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# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH 12, 1886.

{ VOL. 3.  
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## THE CRITIC,

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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 this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgement.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Russian budget shows a deficit of \$75,000,000, and yet the Czar talks glibly of an Asiatic campaign in the coming spring. Perhaps John Bull will consent to advance the sinews of war, even though they be used to cripple his trade and weaken his power in India.

The House of Assembly seems very reluctant to settle down to the real business of the session. We hope the Opposition will not needlessly lengthen debates, prolong the session, and annoy the Government. Such a course ought to be unworthy of a party that has confidence in its cause.

The climate of Malta is said to be delightful; it is in fact an almost perpetual summer. Cotton clothing is principally worn by the people. The head is covered with a wide brimmed straw hat, while the feet remain bare, saving in the opera houses, where bare-footed ticket-purchasers are denied admittance.

The eight hour movement has been very generally seconded by the Trade and Labor Unions in both Canada and the United States; but the action of the Knights of Labor, in agreeing to accept eight hour's pay for eight hour's work, brings the proposed reform within measurable distance of success.

We are credibly informed that Hon. Mr. Thompson's maiden speech in the House of Commons, as also subsequent addresses by him there, made a most favorable impression on both sides of the House. This is only what we expected of him. He is a representative of whom all us Nova Scotians, Grit and Tory alike, may well be proud.

It is now whispered in diplomatic circles that the submission of the Hovas to the French was quietly acquiesced in, with the understanding that the British occupation of Candia should receive French support. The rumor, which comes from French sources, may well be doubted; but we have yet to understand by what means France obtained her present hold upon Madagascar, seeing that the Hovas and their heroic Christian Queen were prepared to protect their Island against all comers; and that the idea of a French protectorate was scouted by them as impossible.

The United States Committee on Foreign Affairs recommends to Congress the adoption of a new Extradition Treaty between the United States and Canada, which shall be much more comprehensive in its character than that now in operation. With such a treaty Canada would not be, as now, an asylum for American defaulters.

Jack Frost appears to have lost his reckoning, at least, so the people of Florida have reason to think. By his visitation to that peninsula, plantations of orange and other fruit trees, to the value of \$2,000,000, have been destroyed. Even in Cuba his nipping bite has been felt, and the inhabitants of that sunny isle now understand the true origin of the term "Blue-nose."

The North-West Territories of Canada are to be represented in the Federal Parliament by five members in the House of Commons, and two in the Senate. With such a representation the Territories should be able to voice their grievances, correct abuses, and raise the great lone land from its position as a mere dependency, to that of an integral portion of British America.

The railway mileage of Canada is, considering our population, fast assuming gigantic proportions. 11,000 miles of railway in a country with a population not equal to that of the little kingdom of Belgium, indicates a degree of progressive push well calculated to appal those who have no faith in the future of this Dominion. Railways are as much of a necessity at the present day as post roads fifty years since, and the country, or section of country, without the means of quick transit which they afford, cannot hope to successfully compete with localities enjoying railway facilities.

Lord Dufferin, in his own peculiar polished style, has been assuring the Chinese residents of Rangoon, that no matter what the Government of the United States did to prevent Chinese immigration, the Chinese would always find a welcome upon Canadian soil. Lord Dufferin appears to have overlooked the fact that the Government of the Dominion have taken a cue from the United States, and has imposed a tax of fifty dollars per head upon each and every Chinaman entering the country.

Australia is afflicted with a plague of rabbits, which has increased to such an extent that the authorities are taking steps to put a stop to it. One flock-owner, it is stated, has trapped five thousand of the troublesome creatures, but they must be destroyed in far greater numbers than this, in order to produce any diminution of this pest. Queensland has been so far free, and in order to keep it so, the Government has decided to erect a rabbit-proof fence on their boundary line. Tenders have been accepted for 2,550 miles of wire fencing and 450 miles of wire netting of small mesh.

There are but few Nova Scotian teachers that will not feel the stern truth of the following paragraph, which we clipped some weeks ago from the *Baddeck Reporter*, but for which we did not find space until this week:—"So long as teachers are hired by the term of six months, our schools will not amount to very much. We do not see why a teacher's occupation should be more uncertain than that of a sailor before the mast. Young men are blamed for making the teaching profession a stepping stone to other professions. The reason why is apparent. No young man of any ordinary ambition would remain in a profession where the most certain thing is uncertainty. The ordinary teacher is the football of every old busybody in the section. In some cases, teachers are possessed of tact sufficient to keep the old gossips in good humor, but this is not always the case.

Attorney General Garland is being roundly abused by the Republican Press, on account of the suit brought against the Bell Telephone Company by the United States authorities. Garland is a large stock-holder in an opposition company, the success of which depends largely upon the result of the present suit. Garland is an interested party, and as such it is claimed he had no right to take part in the action against the Bell Telephone Company. There is, however, another side to this question, in which the public are interested. It is stated that the patent of the Bell Telephone was secured in an irregular manner. If this be true, the Attorney General is bound under oath to proceed against the company, even though by so doing he increases the value of the stock held by him in a rival company.

The Czar of Russia, who has recently purchased a complete set of photographic appliances from a London manufacturer, has issued an order to the effect that all political prisoners, convicts, etc., sentenced to banishment in Siberia, shall, before leaving for that mysterious haven of justice, sit to be photographed by his Imperial Majesty. The album containing the impressions thus taken, will doubtless be studied with interest by the Czar in his leisure moments. The physiognomies of the men who have dared to question his absolute power, and who have risked their own liberty for the sake of the liberty of the people, should be an interesting study to a potentate who has yet to learn the principles which induced these men to strike for freedom.

## A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT OR REVOLUTION.

Denmark is just now upon the verge of a revolution, the consequences of which cannot fail to be disastrous to King Christian and his self appointed Ministry, and may have the effect of estranging the loyalty of an otherwise loyal people. For many years the representatives of the Danes in the Folkthing have been endeavouring by peaceful means to bring about a change in the Constitution, so as to make the Ministry responsible to the people for its acts. This reform the King and the Court circle have frustrated by every means in their power, and the members of the Folkthing have been obliged to resort to extraordinary means, in order to convince the Sovereign that they were earnest in the matter. Meantime, the general want of confidence in the Government, and the uncertainty as to the outcome of the agitation has created a panic in financial circles. Trade, in consequence, has been crippled, and the people in the country districts have been pressed for the payment of outstanding liabilities which they are at present unable to meet. The bankruptcies which have followed each other in close succession among the trading classes, have called for the foreclosure of the mortgages held upon a large percentage of the farms. The factories having been closed down, the farmer is obliged to sell his produce at starvation prices, and finds it impossible to liquidate the debts which have for many years been accumulating. The distress among the agrarian population has now become so general, that unless the present strain between the Government and the people is speedily relieved, an outbreak will be inevitable. King Christian has the control of the army, and may, for a time, be able to thwart the wishes of the people; but as the Folkthing holds the purse strings, he must, sooner or later, yield to its just demands, and grant to the people of Denmark those rights to which they are justly entitled.

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

Paterson, the founder of the ill-fated Darien Colony of 1698, wrote to the Darien Company, that by utilizing the Isthmus of Panama "the time and expense of navigation to China, Japan, and the Spice Islands, and the greater part of the East Indies, would be lessened more than one-half, and the consumption of European commodities and manufactures would be more than doubled." Paterson's attempt at colonization ended most disastrously; but the great idea which he originated has become the nucleus of a gigantic enterprise, now in a fair way to completion. Many schemes have been set on foot for a great inter-oceanic passage through the Isthmus. Since 1855, a railway which has been of immense advantage to commerce has furnished the means of exchanging cargoes for ships in the Atlantic and Pacific respectively. To avoid the expense and delay of this double transshipment, the project of cutting the Isthmus by a canal has long been cherished; and various routes and schemes have been suggested by different engineers. At length, six or seven years ago, M. DeLesseps, backed by a committee of the *Academie des Sciences*, took up the scheme. It was found that the narrowest part of the Isthmus, between the town of Panama on the Pacific Coast, and the Bay of San Blas on the Atlantic, is 30½ miles across, and that 16 miles would have to be added for deviations. DeLesseps proposes to utilize the valleys of the Chagres on the Atlantic and the Rio Grande on the Pacific side. Between these valleys lies a ridge of high ground, 8½ miles across, and 147 feet high, through which the canal will have to pass. The total amount of cutting is estimated at 100,000,000 cubic yards, one half of which are in the rock. The greatest difficulty in the way of the engineers is the control of the floods on the River Chagres, which are liable to damage the canal during the rainy season. To check these, a dam 131 feet high is being built at Gamboa. The total cost of the works as estimated by the Technical Commission, will be £34,000,000; according to the estimate of the contractors, £20,500,000.

Although work is being done on twenty-one sections of the canal, yet there are many who regard the success of the undertaking as far from certain. A report to the New York Chamber of Commerce predicts the exhaustion of funds, long before the work is half completed; and declares that, in any case, the cost would be so great that canal tolls, in order to pay, would render the canal practically useless. In view of this fact, it seems like a very bold enterprise on the part of the American Government to have procured from the government of Nicaragua the right to build a canal through that part of the Isthmus.

The construction of this canal derives its chief importance from the rapidly increasing trade of the United States with the Pacific States of South America, and from its possible employment by Britain as an alternative to the use of the tedious and unsatisfactory passage by the Suez Canal. The value of the United States imports and exports, which it is supposed will pass through the canal, was \$93,677,000 in the year 1884. So unsatisfactory to British shipping is the management of the Suez Canal, that about 50 per cent. of the imports from the East and Australia, and 30 per cent. of the exports to these parts still passes around the Cape of Good Hope! Should trade become diverted from the Suez to the Panama route, the latter will become the great commercial high-way of the world.

## JUSTICE TO CAPE BRETON—JUSTICE!

This cry seems to some people stale and out of place when heard in our Legislative halls. But if such a watchword of past years be still used in the Press and in Parliament, whose is the fault? Does not the blame attach to successive Governments which refused, defiantly and repeatedly refused, to accede to the reasonable demands of a part of the Province that has long been a generous contributor to the Provincial Treasury? No one, surely, can fairly censure the representatives and friends of Cape Breton for declining to throw aside an old rallying cry, of which the principle, as they refrain, is only Justice, and which naturally will continue to be used with accelerated

power each succeeding year whilst the grievances which called it forth continue to exist.

It is a marvel to us that some gentlemen representing counties in Nova Scotia Proper in the Assembly have lived so long in apparent ignorance of a fact that ought to be all-important to every legislator, viz., that the best interests of the whole Province are now suffering through trade and revenue, from the unjust discrimination which has too long been exercised against the interests of Cape Breton. The coal royalties now obtained from that Island are certainly very considerable, and the trade between it and Halifax and other parts of Nova Scotia Proper is also of moment; but if the Government of this Province had in time favored the Island with such railways as were there most needed, and as the Island's own contributions to our revenue entitled her to, that revenue and that trade would to-day be tenfold greater. This Province would now have the advantages of more flourishing home industries, of better and more constant markets, of a larger coal trade, and of a more satisfactory state of commerce generally.

The demands of Cape Breton would be strong if only for the fact that she has contributed ten million dollars to the Dominion and Local revenues without receiving in return anything beyond the merest scraps of patronage and these only for the most general and absolutely undeniable requirements. It would scarcely be just that the County of Shelburne, for instance, should one year after another contribute to the public funds over \$500,000, and from those funds be allowed annually to draw less than \$100,000, while in various ways the best interests of Shelburne were suffering for want of a larger allowance. But the claims of Cape Breton have in their favor, in addition to the arguments indicated, another which makes them irresistibly cogent and clear to every fair and unobtuse mind. Here it is: if that Island should shortly receive its due proportion of money to be judiciously spent in supplying its *very* "long-felt wants" of railway facilities, etc., its vast and valuable resources would soon be developed into a form that might justly be considered the actual floating capital of the country; its expanded trade and its enlarged capacity of yielding revenue would alike be of the highest advantage to the whole Province, especially to those Counties that are weak in the number and extent of their resources.

For any M.-P., or M. P., that cannot see the force of Cape Breton's claims and of her plea for justice, we entertain the most profound feelings of sympathy, but not the warmest of regard or the strongest of respect.

When the matter of railways is brought before the House of Assembly, the people of Cape Breton will watch closely the Government and their representatives; and we sincerely hope that we and our Island friends will have reason to be satisfied with the railway legislation of the present session.

*Justitia fiat. vult coelum—Justice to Cape Breton included*

## INSURANCE, NOT BANKING.

Investment is one thing, insurance is quite another. When a man pays his fire insurance premium, he simply pays for one year's immunity from loss by fire. The year passes, and his property has not burned; he expects no return of money paid; he has had what he bought, one year's peace of mind; the commodity perished in the using; the premium was money invested only in the sense that the price of his food and worn-out clothing was money invested. There is no confusion here, no confusion as to what marine insurance or accident insurance is; but when we approach life insurance, and are told of "surrender values," "paid-up policies," "bonus additions," "Tontines," "cash-dividends," and the like, our ideas of what insurance is must all be remodelled—in fact, confusion reigns. The explanation of the mystery lies in the fact that, though the contract issued by the life-company is called an insurance contract, and though the insured pays an undivided premium, yet under that single contract and undivided premium the company is transacting two separate and distinct kinds of insurances—insurance and banking. A small portion of the premium is used to pay the insurance risk, the residue, after paying expenses, is treated as an investment on the policy. Considering the insurance branch of the business by itself, we have a complete analogy with fire and marine insurance; considering the investment or banking branch by itself, we have every element of mystery and speculation which distinguishes the business as a whole from insurance, as illustrated in the fire, marine, and accident business. The banking has no more real connection with the insurance than if it were transacted by a bank across the street; it is no more a necessary attachment to life insurance than to fire and marine insurance. No insurance authority claims for a moment that the combination is essential either to the safety of the insurance or the productiveness of the investments; but the wisest among them have pointed to the fact which is attested by sad experience, that the safety of the insurance branch is prejudiced by the dangers incident to the banking operations. A fire insurance agent who should propose to one of our merchants that he pay several times his present rate under a promise of annual dividends, Tontine profits, paid-up policy, or endowment, would be readily dismissed with the information that the merchant wanted only insurance from his company, and felt quite capable of attending to his own investments; and we are convinced that if men had been educated from the first to contract their life insurance solely for the protection of their dependents, any attempt at this day to burden the cost with investments from which personal returns could be promised would meet with no more favor. If the desire for immunity from personal loss has made fire insurance a necessary institution, surely the greater desire of all true men for the permanent well-being of those for whom they live and toil would have brought a system of pure life insurance, stripped of all schemes of investment and speculation with their attendant burden—such a system as that now practiced by the Dominion Safety Fund Life Association of St. John, N. B.—into such prominence that society would hold it a reproach for any man, on the continuance of whose life depends the comforts of others, to remain uninsured.

