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# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is said, and with some show of probability, that there is more tea used in Nova Scotia than in France. It is a peculiar fact that there is scarcely one pound of black tea used in the United States of America to every one hundred of oolong and green, while in Nova Scotia scarcely one pound of green is used to every one hundred of black.

A few years since, the cremation of the dead was regarded as a barbaric practice which modern civilized society opposed upon the ground of its being unnatural and inhuman. To-day we read of crematories being erected in all the principal cities of the United States, at a cost varying from \$40,000 to \$100,000. Society evidently now realizes that the burial of the dead under six feet of mother earth is much more inhuman and quite as barbaric as cremation.

The American Congress are now considering a proposal to increase the pensions of the widows of the soldiers serving in the late war. The number of these widows proves that the Blue as well as the Red-coat has its attractions for the fair sex. The item of increase, though apparently small, as respects the individual, will, it is said, aggregate \$14,000,000. Uncle Sam's coffers are full, and he evidently feels inclined to place a portion of his surplus in the hands of those who know best how to spend it.

The representatives of the Boston Chamber of Commerce have shown Congress that on the Fishery Question something may be said on both sides, and it is probable that their representations will have quite as much weight as those of the misguided New England fishermen. These latter claim that the Canadian fisheries are worthless, and the Boston delegates reply that, if so, Yankee fishermen are wanting in shrewdness, otherwise they would not use Canadian fishing grounds to the extent that they now do.

Sir John A. MacDonald says he believes in young men and favors their entering public life. Sir John is right; young men will never become wise-acs until they are in the position to apply the gauge of experience to political questions; but until they have obtained it the country must look to the older and more thoughtful heads for the solution of the problems which are now engaging the public mind. Haligonians should take a leaf from Sir John's book and allow their young men places upon the Bank and Insurance directorates,

Within sixty days of the time when M. DeLesseps and the fifteen French, German, English, and American engineers who accompanied him left Southampton, the veteran engineer expects to cross the ocean, visit Panama, demonstrate to his companions the feasibility of the great work in which he is engaged, recross the ocean and be in Paris ready to convince capitalists that there is money in the enterprise. Such an undertaking in an octogenarian throws in the shade the exploits of some of the eastern patriarchs who were wont to display the full vigor of manhood long after they had reached the allotted age of human beings.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* contains an article upon P. E. Island, to which a contemporary in Charlottetown takes exception. The article in question was written by Mr. George Stewart, well-known in Canadian literary circles, but it is quite evident from the errors in which the article abounds that Mr. Stewart's sources of information were both antiquated and incorrect. Prince Edward Island has many scholars among her professional men, any one of whom could have written an article upon the garden of the St. Lawrence quite as readable and much more reliable than the one to which we refer.

"The Tongue Guard" is the name of a society in Connecticut, in which the members—young ladies—enter into an agreement to say nothing ill-natured of any person, male or female, old or young, rich or poor; and they further agree, should they in some unguarded moment violate their obligation, to pay a fine of five cents for each and every violation of the same. The poor of that Connecticut town are enjoying a winter of unprecedented abundance. The "Poor Association," and the "Church Aid Societies" have disbanded, as the funds of the new society are ample to meet all the wants of the poor in that locality. Halifax is to have a similar society next year.

At the close of the American Civil War the Southern Confederacy had at their disposal, ammunition, guns and military stores to the value of \$40,000,000. These had been purchased and paid for by the agents of the Confederate Government, but were left at various points in Europe until they could conveniently be shipped. Since the collapse of the Confederacy these stores have remained in the hands of the manufacturers, although paid for in hard cash. The holders of Confederate bonds are now making a united and determined effort to recover these stores, hoping to thus in part recoup the loss which they as bond holders have sustained. Confederate bonds are again marketable at 23 per cent. of their face value.

Those who remember the pleasure they experienced in listening to the great organ recitals, given by Professor A. Bird when in Halifax, will not be surprised to learn that this gentleman has just scored a musical triumph as a composer. On the Fourth of February, his grand concert—in which four of the seven numbers, were his own composition—was given before a large and critical audience in Berlin. His Symphony in A, which was rendered by the first orchestra in that city, fairly took the audience by storm; and the Berlin papers have gracefully acknowledged the young composer's success. Mr. Bird's friends in Halifax, will, we are sure, join with us in wishing that he may reach the goal of his ambition and reap the full reward of his arduous labors.

Utah is becoming too hot for the Mormons and even Salt Lake City is losing its charms for the many-wived disciples of Brigham Young. The truth is the American people have determined to wipe out this dark blot from their civilization, and the Federal Government is slowly but surely turning the law screws upon those who have hitherto been a law unto themselves. But Mormonism is not thus to be ruthlessly squeezed out of existence. President Diaz and the Mexican Government, anxious to colonize some of the districts in the northern part of Mexico, have encouraged the Mormons to come in and possess the land. The peculiar practices and doctrines of the Latter Day Saints, so out of place in the United States, will probably take deeper root and flourish more successfully in the lawless republic.

To our mind, the speech of Mr. MacCoy, M. P. P., at the opening of the Local House, did injustice to the Local Government. The latter is, we would fain believe, anxious to pass a measure of "justice to Cape Breton." Yet the impression on the mind of more than one man who listened to Mr. MacCoy at the opening of the Assembly, was, that it is intended merely to make convenient promises to Cape Breton, these to be afterwards conveniently forgotten as too many others have been. We do not understand how an intelligent member of the Nova Scotia Assembly should speak with levity and ridicule of the claims of Cape Breton to consideration. Seeing how much Cape Breton has contributed to the provincial coffers and how little has been done by the Province in return, we should suppose an honorable gentleman like Mr. MacCoy would not wilfully add insult to injury as he seemed to be attempting to do on the occasion referred to.

## IRISH GRIEVANCES OF TO DAY.

It is frequently asserted by those opposed to any measure of reform in the government of Ireland, that Irish grievances are grievances of the past centuries, and that the Irish people now enjoy to the full the liberties and privileges of British subjects. Goldwin Smith, who, though a powerful writer, sometimes allows his prejudices to get the better of his judgment, refers to Parnell and his followers as a band of disloyal men, asserting that their sole aim and object is the severance of the union of Great Britain and Ireland. A brief account of the manner in which Ireland is now governed will, we think, convince most of our readers that the Irish people have grievances, and that the very existence of these grievances in the ninth decade of the nineteenth century proves that British statesmen have been guilty of culpable negligence with regard to Irish affairs, and that strong measures had to be taken to show the English people that Irishmen were no longer willing to tolerate such neglect.

