

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 14, 1887.

{ VOL. 4.
No. 2.

PER ANNUM. }
EACH COPY 3 CTS. }

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Result Uncertain.....	1, 2
Society in Halifax.....	2, 3
The Mayor's Address.....	3
Notes.....	1
DISPUTED.	
Poetry—Upward.....	"Avonian" 7
Government.....	"Alpha" 8
Tray Shots.....	"Franc-Threux" 8
MELANROUH.	
Chuckles.....	3
News of the Week.....	4, 5
Religious.....	6
Items of Interest.....	6
Imperial London.....	7
Our Cozy Corner.....	7
A Big Thimble.....	7, 8
Commercial.....	8, 9
Market Quotations.....	9
Social.....	10, 11
Mining.....	12
The Maritime Patron.....	13, 14

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 his journal. Our readers are capable of proving or disproving any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after reading due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bunyan's immortal work, "Pilgrim's Progress," has been published in fifty-one different languages. A fine edition of the work which is sold at a low price, has recently been published in Japan, the illustrations being the work of native artists.

The great aim of public and private school-teachers should be to give their pupils such instruction as would learn them how to learn. If education is to cease when boys or girls turn their backs upon the schoolhouse then our expenditure for educational purposes is a mistake. Crammed knowledge always evaporates, but brain development sticks, and it is the brain development that is to be imparted.

Peace, good government and education are having their effect in India. The natives are now beginning to feel the invigorating pulsations of a new life and to awaken to a sense of citizenship in the empire. Representation of local government is now asked for, and although Lord Dufferin has discouraged the movement, an Indian parliament will be convened in the twentieth century.

We are accustomed to think of Venice as a semi-tropical city, through its watery streets of which the native gondolas are skillfully guided; but when in Venice, which, by the way, is nearly as far north of the equator as Halifax, frost and snow are by no means uncommon. During a recent cold snap the ice formed on the canals so as to enable the citizens to disperse with their boats. A carnival at Venice under the circumstances could have been *unprofitable*.

We are a long-suffering people, but the day will come when steamship companies will find that it would have been in their interest had they endeavored to serve the public more efficiently. In the matter of Atlantic mails the slow Allan boats have been tolerated, the quick trips made by the Parisian and Sardinian tending to alleviate public irritation. But we learn that the Sardinian, the second fastest boat of the line, has been chartered by the Inman company; and, as if this was not enough, the Dominion line, which has shared in the mail service with the Allan company, has likewise chartered its best boat to the Inman line. It may pay the managers of the Allan and Dominion lines to charter their speediest boats for foreign service, but they make a mistake if they think the business men of this country are going to be content with second-class boats for the Canadian mail service.

Some interesting experiments or tests have been made as to the relative acuteness of the senses in men and women. So far as sight and hearing are concerned, no difference was observed, but in the sense of touch that of woman was found to be far more delicate than man. The senses of taste and smell seem to be more fully developed in man than in woman, which fact probably accounts for the epicurean tendencies of the mankind, and for the immoderate use of perfumes both pleasant and oppressive by woman-kind.

The frequent changes in the French ministry are a serious drawback to France, and her leading statesmen now hesitate before accepting the position of premier. The present Premier, M. Goblet, although a man of ability, has hitherto occupied secondary positions in the cabinet; but were his abilities as great as those of his predecessor, De Freycinet, he would find it impossible to long retain the confidence of the majority in the House of Deputies, the many sections of that body coalescing and separating with a rapidity that makes it impracticable for a stable government to exist.

The British government for the past month has been occupied in the consideration of a county or local government bill. The old system of government through quarter sessions is anomalous, and the elective principle, upon which the Imperial Parliament is based, is to be carried into general application in county affairs. The question of procedure, Irish Home Rule, the occupation of Egypt and Eastern matters, will occupy a large portion of the session, and it is not improbable that the well-digested bill will suffer the same vicissitudes as other parliamentary reforms have before done.

John Bull has had his continental land appetite pretty well satisfied, but he still roams the sea in search of islands, the strategic position of which he considers important. Port Hamilton, at the entrance to the Sea of Japan, and Socotra, near the mouth of the Gulf of Aden, have both been seized by him, and now it is found that Britain claims the little island which controls the Panama Canal under construction. The French are indignant that the canal, which is a French enterprise, should be controlled by British guns, and the United States likewise feels sore over the matter; but John Bull presses on as before regardless of sleepy antagonists.

It is to be regretted that Lord Tennyson had not been content with the laurels he had already won. His latest publications have tended to injure his reputation, but his last effort, "Locksley Hall after sixty years," has detracted most from the Laureate's fame. To it we might well apply his own words—

"My passion sweeping through me left me dry—
Left me with the palsied heart and left me with the jaundiced eye."

Tennyson's springs of inspiration have indeed run dry, and the buoyancy and hope which were evinced in the first "Locksley Hall" are sadly wanting in this second and latest poem.

Landowners in the North West will now be able to appreciate the advantages of the Torrens' Land Transfer Act, and we have no doubt, from our knowledge of this system, that it will be found to work admirably. Our provincial governments would do well to give this matter of land transfer their earnest consideration. If, by the introduction and adoption of the Torrens' system, they could save our landowners and land buyers from the loss of time, the expense and the annoyance, resulting from the searching of misty titles, and enable them to buy and sell land expeditiously and without unnecessary cost, as they would buy and sell other property; then would the people rise up and call them blessed, proving their gratitude by the liberal depositing of ballots for such benefactors.

THE RESULT UNCERTAIN.

The decided gains made by the Liberal party in the several provincial elections which have been held during the past year, are regarded by some as certain indications that the Liberal Conservative federal administration will be defeated at the ensuing elections. This we take to be not altogether conclusive, seeing that the provincial issues which affected the several elections are not likely to play an important part in the Dominion contest. True, the Riel cry in Quebec, which has greatly weakened and may yet possibly overturn the Ross government, will do duty in a Federal campaign, and will unquestionably tend to reduce Sir John Macdonald's support in that Province. It is a mean, contemptible cry, one which can only be used with effect among an ignorant class of electors; but its potency in Quebec was made most apparent in the late provincial elections. Had Dr. Ross's government been charged with extravagance and corruption and these charges proved, the verdict of the electors would have been easily understood, but, as a matter of fact, previous to the raising of the detestable race cry, Ross had the support, in provincial politics, of many life-long Liberals. In Ontario the no-populry cry raised by the Toronto "Mail" has had the effect of increasing Mr. Mowatt's majority in the House, but had that