DIAMOND PUZZLE.

I am an Alma Mater proud,  
All Scotia sings my praises;  
I perpendicularly road,  
But cross at angles right, indeed,  
Another word whose name recalls,  
A science taught within my halls;  
Of letters nine we each consist;  
These hints to find our names assist.

1. Five hundred.
2. Indispensable to cricketers.
3. A favorite dance.
4. Nova Scotia's chief industry.
5. The study of languages.
6. A small stream.
7. Sweet sounds.
8. Humor.
9. A letter of the alphabet.

J. B. C.

THE CRITIC will be sent free for one year to the person giving the only correct answer to above puzzle. When two correct answers are sent in, THE CRITIC will be sent free for six months to each of those answering correctly. Answers should arrive at CRITIC office before Tuesday, P. M., marked answer to puzzle.

Answer to Cross-Word Enigma, published last week—ALPHABET.

TIT-BITS.

Groom: "What are you doing, my love?" Bride: "Making out a list of flower-seeds, which I want you to order for our little garden." "Oh! yes, so I see. But my love you want the flowers to bloom this summer; don't you?" "Why, of course." "Well, those you have put down do not bloom until the second season." "Oh! that is all right." "All right?" "Yes, I am getting the list from a last year's catalogue."

Definition: "Mother," said a little Rockland girl, looking up from her book, "what does transatlantic mean?" "Oh! across the Atlantic, of course. Don't bother me, you made me forget my count." "Does trans always mean across?" "I suppose it does. If you don't stop bothering me with your questions you'll go to bed." "Then does transparent mean a cross parent?" Ten minutes later she was resting in her little couch.

"How is your sister this morning, Bobby?" inquired Featherly. "I don't know how she is this morning," said Bobby, "cos I ain't seen her, but she was sick las' night." "That's strange!" exclaimed Featherly in sad alarm. "It must have been very sudden. She was feeling well when I left." "Well," said Bobby, indifferently, "all I know about it is she told me that she had suffered from martyrdom all the evening."—*New York Times*.

The Scotch are an exceedingly musical people," says an exchange. Perhaps this is because they live principally upon a *note meal* diet.

Up and down his store he strode  
With a sad and sorry face,  
On his mind there lay a load,  
For no buyer ever showed  
Himself within the place.

Then he found a simple way  
To sell off his large supplies,  
And thus to make his business pay,  
Now if you question him, he'll say  
"I always advertise."

A professor who got very angry at the interruption of a man while he was explaining the operation of a machine in a factory, strolled away in a huff, and asked another man: "Who is that fellow that pretends to know more than I do about that instrument?" "Oh! he is the man that invented it," was the answer.

Fogg crossed the ferry the other day. In speaking of it he said, "I had just time to catch the boat, so I tossed two cents to the toll man, and ran down the drop at full speed." "But," said Brown, "three cents is the fare; so the ferry folks were out a cent." "And I," replied Fogg, "was innocent."

A farmer writing to a friend, to whom he felt under obligations for introducing a variety of swine, thus unbosomed himself: "Respected sir, I went to the fair at Monson. I found several pigs of our species. There was a great variety of beasts, and I was astonished at not seeing you there."

Lines dedicated to the ancient maiden lady who lives next door:

Is it anybody's business, when a young man goes to call  
If he seats him in the parlor, or the kitchen, or the hall?  
Is it anybody's business but the girl he goes to see  
What that young man's mind and station may now or after be?  
Is it anybody's business if he stays till it is late?  
Or anybody's business if she follows to the gate?  
If he kisses her at parting, and she does not seem to grieve,  
Is it anybody's business save his own who takes his leave?

None of our type are second to none in the Maritime Provinces.

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Or from blocks—by the team.  
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Of sombre or bright.  
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And land agents, too:  
We print for any  
Who have printing to do.  
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Clerks, Auctioneers  
Print for druggists,  
For dealers in wares.  
We print for drapers,  
For grocers, for all,  
Who want printing done,  
And will come or may call  
We print pamphlets  
And bigger books, too;  
In fact there are few things  
But what we can do  
We print labels,  
Of all colors in use, size,  
Especially fit for  
The many producers.  
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J. F. Brine, M. D., Port Hill, P. E. I., writes Messrs. Puttner Emulsion Co., Halifax, N. S.:

"Dear Sir, I have used your Emulsion extensively during the past four years, and have a much pleasure in adding my testimony as to its efficacy. We had here last summer numerous cases of Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever. I found the Emulsion answer admirably when the acute symptoms had subsided, in very many instances. In most wasting disorders, especially those peculiar to children, your Emulsion has rendered me good service, being pleasant to the taste and no feeling of nausea following its administration. It seldom fails giving good results, and I prefer it to any other preparation of the kind. I am, yours respectfully

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170 bbls "Pillsbury's best" Flour  
200 bags (40lbs) do do  
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100 pieces Rolled and Breakfast Bacon  
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30 bbls. Sweet Jamaica ORANGES.  
25 cases Fine Palermo LEMONS.  
3 " ELEME FIGS—small boxes.  
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150 barrels FOXERRIES.  
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## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

The amateur theatricals given on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday last at St. Luke's Hall, were well attended, and the manner in which the play was received proved that the audience fully appreciated the efforts of the performers to act their respective parts as perfectly as possible. We have been favored with many theatrical performances in Halifax, but in too many instances indifferent performers have been allowed to mar the plays by their shocking misrepresentations of the characters assumed. On more than one occasion this has been the result of that social etiquette which first takes into consideration the social standing of the performer, regarding his or her ability to perform the part allotted as of secondary importance.

The failure of F. W. Nickerson and Co., of Boston, in which more or less interest is felt by business men in Halifax, is said to be attributable to the varied character of the operations in which they were engaged. The carrying on of sugar plantations in the South, mining in the West, and lines of business in which steamship agents are not supposed to possess any practical knowledge. It is the old story of too many irons in the fire.

Through the agency of the Halifax Infants Home, 117 of the waifs of society have been placed in comfortable permanent homes. Through the good offices of those interested in this most humane institution there have been, during the past eleven years, 546 infants cared for. How much cruelty, not to say crime, have been prevented by the establishment of the Infants Home can alone be estimated by those familiar with the evils and iniquities resultant upon baby farming.

The Truro *Guardian* will in future be published as a bi-weekly. This is a step towards the publication of a daily paper in Truro. The *Liverpool Advance* comes out in its last issue in a new and attractive dress. Our Provincial press shows a steady and continued improvement, indeed many of the county papers are remarkable for their typographical excellence as well as their general get up. Improved dress, so far as the press is concerned, always signifies an increase of prosperity.

The production of wheat in India has quadrupled in the past seven years, and yet the yield per acre is far below that in Canada and the United States. With improved processes of sowing, reaping, etc., and improved facilities for forwarding grain to the coast, India with her cheap labor bids air to become the great grain producing state of the world.

London now maintains sixty-seven hospitals, in addition to its numerous dispensaries and societies, for aiding the sick poor.

The work of the Salvation Army is carried on with such zeal that it succeeds despite the opposition experienced from many quarters. The work of the past twelve months in the Maritime Provinces proves that the Army may be made a valuable auxiliary to the Christian Church in reaching the masses. The officers of the Army report that during the past year no less than sixteen stations have been established, fifty officers have been detailed to carry on the service, and the roll call now shows in the aggregate a membership of over three thousand active soldiers. The meetings held on Sunday and Monday evenings last in the Academy of Music were attended by an immense crowd of people. Some went to jeer, some to hear what the officers had to say, but all came away impressed with the opinion that the methods employed by the Army, though peculiar and seemingly irreverent, were after all well calculated to attract the attention of the non-church going classes.

In our last issue, *Sartor Resartus, Jr.* was made to say by a misprint that the population of old Mexico City before the advent of Cortez was 40,000. What our contributor did write was, "the city sustained a population of at least 400,000."

N. L. MacKay, Esq., Q. C., of Sydney, C. B., is in the city. Mr. MacKay has long carried the banner of the Liberal party in Eastern Cape Breton.

A. Allan Cameron, of Antigonish, N. S., received the degree of M. D. a few days ago from the University of New York. Dr. Cameron's many friends will be pleased to hear that he passed the rigorous examination of the University with marked success.

In sections of Inverness County, farmers were ploughing upland during the third and fourth weeks in February. In Beaulieu, Antigonish Co., ploughing was being done on February 16th. Ploughing has no doubt been possible in other parts of the Province, and probably has been going on, but has not been reported. Our American cousins who are so fond of describing us as blockaded by mountains of snow and ice, ought for a change to tell some truth about our winters.

Correct answers to Cross-Word Enigma published last week were received from Miss Lucy H. Shorman, Port Mulgrave; Miss Minnie Croucher, French Village; P. W. Harding, Bridgewater; G. W. Mitchell, Lunenburg; Miss Ethel Dimock, 9 Carleton St.; S. A. M., 74 Gottingen Street; B. H. C., 2 Creighton St.; and John Mulroney, 408 Upper Water Street, City.

Henry W. C. Boak, L. L. B., Barrister-at-Law, Solicitor, Notary, etc., 103 Holts Street, Halifax. Mercantile Collections and Commercial Litigation specialty.

Messrs. J. A. Gillies, of Sydney, and D. C. Fraser, of New Glasgow, are in the city attending the Supreme Court *in banco*.

All street-cars are stopped in Toronto, the drivers and conductors being on a strike because the Street Car Co. won't employ union men. The citizens have appealed to the Mayor to compel the Street Car Co. to run their cars or forfeit their charter.

The \$7000.00 proposed to be given by the Local Government as a subsidy to steam service along the western and southern shore ports of the Province could hardly be better spent. Dr. McLennan very properly wants a similar boon conferred on the west coast of Cape Breton. We believe that steam service between Halifax and Western Cape Breton would prove a great stimulator of trade, and a great convenience for the people of western Cape Breton.

The principles advocated by the organization known as The Grango, are such as should commend themselves to the readers of THE CRITIC. The column which now appears in this journal under the heading of the Maritime Patron, is undoubtedly an improvement to THE CRITIC, and will be read with interest, not only by the members of the Grango, but also by our general subscribers. We hope in the course of a few days to send our agent to visit each Grango in the Maritime Provinces, and we trust that the Grangers will, one and all, become subscribers to THE CRITIC.

The new Halifax and Dartmouth Steam Ferry Company have been fortunate in securing as their terminus on the Halifax side, the old ferry dock. It is understood that the stock of the new company is being readily taken up, so that by the first of May next first-class ferry boats will be plying between Halifax and Dartmouth.

The gross public debt of Canada at the close of the last fiscal year amounted to \$264,000,000; the available assets to \$68,000,000, leaving a net debt of \$196,000,000, which in round numbers is about \$40 per head to the population. As compared with the average debt per head in the principal foreign countries, the amount is comparatively small, but the interest is quite large enough to be a serious tax upon our revenue. The Canadian debt was not incurred like those of foreign countries in waging war upon neighbors, it simply represents the capital expenditure upon railways, canals, harbor improvements, public buildings, etc.

The wordy warfare respecting the Provincial and City Hospital still goes on. The late medical staff has issued a pamphlet setting forth its view of the question, and this has provoked adverse criticism from those who supported the action of the Charities Board. In one thing only can all agree, and that is—an irresponsible board is a mistake, and the sooner the government does away with it, the better.

The smoking concert given by the Orpheus Club, at Mason Hall, on Monday evening last, was an unqualified success. To judge from the manner in which the invited guests, some three hundred in number, encored the soloists, the former were in a most appreciative mood. The songs by Mr. C. J. Ross and Dr. Slayter, and the piano solos of Howard Slayter, G. B. Penny, and T. Paine, were well rendered and enthusiastically received. The volunteer song, "O Fair Dove, O Fond Dove," had it been sung by a professional, might have deserved the rapturous encore which it received, and even under the circumstances, it is not difficult to understand the expressions of delight indulged in by the audience. We congratulate Mr. C. J. Ross and the Club upon the success of their concert, much of which was due to the pleasing and effective manner in which the Club numbers were rendered.

The demand for rented houses in Halifax is said to be above the average, and the first of May—moving day in the city—promises to be more than usually lively. A. Stephen & Son are preparing to supply the needs of young housekeepers, and have now on the way, a large and varied stock of drawing-room, parlor, dining and bed-room furniture, all of which they are prepared to dispose of at reasonable prices.

The old firm of A. Keith & Son is keeping fully abreast of the times, and is pushing its business, despite the opposition of Upper Province brewers. Mr. Donald Keith has evidently determined to make a vigorous effort to hold the home market.