So far as the internal government of Ireland is concerned, it is left exclusively in the hands of a Viceroy, appointed by the British Ministry. The Viceroy is assisted by a countless number of Boards, the members of which are appointed by himself. These Boards are scarcely more representative in race, religion, or any other respect of the people of Ireland, than "Government House" and the civilians are representatives of the natives of Bengal. The Irish people have nothing whatever to do with the appointment or supervision of these practically omnipotent boards. Yet the Local Government Board controls to a very large extent poor law guardians and even corporations and town commissioners; while the Public Works Board is a far more powerful and far-reaching body than its English analogue. Through one of these boards Public Works are controlled, through another the Castle controls "national" education, as it is called, a third the prisons, a fourth—nominated like the others of course—controls the fisheries. Through the Inspector-General the Castle controls the finest army of the sort in the world—the Constabulary, numbering from twelve to thirteen thousand men. No native authority, county or otherwise, it must be borne in mind, controls this splendid body in any way whatever. The Irish Constabulary are the servants of the lord of "the Castle." Again the stipendiary magistrates throughout Ireland are Castle nominees; like the chiefs of the Boards already named, like, in fact, all the principal officials in Ireland, they represent the ruling race and the official religion—which is Protestantism. Lastly, the "Grand Juries," as they are called (by a very misleading name), and which are in reality the fiscal boards of the Irish Counties, are selected by the County High Sheriffs, who themselves have been nominated by the Viceroy. For each of the thirty-three counties of Ireland there is a "Grand Jury" of twenty-three members, and, as already indicated, this "Jury" though possessed of the entire financial control of the county concerned, has no elective relations with the taxpayers whose money it levies. The grand jurors of Ireland vote taxes to the amount of a million and a quarter sterling, and "exercise out of public rates a patronage representing over one hundred thousand pounds per annum." To quote from an excellent work on this subject, "the mode in which this patronage is distributed is not calculated to lessen the belief of the Irish people that the entire system of county government in Ireland is under the control of an alien race." The "Castle" Boards, in short, are the administrative instruments of a benevolent despot.

This brief sketch of Irish Local Government which we have culled from an English exchange, fully accounts for the feelings of detestation with which the Irish people regard the system which is known as "Castle" rule, and it is for the abolition of "Castle" rule that Parnell and the Nationalists are now fighting. Dublin Castle is Doubting Castle, and its inmate is Giant Despair. The Giant's case is all the more hopeless because he has meant so well all the long centuries of his rule. In every detail of administration, from the highest to the pettiest, from the imprisonment of the "Dictator," to a paltry squabble about the seizure of a bedstead, the Giant has intervened, either by himself or by his subordinates; and he has never received anything but denunciation for his pains.

Is there a Nova Scotian or Canadian with one drop of manly blood flowing through his veins who would not do his utmost to overthrow such a system, were this Province or the Dominion governed in a similar manner? We believe not; and the Irish people so long as they continue to agitate for reform, using legitimate means, are entitled to the hearty sympathy of every free-born citizen in this land.

## SUMMER CARNIVAL.

So far as we can learn, the citizens of Halifax are of but one mind as respects the advisability of holding a carnival during the coming summer, but as matters now stand it is impossible to make any definite arrangements with regard to it until the initiative steps are taken by the Mayor or City Council. If we are to have a general carnival it is quite evident that its management and carrying out should not be left to any particular club or organization. The success of the carnival must depend upon the cooperation of the various societies, clubs, and unions, which might participate in it, as the united action of these would insure a varied and attractive programme of sports. It has been suggested that the exclusive management of the carnival be left to the Wanderers Athletic Club, but we think that the Wanderers would be justified in refusing to assume the sole responsibility while the other clubs and unions are willing to unite with them and share the responsibility. The firemen have already taken up the matter of a firemen's tournament with their accustomed vim and zeal. A large amount of money has been subscribed for the purpose, our home fire insurance companies heading the list with handsome subscriptions. Arrangements have been made with the fire departments of Philadelphia, Boston, Portland,

Bangor, and with some of the cities of the Upper Provinces, to have their brigades properly represented at the Halifax tournament. Liberal prizes ranging from \$10 to \$300 have been offered, and in fact everything has been done to ensure the tournament's being a grand success. This tournament would form a most attractive feature in a general carnival, and we have no doubt that the firemen would be pleased to have it do so if the fire department were fairly represented upon the carnival committee. With the cooperation of the Wanderers Athletic Club, the Royal Nova Scotian Yacht Squadron, the Studley Quoit Club, the committee of the Halifax Riding Ground, the Commissioners of the Public Gardens, the Y. M. L. A., the Social Club, and the officers of the Garrison, a programme could readily be arranged such as would attract thousands of visitors to the city. All that is required is for the Mayor (as Chief Magistrate of Halifax), to convene a public meeting, at which a representative committee of citizens could be appointed for the purpose of raising the requisite funds, preparing the programme of sports, and in short, undertaking the management of the summer carnival.

## AN EXPATRIATION SYNDICATE.

The idea of expelling from their homes any class of people whose presence is obnoxious to the State, is not, as U. E. Loyalists and Acadians can testify, a new one. The latest project of this kind, Bismarck's proposed expulsion of the Poles from Prussia, has suggested to European capitalists a plan for conducting these transactions in a strictly business-like way. It is said that a syndicate is being formed in the leading European cities, who will offer to buy up the claims of the Poles, and assign their land to German settlers, on the terms recently proposed by Prince Bismarck. The capitalists will first secure a large tract of land in some country where people, or rather people's neighbors, do not object to the company of the Poles. This land will be offered to Polish settlers, the syndicate retaining a large block in the centre, from which they expect to receive ultimately the principal return of their investment. Already the aims of the syndicate have extended beyond this trial of the scheme upon the Poles: visions of an exodus of Jews from persecuting Russia and Turkey to the home of their ancestors in Palestine, and of disaffected Irish peasants relieving the anxious mind of Gladstone by taking up their abode in America, rise before the minds of the enterprising capitalists. Indeed, there are few countries which might not become the customers of the new company, for there are few in which an unassimilated race element does not exist. Should the experiment upon the Poles be tried and found successful, Austria, which now protests against Bismarck's action, may herself think of employing the new company to transplant her Magyar population; and the United States may see an escape from the doom of negro supremacy with which she is threatened. These are two weak points in the scheme, which will require precautionary measures to strengthen them. In order to carry on its operations, the company must be backed by government authority. This power, in the hands of greedy and oppressive agents, is liable to be used in mal-treating the unfortunates who are leaving home and country. Again, the company will select land wherever it is cheapest and most plentiful. Let us, who possess the grand North-West, beware lest European powers cleanse their own gardens by filling ours with weeds. But with proper vigilance on the part of the different governments concerned, these difficulties could be obviated.

