

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The stories sent in for the Xmas number of THE CRITIC have been carefully examined by a committee of three gentlemen, and they have unanimously recommended the division of the prize of twenty dollars offered by us for the best story, between "Rondinella" and "Max Jesoloy." The persons who signed these *nom de plume* to their contributions are requested to send in their names to this office, with the names of the story written by each. It is our intention to publish both stories in the Xmas number, and we think they will be read with pleasure by our subscribers.

Canadians are great readers, and in Canadian homes are always to be found one or more of the best British and American Monthly Magazines. The want of a first class Canadian Magazine has long been felt by the reading public, and it is therefore not surprising that the initial number of the new and attractive magazine, entitled *Man*, should be received with such marked favour. The new periodical is beautifully printed on toned paper, contains a variety of ably written articles by Canadian literateurs, as well as carefully chosen selections from current periodicals. *Man* is published in Ottawa, and is under the editorial management of Edward Playter, M. D. It should find a ready circulation among all classes.

The C. P. R. Company, it is said, has purchased the Pope Line, and intends pushing building operations without delay.

The Queen has approved of the medal to be awarded Canadian Volunteers serving in the North-West. What about the Mounted Police? Are they not likewise entitled to have their services recognized? Medals and land-grants for volunteers are right enough, but why make an ignominious distinction between Canadians serving in the Mounted Police and those serving in the Militia? "Fair play is a jewel."

The case of Dr. Washington is now before the courts, which fact prevents us from dealing with the merits of the question. Sufficient it is to say, that Dr. Washington has received a diploma from a well recognized College of the Dominion, and it would appear that the Medical Board refuses to recognize the standing of the University from which Dr. Washington graduated. We may have to refer to this matter later on.

On Sunday last, an appeal was made by the Rectors of the several Anglican Churches in this city for subscriptions towards the restoration fund of King's College. This week, canvassers have been actively at work, both in the city and Dartmouth, and it is expected that a large sum will be raised.

We have received a copy of the "Baptist Year Book of the Maritime Provinces for 1885." It is a carefully compiled pamphlet of 231 pages, and contains much well arranged information valuable to all interested in the progress of the Baptist body. The publisher, Mr. S. Selden, deserves great credit for the excellence of the paper, printing, &c.

The presence of fifteen cases of small-pox at Charlottetown, and of several cases at Sydney, C. B., has led the Municipal authorities of some of our towns to take active precautionary measures. The Town Council of Baddeck has decided to quarantine all vessels from Sydney or Port Hawkesbury. All vessels arriving at Halifax from Charlottetown, Souris, or other suspected points, shall be submitted to a semi-quarantine in the stream.

The great-grandfather of Prince Alexander of Bulgaria was a journalist. His great-grandson is a land-grabber.

The two batteries of Artillery that have been stationed in Halifax for the last five years, sailed on Monday with some of the Engineers. The latter and some of the Artillery are to be stationed at Bermuda, whence their successors have come. As they marched to the ship, headed by a band, large numbers of the citizens might be seen taking a last look at the fine-looking troops.

From a dispute between the *Journal of Commerce*, the *Hamilton Spectator*, and the *Belleville Intelligencer*, we gather that the price of a 4lb. loaf in England is 12½ cents; in Hamilton and Belleville 10 cents; in Ottawa and Montreal 18 cents. Bakers in these last cities are said to be growing rich, a result at which no one will be surprised.

Galveston, Texas, was visited on the 13th inst. by a destructive fire. Three hundred houses were burned, and fully five hundred families were left houseless. The wealthiest and most fashionable portion of the city was included in the district burned. A high wind spread the flames with terrible rapidity among the buildings of Texas pine. Although the people were completely panic-stricken, no accident is reported.

Jackson, who acted as Riel's secretary during the late rebellion, has escaped from the lunatic asylum at Selkirk, Manitoba. In a letter to his sister, he enclosed a message to be sent to Sir John, warning him against executing Riel. It was a madman's advice.

No carnival at Montreal this year, too much small-pox. Ottawa proposes holding the carnival, but fears that the politicians may make it so warm as to render the success of the enterprise doubtful. St. Paul is bidding for the honor, and her citizens are moving in the matter with all the vim and 'go' of Westerners.

Dr. Fred Barker, a lawyer of 25 years standing, and C. W. Skinner, barrister, will, Tuesday, contest the constituency of St. John, N.B., for the vacant seat in the House of Commons. Considering the result of the late election, the opposition show great pluck in placing a candidate in the field.