Canada is sadly in need of a bankruptcy law, but while the adoption of such a measure as will ensure the equitable distribution of the assets of insolvents is warmly supported by the representatives of commercial centres, it is as strongly opposed by those representing country constituencies.

An intelligence bureau is to be established in connection with the British Colonial office; this will be of advantage to intending emigrants, and our Provincial Government will do well if it sees that information respecting Nova Scotia is at once supplied to the bureau.

The Mayor of Halifax has signified his willingness to convene a public meeting, to consider the proposed summer carnival, provided that a requisition to that effect be drawn up by the citizens. There can be no doubt, that such a requisition would be signed by a large proportion of the people; but as several of the athletic and other clubs have requested Mayor Mackintosh to call a meeting, it seems scarcely worth while to go through the form of presenting his Worship with the customary requisition.

Mayor Mackintosh is again a candidate for the Mayoralty of the city. Mayor Mackintosh has been a decided success as Chief Magistrate during his past two years of office, and it is therefore generally supposed that he will go in unopposed for the third and last term.

RELIGIOUS.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

We are requested to state that there is no foundation for the rumor that Rev. G. B. Dodwell is meditating a move to Halifax.

Lent is now upon us. It would be a good sign of earnestness and sincerity if the churchmen of the city would clear off all debts on city churches and missions as a mark of their self-denial and liberality at this season. It would do more to show the reality of their religion than any thing else.

It is to be hoped that there will be a general exchange of pulpits during Lent. It is a stimulant both to pulpit and pew.

The Church in England is now actively engaged in legislation. The House of Laymen has met and is discussing practical matters in the interests of the Church. Churchmen can trust the wisdom and firmness of the Bishops not to permit any undesirable changes at the demand of the panic-struck. It is a time of trial, but God rules.

The following is a summary of statistics furnished by the Official Year Book for 1885 of the Church of England, just published. The period ranges from 1800 to 1884—a quarter of a century. The voluntary expenditure of Churchmen is divided into seven heads:—

1. Theological Schools of Education for Clergy, £528,653.
  2. Church Building, Parsonages, etc., £35,175,000.
  3. Home Missions, Additional Curates, Church Extension, etc., £7,420,478.
  4. Foreign Missions, £10,100,000.
  5. Elementary Education, £21,362,041.
  6. Charitable Work, Sisterhoods, Nursing, and Penitentiary Work, £3,818,200.
  7. Clergy Charities, General and Diocesan, £2,103,364.
- Or a total of about four hundred million dollars.

METHODIST.

There are about 13,000 Wesleyans in the British army.

According to a contemporary, nearly 1,300 scholars were in attendance at the Methodist Sunday Schools of Halifax on the 21st ult.—over seventy-five per cent of the number enrolled. The Methodist population at the last census taken was only 3,709, and therefore, at the present rate of increase, there will soon be that number in the Sunday School alone.

The North India Conference, which includes most of the native work of the Methodist Missionary Society in India, reports 5,278 communicants, with 1,016 baptisms during the past year.

The Methodists of Rivor Herbert are erecting a Church and expect to have it completed in the course of a few months.

Of the \$1,000,000 which the Methodist Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States has resolved to raise during 1886, \$439,796 will go to foreign missions.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Rev. James Anderson, of Musquodoboit Harbor, is on a visit to Scotland.

The Rev. J. A. McLean has received a call from the Presbyterian Church at Harroy, N. B. Should he accept he will be inducted on the 22nd inst.

It is stated that one of the Presbyterian ministers of this city is about to receive a call from a church in Toronto.

The Rev. Wm. Gregg, D. D., Professor of Apologetics and Church History in Knox College, Toronto, has just issued from the press a "History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, from the earliest times to 1834." It is spoken of as a very valuable work, reflecting credit on its author. Pleasant sketches are given of the pioneer ministers of the early times, and also narratives of the rise and progress of the various Presbyterian churches that have existed in the Dominion, commencing with the Synod of Nova Scotia in 1817. It is hoped that the author may be enabled to complete the history of Presbyterianism in Canada.

BAPTIST.

The Rev. Geo. E. Lowden, a minister of the Free Baptist denomination and a Nova Scotian, died at Mechanic's Falls, Maine, on the 17th ult. He was a brother of the Rev. M. Lowden, a former pastor of the Free Baptist Church in Halifax.

The Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, pastor of Myrtle Street Baptist Church, Liverpool, G. B., is dead. He was the son of an Episcopal clergyman, and a nephew of the late celebrated Rev. Hugh Stowell of Manchester. In 1878 he was elected president of the Baptist Union. In him the denomination has lost one of its most eloquent and gifted preachers.

CATHOLIC.

The *Lourdes Journal* notices the visit to Lourdes of His Grace Archbishop O'Brien and Father Ellis.

A lecture on John Henry [Cardinal] Newman will shortly be delivered in Halifax. Mr. Quigley, a prominent lawyer in St. John, who has made a special study of the subject, is to be the lecturer.

His Lordship Bishop Cameron has addressed to the clergy and laity of his diocese a very able pastoral letter, dealing with the Jubilee of this year, and the recent encyclicals of Leo XIII.

Rev. Dr. D. M. Macgregor, has this winter delivered several lectures for literary societies in Pictou County. Dr. Macgregor is one of the few really able literary men in the Maritime Provinces.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

WHOLESALE RATES.

The following Price-Lists have been corrected up to the time of going to press, and are thoroughly reliable and accurate.

GROCERIES.

SUGAR.		
Cut Leaf	7 to 7 1/2	
Granulated	7 to 7 1/2	
Circle A	6 1/2 to 6 3/4	
Extra C	5 1/2 to 6	
Yellow C	5 1/2	
Yellows	5 1/4	
TEA		
Congou, Common	17 to 19	
" Fair	20 to 23	
" Good	25 to 29	
" Choice	31 to 33	
" Extra Choice	33 to 35	
Oolong—Choice	37 to 39	
MOLASSES.		
Barbados	10 to 12	
Demerara	30 to 35	
Diamond N	43	
SOAPS.		
Ivory bar, 1 lb, 2 lb and 3 lb	0 1/2	
Krasive	0	
Dominion	6	
Surprise	5 1/2	
Tiger	5 1/2	
Extra Pale, 1 or 3 lb	5	
"Linen Towel" for 30 bars, and 30 towels	6.00	
Canada	1	
Imperial	4	
No 1 Family	4	
Hermine	3 1/2	
Grant	3	
Brown	2	
Tollet 15 to 20c. per doz		
CANDLES, 6s and 8s	11 1/2	
Do., Paraffine	10 to 20c	
BISCUITS.		
Pilot Bread	2.00 to 2.50	
Boston and Thin Family	0 1/2 to 7 1/2	
Soda	6 to 7	
do in 1 lb boxes, 50 to case	7	
Fancy	8 to 15	
CONFECTIONERY.		
Assorted in 30 lb Pails	12	
Royal Mixture	11 to 20	
Lozenges	12 to 15	
1 cent goods, 111 in a box	95 to 10	
Toys per hundred	65 to 75	
Clear Candy Toys	18	
Brooms	1.00 to 3.25	
Starch, Blue and White	7	
" Lilly White	9	
Prepared Corn	9	
BUTTER.		
Canadian	16 to 21	
N. S.	15 to 20	
CHICKENS.		
Eggs	9 to 10	
Tobacco—Black	19 to 20	
" Bright	39 to 46	
Shacking, per gross	42 to 58	
Blacklead	3.00 to 4.00	
Pearl Blue	2.00 to 10.00	
	2.50 to 3.00	

The above quotations are corrected by Mackintosh & Co., Jericho Warehouse.

FISH FROM VESSELS.

Prices nominal. No arrivals. No sales.	
MACCKEREL.	
Extra	none
No 1	0 00
No 2 large	4.00
No 2	3.25
No 3 large	3.00 to 3.25
No 3	3.00
Small	1.00
HERKING.	
No 1 Shore, July, No sales	2 75
August and Sept.	2.25 to 2.50
No 1 Round Shore, Scarce	3.00
No 1, Labrador	none
ALLWIVES, very scarce	2.75
COUPHIS.	
Hard Shore toqual	none
Bank	2.50
Bay	none
SALMON, No 1	none
No 2	none
No 3	none
HADDOCK.	none
HARK.	none
CUSK.	none
POLLOCK	none
FISH OILS.	
Cod A.	.35 to .36
Dog A.	.25 to .29
Pale Seal	none
HARK SOUNDS	45 to 50c per lb.

The above are prepared by a reliable firm of West India Merchants.

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Apples, No 1, per bbl.	1.75 to 2.50
Oranges, per bbl, Jamaica (new)	6.50 to 7.00
" case, Valencia	5.00 to 6.00
Lemons, per box (new)	3.50 to 4.00
" case, Palermo	7.00
Cocoanuts, per 100	4.50 to 5.50
Onions (barrels) per lb.	2 1/4 to 3
Grapes, Almeria, kegs	6.00 to 6.50
Foxberries, per bbl.	7.50 to 3.85
Cranberries	5.50 to 6.00
Figs, 1 lb boxes (fresh)	10 to 18c
Dates, layer (new)	7 to 8c

The above quotations are furnished by C. H. Harvey, 10 & 12 Sackville St.

BREADSTUFFS.

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

Our quotations below are our today's whole ale selling prices for cash within ten days after shipment.

Flour.		
Graham	5 25 to 5 50	
Patent high grades	5.35 to 6.00	
" " medium	4.75 to 5.00	
Superior Extra	1.50 to 1.80	
Lower grades	1.50 to 1.45	
Oatmeal, Standard	1.50 to 1.75	
" Granulated	5.00 to 5.50	
Roll'd Oats	5.00 to 5.25	
Corn Meal—Halifax ground	2.00 to 2.00	
Imported	2.00 to 2.00	
Bran per ton—Wheat	20.00 to 22.00	
" " Corn	18.00 to 20.00	
Shorts	22.00 to 23.00	
Middlings	25.00 to 28.00	
Cracked Corn	25.00 to 30.00	
(Oats)	25.00 to 30.00	
" Barley	31.00	
Pea Meal per bbl.	3.75	
Feed Flour	3.25 to 3.50	
Oats per bushel of 34 lbs	42 to 44	
Barley " of 48 "	75 to	
Peas " of 60 "	1.1	
Corn " of 66 "	50 to 80	
Hay per ton	14.00 to 16.00	
Straw "	9.00 to 10.00	

A. GUNN & Co., 253 Barrington Street, Halifax, N. S.

PROVISIONS.

Beef, Am Ex Mess, duty paid	12.50 to 13.00
" Am. Plate	13.25 to 13.75
Pork, mess, American	14.00 to 14.50
" " old	13.00 to 14.00
" American clear	15.00 to 15.50
" P. E. I. Mess	14.00 to 14.50
" " old	13.00 to 14.00
" P. E. I. Thin Mess	12.00 to 12.50
" Prime Mess	11.00 to 11.50
Lard, Tub and Pails	10 to 11
" Cases	12 to 12 1/2
Hams, P. E. I.	12 to 13c
Duty on Am. Pork and Beef \$2.20 per bbl.	

Prices are for wholesale lots only, and are liable to change daily.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable wholesale house.

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Wool—clean washed, per pound	20
" unwashed	15
Green Hides—Ox inspected, No 1	7 1/2
" Cow	7
Salted Hides—Ox in Lots, No 1	7 1/2
" Cow	7 1/2
Calf Skin	8 to 10
" Deacons, each	30 to 35
Woolskins	25 to 30

The above quotations are furnished by WM. F. FOSTER, dealer in Wool and Hides, Connors' Wharf.

LUMBER.

Pine, clear, No 1, per m.	25.00 to 26.00
" Merchantable, do do	11.00 to 17.00
" No 2 do	10.00 to 12.00
" Small, per m.	8.00 to 14.00
Spruce, dimension, good, per m.	9.50 to 10.50
" Merchantable, do do	8.00 to 9.00
" Small, do do	6.50 to 7.05
Hemlock, merchantable	7.00
Shingles, No 1, sawed, pine	3.00 to 3.50
" No 2, do do	1.00 to 1.25
" spruce, No 1	1.10 to 1.30
Laths, per m.	1.20
Hard wood, per cord	4.00 to 4.25
Soft wood	2.25 to 2.50

The above quotations are prepared by a reliable firm in this line.

POULTRY.

Fowls, per pair	40 to 50
Turkeys, per pound	14 to 16
Geese, each	65 to 70
Ducks, per pair	60 to 90

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK.

Steers, best quality, per lb.	4.50 to 5
Oxen	3 1/2 to 4
Fat Steers, Heifers light weights	3 1/2 to 3 3/4
Wethers, best quality, per lb.	4
Lambs, (70 lbs and upwards)	4

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## OUR BOSTON LETTER.

Boston, March 3rd, 1886.—Since I sent you the last tracings of my trenchant pen this city has had another added to its already long list of proud titles, as you may have heard. Not only is Boston the Athens of America, but she has now the extreme felicity of being also the Venice of the country. We have had a flood here, as the telegraph has doubtless long ago informed you, and for the time being a certain portion of the city was about as Venetian as one could have wished,—too much so in fact, for the inhabitants of the flooded district. I never thought that I should have the privilege of seeing people sail in boats through the streets of this city, but I did have that exceptional honor a week or so ago. As Boston had not seen such a contingency we had no gondolas ready for the occasion, and so rowboats had to perform the service of rescuing imprisoned citizens, and acting as horse-cars and fuel-dispensers. It was a remarkable scene while it lasted, and will live for a long time in the memory of the hundreds who were affected by it. Boston cannot afford to let any other city get ahead of it in any of these things. Montreal had a flood lately, and of course this great and cultured New England metropolis was not going to be outdone by any one-horse foreign municipality like Montreal. That city is welcome to shine as the principal retreat of defaulting American bank officials and as the proud possessor of the biggest ice-palace, but it cannot have the monopoly in the flood business. Our flood has now gone down, and the nine days' wonder is at an end, but we Bostonians can nevertheless boast that our ancestry can be traced back to the ante-diluvian period.