## INSURANCE

Lord Brougham only asserted the conviction of every thoughtful observer when he declared that "associations for the insurance of lives are to be ranked among the very noblest institutions of civilized society, and this usefulness can be attested by thousands of happy and contented families, rescued by their means from the bitterness of poverty and the degradation of charity."

We have very decided views on the duty of our people to protect those for whom they live and labor by adequate life insurance. We would not hesitate to commend in our columns any purely charitable institution which should distribute large sums of money to the victims of misfortune amongst us; much less then should we hesitate to commend to public good-will an institution which comes into the homes of our people in the hour of their greatest misfortune, with the light of hope to the widow's heart, and the earnest of continued home comforts to her fatherless babes,—an institution, which is ever urging men to the performance of duty, to display parental and conjugal faithfulness, by providing for the permanent happiness and well-being of their dependents through their own prudent forethought, not trusting their welfare to the fickleness of fortune or the uncertainty of their own continued life.

It seems to us that it is either a very thoughtless man or a very selfish man who will protect himself from loss, by fire or marine insurance, and will yet allow the shadow of an irreparable loss, if not of utter ruin, to hang over his home, by refusing or neglecting to insure his life. With these convictions we have decided to do them justice by urging our readers who have not already done so, to perform this very important duty, and shall doubtless return to the subject again. In the meantime suffice it to say, that by personal study of the whole question, by the opinions expressed in our insurance exchanges, by the hearty endorsement of reliable insurance experts, and by our own knowledge of the working of the system by which we have been insured for some years, we believe that the rich man can get the most good insurance for the same money, and the poor man the same reliable insurance for the least money, in the Dominion Safety Fund Life Association, St. John, N. B., which has so many policy-holders amongst our best citizens, and which last year alone "visited the fatherless and the widow in their affliction," in these provinces to the extent of \$31,000.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

In hair not in eye,  
In crawl not in dio,  
In pork not in veal,  
In hand not in fool,  
In air not in ice,  
In box not in vico,  
In fine not in bad,  
In true not in glad,  
My whole contains eight common letters;  
And mean all these and o'on their bettors.

MAC.

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 Enigma published last week.

My 9, 8, 1, are NOW  
My 3, 4, 5, 6, are LADS  
My 2, 10, 7, are GET

and the strange coincidence is that "Now Lads Got," and "W. Gladstone," are composed of the same letters.

TIT-BITS.

The wealth of our language is shown by the fact that "hang it up" and "chalk it down" mean precisely the same thing.—*San Francisco News Letter.*

A Rochester hairdresser has this startling announcement in his shop: "Ladies' short comings [combings] made up and arranged."—*Religious Exchange.*

Some people are willing to be good if they are well-paid for it. Others prefer to be good for nothing.

"Button parties" are becoming popular in the West. We don't know whence they derive their name, unless it is because they're almost sure to come off.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter.*

Doting mother: "Yes, I shall be happy to give you the wages you ask; but I shall expect you to love the children." Nurse: "I shall be very happy to do so, ma'am; but, of course, that would be an extra."

Hotel des Invalides in Paris, was founded for old soldiers. A man must be sixty years of age to have the right of admission into this asylum, and they must be men who served their country on the field. There are nearly 40,000 men lodged and fed at the public expense daily.

The Dog-star Sirius is the most splendid in the heavens.

The general post-office in London is a large and elegant building, with a hall sixty or eighty feet in the centre of it, and several apartments adjoining. The building is of Ionic architecture, 400 feet long and eighty feet deep, the largest postal establishment in the world. The number of letters passing through the British Post Office is nearly four hundred millions in a single year. The revenue of which is five million of dollars.—*Prime.*

Hong Kong is one of the islands in Japan, and is about twenty-five miles in circumference. It is an English possession taken as an indemnity in one of the wars, and ceded to Great Britain in 1841, from which time it grew rapidly in commercial importance, until its rival Shanghai diverted a large part of the China trade. Victoria is the name of the principal town, although abroad it is invariably spoken of as Hong Kong. It is one of the two chief foreign cities on the coast, and is visited by more ships than any other.

A "notice" worded as follows is said to appear on the door of a well known business office: "The hours of attendance in this office are: To canvassers for church subscriptions, ten to two; book and insurance agents, two to four; commercial travelers, beggars and advertising men, all day. We attend to our own business at night."

"And so the Romans once invaded Great Britain," said Miss Gilligan, to whom her Uncle Charles had been reading of Cæsar's conquest. "That accounts for it, then!" "Accounts for what?" asked Uncle Charles. "For there being so many Latin words which resemble our English ones. The Romans very naturally picked up a good many of our expressions while in England. Wonder I never thought of that before."

Mother: "You brought this on yourself, Charlie, I told you that all that apple-pie you ate last night would throw your digestion out of order." Charlie: "Taint out of order, ma; it's in order." Mother: "Charlie! when you are suffering so, how can you say your digestion is in order?" Charlie: "Well, it is, ma--in apple-pie order."

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HALIFAX, N. S.

**ORANGES, LEMONS, GRAPES.**  
30 bbls. Sweet Jamaica ORANGES.  
25 cases Fine Palermo LEMONS.  
3 " ELEMIE FIGS—small boxes.  
20 kegs ALMERIA GRAPES.  
—ALSO—  
150 barrel FOXBERRIES.  
200 Factory CHEESE.  
120 barrel ONIONS.  
For sale low by  
**CHAS. H. HARVEY.**

**Union Mutual Life Insurance Co.**  
**OF PORTLAND, MAINE,**  
Established 1848.  
All Policies issued, are entitled to the benefits of  
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Dividend, as well as its Investment Policies are  
most attractive. This Company can meet the views  
of all assurers.  
Office—Union Bank Building.



## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

Harper's Magazine for March is teeming with interesting articles from the pens of some of the best-known writers on magazine topics. Perhaps our readers will be most interested in Mr. Farnham's description of "Cape Breton Folk," which is profusely illustrated by A. B. Frost. Mr. Farnham devotes himself to Canadian topics, and those who have read his masterly treatment of Labrador, will scarcely fail to study his Cape Breton article.

