

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page fifteen. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send *The Critic* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Heavy weather is reported at sea

The revenue returns show for the full year ending 31st Dec., a surplus of \$2,242,342.

Sixteen vessels are ice-bound in the Minus Basin, some of them in a perilous position.

Mr. H. H. Cook, (Liberal), M. P. for East Simcoe, has been unseated or bribery by agents.

Mr. Prior, (Conservative), has been elected to the Dominion Parliament for Victoria, B. C., by acclamation.

Mr. G. F. Baird, Conservative, has been elected to the Dominion Parliament for Queens Co., N. B., by a majority of 111.

The marriageable young ladies of Antigonish are about to entertain the single gentlemen of that town at a surprise leap year ball.

The Annapolis Post Office was broken into early this week, and the registered letters from Halifax, St. John, and Yarmouth stolen.

The Manitoba finances seem to be in a high state of muddle, and Mr. Greenway is said to hesitate about taking office on account of it.

The *Herald* publishes a useful calendar for 1888, the dates of which are filled in, to a large extent, with the record of local events of interest.

The *Liverpool Times* (Jan. 20) has the rare courage to speak some downright truth on the visits to Canada of Irish Home Rule emissaries.

Two Nova Scotians, named Parker and Fulton, were suffocated in the International Hotel, New York, last week, from blowing out the gas instead of turning it off.

A boy sent by Charles Lenoir, mail agent, across the ice from Arichat to Robins, in the storm of the 16th, has not been heard of since. The mail agent's conduct in sending the boy was utterly heartless.

The charge for parcel post packages between Canada and the States will be one cent per pound. In order to make the services uniform, the limit of weight on parcels to Great Britain will be increased to four pounds.

Several Halifax capitalists are applying for incorporation, as the Halifax and Newfoundland Steamship Company, to operate a line of steamers between various ports, but particularly between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Notwithstanding the accumulated horrors of the cold and blizzards of Montana, Dakota, Minnesota, &c., we have not, up to the time of our going to press, received any accounts of the like nature from our own apparently fortunate Provinces.

The two atrocious ruffians, Davis and Kinney, second mate and boat-swain, respectively, of the *Vancouver*, have been sentenced, the former to eight, the latter to sixteen years. They ought to be flogged as well. But where are the captain and first mate? It is disgraceful that they should be at large.

Sir Geo. Stephen has returned from England, and states that the Pacific Mail Subsidy is arranged, and that the new steamers will be running by this time next year. He denies that there is any foundation for the rumor about the Dominion Government taking over the C. P. R., or buying the monopoly clause.

A snow storm of unusual severity came on Monday night, and continued all Tuesday. Trains were much delayed. Towards evening the wind, from the northward, increased, and by Wednesday morning the Ther. was said to be 7 below zero. Yet the strong winds have prevented Bedford Basin from freezing below the island.

Mr. John Calder, a theological student, was twice shot at on Saturday evening in the Tower Road, by some miscreant, who was apparently lying in wait for the purpose. Some time ago the same thing happened to Lt. Hicks, R.N., in the same locality, and a woman was knocked down on Inglis St. just before Christmas. Is it the same scoundrel in each case?

A new Tom Thumb is reported as hailing from Annapolis. His name is Dudley Foster, and he has been taken by his parents to Philadelphia for exhibition. This midget is now 12 years old. At his birth he weighed 1 lb. He now weighs 12 lbs., and is only 31 inches high. He is said to be well formed and good-looking. Two females of the family died. Three others are of ordinary size. One paper gives the age of little Foster as 16, his weight as 11 lbs., and his height as 30 inches.

"The list of shipping registered in the County of Hants," Jan 1st, 1888, published by the *Hants Journal*, has the following highly interesting showing:—

5 Steamers.....	312 tons.
42 Ships.....	61,425 "
97 Barques.....	95,633 "
13 Barquentines.....	5,861 "
12 Brigantines.....	4,084 "
73 Schooners.....	6,800 "

Making a total of 242 vessels..... 174,115 "

The redoubtable Big Bear, Chief of the Plain Crees, of Riel rebellion notoriety, is dead.

The net profits made by the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Merchant Bank of Halifax for 1887 are, for the former, \$126,874, and for the latter \$92,766.

A disastrous fire occurred at Bear River on Wednesday morning, destroying several business places and two or three residences. Loss over \$20,000; insurance under \$2,000.