It seems to me that the English language is not so poverty-stricken as to be unable to afford an equivalent for the word "American" in the sense that it is now used. If there is any valid reason why people born in the United States should have the exclusive right to be called by this term over that of those born in other portions of North America, I should like to be confronted with it. It appears to me rather absurd that a line should be drawn across the continent, and that the dwellers on each side should be known as Americans and Canadians respectively. It is an unjust discrimination, and to my mind, a rather arrogant one also. When an Irishman comes to the United States to live he is known as an Irish-American; if a citizen from the shores of the Rhine comes here he is a German-American, and so on; but who ever heard of a Canadian-American, or of a Nova Scotia-American? If a Canadian isn't an American, what then, in the name of the seven wonders, is he? I don't think it will be claimed that he is an African or a European. There is no reason of course why the citizens of the United States should call themselves Americans, but it is decidedly out of order for them to claim the designation as theirs alone. This is not only hard on their American neighbors across the imaginary border, but it is also exceedingly rough on the few Indians that still roam through our western reservations. I had the pleasant novelty of an introduction to the famous old Sioux Chief, Sitting Bull, last year, when he was here in Boston, and I am sorry now that I did not ask him who he thought were the most entitled to the name. Come to think of it though the only English he can articulate is "How!" A business man in this city advertised for an "American boy." A youth from Nova Scotia answered the advertisement and got the place. He was wide-awake enough, you see, to know that he was an American as well as a Nova Scotian, and that the two were really synonymous. We want another and more correct designation for that particular portion of the English speaking people that dwells within the United States, and as United Statesians will hardly do it will be in order for some one to invent a proper one.

I recently had an interesting talk with a gentleman who is well-posted in the financial affairs of this city, which I myself am obliged to confess I am not, so far as practical experience goes, at any rate: and in the course of the talk the matter of investments in Nova Scotia mining ventures was referred to. As the readers of THE CRITIC are all more or less interested in this matter, it will perhaps not be inappropriate to reproduce his remarks on the subject in cold type. "Among the financiers of Boston," said he, "there is at present a very averse feeling to investment in Nova Scotian and other Eastern mining shares. About 1880 there was a big boom in these ventures, but a revulsion of feeling has taken place, and now it is almost impossible to get an investor to as much as look at one of them. At that time they were worked for all they were worth, and large amounts of money were coined by a select set of shrewd speculators. The thing was overdone, in fact, and the general public with a dollar to invest became suspicious of these ventures and speedily lost all interest in them. There is at present a feeling of distrust on their part in regard to these mining speculations, and if an attempt is made to 'boom' any particular scheme, it is at once set down as a sharp movement on the part of clever speculators to fill their own pocketbooks with the money of the public. This feeling is not by any means confined to Nova Scotian mining ventures alone, but includes all mining risks in the East. As a whole, mining stocks are decidedly 'off' in the Boston market at the present time."

There has been another "exodus" from Nova Scotia to Boston. This time it has been the weather that has migrated from that Province, or it would seem so, judging by the lowness of the temperature that has prevailed hereabouts for some time past. That isn't the kind of Provincial visitor we want, however, and you can have it back whenever you are ready for it.

T. F. A.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## UNDER-DRAINING.

The rivers of a country with their tributary brooks and rills are the provisions of nature for removing the surplus water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and snow, which either flows directly from the

surface, or which, after percolating through the porous strata to an indefinite depth, is again discharged at the surface in the form of springs. The latter may thus be regarded as nature's mode of under-drainage.

This provision of nature for disposing of the water that thus falls upon our soil is so irregular and so imperfect in its operations, that it leaves much to be accomplished by the labor and ingenuity of man.

In discussing this most important subject (Under-draining) let us first decide what lands require draining.

All lands of whatever texture or kind, in which the spaces between the particles of soil are filled with water, whether from rain or from springs, within less than 3½ feet of the surface of the ground, except during and immediately after heavy rains, require draining. All lands that produce agnostic plants need drainage. If a ploughed field shows over a part or the whole of its surface a constant appearance of dampness indicating that as water is dried out from its upper parts, more is forced up from below, so that after a rain it is much longer than other lands in assuming the light color of dry earth, it unmistakably needs draining. A pit sunk to the depth of three or four feet in the earth may collect water at its bottom shortly after a rain, this is a sure sign of the need of draining.

All trial pits should be made during the wet spring weather or at a time when the springs and brooks are running full. If there be much water in the soil even at such times it needs draining.

To recognize these and other indications of an over abundance of water in the soil should be the drainer's first object; the second to remove the cause from which they arise.

Let us next consider some of the benefits to be derived from a well drained subsoil.

In treating on this subject, the digging of ditches, the laying of tiles, and the cost per acre, I am indebted for much valuable and practical information to Mr. John A. Dixon, of Central Onslow, Colchester Co., a gentleman of large practical experience in under-draining, having laid some 14 miles of tile drains on his own and his father's farms. Mr. Dixon says that land well drained is ready to work from 10 to 14 days earlier in the spring, and can be worked much sooner after a rain than land that is not drained.

In all stages of plant-growth there should be the water of absorption, the soil should be moist but not wet.

Under-draining deepens the soil, makes it warmer, and consequently earlier. It increases the feeding grounds of plants. As the elements of plant food are not all on the surface many of them are washed down by rain into the subsoil, and some are found in the decomposing rocks themselves. These the plants by a sort of instinct search out and find, as well in the depths of the earth as at the surface if no obstacle oppose, and no roots, except those of agnostic plants will grow in stagnant water. When land is drained, as it becomes dryer it cracks, and deep fissures are formed, the roots of plants follow the threads of vegetable mould which have been washed down into the cracks. Earthworms follow either the roots or the mould, and eventually the whole character of the clay is changed. When the soil is saturated and filled with water, and has no means of discharging its free water except by evaporation, it is necessarily very cold. The changing of water into the form of vapor requires very much heat and it must be done at the expense of cooling the soil. It is said that an under-drained soil is from 6° to 15° warmer than soil cooled by surface evaporation. When the soil is dried by evaporation a crust is formed on the top of the soil which excludes the air and binds the young plants so that they are much retarded in their growth; but if the water is drawn off quickly from below by a thorough system of under-drainage, the soil will be mellow and free from this crust on top.

As water falls from the clouds it carries much fertilizing matter with it, gathered from the air, and if the land is under drained, as it filters on its way down to the drains, it carries with it in summer and gives up heat which it received from the air and from the heated surface of the ground, and thus raises the temperature of the lower soil.

The fertilizing matter which it has obtained from the air, carbonic acid, ammonia, and nitric acid, are extracted from it in its downward passage through the soil and held for the use of growing plants.

The fresh air which follows the descent of the water-table carries oxygen to the organic and mineral parts of the soil and hastens the rest and decay by which these are prepared for the use of vegetation.

Land that is drained will withstand drought better than that which is not. At first thought it is natural to suppose that draining will increase the ill-effects of too dry a season by removing water which might keep the soil moist.

Experience has proven, however, that the result is exactly the opposite of this. This removal of stagnant water from the soil admits atmospheric air which carries with it moisture, and the more porous and loose the soil, the greater the supply of atmospheric vapor, hence the better the land is drained and cultivated, the better it will withstand the summer droughts.

The earth must be regarded as the laboratory in which Nature, during the season of growth, is carrying on those hidden but indispensable chemical operations by which the earth is made to bear its fruit and sustain its myriad life.

The chief demand of this laboratory is free ventilation, the raw material for the work is at hand as well in the wet soil as in the dry, but the door is shut and the damper is closed. We must open the door, draw away the water in which all is immersed, let in the air and give the forces of Nature free play deep down in the ground, then and not till then, may we hope for the full benefit of the fertilizing matter which our soil contains, and for the full effects of the manure we add.

We shall then have substituted certainty for chance, as far as it is in our power to do so.

The depth that drains should be dug, and the distance between them is a matter of great importance to the drainor.

In tolerably porous soil it is thought by some that 40, or even 50 feet is sufficiently near for 4 foot drains, but for the more retentive clays all distances from 18 to 50 feet are recommended. In Central Onslow the distance generally adopted is from 20 to 30 feet, and 3½ feet deep, and there is more under-draining done by the farmers there than in any other locality in this Province that I am aware of.

Mr. Dixon thinks that in close clay the drains should be as close as 15 feet, and that the extreme distance in any soil should not exceed 60 feet. The distance that he has generally adopted is 22 feet apart, and 3½ feet deep. The direction of the laterals should be right up and down the slope of the land in the line of steepest descent. The main drain, into which the laterals empty, should be run as nearly in the lowest part of the field as possible, with outlet at the lowest or most convenient point.

The outlet should be of wood, as the action of the frost would destroy the tiles. Mr. Dixon uses a square box running far enough under ground to protect the tiles from the frost, and the tile is fitted into the end of it. Sometimes a round stick bored out by the pump-maker is used, and is very convenient where it can be procured.

In some soils silt-basins are necessary, and the more sandy the soil the more they are needed. They are built in the main drain or leader to catch the sand or whatever sediment may find its way into the tiles, which, if no silt-basin was provided, might accumulate in the tile and stop the action of the drain.

Silt-basins are sometimes built of brick or stone, and sometimes a large piece of pipe is used if it can be procured from 6 inches to 1 foot in diameter, and set on end. These silt-basins are made lower than the drain, the water is discharged from the drain into the basin at one side and out at the other, while the silt settles to the bottom. They must be covered, and the spot marked, so that they can be opened and cleaned out occasionally.

The drains are principally dug by hand (after the first sward is taken off by the plough) with the ordinary draining tools.

Messrs. Fulton and Lewis, of Central Onslow, purchased one of Rennie's Ditching machines which, I believe, gives very good satisfaction.

It is very important that the bottom of the ditch be evenly graded, and have a fall of not less than one foot in one hundred, although less will do if wisely graded. This is a part of the work that requires special attention.

Mr. Dixon thinks about 18 inches at the top and 4 inches at the bottom is a good width to cut the drains.

The laying of the tiles is a part of the work that the proprietor himself should superintend, for if this work is not well done all his labor will be lost. They should be well butted together and fitted as closely as possible, and protected at the joints with a piece of tin or leather bent over the joints, or, a small wisp of fine hay twisted together and tucked down over the joints to keep the sand and dirt from washing into the tiles. When the tiles are laid they should be packed closely with clay, and have it pounded down very tightly round them so that there will be no danger of their getting displaced, the ditch is then filled with a scraper.

Tiles are manufactured at Enfield on the I. C. R., and can be procured there on board cars at \$9.00 per thousand for 2 inch, and \$13.50 for large tiles for leaders. Three or four inch is probably about the size for main drains, and 2 inches for laterals.

It will take about 2000 tiles for an acre with the drains 22 feet apart.

The cost per acre to under-drain is estimated at about \$50 or \$60, and Mr. Dixon calculates that the first crop off the land after it is drained will pay for draining. This depends, however, very much upon circumstances.

Will drainage pay? is a question that, perhaps, will admit of no direct answer.

Will it pay to fence our lands? Will it pay to plow? And will it pay to do this or that? The answer depends on circumstances. There is plenty of land that cannot be profitably either fenced or ploughed. The value of land as improved, and the value of the increased production as compared with the cost of the operation must determine whether it will pay.

The experience of those who have properly and intelligently drained says it will pay.

No intelligent man should submit the success of his own patient efforts to the operation of luck, nor deliberately bet his capital, his tail, and his experience on having a good season or a bad one.

Some chance there must be in all things, but it should be made to take the smallest possible place in our calculations, and avoid every condition which may place our crops at the mercy of that most uncertain of all things, the weather!

J. C. BLACK.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

#### A SAILORS' (OR SEAMEN'S) HOME.

To the Editor of the Critic:—

Sir,—As our Civic parliament is negotiating for the purchase of another palace, I hope there is no idea of selling the present one, which is unsurpassed in situation for a public building, fronting, as it does, on three streets, and being in the immediate neighborhood of the markets, the wharves, and the merchants' and lawyers' offices. One of the decided wants of Halifax, as the most prominent seaport on the continent, is a Sailors' Home of more dignity than the present make-shift; and the Hall about to be vacated seems the very thing for the purpose. The basement may be made into a kitchen, etc., the ground floor into a refectory, the council room into a reading room, and the other rooms into bed rooms. If the last are not sufficient, we might keep on with the existing accommodation also, the great point being to secure an imposing structure and a pleasant place of resort for those concerned. I

think it would pay a good rout, for sailors are skilled workmen, and by no means the worst paid.

We need not limit the institution to sailors, for our own fishermen have at least as much claim on our "kind regards." Where are they to go now for food, rest, and conversation, after settling their affairs at the market? The only answer is a shrug of the shoulders. This should not be. Let us conjoin the sailors and the fishermen under the denomination of SEAMEN, and provide the same accommodation for both.

But it may be said that the present City Hall is worn out and ugly, and ought to be pulled down. Is it so? Let us have it examined, and if it be substantially sound, the fault of the outside can be easily remedied by, first a good scrubbing, and then painting a light stone colour. This would give it a pleasant and cheerful aspect, and with a few architectural embellishments, make it really ornamental.

I just venture to throw out these few hints as possibly worthy of consideration, among the other propositions which will come before the Council with regard to the disposal of the old City Hall,

And am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HALLOWY.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

#### THOUGHTS ON THE LABOR QUESTION.

It requires not either a philosopher or communist to predict that the laboring classes of America will not much longer continue as at present. They have in many instances already suffered too much to feel satisfied that themselves and their families are safe under present conditions. And they are too numerous and powerful to allow any conditions with which they are dissatisfied, and under which they chafe, to continue without making an effort to change or modify them.