The freight charges on the Intercolonial Railway seem to be so irregular and indefinite that various and apparently contradictory complaints are made by the people of Halifax and Montreal. The managers of the Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery claim that the rates discriminate unfairly in favor of Montreal. In apparent, but not necessary, contradiction to this comes the report of a public meeting held at Montreal. The Chairman of the meeting gave figures showing that while the rates from Halifax to Montreal are 60 cents, those from Montreal to Halifax are 70 cents. Add to these facts the complaints of Halifax merchants of discrimination in rates in favor of St. John, Amherst and other places, and it would appear that there is probably much looseness and elasticity in the table of charges.

The Ontario Treasurer, in his Budget speech, gave a clear resume of the financial condition of that province. He states that the annual deficit is due to increased expenditures, and the absence of a corresponding increase in the revenue. The deficit for this year is expected to reach \$400,000, which will have to be paid from the standing surplus. This surplus is over six and three-quarter millions of dollars, which will allow the Mowat government, should the present state of things continue, a good many years to come and go on. A considerable amount of the expenditure for the current year is due to exceptional expenses on account of capital stock—such as increased lunatic asylum accommodation, revision of the Ontario Statutes, and enlargement of the Guelph Agricultural College. The operation of the Scott Act will reduce the revenue, but it is expected that the deficiency will be made up by an increase in the cost of licenses for shops and hotels.

Mayor Howland, of Toronto, owes his position to the "plump" vote of the Labor Union men, who had become offended at the *Mail* and decided to oppose its candidate. Mr. Howland's election is now being contested in the courts, on the ground that the Women's Property Act deprives him of the necessary interest in his wife's property, on which he qualified. The point raised is a legal technicality, after all, but it may invalidate the election. Should such be the case, Mr. Howland will have lost by a fluke what he gained by a fluke, and may thus "call it square."

The Provincial Government have made arrangements to buy out the present owners of the Avon Bridge which connects the farming district of Falmouth with the town of Windsor. This bridge is now the only remaining toll bridge in the province. The opening of its gates will be a boon to the inhabitants on both sides of the river.

Messrs. Forrest & Black have been nominated by the liberal conservatives of Cumberland, to represent that constituency in the next Provincial Parliament. On all sides are to be seen evidences of the interest taken by the people in the coming election. The result of that election will depend largely upon the action of the government during the present session.

The Truro boys have proved themselves expert curlers. They have just won the Governor General's prize, which is a handsome silver cup, and have shown to the citizens of Ottawa something of what they can do as curlers.

The St. John papers are having a controversy over bad butter. This article is certainly not worth quarrelling about, but if they can prove to our farmers that the rancidity of butter is in the main caused by the tubs in which it is packed, the controversy will have a good effect. Butter packed in green spruce tubs will turn rancid no matter how good it may have been when taken from the dairy.

The cablegrams imply that the Czar of Russia is just now in a perturbed state of mind. He is jealous of the efforts now being made by Austria, to place her army upon a proper war footing, fearing the consequences should the Austrian Government carry out its design of territorial extension in the direction of the Aegean Sea. Meantime the Czar continues to strengthen and improve the military force of Russia, in order that he may be ready for a possible Asiatic campaign. The Czar has fixed his eyes upon an outlet at the Persian Gulf, and the whole resources of his Empire will be employed in furthering this object.

The Governor's speech at the opening of the Provincial Parliament, contains an assurance that arrangements for the early construction of the Cape Breton Railway have been made. The people of Cape Breton have been long-suffering, but they will not long be satisfied to have their locomotives and railway carriages merely running on paper. Ten miles of track laid down will do more to convince them that the Government means business than scores of promises which may or may not be fulfilled.

It is estimated that 400 officers and men belonging to the "Queen's Own" will go to England in the event of Her Majesty's Jubilee being celebrated during the coming summer. Return passages have been offered to the men at the rate of \$35.00 per head.

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

A Flying Column is now being organized for service in the Canadian Northwest. Its presence will probably have the effect of preventing the Indians taking the war path in the early spring.

The recent fall of snow will cheer the hearts of our lumberers. Advances in the price of deals are reported in both New York and Liverpool, with a short supply on hand.

The American Bureau of Statistics reports 2000 murders in the United States for the year 1885. This gives an average of one murder to each 37,500 of the population.

The Publishing Houses in the United States complain that a large importation of bibles is carried on through the Post Office. Canadian dealers sending handsomely bound bibles to their customers in the United States by post as samples, the American publishers have asked Congress to prevent this importation.

Dr. R. R. Stevenson, surgeon of the celebrated Andersonville Prison in 1864, and editor of the *Southern View*, is now in Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, and has our thanks for the Christmas number of the Halifax *Critic*, containing a most interesting war reminiscence, giving a detailed account of the brilliant dash by which Gen. John Morgan surprised and captured Col. Moore and 2,000 Federal troops at Hartsville, Tenn., in 1864.—*Bristol News*.

It costs London \$3,000,000 a year for gas.

Miss Louise Alcott is said to have made over \$100,000 out of her stories for young people.

An English geologist thinks he has found evidence that the Mediterranean was at one time shut off from the Atlantic; that it was divided into two distinct basins by a strip of land extending from Italy to Africa; and that most of its islands, notably Sicily and Malta, were connected with the mainland.

The Parisian city fathers are much agitated over the decrease in population, which they believe is still going on. During the past ten years, the population of Paris has been reduced 115,000.

It is calculated that there are in Canada from 10,000 to 15,000 lacrosse players, 5,000 curlers, 4,000 snowshoers, 3,000 or 4,000 cricketers, 2,000 football players, 1,000 rowing men, 1,000 base ballists, and 1,000 bicyclists. This beats her militia by a large majority.

Prairie grass is now turned into paper. A mill at Quincy, Mo., has used 400,000 tons of the grass for that purpose since June.

Those who have employed the services of Mr. J. M. Whitman as veterinary surgeon, can testify to the skill displayed by that gentleman in the treatment of all classes of diseases from which animals suffer. Mr. Whitman is now located in Truro, and it is probable that in this agricultural centre he will find ample scope for the practice of the humane profession which he has adopted. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure;" this should be borne in mind by those whose horses or cattle are now suffering; the disease should not be allowed to become chronic.

W. H. Smith, the weather prophet, predicts that the month of March will be remarkable for its snow storms and its occasional spring-like days. If the oldest inhabitant were consulted he would probably consider himself safe in making a similar prediction. Snow storms and spring-like days in March are not very remarkable, at least, in Nova Scotia.

