

shore, and the weird effect of colored lights on board several craft, which looked as if each was making a picturesque little pandemonium of its own, constituted a picture worthy of the brush of a Turner. We understand that the flag ship showed lights up to gun-fire, but when the Press boat neared her she was as dark as Erebus. The *Tourmaline* also was alive, but the thanks of the city are particularly due to Captain Rolfo of the gallant little *Pylades*, every outline of which vessel was delineated in lines of fire, while the excursionists were greeted with shrieks of her steam syren which would have done credit to the howls of the tormented in Hades. The gallant Frenchmen added to the charm of the occasion by the sweet strains of their effective bands. Altogether Wednesday evening's entertainment was one of the best features of our successful Carnival. The weather was delightful and the water calm, the three-quarters moon adding her brilliancy to the varied fireworks and illuminations. It will be long before such a sight will be witnessed again.

The band concert at the Exhibition Building was under way during the illumination and was listened to by numerous votaries of music.

Mrs. McLellan gave two afternoon parties at Government House this week. The one on Monday was not attended by a great many people, and the rain somewhat marred the pleasure of those who were present. On Wednesday, however, a large representation of youth, beauty and fashion of the city was present, as well as a number of strangers. For some time the band discoursed dance music without any effect, for why? There were no men there to dance with all the array of pretty girls. It seemed a pity, with that lovely music and a perfect floor that they should be compelled to adorn the wall. After a time, however, some young men put in an appearance and the "light fantastic toe" received attention immediately. The tents in the garden were pleasant resting places and the scene there was a very pretty one, some of the ladies' dresses being much admired. Leaving out of account the lack of dancing men, the party was an exceedingly pleasant one. The lovely old house was much admired by the stranger guests.

We have often wondered what is the attraction of negro minstrelsy. To see a set of idiots sitting in a solemn circle, every now and then gesticulating like baboons, firing off vulgar jokes, often of the tamest description, and singing songs mostly not worth listening to, has always seemed to us anything but an edifying function. We can, however, laugh at real fun as heartily as our neighbor, and if one is doomed to that trying sort of ordeal, there are generally a few merry airs or chorusses that afford some mitigation of the distasteful frivolity. In addition, however, to a collection of for the most part very pointless jokes, the San Francisco Minstrels seem to have conceived the original idea of setting their comic songs to a lugubrious style of air to which the Old Hundredth Psalm in the most nasal and drawling pitch of the days of old English country church psalmody would seem lively and festive. Anything more dreary and tedious than the performance we had the misfortune to be booked for on Tuesday evening would be difficult to imagine, and the apparently best voices of the company were altogether lacking in *timbre*. Some of the audience left long before the end of the melancholy performance, and we should suppose it was only the crowded state of the town that procured them an audience which must have numbered some 1500. If ever the San Francisco Minstrels come this way again popular taste will doubtless ensure them patronage; but for ourselves we shall be careful to give the Academy a wide berth during their stay.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. Milne Fraser.

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page 11. For \$1.00 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with 110 of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

It is said that the blue-berry crop of Quebec this year will yield \$10,000.

An attempt is being made to establish the hop-growing industry in Manitoba.

In order to develop the Assiniboine River \$400,000 will be raised in Winnipeg.

The roads in Victoria County, C. B., are much improved this year, but the wooden bridges seem to need the attention of the Council.

The statue of the late Col. Williams at Port Hope is to be unveiled on Sept. 4, when Sir John Macdonald will deliver the inaugural address.

Judge Dugas has given instructions that henceforth no subpoena issued by him is to be served by anyone excepting the high constables. This arises out of Miss Tibbits' arrest.

The Pope has erected the Roman Catholic diocese of Kingston into an arch-diocese. Kingston is the oldest Catholic See in the whole of Canada, after Québec, having been created in 1821.

It is understood that the additional number of fisheries inspectors in the Maritime Provinces will not in any way increase the cost of inspection, as the salaries of the six inspectors will only aggregate the salaries of the two previous officers.

A good driveway has been made along the highest part of the Dartmouth Common, and a summer house is to be placed on Fairy Rock. A code of bye-laws has been passed by the Park Commissioners and sent to the Government for concurrence. Next spring 500 young trees will be set out, and cows are to be prohibited from going at large on the park grounds. The view from the summit of the hill is very fine.