With capital almost everywhere in the American Union concentrating in the form of monopolies—whether it be in the consolidation of railroads and telegraphs, or of mills and mines where the products are said to be "pooled," or yet in the colossal factories that fatten on artificially created monopolies—we readily perceive that capital has hitherto tried only to strengthen and increase its own influence with the palpable purpose of enabling itself at all times to dictate to labor the terms of its unqualified submission. To some extent this may be charged to defects in modern systems of education which qualify, and professedly seek to qualify, its votaries first of all for the speedy accumulation of "filthy lucre," and which almost entirely overlook, if they do not avowedly contemn, the higher and holier principles which ought to underlie the mental training of the men of the future. At the same time it is but fair to state that when in the past any considerable body of laborers in a proper way made demands of their employers, these demands were often couched in such extravagant and unreasonable terms that refusal might naturally be expected; and this imprudence did more than bring failure at a given time,—it has made stronger in the minds of the capital-holders, the impression that laborers do not know how to be reasonable. But it is held by many to be a fact that the laboring classes in all ages have been reasonable or unreasonable according as their employers have been just or unjust. When employers act in a cruel, inhuman, un-Christian manner, the laborers under them soon become imbued with the same spirit. If, in the acquisition and accumulation of wealth by monopolists, we should see the application of Christian principles and a happy realization of Christian duties, there would be less occasion for apprehension when one reflected upon what the future of labor and capital is likely to be.

Of one thing we may be sure, the teachings of Socialism or Communism shall never be the means of permanently solving the "Labor and Capital" problem. These teachings are not only unlikely to be embraced by that large and influential class of men of means, who are not on principle or otherwise friendly to monopolists, nor inimical to workmen, but who are on principle opposed to Communism in any and every form. Communism, too, is a practical impossibility. It is the merest chimeria. However seductive may be the dream and vagaries of latter-day theorists, inequality of social conditions exists and will continue through every emergency in every community on earth. An Utopia has long had a living in books—books of the imagination all—and outside of those has not had, and never can have, actual existence; it cannot be realized under the conditions of our civilization or of any other civilization known to or germane to mankind.

We might, indeed, experience a manner of living that would approach the ideal of the visionary Communist, but only in one way, viz.: by each and all of us carrying out in their entirety, in letter and in spirit, all the ordinances that the Almighty designed for the promotion of our earthly happiness, and by each and all of us making purely Christian principles to be rules of conduct in every relation of life. But who hopes to see such a realization among the men of to-day, or even among the children and grandchildren of these? Certainly not we. Yet it is not unreasonable to hope that all concerned in the labor question may recognize the necessity of regulating their contentions by considerations of *rights and duties*. Employers must recognize that certain duties devolve upon themselves and that laborers have certain rights. This may sound trite, but it contains much truth that has not yet been fully realized by employers. Then again laborers must remember that they owe duties to their employers, and that capital, although not entitled to arbitrary, unreasonable privileges, has rights peculiarly its own which cannot equitably be disputed or assailed. If this had been always kept in view by laborers, the Labor Question would now be less difficult of solution.

SARTOR-RESARTUS, JR.



## POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

**DOMINION**—March 3.—Several bills passed the first reading, two of them being Government measures—An Act in reference to the Revised Statutes, and an Act to regulate the Transfer of land in the North-West. The Hon. Mr. Thompson, in introducing them, made explanatory speeches, which were remarkable for conciseness and comprehensiveness. On resuming his seat, he was loudly applauded.

Sir A. P. Caron, Minister of Militia, in answer to Cartwright stated that \$2,000,286 had been paid from the 1st July 1885, to date, on account of the North-West rebellion. It is expected that the total expenditure will be a little over four millions.

The Hon. Mr. Carling stated that the population of the North-West by recent census has been ascertained to be, not including Kewatin, 48,400.

Amyot asked for copies of all documents in the case of the Queen against Louis Riel, and also for the orders in council respecting the several respites granted to Riel before his execution.

March 4th.—Several bills were introduced, among them a bill to reduce the capital stock of the Bank of New Brunswick. The debate on Casoy's motion for circulars and instructions issued by the Government to revising officers was resumed, Mr. Cameron being the principal speaker. He attacked the Franchise Act, the Government, and the Officers. The motion finally passed.

Friday, March 5th.—Mr. Mulock introduced a bill to amend the animal contagious diseases act.

The Premier stated that the question of advisability of taking parliamentary action in the Ontario boundaries is under consideration.

Mr. McLellan reported that the gross increase in the public debt from the 1st March, 1885, to 1st March, 1886, was \$24,983,632. The net increase was \$15,832,422.

Mr. Thompson stated that the government had no intention of introducing any general bankruptcy law this session. In answer to a question regarding the Riel matter he replied that the government had no communication with the magistrate who tried Riel about the exercise of the clemency of the crown. The motive of the third respite was to give time for the report of the medical commission appointed to investigate Riel's sanity, to reach Ottawa.

Mr. Landry's motion "that the House feels regret that the sentence of death passed upon Riel, convicted of high treason, was allowed to be carried into execution," was laid over for a few days.

Monday, March 8th.—Mr. Charton introduced his bill for the punishment of seditions; and Mr. Edgar a bill to amend the Supreme Court act by providing that provincial governments in doubt about the constitutionality of provincial acts may, by intervention of the governor general in council, bring the question before the court for adjudication.

The Minister of Justice stated that, except in a few cases, the prisoners connected with the late rebellion were not regularly committed for trial, but were taken in overt acts of rebellion and held for trial or discharge.

Sir John said that in 1884 negotiations were entered into with Mr. O'Donohue about his entering the Cabinet, but that he afterwards waived his claims in favor of Senator Smith.

Mr. Carling intimated that the total number of immigrants reported to have settled in Canada in 1885, was 79,159.

Tuesday, March 9th.—Mr. Cameron introduced a bill to enable persons charged with misdemeanors to give evidence on their own behalf. The House adjourned by consent till Thursday.

**PROVINCIAL**—Wednesday, March 3rd.—The following bills were introduced: A bill to incorporate a cemetery at Digby; to amend the act to incorporate the Eastern development company; to enable the town of Lunenburg to supply a steam fire engine service; and a bill respecting the right of way and station grounds of the Pictou branch railway.

The Provincial Secretary referred at some length to the bill granting \$7,000 per annum for steamship service on the south-western shore. He explained that if the service proved unsatisfactory, the government would withdraw from the contract with Mr. Baker, and that Mr. Baker had reserved the right to withdraw from the contract unless he received the Dominion subsidy.

Mr. Fraser in a lengthy speech moved the second reading of the bill to amend Chap. 7 of the Revised Statutes, respecting mines and minerals.

Thursday, March 4th.—Mr. LeBlanc introduced a bill to change the name of a settlement in Richmond County, and Mr. Campbell a bill to make a new polling district in Inverness.

Mr. Mack addressed the house on the second reading of the bill to amend Revised Statutes, Section 21, sub-section 2, Chap. 56, to allow each municipality to fix its gaol limit at its own discretion, provided the limit be within the county and not less than one half mile from the gaol. He stated that there was no reason why the limit should be restricted to three miles as at present. Those living within that distance could live at home while debtors who lived beyond it were unable to do so. The amendment would give all desirable security as the sheriff must take a bond given by two sureties at his own risk.

Mr. Longley opposed the bill as the proposed amendment would allow a fraudulent debtor to have the range of the whole county. He maintained that at the present present time there was no such thing as imprisonment for debt, except to obtain a thorough examination into facts. After a number of the members had expressed their opinion, the bill passed its second reading.

Friday, March 5th.—Mr. Campbell presented a petition from the inhabitants of Whycomah for an extra read grant, and also a petition asking remuneration for the services of the keeper of a half-way house between

Choticamp and Pleasant Bay. Mr. Fraser a petition for a grant for a bridge over New Harbor River.

Dr. Haley introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating the Ship Owner's Marine Insurance Company of Windsor. The Legislative Council transmitted a bill in reference to St. John's Church, Windsor, and a bill authorizing the sale of the old Town Hall, Stowiacko.

After some minor matters had been disposed of, the House went into Committee on Bills. The bill regarding steam service was then taken up. Mr. Harrington asked the government if the subsidies had been paid to Mrs. Fishwick for 1884 and 1885. Mr. Fielding replied that the full amount of \$6,000 was not paid for last year, as the full number of trips were not made, and that no remuneration was given for 1884 as no contract had been entered into with Mrs. Fishwick for that year. Some of the members thought that she was entitled to some remuneration for that year.

Mr. Hockin stated that he would move in amendment to clause 1 in the bill, that the steambot should call at Lunenburg, Liverpool, Lockport, Shelburne, and Barrington, going and returning, and at other intermediate ports as the government might require.

Mr. MacCoy considered that Mr. Hockin had no right to meddle in matters that alone affected the interests of the western shore constituencies.

Dr. McLennan pointed out the necessity of giving a subsidy for a service from Halifax to Western Cape Breton.

Mr. Fielding stated that it was the intention to call at all the ports in fine weather. The amendment was then put to the House and lost, and the bill passed the committee.

Monday, March 8th.—The bills to amend the act incorporating the Glace Bay Mining Company, to incorporate the Old Ladies' Home Society of Yarmouth, and to enable the town of Lunenburg to provide a steam fire engine, passed the third reading. The bill to enable the government to make a five years contract for the western shore steam service was brought up for the third reading. Considerable discussion took place, and Messrs. Hockin and McDonald moved amendments to Clause 1 of the bill, which were lost. The bill then passed. The following petitions were then presented: from a school teacher in Victoria for the extra government grant; for a grant to open a road from Margaree River to the Gulf; for a grant of crown lands to a land surveyor in Richmond; from inhabitants of Pleasant Bay, Inverness County, and Cape North, Victoria County, for a grant to open up a road through a crown land district.

Mr. Weeks introduced a bill to enable the municipality of Guysboro to borrow money to build a road; and Dr. Haley a bill to amend Chapter 27, Revised Statutes, regarding public instruction.

Mr. Fielding laid on the table the correspondence relating to the address praying for an increased subsidy to the province.

Tuesday, March 9th.—The Attorney General introduced a bill to revise and amend the act incorporating the Cape Breton Railway Extension Co. (limited). Mr. Blair presented a bill to incorporate the Union Furniture and Merchandise Co., of Bass River, and Mr. Pipes a bill incorporating the Domestic Water Company.

Mr. Fielding laid on the table the financial returns of expenditure and revenues for the year ending Dec. 31st. He said the estimated revenue for the year was \$599,698.89, the actual revenue, leaving out a cross entry respecting the Windsor and Annapolis railway was \$698,277.33. The estimated expenditure was \$597,122.04; the actual expenditure, exclusive of the Windsor and Annapolis railway, was \$606,135.99. The gross income including Windsor and Annapolis railway item, and another of the same kind, was \$613,026.27; and the gross expenditure \$620,700.57, leaving a deficit of \$7,674.30. At the close of 1882 there was a balance against the Province of \$58,713.07, making the total deficit \$66,387.37. To offset this there is the surplus of 1883, \$22,765.84, the surplus of 1884, \$13,793.77, and the balance to the credit of the E. E. Railway accounts of last year, \$36,599.73, making a total of \$73,159.34, leaving a balance to the credit of the Province January 1st, 1886, of \$6,771.97. The House then went into a committee on bills.

## "TECUMSEH: A DRAMA."

BY CHARLES MAIR.

It was rumored some years ago that Mr. Mair, the author of "Dreamland" and other poems, had selected the picturesque chief Tecumseh as the hero of a somewhat ambitious epic or dramatic poem. The event must have more than satisfied the expectation of his friends.

The main incidents of this tragedy are historic and stirring. The minor incidents, which are doubtless imaginary, have less dramatic interest, and the manner of Iena's death is not a strictly original conception. But the love of that luckless forest maiden is touchingly told, and she expresses herself throughout with a natural and unstrained grace; and she is given a lovely song, "Fly far from me," which might have been sung by Tennyson's "Princess" or one of her love-lorn maidens.

The play is eminently a British-American one; it is animated with loyalist and imperial sentiment from beginning to end. Said General Brock to a settler who wished to shirk service, because he had no faith in Canada but much in the United States:—

"You have no faith! Then take a creed from me!  
For I believe in Britain's Empire, and  
In Canada, its true and loyal son,  
Who shall yet rise to greatness, and shall stand  
At England's shoulder, helping her to guard  
True liberty throughout a faithless world."

Another character in *Tecumseh* forcibly utters a prophecy (which others have also made) of a social revolution in the neighboring republic. General Harrison has expressed his belief that his country will be a refuge for "the

poor of every land" (China, presumably, included!). At this the poet-artist Lafroy springs to his feet and launches the following tirade at the American leader:—

The poor! What care you rich thieves for the poor?  
Those prayers late the poor, from whom they spring,  
More deeply than they hate this injured race  
Much have they taken from it—let them now  
Take this prediction, with the red man's curse!  
The time will come when that dread power the Poor—  
Whom, in their greed and pride of wealth, they spurn  
Will rise on them, and tear them from their seats;  
Drag all their vulgar splendours down, and pluck  
Their shallow women from their lawless beds,  
Yes, seize their puling and unhealthy babes,  
And fling them as foul pavement to the streets.  
In all the dreaming of the Universe  
There is no darker vision of despair!