The removal of Mr. Stather from the Dorchester to the Kingston Penitentiary was effected in order to prevent the Supreme Court of New Brunswick from reviewing the decision given in Stather's case by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Whatever may be said of Mr. Miln as an actor, there can be but one opinion as to his power to please as a lecturer. The candles and the footlights, or the pulpit and the stage, as dealt with by Mr. Miln, was well worth listening to; although it is to be regretted that the lecturer could not have chosen a more suitable evening than the Sabbath upon which to address a Halifax audience.

Owing to the near approach of Lent, balls and parties follow each other in close succession, both in the city and in our provincial towns. Windsor capped an unusually gay season by the Fancy Dress Ball given last evening by the Arctic Club. The costumes were unique and tasteful, the ball being pronounced a success in every particular.

The magnificent C. P. R. depot at Winnipeg was burned on Monday last. The fire is supposed to have originated in the baggage room, the building which was of white brick faced with red was valued, with furniture, etc., at \$100,000, and was insured for \$40,000.

In several districts in Newfoundland the people are suffering for the want of food, the distress appears to be more wide-spread than at first reported, but the government are doing all in their power to provide against starvation.

Correct answers to Enigma published last week were received from Miss Ada T. Scott, St. Croix, Hants Co.; Miss Jean McMillan, Elmedale; Miss Maggie Croucher, Croucher's Point; Mrs. Henry Moore, Shubenacadie; A. B. Coldwell, Lunenburg; D. E. Clarke, Orwell, P. E. I.; P. W. Harding, Bridgewater; D. O'C. Madden, Arichat; A. F. Falconer, Sherbrooke; J. M. Creighton, 2 Creighton St.; F. H. Coops, 74 Gottingen St.; and C. R. F., 17 Maynard St. City.

RELIGIOUS.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Rev. W. B. King is expected to come into residence at St. Luke's, the first week in Lent. Mr. King is well known for his work under the late Rev. G. W. Hodgson, and possesses fine talents. He will be warmly welcomed in Halifax.

The annual meeting of the Church of England Institute was held last week. It was large and enthusiastic. A movement is on foot for the erection of a new building for the accommodation of the growing membership. It will probably cost about \$15,000 including site. A considerable sum is already subscribed, and the work will doubtless be begun at an early date.

The Anniversary Services of St. Matthias Mission were held on Sunday afternoon, when special music was rendered by St. George's choir, and Rev. Dr. Partridge preached.

METHODIST.

We are pleased to learn that the Rev. Dr. Williams, General Superintendent, who for some time has been laid aside through illness, is restored to health.

The English Wesleyans are considering the subject of a new site for the London Mission House. The Centenary Hall, in which are the rooms of the Missionary Society, is in the heart of the city, and the site has become very valuable.

The Bareilly Theological Seminary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, India, is the first Methodist Theological Seminary in Asia. It has prepared over one hundred native missionaries for work.

BAPTIST.

The Rev. Dr. Culross, President of Bristol College, has accepted the post of Vice-President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland for 1886-7, and will succeed to the chair the following year.

The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon is fully restored to health, and is hard at work again. He has completed his greatest work, "The Treasury of David." It embraces several large volumes and is said to be the most exhaustive critical, as well as practical, commentary on the Psalms that has ever been written. He has given over twenty years of most diligent study to the work.

CATHOLIC.

English journals attach much importance to the fact that Bismarck has addressed Pope Leo as a sovereign, and accepted from him the Cross of the Order of Christ. Bismarck speaking in the Reichstag referred to Pope Leo XIII. as "that wise and steadfast opponent of anarchy, that most able exponent of the principles that underlie sound government."

Very Rev. M. Ricci, Vicar-General of the Scopuli, has addressed to the Holy Father an elegant Latin poem relative to the mediation of his holiness in the Caroline Islands question, and observed that the Pope was made arbitrator because most likely to be conscientiously just in his award, and because he was the only potentate in Europe really untrammelled by sentiments of fear or of favor: Two lines run:

"Solus eras dandus bellantibus arbiter Ipse,  
Arbiter Ipse tui nam, Leo, solus eras."

It is understood that the book of His Grace the Archbishop, "After Weary Years," will be translated into German. His grace is to be congratulated upon his literary success.

Lent opens next week, Wednesday next, 10th inst., being Ash-Wednesday.

In sketches of living preachers that appeared lately in several English papers, Monsignor Capel is described as "one of the 'thost' gentlemanly, most cultured and most influential of living men—remarkably strong in convictions but uncommonly mild in expression." The description is somewhat quaint, but gives a fair idea of Capel.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Rev. J. B. Logan, late pastor of the Kentville Church, has applied for admission to the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church, Scotland.

The Rev. Dr. Kittredge, of Chicago, some time ago alluded in a sermon to a police justice of that city before whom a number of gamblers were tried, all of whom were released on payment of a nominal fine. The justice has brought a suit for damages. The probabilities are that the Dr. will come off victorious.

The Presbyterians of Shelburne are moving in the matter of a new church, and are asking for assistance from the other churches of the denomination. Contributions may be sent to Dr. Morton, Shelburne.

The Rev. J. K. Smith, of Galt, Ont., formerly pastor of Fort Masey Church, has been nominated for the position of Moderator of the next General Assembly by the Presbytery of Guelph.

At a meeting of the Presbyterian ministers of Montreal held lately, arrangements were completed for a public meeting to celebrate the centenary of Presbyterianism in Montreal. The meeting will take place in Knox Church on the 12th inst. The speakers will be Rev. Dr. Reid, of Toronto, and Revs. Principal McVicar, and G. H. Wells. A committee was also appointed to arrange for a social gathering in connection with the celebration.

