

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Our Subscribers and Advertising patrons will please note that Mr. A. M. Fraser, formerly of Windsor, has been appointed Business Manager of The Critic. Hereafter, all remittances should be made payable to him.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find receipt in next paper.

Lieutenant Henn, of the *Galatea*, has issued a challenge to race any single-masted yacht in the United States squadron, from Sandy Hook, round Bermuda, and return. The Lieutenant believes that this will fully test the seaworthiness of his little craft, and is confident that the *Galatea* will come off with flying colors.

Sir Charles Tupper has been in Halifax for several days during the past week. The High Commissioner has come out to Canada to consult with the Government as to the feasibility of making the Colonial Exhibition at London a permanent institution. Before leaving the Exhibition, Sir Charles was the recipient of a complimentary Address, signed by the exhibitors and those interested in the Exhibition. The Address bore testimony to the indefatigable zeal and unremitting labors of Sir Charles Tupper in endeavoring to make the Canadian department worthy of our great Dominion.

The magnificent graving dock at Quebec has at length been completed, and handed over by the contractor. The *S. S. Litanie* is now undergoing repairs, being the first vessel docked.

In consequence of the general disarrangement of the sugar trade, and the uncertainties of the refining business, several sugar refineries have, during the year, been involved in difficulties. The latest to be affected is the Halifax Sugar Refinery, situated at Woodside, Dartmouth, and although the facts have not yet been made public, it is understood that the original stockholders will probably be losers to a large amount. Preferential bonds to the value of \$200,000, bearing eight per cent interest, have been floated by the company.

The party now surveying the bed of the Northumberland Straits on the line of the proposed subway between Capes Traverse and Tormentine, have already made many borings to the depth of 20 feet. They find the bottom composed of from 4 to 6 feet of sand and gravel, with a sub-strata of hard brick clay. So far the surveyors have found no engineering obstacles in the way of carrying out the subway enterprise.

The game of lacrosse has never gained a foothold in the Maritime Provinces, but in the Upper Provinces it is one of the most popular of athletic sports. The Montreal and Toronto lacrosse teams recently played a most exciting game, in which the former came off victorious. The Torontonians, who have won the prize cup for the two preceding years, accepted their defeat with good grace.

J. Godfrey Smith has on hand a large assortment of the well-known Lawrence Spectacles, and has likewise in stock a number of beautifully finished artificial eyes. To those suffering from impaired sight, or from the loss of one eye, Mr. Smith is prepared to be a friend in need.

The appointment of General Buller as a magistrate in Kerry has aroused much adverse criticism. Doubtless the fact that General Buller's position as a military officer, which will enable him to act in the capacity of a military magistrate, is the cause of the outspoken denunciations which are now being made by the Parnellites. Lord Randolph Churchill does not excuse the government nor does he mince matters, he says the government has made up its mind to send General Buller to Ireland, and that is all he has to say about it. We may soon expect to hear that martial law has been declared in Kerry.

It has seldom happened in Halifax that 150 men are simultaneously at work upon the streets within sight from any given point, but those who have passed along Barrington or Pleasant streets during the past week have been attracted by such a scene. One hundred and fifty of staunch Halifax laborers are now engaged in constructing the horse car line along those streets. First there is an advance guard of liners out, picking the earth along the track on either side, then are followed by the shovellers, who remove the earth thus loosened, then follow two other gangs who, in a similar manner, make preparation for the cross ties, next a body of men lay down the heavy sleepers, being followed by the detachment whose business it is to place the stringers in position on the sleepers, after these come the spikers, who with their heavy sledges drive home the spikes which securely fasten the chairs or knees that hold the stringers to the sleepers, next come a gang of 30 tamperers who tamp the earth firmly under the ties, and then are followed by the fillers in who level off the earthwork. The construction is proceeding rapidly at from 1000 to 1200 feet per day, so that it will not be long before the five miles of road are completed. The rails, which are now on their way to the city, will be laid during next week at the rate of one mile per day. Five handsome cars, equal to anything in America, have been purchased for the road. The enterprise of the horse car company is certainly commendable.

Greece has experienced another terrible earthquake, this time being on the west coast of the Morea. The village of Pyrgo, and the town of Philatre, have been utterly destroyed, the latter having been swallowed up during a terrible convulsion. Six towns in the district were laid in ruins, and a score of others partially destroyed. At least 300 people lost their lives, while hundreds of others have been rendered homeless. Violent shocks of earthquake were felt in Italy and Egypt, and the excitement of the inhabitants still continues to be great.

"Maitland" says: "On Monday there was launched from W. P. Cameron's yard, South Maitland, the ship *Selkirk*, 1800 tons register, one of the finest and except the *W. D. Lawrence*, the largest ship ever built in this district. People from all parts of the country, numbering over 1000, witnessed the launch, which was considered by all present one of the prettiest ever seen. The *Selkirk* is commanded by Capt. James Crowe, who is part owner. Weather fine, crops good."