A terrible explosion occurred on Tuesday morning in the Wellington Colliery, B. C. It is believed that nearly ninety miners have perished, twenty bodies of white miners having been taken out. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

The city tax-collectorship has been filled by the appointment of Ald. Theakston, after a close contest with Ald. Woodill, necessitating twelve ballots before the result was reached. The selection is a good one, and Collector Theakston will doubtless be an efficient and valuable officer. He will assume the duties of his new position on the 1st February. The salary was cut down \$500 from that enjoyed by the former incumbent—an economy which meets general approval. Another civic vacancy has been created by the appointment of Mr. Sedgewick, the City Recorder, to the position of Deputy Minister of Justice. It is rumored that Ald. Lyon will probably succeed to the Recordership, which is said to be worth about \$2,000 a year, with a probability of a further professional promotion. The predecessor of Mr. Sedgewick is now Judge J. Norman Ritchie, of the Supreme Court.

Since the first performance of the amateur actors, in aid of the School of Art and Design, expectation has been on tiptoe as to the probable merit of the second performance; and had Wednesday evening been less lovely than it was, the Academy of Music would have been filled by an interested and well-dressed audience. The choice of Wednesday evening for these performances is, in a measure, unfortunate, seeing that, owing to its being a general evening for meeting in many of the churches, many persons are prevented from attending who otherwise would gladly do so; but as there were very few empty stalls, this consideration will not be a weighty one with the committee of management. The entertainment of Wednesday evening was one of the most enjoyable of the season. The ladies and gentlemen who took part in "Dearest Mamma" and "A Regular Fix," deserve the greatest praise for the care they had evidently bestowed upon their respective parts; and even Mr. Paske's bulldog merits special mention for the agitation which he displayed in common with his master when that worthy servant was giving warning that either he or "Dearest Mamma" must quit the house. Mrs. Daly, who took the leading part as "Dearest Mamma," was an ideal mother-in-law, and won from the audience very hearty applause for the realistic manner of her acting. Miss Stewart, who personated Mrs. Clinton, performed her part admirably, her acting being very natural throughout the whole piece. Miss K. O'Dell, as Mrs. Honeywood, was most coquettish, performing her part with that easy grace which almost made her hearers think that she could be, when occasion offered, an out-and-firt. Captain Blackburn, R. E., as Mr. Browser, was simply superb, and the audience found it impossible to preserve its "equilibrium" when he took part in the dialogue. Mr. Valentine, R. A., did fairly well as Mr. Clinton, but as an actor he cannot be regarded as a success. Mr. W. A. Henry was the only poor actor in the piece, dramatic work evidently not being sufficiently athletic to inspire him with any degree of enthusiasm. In the farce "A Regular Fix," the ladies had, comparatively speaking, secondary parts to perform, but Miss B. Albro as the housekeeper, Miss E. Duffus as Emily, Mrs. Clarke as Mrs. Surplus, and Miss H. Scott as the housemaid, contributed largely to the pleasing impression which the performance of the farce left upon the audience. Mr. Willie Hill as Mr. Hugh DeBrass, was capital throughout, and richly deserved all the bouquets which were showered at him, but which he, as a true gallant, and as one who could better appreciate how well Emily was doing, passed over to her, meekly kneeling on one knee. Mr. J. B. Currie's personation of Mr. Surplus, the lawyer, was a complete success, his dialogue, acting and make-up being such as would have done credit to a professional. Captain Blackburn, R. E., as Smiler, won fresh laurels for the manner in which he personated the sheriff's officer. The other actors, with the exception of Mr. Paske, were decidedly indifferent, and were evidently unaccustomed to stand behind the foot-lights. At the close of the performance, Mr. Stubbing, under whose skilful coaching the evening's plays had been so well performed, was called in front of the curtain by the audience, which expressed its appreciation of his work by a hearty cheer, thus bringing to a close a most enjoyable evening's entertainment.

An exodus of negroes from the Southern States to South America is reported as probable.

Chicago is a lively city. Sand-bagging and safe-blowing have become so common that persons who are out at night go heavily armed. The city is overrun with garrotters and burglars.

Mlle. de Lussan is said by Boston *cognoscenti* to have achieved a great success as Maria in Donizetti's "Fiducia del Regimento." It is said the part might have been written for her.

The big raft has not yet half got through the mischief she is capable of. Leary has libelled the *Miranda* in \$40,000 for breach of contract, and the owners of a tug have sued her for running it down off Blackwell's Island, for \$12,000, the upshot of which will be that the lawyers will be the only persons to whom the unwieldy mass will be of any benefit. They will, no doubt, bless Mr. Leary and his raft.