitoba would consequently still have been dependent on the States for fuel, while the discovery may be said to have assured her independent prosperity.

The secret, (or a good deal of it,) of the portentous increase of the rabbit in Australia, is coming to the light of day. There is a rabbit department in Sydney, and there is of course red-tape in it. There is an army of inspectors, overseers, and under strappers scattered far and wide, and—they get good salaries. Then there are thousands of rabbiters, who not only draw regular wages, but are also paid bonuses, and—human nature is human nature—voilà tout! The result is that the rabbits increase, and also the noble army of exterminators. The ill-considered idea of importation and acclimatization also bears fruit in other directions. The abominable sparrow, deer, and even foxes, have been cultivated, and so easy for existence is the Australian climate, that they are all developing into additional pests. The cockatoos were bad enough for the grain grower, but Australian settlers could not let what was well-enough alone.

THE YEARLY SACRIFICE.

Attention is being more and more frequently drawn by the Press to the lamentable loss of life which annually occurs among the fishermen and seamen who man the fishing fleets that hail from American ports. The number of vessels reported lost this year is 13, aggregating 843 tons. The estimated value, \$62,900, with insurance to the amount of \$51,455. The lives lost in these 13 vessels total up to 85, one of whom was run over by a street car. The remainder perished in direct connection with the work of their vessels.

Even these appalling statistics, which involve the destitution of scores