The Printing Establishment formerly conducted by George W. Baillie, and more recently directed by his assignees, has this week been taken over by Messrs. West & Sullivan. The new firm will be known as the Halifax Printing Company, and we bespeak for it a share of public patronage. The firm will, we believe, soon earn for itself a first class reputation for promptness in executing orders, and for the typographical excellence of the work performed.

The Burmese campaign has opened with the capture, by the British, of King Thobaw's war vessel. The capture was effected after sharp fighting, in which one British officer was wounded.

1200 applications for the land grants to volunteers have been received from Montreal by the Ottawa authorities. The 65th Regiment, sent out from Montreal to the North-West, numbered less than 300 men, and the officials in the department are at a loss to know the reason for such a large number of applications. Volunteers have a marvellous way of quadrupling when the campaign is over.

There is evidently no Chinese phobia in Mexico, since the Government of that country, which, by the way, is, generally speaking, impecunious, offers \$25 for each Chinese immigrant. Had they doubled the sum, John Chiuaman might see his way clear to 'strip' and pay the impost levied on the "pig-tail" by the Dominion authorities in British Columbia.

Matters in the East are critical. Prince Alexander of Bulgaria is unpopular with the powers, and it is probable he will be called upon to resign in favor of his brother Prince Louis. King Milan, of Servia, is advancing at the head of his forces upon Sofia. Several skirmishes between the Bulgarian and Servian troops have taken place, but it will probably be several days before any decisive action comes off.

The factory of Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst, is running night and day, so that the increasing orders may be filled with their ordinary promptness.

J. C. Fleming, Esq., for some time editor of the *Charlottetown Herald*, is on the staff of the *New York Citizen*, an imitation of *London Truth*. Many of our readers have doubtless read Mr. Fleming's *Letters of Myles O'Regan*, which were published a few years ago in the *Montreal Post*, and were widely copied.

Messrs. J. A. Gillies, Colin Chisholm, and L. E. Tremaine, of Sydney, have been in the city for several days. Mr. Gillies is here as counsel for the defence in *re* Dominion Government *re* the Municipality of Cape Breton.

H. F. McDougall, Esq., M. P., for Cape Breton Co., and J. H. Christie, Esq., of Little Bras d'Or, have recently been in town.

A great deal of interest is manifested in the missing schr. *Handy Andy*, which some time ago sailed from this port for St. Pierre, with a cargo of tobacco and liquors, in bond. Vague suspicions are in the air.

The School Board, as reconstructed for the current school year, met yesterday. The new Commissioners are Hon. Senator Poyer, Geo. Mitchell, Esq., Rufus Sweet, Esq., Ald. Rent, and Ald. Dolaney. With such names as these before us, we cannot believe that any unworthy shuffling or hold-and-corner jobbery shall be chargeable to the City School Board of this year.

Senator Stanford proposes establishing and endowing a new University in California. The Senator has set apart from his immense fortune \$20,000,000 for this purpose.

Master Bertie Shelly, aged 13, a native of Philadelphia, is the coming violinist of the day. His performances have already attracted the favourable notices of Theodore Thomas and Adelina Patti, and he is pronounced by the latter to be "a little musical marvel."

Russia is actively pushing forward the building of her railway in Central Asia. Four thousand two hundred men are now engaged upon the work, and their number is shortly to be augmented by a large reinforcement of Chinese. John Chiuaman appears to be a firm navy, and were it not for him, the aggregate mileage of the world's railway would fall far short of its present proportion.

Wm. Van Slooten, Esq., C. E., has passed through Halifax *en route* for eastern Cape Breton. He has succeeded in raising in England capital for working the copper mine in Cape Breton in which he is interested.

The development of smuggling demonstrates the necessity of a special detective for this Province. The official duties of our Collector of Customs leave that gentleman no time to devote to the law-breakers.

The really fine display at the Army and Navy Depot gives the establishment a real Christmas appearance.

A considerable number of the many visitors from Cape Breton, who have been in the city during the present week, have made valuable purchases at the warerooms of A. Stephen & Son. Perhaps some of the younger contemplative going into house-keeping.

Correct Answers to Double Diagonal Puzzle, published last week, were received from S. J. Purcell and S. F. McDonald, Port Mulgrave; and R. B. Elliot, City.

Mr. Alex. Robertson, after passing an examination in New Brunswick, has been appointed assistant gauger for this port, with an increased salary, which he certainly deserves.