Tecumseh himself, it is well-known, always recognized the difference between the British and Yankee treatment of the red man, and for this reason he fought and died gallantly on our side. "May the people of England and their descendants in Canada," says Colonel W. F. Collins, in his *Chronicle of the War of 1812*, "never forget this noble sacrifice, or the sacred obligation it imposes. It should be held as the seal of a great covenant. 'And Jonathan said to David, the Lord be between thee and me, and between my seed and thy seed forever.'"

The brag and the dialect of a certain class of Americans is happily caricatured in a prose dialogue between citizens Twang, Slauch, *et al*, though one doubts the antiquity of certain of their slang phrases. These would be slayers of Indians aptly made to "disappear" (in the stage directions) when a fight seems unavoidable. I am glad that Mr. Mair has sketched Americans of a very different type in the persons of some army officers. Insolent and treacherous, boastful and ignorant, cruel and cowardly is the typical American leader: courteous, liberal, cultured, humane, manly, is the typical American gentleman.

Tecumseh gives an exhaustive recital of the red men's wrongs in his speeches to Harrison, from one of which I quote:—

Why is our brother angry at our force,  
Since every man but represents a wrong?  
Nay! rather should our force be multiplied!  
Fill up your streets and overflow your fields,  
And crowd upon the earth for standing room;  
Still would our wrongs outweigh our witnesses,  
And scant recital for the lack of tongues.  
I know your reason, and its bitter heart,  
Its form of justice, clad with promises—  
The cloaks of death! That reason was the snare  
Which tripped our ancestors in days of yore—  
Who knew not falsehood and so feared it not;  
Men who mistook your fathers' vows for truth,  
And took them, cold and hungry, to their hearts,  
Filled them with food, and shared with them their homes,  
With such return as might make baseness blush.  
What tree e'er bore such treacherous fruit as this?  
But let it pass! let wrongs die with the wronged!  
The red man's memory is full of graves.  
But wrongs live with the living, who are here  
Inheritors of all our fathers' sighs,  
And tears, and garments wringing wet with blood.  
The injuries which you have done to us  
Cry out for remedy, or wide revenge.

The moral and material degradation of the Indians, since the Arcadian days when they had "no greed of gold, no quarrels over God," is also pathetically described:—

Thus flowed our lives until your people came,  
Till from the East our matchless misery came!  
Since then our tale is crowded with your crimes,  
With broken faith, with plunder of reserves—  
The sacred remnants of our wild domain—  
With lamp-rings, and delicious feasts of fire,  
The fruit of your three-cursed stills of death,  
Which make our good men bad, our bad men worse.  
Aye! blind them till they grope in open day,  
And stumble into miserable graves.  
Oh, it is piteous, for none will hear!  
There is no hand to help, no heart to feel,  
No tongue to plead for us in all your land.  
But every hand aims death, and every heart,  
Ultered with hate, re-ents our presence here:  
And every tongue cries for our children's land  
To expiate their crime of being born.

Mr. Mair's heroics are rhythmical and smooth: with any fewer ripples, the stream of his versification would be too like a canal. One or two of his images are more quaint than fine, and one or two of his phrases are slightly tautological, as for instance "scars and cicatrized wounds." But generally his words fit well into their places, and his style has the charm of clearness as conspicuously as Longfellow's.

I am too unskilled in stage-effect to guess whether *Tecumseh* will or will not be a success, should it be placed upon the stage. Stone's Indian tragedy of *Metamora* has been frequently presented to paying audiences, and according to my dim remembrance of that play I should think *Tecumseh* was at least its equal in dramatic interest. But then the title-role in *Metamora* was played by Edwin Forrest, who bought the play and proved his admiration for it by erecting on Stone's grave a monument inscribed "to the Memory of the Author of *Metamora*." But Stone was himself an actor and in constructing his drama may have given more attention to stage-effect than the Canadian poet. And, besides, *Tecumseh* is so full of "alarums and excursions", of processions of Indians and soldiers, that it would take a very large stage and a large outlay to present it fittingly.

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

Bruce had recourse to the sword. Tell to a bow and arrow, and Washington appealed to the God of battles; but when a woman strikes for liberty, she uses anything she can lay her hands on.

SESSIONAL NOTES.

FREDERICTON, N. B.—The Assembly has settled down to work and has already made progress with several bills. The first bills introduced this Session, as a way remarked, were Bill Wilson, Bill Murray, and Bill Pugsley, the three members elected during the recess.

Dr Stockton has passed through the three readings, his bill changing the name of the "Mount Allison Wesleyan College and Academies," into "the University of Mount Allison," and permitting affiliation with any other colleges and schools wherever situated, and of every kind and description.

Both the amendments which the Opposition proposed to make in the address, and which amounted to want of confidence, were rejected by a vote of 28 to 8, in a House whose full strength is 41. And yet three years ago the two parties were so nearly evenly divided, that though one succeeded in electing its own nominee as speaker, the other just managed to overturn them a few days afterwards.

The *St. John Telegraph*, a supporter of the Government, remarks sarcastically that all the Opposition are leaders. There is, however, some truth in the remark, for in proportion to their numbers, there is much more ability in the Opposition than in the Government.

The proximity of the ladies' gallery will ensure the passage of Mr. Pugsley's bill, allowing spinsters and widows to vote at school meetings, and hold the office of school trustees. Mr. Wetmore, however, was bold enough to oppose it, considering it "the opening wedge," whereat the *Sun* lectures him for being behind the age. With regard to spinsters, Mr. Ellis remarked quite truly, that they would not know a great deal about the care of children, and therefore favored extending the privilege to married women.

Yesterday the Provincial Secretary brought down the accounts for last year and the estimates for this year, the former showing a large deficit

M. H. C.

EDUCATIONAL.

*Report of Committee on Education, February, 1886, to the Provincial Grange of the Maritime Provinces.*

Your Committee beg to Report, that, in view of the great importance to these Provinces of instruction for the masses in Agricultural Science, we regard with much favor the action of the Nova Scotia Government last year.

Some alterations, however, in the Act, entitled "An Act to encourage Agricultural Education," we are led to hope and believe, would render that Act far more effective in accomplishing the object designed.

We have noticed with regret, that in the farming sections, little attention is given in the schools to imparting even the rudiments of a scientific knowledge of the profession which most of the pupils expect to follow. Not only the grade A. or B teacher (who may seldom be found in the rural districts), but those of whatever grade, who instruct the children of the large agricultural class, should be required, prepared and encouraged to impart that instruction best adapted to secure their success in life and to elevate our common country.

We are glad to find that the Council of Public Instruction is empowered to appoint a lecturer on agriculture, one of whose duties it shall be "to deliver public lectures on agriculture throughout the Province, so far as his other duties will permit." But we would suggest, that if some plan were adopted whereby the centres of agricultural thought could be supplied regularly with such lectures, the benefit to those whom the Government laudibly seek to profit would be largely enhanced.

While your Committee believes that the Government of Nova Scotia, in its aim to promote agricultural education, demands respectful and encouraging recognition by this Grange, we would express our firm conviction that nothing short of an agricultural college, with an experimental farm attached, should satisfy the farmers of the Maritime Provinces, and would cordially recommend that a committee be appointed to confer with the respective Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with the view of securing at the earliest period practicable their united action in conjunction with Prince Edward Island, in establishing an agricultural college for these Provinces, and thereby wipe away our reproach among civilized countries, and meet a deeply felt want of our people.

All of which is respectfully submitted

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## COUNT WALDEMAR.

(Continued.)

I said I did not think that I should be in Hyères very long, but that Mrs. Clifford, I believed, intending remaining for several months; and which I could hardly avoid adding that I hoped soon to have the pleasure of introducing my wife to Mrs. Seymour.

The truth is that my satisfaction at meeting with that lady was tempered by some misgivings as to the probable nature of her reception by Mrs. Clifford, who is not a little particular in the matter of chance acquaintances, and who has never had any confidence at all in her husband's powers of discernment. In the present instance, however, my fears proved to be groundless; for when Mrs. Seymour came to call, it transpired, in the course of conversation, that before her marriage she had been one of the Warwickshire Greys (whoever they may be), and that, of course, made it all right. My wife pronounced her to be a really delightful person, and declared emphatically that she already felt a sincere interest in her future welfare.

The full significance of the latter phrase, which at the time I thought rather uncalled for, did not strike me until a few days later. It had happened that, upon our arrival at the Hotel d'Orient we had found already installed there a certain young man named Balfour, a budding diplomatist with whom I am upon tolerably intimate terms, and whom I had been much astonished to discover spending his leave in a spot so remote from the charms of society. It was not until I had found out that he was in the habit of passing the greater part of his days and the whole of his evenings at Mrs. Seymour's pretty villa on the wooded hillside that my sagacity led me to suspect what Mrs. Clifford, with her finer feminine wit, had divined from the outset. Now, as this young man was a prime favorite with my wife—for indeed he was connected with I know not how many noble houses—and as, owing to an unfortunate tardiness of birth for which he was in no way responsible, he had but a poor share of this world's gear, it was not difficult to understand that lady's benevolent anxiety with regard to Mrs. Seymour's prospective happiness.

I solemnly declare that I had no objection in the world to the scheme hinted above. I simply took no interest in it at all, one way or the other. It had nothing to do with me, and I make it a rule never to interfere in my neighbors' affairs. And yet Mrs. Clifford avers to this day that I consistently opposed it: that I did so merely with the object of annoying her, and that certain vexatious events which subsequently occurred would never have taken place at all but for me. Of the injustice, not to say the absurdity, of these accusations, I will leave those to judge who shall have the patience to pursue this narrative to the close. One thing, at all events, I can conscientiously affirm; that it never so much as entered my head to think of Count Waldemar in connection with the subject: for how could I possibly foresee that a lieutenant of German hussars, quartered in remote Stuttgart, would appear in the extreme south of France without a moment's notice, and create all manner of discord and unpleasantness in our midst? Thus, however, is precisely what happened.

It was a bitter cold evening in December. All day long a furious and icy *mistral* had been sweeping over the bare hills, driving clouds of dust before it, ripping branches from the olives and evergreen-oaks, chilling the poor exotic palms, hursting open windows, slamming doors, and irritating beyond all bearing the nerves of luckless strangers. I was sitting in the smoking-room of the hotel with young Balfour, cowering over a wood-fire, and bewailing the inclemency of this quasi-southern climate.

"Is it for this," I moaned, "that we have left our comfortable London home at the mercy of a crew of unprincipled servants? Is it for this that I have sacrificed my club, and my rubber of whist, and the improving society of my friends? Is it for this that we have crossed the Channel in a gale of wind, and faced the miseries of the most comfortless railway journey in the whole world? Is it for this—"

"There's the omnibus come in from the station," interrupted Balfour. "More deluded unfortunates in search of warmth, I suppose. How they must be cursing their doctors!"

The front door was flung open, letting in a gust of cold air from without. A heavy trunk was let down with a bang upon the stone porch. Some noisy, cheerful person came stumping in, laughing and talking with the landlord.

"And fragments of his mighty voice  
Came rolling on the wind."

"Not much wrong with his lungs, anyhow," remarked Balfour.

Could I doubt for a moment the origin of that tremendous ho-ho-ho? It needed not the landlord's smiling announcement that "*un ami à monsieur*," had arrived, it needed not the sight of a stalwart, fur-enveloped figure following closely upon his heels to prepare me for the agonizing grip of both hands whereby Count Waldemar evinced his joy and surprise at this unexpected renewal of our friendly relations.

He sat down before the fire, stretched out his interminable legs, and explained that he had got a month's leave of absence from his regiment. He entered at once into conversation with Balfour, and would have divulged the cause of his journey to Hyères in the course of the first five minutes if I had not contrived to catch his eye, and check him by a succession of hideous grimaces. He acknowledged these signals by a wink of surpassing craftiness, and a laughing ejaculation of "*Schon schon! Werde nicht mehr plaudern*," which, seeing that Balfour speaks German as well as he does English, was not exactly calculated to allay any suspicions that might have begun to trouble that young gentleman's mind. Still, the evening passed

off without any untoward incident, and that was really more than I had ventured to hope for at first.

The next morning I had to introduce the count to Mrs. Clifford, and to this hour I cannot imagine how I could have been so insane as to tell her privately, beforehand, that he was related to the Grand Duke of Halbacker.

Sometimes I am almost tempted to think that even white lies—and this one, I do maintain, was of the most harmless order—never prosper. My sole aim was to give my young friend a chance of securing Mrs. Clifford's good will; but, alas! the result achieved was the exact contrary of this. For Balfour, who, as I ought to have remembered, had served as *attaché* at more than one German court, assured her that the grand duke had no such connections, and my lame explanation that I was always making mistakes about people, and that I must have been thinking of somebody else, did not avail to prevent her from setting down poor Count Waldemar as an impostor, and openly speaking about him as such to the other inmates of the hotel. Altogether it was a most unfortunate occurrence, and did me much harm in the estimation of those about me.

I have neither space nor desire to speak of the botheration which ensued; of the solemn warning which my wife thought fit to address to Mrs. Seymour; of the latter's appeal to the person principally concerned, and of my own clumsy attempts to get out of an awkward predicament. The upshot of it all was that I believe I was looked upon, for some time, as more or less of a detected swindler by everybody, except, indeed, by my dear and excellent count, who would never have understood the mean feeling which had led me to make him out a greater man than he was. Now the Von Ravensburgs were of just as good descent as the Grand Dukes of Halbacker, he said; and if I had made a little mistake, who was the worse for it? "Tell me, my dear Mrs. Seymour, why does Mrs. Clefford go out of the room whenever I enter? Does she take me perhaps for a *peck-pocket*?" He roared with laughter at this funny notion.

The matter-of-course way in which Mrs. Seymour had taken Count Waldemar's sudden appearance upon the scene puzzled me so much that at last I felt impelled to ask her whether she had not been rather astonished to see him again.