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.....	8 to 11 1/2	
Granulated.....	7 to 10 1/2	
Circle A.....	6 1/2 to 9 1/2	
Extra C.....	8 1/2 to 6	
Yellow C.....	5 1/2	
Yellows.....	5 1/2	
TRA.		
Congou, Common.....	17 to 19	
" Fair.....	20 to 23	
" Good.....	25 to 29	
" Choice.....	31 to 33	
" Extra Choice.....	35 to 38	
Oolong—Choice.....	37 to 39	
MOLASSES.		
Barbadoes.....	30 to 32	
Demerara.....	30 to 35	
Diamond N.....	43	
SOAPS.		
Ivory bar, 1 lb, 2 lb and 3 lb.....	6 1/2	
Erasive.....	6	
Dominion.....	6	
Surprise.....	5 1/2	
Tiger.....	5 1/2	
Extra Pale, 1 or 5 lb.....	6	
"Linen Towel" for 30 bars, and 30 towels.....	6.00	
Canada.....	4	
Imperial.....	4	
No 1 Family.....	4	
Hermite.....	3 1/2	
Brant.....	3	
Brown.....	2	
Toilet 15 to 60c. per doz.....		
CANDLES, 6s and 8s.....	11 1/2	
Do., Paraffine.....	19 to 20c	
BISCUITS.		
Pilot Bread.....	1.60 to 2.90	
Boston and Thin Family.....	6 1/2 to 7 1/2	
Soda.....	6 to 7	
do. in 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, 144 in a box.....	93c to 1.10	
Toys per hundred.....	65 to 75	
Clear Candy Toys.....	18	
Brooms.....	1.60 to 3.25	
Starch, Blue and White.....	7	
" Lilly White.....	9	
Prepared Corn.....	9	
BUTTER.		
Canadian.....	10 to 20	
N. S.....	15 to 20	
CHEESE.....	7 to 10	
Eggs.....	19 to 20	
Tobacco—Black.....	39 to 46	
" Bright.....	42 to 58	
Blacking, per gross.....	3.00 to 4.00	
Blacklead, ".....	2.00 to 10.00	
Pearl Blue.....	2.50 to 3.00	

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

FISH FROM VESSELS.

Prices nominal. No arrivals. No sales.	
MACKEREL.	
Extra.....	none
No. 1.....	1.00
No. 2 large.....	4.00
No. 2.....	3.25
No. 3 large.....	3.00 to 3.25
No. 3.....	3.00
Small.....	1.00
HERRING.	
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
ALWIVES, very scarce.....	2.75
COUPHIS.	
Hard Shore to lquial.....	none
Hank.....	2.50
Bay.....	none
SALMON, No. 1.....	none
No. 2.....	none
No. 3.....	none
HADDOCK.....	none
HAKE.....	none
CUSK.....	none
POLLOCK.....	none
FISH OILS.	
Cod A.....	.35 to .36
Dog A.....	.25 to .29
Pale Seal.....	none
HAKE SEALS.....	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).....	6.00 to 6.50
" case, Valencia.....	5.50 to 6.00
Lemons, per box.....	3.50 to 5.50
Cocconuts, per 100.....	4.30 to 5.50
Onions, (barrels) per lb.....	2 1/2 to 3 1/2
Grapes, Almeria, kegs.....	6.50 to 7.00
Foxberries, per bbl.....	3.00 to 3.25
Cranberries.....	5.00 to 6.50
Figs, 1 lb bxs.....	16 to 18c
Dates, layer.....	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 wholesale selling prices for cash within ten days after shipment.

Flour,		
Graham.....	5.25 to 5.50	
Patent high grades.....	5.25 to 6.00	
" mediums.....	4.75 to 5.00	
Superior Extra.....	4.50 to 4.80	
Lower grades.....	3.50 to 4.45	
Oatmeal, Standard.....	4.50 to 4.75	
" Granulated.....	5.00 to 5.50	
Rolled Oats.....	5.60 to 6.00	
Corn Meal—Halifax ground.....	3.00 to 3.25	
" Imported.....	2.90 to 3.00	
Bran per ton—Wheat.....	20.00 to 22.00	
" —Corn.....	18.00 to 20.00	
Shorts.....	22.00 to 24.00	
Middlings.....	25.00 to 28.00	
Cracked Corn.....	29.00 to 31.00	
" Oats.....	25.00 to 31.00	
" Barley.....	31.00	
Pea Meal per bbl.....	3.75	
Feed Flour.....	3.25 to 3.50	
Oats per bushel of 34 lbs.....	42 to 48	
Barley " of 48 ".....	75 to 80	
Peas " of 60 ".....	1.10	
Corn " of 55 ".....	80 to 85	
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
" American, clear.....	15.00 to 14.00
" P. E. I Mess.....	14.00 to 15.50
" old.....	13.00 to 14.00
" P. E. I Thin Mess.....	12.00 to 12.50
" Prime Mess.....	11.00 to 11.50
Lard, Tubs and Pails.....	10 to 11
" Cases.....	12 to 13 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.....	30
" 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.....	20 to 25
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.....	14.00 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 10.00
" Merchantable, do do.....	8.00 to 9.00
" Small, do do.....	6.50 to 7.00
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.....	1.25
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 75

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.]

## EARLY AMERICAN CIVILIZATION.

Old Mexico City was the Venice of the Aztecs, as the ancient inhabitants of modern Mexico were called. Persons that are anywise interested in the history of this great continent of ours ought to know that the metropolis of the Aztec people was a city of no small importance, and of considerable grandeur. It was a magnificent monument of aboriginal art and industry. It was massively constructed upon a cluster of immense causeways which intersected the lovely lake of Tezcuco. It was a city of splendid and romantic surroundings. Its fair and spacious parks were the pellucid, sparkling waters of the lake referred to—a lake over bearing upon its gently heaving bosom numberless boats of bark, compared to which our yachts are commonplace. Leading off right from the thronged thoroughfares were silent, liquid lanes, more than one of them lined with palaces of polished stone and gorgeously-flowery summer gardens. Most of the houses were substantially built of stone, were durable, commodious and highly embellished. Several royal residences of the Montezumas outshone all the other structures in ornate magnificence. They were surrounded by sumptuous gardens, one of which was given up entirely to the cultivation of medicinal plants, and these were, at short intervals, gratuitously distributed to the sick. The result of the use of these medicines were regularly reported to the Emperor, "the doctor of doctors," by the physicians, who also, for future reference, kept memoranda of them by the aid of hieroglyphics. The latter were symbols, sometimes pictures of the things they represented; for the art of writing, in its ordinary method, was unknown. The' lacking in this respect, the Mexicans were by no means without culture. There were schools for both sexes; and the education of youth formed one of the chief cares of the first men in the nation, and was one of the principal objects of their government. Their division of the year into 365 days indicates a knowledge of astronomy about equal to that of the ancient Egyptians whose acquirements in this direction have been so much lauded.

The city sustained a population of at least 40,000. It abounded in aquariums, had academies of science and art, baths, parks and public places of worship and entertainment. Its shops were brilliantly resplendent with gold and silver goods, glittering work of the finest filigree, glazed earthenware, cotton stuffs, and tissues of feathers in which strange and striking designs were wrought in gayest colors. When first seen by Cortez, it was the capital of a populous and polished empire which, isolated in the midst of a barbarous continent, had a marvellous and peculiar civilization of its own, equal, perhaps even superior in some respects, to that of Europe at the time. This is abundantly attested by its fine roadways, its excellent system of agriculture, its equitable codes, its humane government, and indeed by all its institutions.