The shad fishing in Minas Basin, so far, has been a failure again this year. Some small catches have been made, but not enough have been taken to pay. We understand quite a quantity of bass have been taken in the weirs of late.

The French warship *Arethuse*, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Brown de Coulston, accompanied by the cruiser *Roland*, arrived in port on Monday morning. The usual salutes were exchanged with the flag-ship *Bellerophon* and the citadel.

Mr. John Duff, M.D., a graduate of the Royal Medical College, has secured the highest honors at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. Three other Canadians also won honors. Sir Robert Bell complimented Dr. Duff on his excellent training.

The prevalence of cholera infantum in Canning is thought to be due to the use of milk from cows which have been drinking impure water, but others think that impure water used for cooking and drinking direct, without any interference from the cow, is the cause.

A plain white stone will mark the resting place of Lord A. P. Cecil, drowned at Adolphus-town and buried at Napanee. The remains will be left in Canada. Lord William Cecil, in Napanee now, has so decided. He wanted to erect an elaborate stone, but the followers of Cecil asked that nothing of an ostentatious character be erected, as the deceased was marked by a retiring disposition.

Professor Bell's House-boat, now at Baddeck, is a catamaran, but instead of being simply decked it is built up somewhat like an ordinary steam boat. The bow and stern are both semi circular. Entering from the bow you find yourself in the parlor, a medium sized room neatly and tastefully upholstered. From the parlor a hall extends nearly the whole length of the house, on either side of the hall are state rooms, small but convenient. In the stern at the end of the hall is a large room, which might be a state room, a smoking room, or whatever room the occupants choose to call it. Adjoining this room is a neatly fitted up kitchen, near the kitchen is a stair way which leads out on the roof. This completes the house-boat. Its furnishings are the essence of simplicity and comfort, but are in no way luxurious. The house-boat is towed round by a steam tug. The Professor, not content with his researches in the world of science, is trying to discover a new method of fishing. Consequently he has had a well fitted in the floor, through which he intends to endeavor to entice the inhabitants of the briny deep to walk into his parlor.

California sent 3,500,000 pounds of honey to Europe last year.

Mrs. Cleveland will receive \$120,000 as her share of the Folsom estate in Omaha.

A band of incendiaries are burning churches and school houses in Vandant County, Texas.

The new screw twin steamer *Columbia* made her maiden passage from Southampton to New York in 6 days, 21 hours and 7 minutes.

A new disease has broken out in two or three cattle herds near Lincoln, Nebraska, and is spreading. Cattle owners in the vicinity are greatly alarmed.

D. Augustus Vandervoer, who owns a large vineyard at Manalapan, N. Y., has put bags over 10,000 bunches of growing grapes as a protection against insects.

Buffalo Bill has written to a friend in Colorado that he has already received proposals of marriage from twenty-seven wealthy Parisian ladies. Cowboys are in demand in Paris just now.

Maria Vincenz Cheari Cerrechone, who arrived on the steamer *Neuestrin*, wore a very large bustle and was invited into the searching room. The bustle was found to contain five gold chains, thirty-three pairs of kid gloves, two gold mounted smelling bottles, two silver watch chains, nine gold rings, five gold pendants and five pairs of gold earrings. The goods were confiscated, and Maria was held to answer a charge of smuggling.

Tuesday last was the 80th birthday of the poet laureate Tennyson.

The belle of the royal family is said to be Princess Victoria, of Teck.

Eighty Nihilists have been arrested at Kharkoff and many others at Odessa.

The British warship *Sultan*, which struck a rock and sunk near Malta some months ago, has been raised.

A treaty is being negotiated between Great Britain and Japan whereby the whole interior of the latter country will be opened to English trade.

Princess Stephanie, widow of the late Prince of Austria, will carry to her grave an ugly scar where he struck her during one of his fits of fury.

The Imperial Federation League has decided to postpone any further action on Sir Charles Tupper's proposal for an Imperial Federation Convention until autumn.

The number of British subjects who emigrated from Great Britain during the first six months of this year was 139,525, which is a reduction of 18,225 as compared with the same period last year.

Simpkins, Marshall & Co., Hamilton, Adams & Co., and W. Kent & Co., three of the largest firms of wholesale booksellers in Great Britain, have amalgamated, forming a limited liability company.

Some excitement has been caused by the despatch of two French men-of-war to Crete, which island is in a state of disturbance, but it is quite possible that they may only have been sent to protect French interests in the usual manner where a country is perturbed.