"Oh, no," she answered quietly. "He has written to me several times since we parted at Homburg, and he always spoke in his letters of paying us a flying visit in the course of the winter."

"Oh, really," said I. "I didn't know," and then I changed the subject.

A man does not reach my time of life, nor spend the best part of half a century principally in cultivating the society of his fellow-creatures, to be scandalized by the flirtations of a pretty woman. Consciousness of my own many infirmities has ever imposed upon me a large measure of toleration for those of others; and when all is said and done, flirting, taken in the abstract, is no very heinous offence. Nevertheless, Mrs. Seymour's conduct in the present instance disappointed me. I had given her credit for less vanity and more consideration for the feelings of her neighbors. Was it worth while to inflict an expensive and fruitless journey upon this innocent young German, to set a hitherto harmonious party by the ears, and to get me into trouble with Mrs. Clifford, merely for the amusement of playing off one admirer against another? I was really vexed with Mrs. Seymour, and all the more so because I had seen a good deal of her during my sojourn at Hyères, and had discovered the existence of many excellent qualities beneath her somewhat conventional exterior.

At the same time I could not but admire the skill with which she contrived to receive both the young men every day, and yet so to arrange matters as that their visits should not clash. I myself, having so few sources of amusement at command in the place, strolled up to her villa pretty frequently, and invariably found one or other of the rivals there, but never the two of them together. There was always some pretext, directly traceable to Mrs. Seymour's influence, for the dismissal of the absentee. Now it was Balfour who had taken Miss Grey out for a ride; now it was Count Waldemar who had kindly undertaken to execute a few commissions at Toulon, and who was to be driven back from the station by Mrs. Seymour in her pony carriage. Sometimes the German, sometimes the Englishman, was sent down to the sea-shore, three miles away, to pick up the many colored shells which abound on that coast. I happen to have an elementary knowledge of conchology, and I had the curiosity to put a few questions to Mrs. Seymour on the subject, thereby convincing myself that if she knew a crustacean from a mollusk it was about as much as she did. She laughed when I taxed her with deliberate deceit, and frankly admitted that she had found it advisable to keep her friends as much as possible apart.

"They did not get on well together from the first," she said; "and I think it is always so much better not to try and make people like each other unless they are inclined that way. Count Waldemar is much too good-natured to quarrel with anybody, but he has a way of criticising you to your face, and of contradicting you flatly if you do not happen to agree with him, which people who do not know him are sometimes apt to take amiss. And then, you know, he does rather monopolize the conversation. When he is in the room nobody else gets much chance of making himself heard, and Mr. Balfour, who is very well-informed and clever, and all that, is accustomed to be listened to."

"Precisely so; and that, of course, is quite enough to account for two good fellows hating one another like poison," said I, with delicate irony.

"Well, you know, Englishmen and foreigners hardly ever do manage to hit off," she answered, in the most innocent manner in the world; "but I should not say that they hated one another."

They did, though, or something very like it. Although, owing to the able tactics above alluded to, they seldom or ever met at Mrs. Seymour's, every day brought them together half a dozen times at the Hotel d'Orient; and, to use Mrs. Clifford's epigrammatical expression, they never fell in with

one another without falling out. She, of course, laid all the blame of this unpleasantness upon Count Waldemar, whereas I was inclined to think that Balfour had been the original aggressor; but I must confess that at the end of a week there was not a pin to choose between them. Each did his best to be objectionable to the other, and in so doing succeeded in being a most decided nuisance to everybody else.

In my capacity of neutral I had more opportunities than I cared about of hearing both sides of the question.

"Of all the offensive bores I ever met," Balfour would exclaim, "that long-legged German friend of yours is the most irrepressible. I can't understand how a fellow can be so intrusive. It is easy to see that poor Mrs. Seymour is tired to death of him; but I suppose she doesn't like to be rude, and nothing short of kicking the man out of the house would ever keep him away from it. I assure you he is there morning, noon, and night.

"So is somebody else, as far as that goes," I made bold to observe.

"You mean me? Ah, but I'm different," answers Balfour, and saunters away without deigning to explain wherein the difference lies.

Count Waldemar, on his side, showed no less bitterness and a good deal more jealousy. He had a very poor opinion of the Englishman, whom he spoke of as "a most effeminate person—wass we call *ein junger Geck*," but admitted, for all that, that he regarded him as a formidable rival.

"I know not what to think," he said, shaking his head despondently one evening when I was smoking my after dinner cigar with him, Balfour having, as we both know, betaken himself to the villa on the hill. "When I am alone with her, then she is so kind, so pleasant, as I could wish for nothing more; but if this abominable fellow is expected, at once I am sent away, and that is a thing wass I cannot endure. Very likely he is sitting beside her at this moment, in the very chair I was sitting in myself this morning."

"Why, of course he is," I answered stupidly. "You don't suppose that he sits at one end of the room and Mrs. Seymour at the other, do you?"

Up jumps the count, and begins putting on his military greatcoat with the air of one who has a definite purpose in view.

"What are you going to do?" I inquired apprehensively.

"I go to Mrs. Seymour's," he replied. "Do you come with me? Yes, my friend, you shall come, and we will see for ourselves whether or no she is making me a fool."

He took down my hat from the hook on which it was hanging, clapped it on my head, pushed my passive arms into the sleeves of my overcoat, and marched me out into the moonlight without another word. I had got accustomed to his ways by this time, and made no resistance, though I felt that we were about to do a foolish thing.

On reaching the villa, we were kept some time waiting before the servant answered our ring, and when we entered the drawing-room there was nothing in the relative attitudes of its three inmates to excite any jealous suspicions. Miss Grey was at the piano; Balfour, standing behind her, was apparently intent upon turning over the pages of her music-book, and Mrs. Seymour was demurely occupied with a piece of embroidery by the fireside. The latter welcomed us with her wonted cordiality, and looked, I thought, more amused than annoyed; but Balfour sighed impatiently, and whispered something to Miss Grey.

Count Waldemar dropped into a chair at Mrs. Seymour's side, and I am bound to say that he contrived to perform this simple action in a markedly aggressive manner. Balfour, however, did not take up the challenge, if such it were intended to be, but when on conversing in a low tone to Miss Grey.

Finding myself thus constrained to play the ungrateful part of a fifth person, I rose presently, and stepped out on to the veranda which surrounded the house.

I have nothing to say against the climate of Hyeres at such times as the *mistral* is not blowing. On this December night the air was mild as that of an English June. There were roses in bloom in the garden; a faint breeze was stirring among the olive-trees on the slopes; the moon made a silvery pathway across the sea beneath, softening all the landscape, and casting such a fairy-like glamour over the arid rocks of the Hyeres islands that their ancient title of the *Hes d'Or* no longer seemed inappropriate. Somebody had left a cane arm-chair out on the veranda. I took possession of it, lighted a cigar, and was soon lost in those pathetic memories which are the peculiar property of moonlight and middle age.

How long I had been thus pleasantly occupied I cannot say, when an increased volume of sound proceeding from within attracted my attention, and made me aware that Count Waldemar was delivering one of his harangues. This was followed by some barely audible sentences enunciated in Balfour's slow and somewhat drawing accents, and then I heard the count's voice saying distinctly and rather sulkily:

"Sir, you make a mistake; the Germans are a most order-loving people. That we love Prussia I do not say—no; but we shall remain loyal to the emperor because he is the natural head of the Reich; and it is only very ignorant and foolish persons who maintain the contrary."

"Thanks. I fully appreciate the flattering inference. All the same, I expect to see the German Republic before I die."

"Pfiu!"

"Herr von Ravensburg, do you know that you are rather rude?"

"Rude? *Aber!*—when a man speaks to me of the German Republic!"

At this juncture I judged it appropriate to appear on the scene, after the fashion of the heathen deities of old, and to avert the impending strife.

"Are you young men aware that it is past eleven o'clock?" I asked.

"If you stay here much longer you will not only wear out Mrs. Seymour's patience, but also that of the hotel-porter, who is not fond of late hours. Come, let us say good-night, and be off."

(To be Continued.)

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## THE MARITIME PATRON,

AND ORGAN OF THE

### Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.

"In Essentials Unity—In Non-essentials Liberty—In All Things Charity."

[All communications intended for this column should be sent to the editor of the Maritime Patron, EDWIN S. CREED, M. D., Newport.]

The Reports presented to the Maritime Provincial Grange contain important and valuable suggestions which, as they are the result of careful thought on the part of officers and committee, it may be fairly presumed, are well worthy of the best attention of the Grange.

These reports, when read, are submitted to a committee, whose duty it is to examine them, and to direct the attention of the Grange to the recommendations and suggestions, and subjects of especial interest which they contain. This committee should have no other duties or cares in connection with the Session, than to take note of whatever is especially worthy of attention in the reports as they are read; and when all are presented, to compare notes and prepare their report, which would furnish profitable work for the Grange in the interests of the Order. Possibly, the scope and importance of the work of this committee has not been duly appreciated. Certainly, at our last Session, the members composing it had other cares in connection with the Session, and may be held excusable for neglect to perform the duties devolving upon the committee on reports as indicated above.

We shall endeavor from time to time to refer to subjects treated of in the reports presented at the recent Session of the Provincial Grange that have not received the attention which their importance demands.

We at present invite especial attention to the recommendation contained in the report of the Executive Committee, that the Provincial Grange appoint the 18th day of May to be observed as an Arbor Day by the Order in this jurisdiction.

We shall run the risk of offending the many who know all about it, by explaining for the benefit of the few who may ask—*What is Arbor Day?* that it is a day set apart for the planting of trees, either for honorary, memorial, ornamental, or economic purposes, or with these objects in view, in varying combinations.

To illustrate. Let us suppose that the Worthy Master of our Provincial Grange issues a Proclamation in accordance with the suggestion of the Executive Committee, requesting Subordinate Granges throughout the jurisdiction to observe Tuesday, the 18th day of May—which opportunely happens to be the Anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists at St. John—as Arbor Day, and that Patrons, realizing the importance of results that might reasonably be hoped for, determine to comply with this request. Let us suppose that each Subordinate Grange appoint two committees, one to obtain the co-operation of and assist the teacher of the district schools of the neighborhood, and another to superintend arrangement for the proper observance of the day by the Grange, and those who wish to join in the celebration. The work of those committees will be best shown by results.

The children attend school as usual, but they have a holiday aspect. Instead of the usual lessons and exercises, there are talks about trees and their place in the economy of Nature and ethics. The scholars give recitations, readings, and essays, about "God's First Temples," and the beauty and the associations, the mission and the utility of trees, and telling of the lives of great men, that "remind them they can make their lives sublime," in whose memories or honor they are to plant living monuments. They sing together, and their songs are of trees.

At noon, the contents of well-filled dinner-baskets are partaken of together.

Then fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, and friends appear, bringing, not a supply of *birch* for the teacher, but young trees for planting, some of which, with due care and ceremony, are set about the school-house grounds, each in memory or in honor of some one, dear but lost companion, a loved teacher, dead or living heroes, poets or benefactors.

The teacher marks on a plan previously prepared, the location and name of each tree planted. Then there are trees to be planted about the Grange Hall in honor of brother O. H. Kelly, the originator, and for other members of that little band of "Founders" of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Other trees are planted in memory of departed sisters or brothers, or any whom it is the pleasure of the Grange or its visitors to remember or honor. Trees have also been provided to line a piece of road which is often bare in winter, when on other roads there is good sleighing. These must each have a name, and the naming of them affords occasion for much mirth, good humored banter, some instruction, and now and again a touch of sadness.

Tupper, Howe, Johnson, Blake, McDouald, McKenzie, Middleton, Sam Slick, Laurie, and a score of other names, honored, famous, wise and otherwise, shall adorn the Queen's highway, guard its interest, and afford shade and shelter for man and beast.

In the evening, the hall is filled with Patrons and their friends, and trees are again the theme of song and story, readings and recitations, and philosophical disquisitions. Thus, old and young learn to venerate trees, as being among the farmer's best friends; learn that they wave their great arms, and clap their leafy hands, and raise aloft their cool, moist breath for the rain, denied to the parched fields over which these sylvan lords keep not watch and ward; learn that the forest is the birth place of perennial springs and streams of ceaseless flow; learn to see grace and beauty, to hear and interpret a language, where before was only lumber and cord-wood, and meaning less noises of the forest.

Not is the MASTER OF THE UNIVERSAL GRANGE, the Architect of the

forest temples, the composer of its anthems, forgotten. The best of all the learnings of these Arbor Days should be that

"There lives and works  
A soul in all things, and that soul is God."

The observance of Arbor Day is not an exhibition of sentimentalism, merely or chiefly. We must preserve the proper relations between wood land and cleared land, or outraged Nature will avenge herself in floods and droughts, in angry torrents and dried up water courses, while Industry will languish in idle hours for lack of lumber. It is not, perhaps, strange, indeed only consistent, that our Maritime Provinces should be behind in this observance as in progress generally; but Patrons of Husbandry might have learned from their Ritual to "Remember that trees are needed for shelter, shade and ornament"; to "spare all that lend fragrance to the breeze and beauty to the landscape, while they interfere not with man's wants and pleasure"; to "plant enough to shelter house, orchard, and field, from blasting winds, and to give comfort to the over-heated and weary"; and to set apart and observe a special day for "meeting together, talking together, and working together" in the interests of tree-planting and forest preservation.

We respectfully urge our Division Granges, at their March Sessions, to take action in this matter, and to urge Subordinate Granges in their several jurisdictions to observe Tuesday, the 18th day of May, as Arbor Day.

We earnestly urge every Subordinate Grange to subscribe for our organ. It cannot but fail of its intended purpose of an official organ, if it is not heard in every Grange room.

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Each vessel to be provided with two suitable boats, and the Schooner, outfit and boats, to be subject to the approval of an officer of the Department before being accepted.