Lawrence Donovan, a printer of New York, jumped from the Brooklyn bridge on Saturday last, and was picked up by a boat. Donovan was uninjured, and as he won a \$500 wager will doubtless feel repaid for the risk he took in making the leap. We have a good many cranks at the law, but it is time we had a law to restrain cranks.

The death of Mr. John Dougall, the editor of the *New York Witness*, occurred suddenly at his son's residence on the 19th ult. As a journalist Mr. Dougall was fearless and strong in the advocacy of what he deemed right.

Mlle Rhea has attracted fair audiences at the Academy during the week, and has established an enviable reputation as an artist among our theatre goers. The lady has a decided French accent in speaking which makes it slightly difficult to understand when first heard, but as the play proceeds and the hearer becomes accustomed to her pronunciation, the peculiar inflections add a double charm and sweetness to her manner of speaking. Mlle Rhea is well supported, and the company may be considered one of the best that Halifax has seen.

The Belfast riots have indeed been serious, 322 policemen are said to have been injured during the conflict. Fortunately but few persons lost their lives.

Sir John Macdonald has returned to Ottawa, having travelled in his trip to the Pacific 8,500 miles. The Premier's health is said to be excellent.

The British ironclad *Triumph* has arrived at Vancouver, British Columbia. The British government intend establishing a naval station on the Pacific coast.

On Saturday and Sunday last the air was filled with smoke, and in many localities along the line of the W. and A. Railway the sun appeared like a red ball in the sky. The smoke was caused by an extensive forest fire which for several days raged on the south mountain near Berwick. The fire destroyed much excellent timber on the southern side of the mountain. The recent rains have extinguished the flames.

"Wolfville" says: "Signs of life are again to be seen on the college hill, which for nearly three months has been deserted. The boys and girls appear to be as much pleased to return to their studies as they were in June to go to their homes. Professor Clarke, of Brown University, Providence, R. I., has been spending a few days here with his wife and daughter. He is enthusiastic in his praise of Nova Scotia as a summer resort, and believes that many more American tourists would visit the Province did they but know more of it. Our grain crop and yield of vegetables gladdens the hearts of our farmers, and the apple crop in many districts is all that could be desired. One tree in the orchard of Mr. William Haliburton, a cousin of the author of Sam Slick, will, it is estimated, yield 12 barrels of prime gravenstein."

Sackville Academy, both male and female departments, opened last week with increased attendance. The college opens next week, attendance promises to be good. Dr. Inch, the President, who is away attending General Conference, is expected home about the middle of September.

"Baddeck" says: "The thick smoke which has filled the air for the past few days has formed a fruitful topic of conversation. No person knowing from whence it comes, but everybody having in regard to it a theory of his own. The latest arrivals in town are the Gypsies. Like the greater number of summer visitors these 'wanderers' remained but a short time. The temperance people are moving to suppress liquor selling in our midst. The parlor concert mentioned in some of my former notes came off on the evening of the 26th, at the residence of the Rev. K. McKenzie. The mansion grounds presenting a most charming sight. They were lit by Chinese lanterns hung from arches and from the trees. But the grounds were not the greatest attraction. The entrance to the house was tastefully trimmed, and the drawing room, where stood the piano and organ, was beautifully decorated with wreaths of evergreens, ferns, mosses, bullrushes, autumn leaves, and flowers, the whole presenting a scene which brought back to one's mind the pictures of fairy land so familiar to the imagination of our childhood. The programme was well carried out, special mention being made of Miss McKenzie's solo, 'Oh! I have sighed to rest me,' Mr. Freeman's comic song, 'I draw the line at that,' and the 'Te Deum,' which was beautifully rendered by the choir. The only defect in the programme seemed to be its shortness. During the evening refreshments were served, and as it was very warm the ice creams were most acceptable. After spending a very pleasant evening all went home remarking that since the first parlor concert was such a success they hoped many more would follow."

"Windsor" says: The dry sticky heat of Sunday last has been succeeded by the damp oppressive atmosphere of dogdays, but the crops look well and everyone expects a brisk autumn business. The Collegiate School, of which Rev. C. E. Willets is the able master, opens this year with bright prospects, there being upwards of 40 boarders, and including day scholars about 60 pupils in attendance. Mr. George Wilson has opened up several new streets, thus making available at least 50 pleasantly located building lots. His enterprise is commendable. The Rev. Andrew Gray, of Cambridge, Mass., is spending his vacation here.

We were shown last week a box of fine ripe peaches, taken from a tree which this year produced 3 bushels. The tree is the property of Miss Alice Webster, of Kentville, and as the tree was not protected from the weather in any way, another proof is added to the fact that as fine peaches can be grown in Nova Scotia as in Western Ontario.