But the achievement of the Aztecs which elicited most admiration from their Castilian conquerors was the grand Mexican temple. It occupied a large square in the centre of the city. Surrounding it was a massive wall of mortared stone, eight feet thick, with battlements ornamented with sculptured figures in the form of serpents. The extent of the enclosure may be estimated on the basis of the statement made by Cortez, that a town of five hundred houses could be there easily contained. Bernal Diaz declares that its polished stone pavements were so smooth that the horses of the Spaniards could not move upon them without slipping. The walls of the enclosure corresponded with the four cardinal points. Midway upon each side opened great gateways, from which extended wide and elevated avenues. The temple itself, a prodigious pyramidal pile, arose from the centre of the enclosed area. It was faced with stone, was 300 feet square at the base, and was 120 feet high. Upon its level summit were situated two towers that served as the shrines of the divinities, to whom it was idolatrously dedicated, where the sacrifices were performed, and where a "sacred fire" was constantly kept burning.

Besides this great central temple, and only differing from it in size, were forty others. There were also houses for the priests to reside in—all substantial, handsome and imposing edifices, and numbering, according to Zarate, 5,000. Then there were seminaries for the instruction of youth, and houses for the accommodation of travellers who should visit the city to see its wonders and splendours; and all these, be it remembered, were erected at public expense.

Within the consecrated enclosure were little parks, ponds, fountains and gardens where were grown flowers and fragrant herbs in profuse variety, for use in religious rites or decorations; "and all this," observes the accurate Solis, "without detracting so much from that vast square, but that 8,000 or 10,000 persons had sufficient space to dance in it upon their solemn festivals."

What was the character of the religious beliefs and observances of this remarkable people? It has been said by one or two writers that they were debased idolaters, addicted to human sacrifices. Cortez alleged that he had been told by one of Montezuma's officials that his master yearly sacrificed 20,000 enemies in the great temple. There is ample evidence to prove such an accusation groundless. The motive of Cortez was to palliate in the mind of his humane and Christian sovereign his own inhumanity towards the Mexican monarch. No traces of blood were found within the sacred enclosure. No Aztec was ever positively known to sacrifice a human being, nor to attempt nor to desire to do so. The Aztecs were not even a warlike people. If they had been, they would not have been so easily conquered by a mere handful of Castilians. The historian Goodrich finds ample authority for stating that one of the ornaments of the temple was a cross. This reminds one of Max Muller's dicta: "However bold the assertion may sound that all the languages of mankind have an Oriental origin, true it is that all religions, like the sun, have risen from the East." But to return to the subject: the known manners and practices of the Mexicans, such as the free dispensation of botanical medicines, denote humanity and benevolence utterly inconsistent with the custom of committing homicide under the cloak of religion.

Divested of some of its idolatrous corruptions, the religion of the Aztecs was pure Deism. They worshipped one Invisible, Omnipresent, Supreme Source of things, under the unassuming title of *Tezcatlipoca*. He was to them the Creator and Preserver, with other attributes corresponding to Brahma of the Hindoos and Ormuzd of the Persians. Their other divinity, *Huitzilpochtli*, was the Destroyer, sustaining almost the same relation in Mexican mythology as Satan in the Jewish, Siva in the Hindoo, and Ahri-man in the Persian. These two divinities personified the eternal antagonism between Good and Evil, represented in almost every form of religion. The Christian denotes the opposing principles in more brief and euphonic words by dropping an *o* from *good* and prefixing a *D* to *evil*.

Preston, who is the best American writer on early American Civilization, says that the Aztecs believed in a future middle state corresponding to the Purgatory of Roman Catholics. Whatever one's opinion may be on this point, no one can fail to enjoy the elegantly written pages in which Preston discusses it.

SANTOR RESARTUS, JR.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

CHARLES I.

To the Editor of the Critic:—

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to take exception most strongly to "Franc-Tireur," as to his remarks on King Charles I. King Charles was not "a perjured traitor": he received a system of government, and strove according to the lights of that age to hold intact that system. He was surrounded by those who bitterly and unscrupulously opposed and misrepresented him; and at last, he was not executed, (for that implies, or would seem to imply, authority of some kind), but murdered by those for whom he prayed to the very last. English churchmen think and speak of him (not with "Franc-Tireur" as "a perjured traitor" but) as "God's blessed martyr."

The wretched profligacy of Charles II and James II, in their private life and their public incapacity, is to be directly traced to the conduct of those who, while professing civil and religious liberty, drove the sons of their Sovereign from the teaching of their Mother Church, and from the inheritance and influence of their native land.

For the strongest and most matter-of-fact proof of this, I would suggest to "Franc-Tireur" to read the late Dr. J. B. Mozley's Essays on Archbishop Laud, Lord Strafford, and Oliver Cromwell. The first of these has been described in a leading English Journal as "the finest Essay in the English language." Also, for further proof in the same direction, and of the same kind, the Rev. Dr. Hook's "Life of Archbishop Laud," and "Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy during the Great Rebellion." These are all fully supported by the writings of the late Professor Brewer, and may be described as being forcibly and impartially written.

Apologizing for taking up your space,

I am yours truly,

PARISH PRIEST.

Feb. 23rd, 1886.

## TO WHEAT GROWERS.

The following paper has been prepared by an old and experienced miller of the North-West, and is being circulated by the agents of the Chicago and North-Western Railway:—

Smutty Wheat is getting to be a serious matter with the farmers of the North-West, as well as the millers and grain dealers who are obliged to handle it. The loss resulting from it to farmers in the Spring Wheat region amounts to millions of dollars annually. So far, it has been confined mainly to the soft varieties of Spring Wheat, but it is now making its appearance in the Hard or Phyfe Wheat, and if suffered to go unchecked will, in a short time, place the Spring Wheat of this country in the "rejected" grade, where a large amount of it is now going on account of smut, and selling at 19c. to 25c. per bushel lower on this account. This smut can be stamped out with a very little trouble and a small expense to each individual farmer, if he will carefully apply the prescription below. There is no dispute on the subject; it has been tried and proven in thousands of cases, and has never failed. The remedy for killing the smut is simply to wet thoroughly each grain of Seed Wheat in a strong solution of blue vitriol, or as some call it, blue-stone. The ways to do it are various. The following has proved perfectly reliable, viz.: Dissolve one or two pounds (there is no danger of getting the solution too strong) of blue vitriol to each gallon of water. You must judge as to how many gallons of this solution you will require for the amount of bushels of seed. Put the Seed Wheat into coarse bags, about 50 or 60 pounds to the bag; tie them at the top so that the Wheat will lie loosely in them; immerse them in this pickle, and let them lie from five to ten minutes, turning the bags over a few times to be sure that the Wheat has become thoroughly wet. Then lift them out and let the pickle drain back into the vessel that contains the solution. The Wheat will very soon be in condition to sow. It does not require to be spread out to dry, as the Wheat will absorb the moisture very quickly.