These vessels are to be employed as "Fisheries Police Force" on the Sea Coast of Canada, and are to be at the service of owners.

The officers and the crews will be provided, and the vessels provisioned, at the expense of the Government.

Tenders are to be for six months service, from the date of Vessel being accepted by the Department, the right of cancellation of charter however, being reserved after three months, upon giving one month's notice of the Government's intention to do so.

Tenders are to state a price at which the owner is willing to sell the vessel offered for charter. The Government to have the option of purchasing at any period during the existence of the charter.

Tenders may be for one or more vessels. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Specifications and forms of tender can be had on application to the Fisheries Department, at Ottawa: W. H. Venning, Inspector of Fisheries at St. John, N. B.; W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries at Amherst, N. S.; J. H. Duvar, Inspector of Fisheries, Alberton, P. E. Island; and the Collectors of Customs at Quebec, St. John, N. B., Chatham, N. B., Halifax, N. S., and Charlottetown, P. E. I. Tenders to be addressed to

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES,  
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Ottawa, 3rd March, 1886.

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#### MAYORALTY, 1886-7.

HALIFAX, 4th March, 1886.

In deference to the wishes of a large number of citizens, who have personally waited on me with requests that I should allow myself to be re-nominated to the honorable and responsible position of Mayor of this city, for the third and last consecutive term I have, after mature consideration, decided to give my consent to the same.

It is exceedingly gratifying to receive so many expressions of confidence and good will, coupled with assurances of material assistance, not only from friends and former supporters, but from some gentlemen who have hitherto considered it to be their duty to oppose me, and in response, I have only to say, that if again elected, I shall strive in every way to advance the best interests of the citizens of Halifax.

J. C. MACKINTOSH.

#### AMHERST HOTEL, AMHERST.

GEO. McFARLANE, Proprietor.

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B. G. GRAY,  
21 Hollis street  
Halifax, 22nd Feb., 1886.

MINING.

**THE TEST SHAFT.**—We understand that the government is considering the proposal to test deep mining in Nova Scotia by the sinking of a shaft to the depth of from 1000 to 1200 feet. It has been proposed that the government grant a lump sum—say \$10,000—as a bonus to the individual or company who first strikes gold below one thousand feet from the surface. The chief objection to this proposal is, that the mine owners would be obliged to assume the entire risk; and that the unsuccessful ones who would most require assistance, would not receive any return for their enterprise; while the individual who first struck the second pay streak would pocket the bonus. With the finding of the second pay streak the government would soon recoup itself for the outlay; but we think it but fair that as the government is to a certain extent a partner in every mine in the Province, it should assume at least a portion of the risk in the sinking of the test shaft.

**MINING LAW.**—As will be seen in another column, Mr. James Fraser is making a determined effort to change the mining laws of this Province. These laws, although in many respects fair and equitable, present some incongruities which our legislature should endeavor to remove. For example, supposing that three persons desire to take up a block of areas, and in compliance with the law, make the proper application and deposit the customary fees in the Mines Department; if one of these persons be absent from the country, the lease cannot be secured until he returns, or until he forward to some party a power of attorney to act in his stead. In other words, notwithstanding that the application has been properly filed and the proper fees deposited, the lease cannot be granted until the signature of each member of the company has been obtained. The worst of the matter is, that if these signatures are not secured within the prescribed time, any outside party is at liberty to put in an application for the lease, thus shutting off the men who, as far as possible, have complied with the law.

Mr. Fraser should look into this matter and have the law amended.

Last week Angus Dunbrack, of Mount Uniacke, discovered a small boulder on the Central Property which, upon being broken, gave eight ounces of free gold. Breaking stone is now the order of the day in that locality.

**KEMPTVILLE.**—The Cowan Mine people had a "clearing up" yesterday, and the product, a bar of gold weighing about seventy-five ounces, will be sent to town in a day or two.—*Yarmouth Times.*

Discoveries of rich deposits of manganese have been made during the past few months in several localities in New Brunswick, and it is expected there will be a large production of this mineral during next summer.

It is probable that mining operations will be resumed in the spring at the manganese mine at Hopewell, Albert county. This mine has been inspected by a competent mining engineer, who has pronounced it capable of yielding a large annual output under intelligent and efficient management.

**QUEBEC.**—The Anglo-Canadian Asbestos Company are proceeding with active operations at their mine at Black Lake, and will not, hereafter, suspend work during the winter months as has been the custom.

The following are the official returns for the month of February:—

	Tons Crushed.	Oz. Gold.
Stormont.....	44½	84½
Lake Catcha .....	13½	13
Dar's Hill, Salmon River.....	840	612

Mr. Touquoy brought a nice little bar to town on Tuesday. It weighed 36 oz., and was very free from impurities. The price obtained for it was \$19.60 per oz.

**MINING LAW.**—We publish herewith, for the benefit of our miners, the remarks made by Mr. Fraser and others, in the House of Assembly, with reference to a proposed change in our mining laws. We are afraid that if Mr. Fraser's measure becomes law, it will lead to endless litigation. Before passing it, the Government should obtain the advice of practical mining men, any one of whom will be able to point out wherein the bill is defective. The measure has its good points, but if adopted without amendments would be a retrograde, rather than a progressive step in mining legislation:

It was well known that the law regarding mines was held by practical miners to be unsatisfactory. It was unsatisfactory in the first place in regard to the manner of taking up property. When any discovery was made there was a general rush for the mines office; every man for himself, and the old motto prevailed, "devil take the hindmost." Of course the law said that, if a man discovered a lode, he should have so many hours to take up the land, but the lode was not in general discovered first in this country. The first thing discovered was generally floating drift, and the lode was followed up from that, and, if any other person got wind of the find, he could go to the office ahead, and could take up the property, no matter how much time the discoverer had been occupied in searching. Again, if the discoverer was a poor man, he had to go to some one with money to take up the area. The law in the United States, where they had larger experience in mining, provided that a man could go upon any piece of unoccupied ground belonging to the public domain, and stake off a certain area, and keep it while searching for minerals. He was compelled to spend a certain amount of money and labor on the property to obtain the patent, or what we call a

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| Best Salmon Twine,<br>Patent Top'd Salmon Twine,<br>Salmon Trawl Twine,<br>Trawl Twines,<br>Mullet Twines,<br>Net Nets,<br>Cotton Nets, | Seal Twine, twisted,<br>Seal Srawl, do<br>Mackerel Twine,<br>Caplin Twines,<br>Herring Twines,<br>Net Marline,<br>Hemp Nets. |
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MINING—Continued.

lease, and when he got the patent, he owned the land in fee simple. He (Mr. Fraser) would propose to alter our law in that respect, so that, if any man wished to engage in mining, he could go and stake out certain portions of ground, not exceeding 1,500 feet in length by 700 feet in breadth. At present the amount of ground a man could take out a license for was only limited by the amount of money he could bring to the mines office. He could hedge others out of a whole tract of country and work in the middle himself. It was his for the time, and while he worked he could keep all others at a distance. He (Mr. F.) thought that very unjust, but there was nothing unjust in giving the discoverer a certain reasonable amount of property. He proposed therefore to alter the law in that respect.

The bill at first declared that all mineral deposits were free and open to exploration and lease. Property already held he of course did not propose to touch, except as it became forfeited to the Crown. After that he proposed that it should come under the operation of the bill, so that the bill did not interfere with parties who at present held leases. Any person who had reason to know that deposits existed in any locality was given the privilege of entering upon and staking off ground, upon which he could search for any length of time, provided he put \$100 worth of work upon the ground annually. After entering, it would be necessary for him to record his certificate in the office of the Commissioner of Mines. After finding a lead on his property, within a reasonable time, he was compelled to apply for a lease, which would be given him after examination by the proper officials. At present, all an individual had to do was to apply at the proper office, and place his money on the table to entitle himself to receive his lease, unless two parties applied at once. No law required any examination. He proposed by the bill that a reasonable time should elapse, after the application was made, before the lease is given. In other words, whatever litigation there might be should precede the granting of the lease, and not follow it. The House would be able to judge better when they examined the bill. The main feature of the bill was the proposal to place a rental on all gold mining property now held under lease, or to be leased in future. At present, when an individual took out a lease, he was required to place 40 days' labor on the property annually. That was the law and condition on which the lease was granted, but the law, it was needless to state, was seldom complied with. Property had been held for the last twenty years on which not one day's labor had ever been placed since the lease was issued. A year or two ago, an amendment was made to the law to the effect that, if no work was performed for five years, the officials could forfeit the property after posting a notice for thirty days. But at any time within that time the individual holding the lease could surrender it and take out a new lease, and then it went on for ten or fifteen years more. Some time since he had asked for a return of leases on which no work had been done, and he found that upwards of 12,000 leases were outstanding, on which no work was performed. After an individual took out a lease, he (Mr. F.) proposed that he should pay the Government a rental of, say two dollars an area, more or less, and that failure to pay for two years should be *prima facie* evidence of forfeiture. On the other hand, the bill provided that an individual developing his mine should get a rebate of 1/2 of the royalty due the Government, so that legitimate miners would receive no injury from the passage of the bill. Many mining districts were at present unapproachable, owing to the defective condition of the roads. The bill was to provide a fund, out of which the Government could make expenditures for the construction of such roads. Two-thirds of the property under lease is unimproved. It was not in the interest of the country, or of development of gold mining that the present condition of things should continue. It was not fair to legitimate mine owners, who embarked capital and labor in their enterprises, to find that land which should be yielding revenue was held year after year by individuals, in the hope that some more enterprising neighbor might develop something rich, whereby they could sell their property. Mining property was supposed to be leased to men who would work it, but three-fourths or seven-eighths of the property leased was held year after year without making any return to the Government or any benefit to the country. Like Tennyson's Brook,

"Men may come and men may go,"  
But this goes on forever.

He would ask a fair consideration from the house and hon. members for the principles of the bill. He was not wedded to its details, however, and, if any amendment was offered which would improve it, or if anything better was brought down, he would give it all the encouragement he could.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that, as chairman of the law amendments committee of last year, he had no recollection of seeing this bill, and, on referring to the bill itself, he did not find it endorsed with the ordinary memorandum which would appear upon it if it had been before the committee. Instead of being inclined to oppose the bill, he rather favored the suggestions it contained, and he thought it might be applied, not only to gold, but to coal mines. Many coal mines were not in course of development, and the result would be a serious loss. It was an important step however to alter a law which has been in existence for years and which has worked fairly well, and consequently, the bill was of sufficient consequence to be printed.

Mr. FRASER said that, with regard to a similar bill being before the committee on law amendments last year, it was introduced at a late period of the session and passed its first and second readings without discussion, and after being referred to the Committee, disappeared—accidentally, let us say. He was glad to welcome the assistance of the Hon. Atty.-General, and would ask the special assistance of the government in aid of the bill, as he thought it a matter which it would be creditable to them to deal with.

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Nobel's No. 1 Red Dynamite,  
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Twenty-Second Annual Statement

The Travelers  
INSURANCE COMPANY,  
OF HARTFORD, CONN.

Cash Capital, \$600,000.

Assets,	\$8,417,038.21
Liabilities,	6,321,199.35
Surplus,	\$2,095,838.86

Life Department.

No. of Policies written to date,	44,300
New Life Insurance written in 1885,	\$5,645,920
Gain during year in amount in force,	\$2,477,317
Paid Life Policy-Holders to date,	\$3,290,147.02
Paid Life Policy-Holders in 1885,	\$379,420.79

Accident Department.

No. Policies written to date,	1,186,315
No. written in 1885,	108,218
No. Claims paid to date,	137,331
No. paid in 1885,	17,583
Total Claims paid	\$8,145,123.41
Amount paid in 1885,	\$885,012.31

GAINED IN ASSETS. GAINED IN SURPLUS.  
GAINED IN NUMBER OF POLICIES ISSUED.  
GAINED IN LIFE INSURANCE WRITTEN.  
GAINED IN AMOUNT OF LIFE INSURANCE IN FORCE.

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**IRON BEDSTEADS.**

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of every description.

Boy's, Girl's and Baby

**SLEIGHS.**

Window Blinds, Poles, Curtains, Fancy Tables, Easy Chairs,

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CORNER OF PRINCE STREET.

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- CHARLES ANNAND, Esq., Publisher.
- C. F. FRASER, Esq., Journalist.
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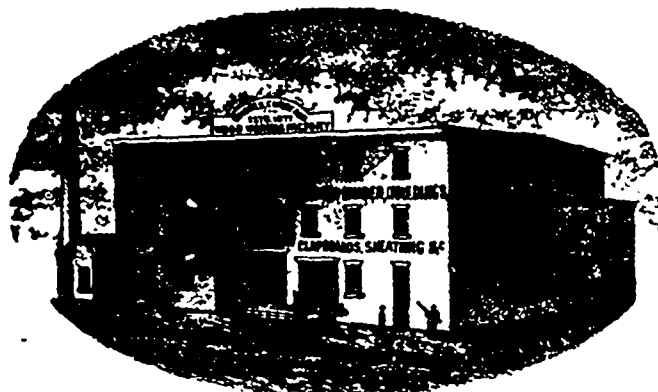
It possesses more body and it is at least twenty-five per cent cheaper.

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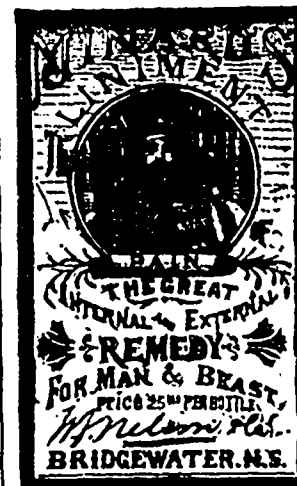
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