Below is an extract from a letter received from the Hon. Horace Davis, member of Congress from San Francisco, and the largest miller on the Pacific Slope, in answer to enquiries on the subject of smut in Wheat in his State:—

"In reply to yours of the 10th. In early times we were much troubled with smutty wheat, but have none now, owing to the use of blue-stone on the seed by the farmers. I have seen fields where part of the seed was treated with blue stone, and part not, and the difference was as plain as between a field of Barley and one of Oats; it is hard to give any exact rule as to its application; the most practical farmers tell me that they use six



pounds to each ton of seed Wheat. It is dissolved in water enough to wet this quantity of Wheat, and the Wheat is put in bags, say 50 to 60 pounds, and immersed in the solution for six or seven minutes—just enough to wet all the Wheat. Then it is taken out and laid on sloping boards at the end of the trough to drain. The solution is put into a trough built for this purpose, something like a horse-trough. The bags are turned over frequently in this solution to insure the wetting of all the Wheat. You can rely upon it that blue-stone is a dead shot for smut in California. By blue-stone I mean sulphate of copper or blue vitriol."

If Wheat is sown in old stubble, where there was smut the previous year, it will make its appearance to some extent, but the second year there will be no sign of it. In new ground, or in fields where Wheat has not been raised for two seasons or more, there will be no smut if the seed is prepared as above, unless it may be communicated from neighboring fields where the seed has not been treated for the purpose of killing smut germs. The cost of preparing the seed for one acre of ground will not exceed the loss on one bushel of smutty Wheat.

Below is an extract from a letter on the subject received from Prof. E. W. Hilgard, University of California, College of Agriculture, Berkeley, Cal.:

"As regards the blue-stoning of seed Wheat, the solution used is as strong as it can be made at the ordinary temperature. Such a solution contains about three pounds of blue-stone to five quarts of water. The time for immersion varies somewhat; the most definite prescription given is that a half sack should remain in the saturated solution at least three minutes, and be turned about several times in the interval, to make sure of wetting the roughly. When weaker solution is used, the Grain may be left with it until it begins to sprout. The sacks are usually left unopened until used for sowing. There is no drying done on purpose, unless it is to be used in the seed drill. It will work perfectly with the centrifugal sower without drying. In general, I would be in favor of the strong solution and short immersion. The work is then done quicker, and if the Grain is afterward left in the sack for some hours, the application is sure to be effectual. Again, the strong solution is more certain to render the Grain distasteful to birds and insect enemies, and gives a margin for killing fungoid germs round about the young seedling. There seems to be little danger to the vitality of the seed from the blue-stone. Of course, the blue-stone will not prevent the smut-germs left over in the fields from previous seasons from attacking the developed plant. It simply kills the germ in the seed that would otherwise develop along with the latter, and take the plant in its early stages. A field that has been very smutty during the previous season will be apt to show some on the Grain of the next one, despite blue-stoning, but persistence in the practice will be sure to put an end to the fungus germ, save so far as they may be furnished by kind neighbors above the wind."

In preparing Wheat for seed, it has been the practice of farmers in Europe to separate carefully the small and imperfect grains, and sow the largest and most perfect berries. This insures a larger yield and a better quality. Tests have been made in England where fields side by side were planted three years in succession, and one gave three bushels the first year, five the second, and eight the third year more the other, both fields being treated precisely the same, except in the seed. This has been tried by farmers of Illinois and Iowa, and has resulted in their adopting this practice, getting a larger yield and much better quality. These are all facts, obtained by actual experience, made by practical farmers and scientific agriculturists.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## THE CANADIAN MILITIA.

V.

ORGANIZATION.—Sir Fred. Middleton, in his report of 31st Dec., 1884, takes the bold, but distinctly justified ground, of recommending the reduction of the Active Force, in order that every corps may receive annual drill.

It is certain that nothing is more discouraging to officers—nothing more conducive to laxity in the men—nothing more mischievous in every way—than the intervals of alternate years. Five years ago, an excellent officer of high social standing in my old Battalion (the 40th) wrote to me that he had resigned in disgust on this very account.

As to the mode of reduction, supposing the Major-General's straightforward suggestion to be adopted, I submit that the existing organization is excessive and inefficient to a degree, laying the Dominion Forces open to such severe strictures as I saw in a Chicago paper some three years ago. I regret that I have lost it, but I should think it must have been brought to the notice of the Militia Department at the time.

Perhaps the first point is the weakness of the Company. This alone compasses inefficiency.

What is left for parade when the Duties are deducted from a Company of 42 men, inclusive of N. C. O.'s and Bugler, to say nothing of Staff Sergeants and the Band?

A Battalion of 8 Companies numbers, as at present constituted, 336 N. C. O.'s, Rank and File, etc. This strength is absurdly over-officered. The establishment is—a Lt.-Colonel, 2 Majors, 8 Captains, 16 Subalterns, and 5 Regimental Staff Officers, viz: Adjutant, Paymaster, Quarter Master, and 2 Medical Officers. Total 32.

Such a Regimental system crowds the list with officers of comparatively high rank in a manner which would by this time have become ludicrous, had not the old routine of brevet promotion after five years' service been stopped.

It is a mistake in the Imperial army that every officer should think he has a right to become a general officer. It is not the case in other armies,

and it seems to me that both Englishmen and Canadians should accustom themselves to the idea of holding subordinate rank for many years. In our Militia, the fact of holding any Commission should be accounted honorable, and perhaps the more so, that there is less distance between officers and men than in the army.

A Battalion of Imperial Infantry (rarely, I believe, 800 bayonets strong) has 2 Lt.-Cols. and 4 Majors. When this arrangement first appeared in the Army List, it suggested to the advocates of compact organization, the common-sense idea that a hint had been taken from the Cavalry, and that, with 8 Service Companies, it was purposed to constitute a new unit of 2 Companies under a Major, similar in character to the Squadron and consequently of a compactness eminently fitted for supervision, handling, mobility, and detachment.

This, however, does not seem to have been the case, and three of the Majors fall in on Parade as Captains of their Companies. The arrangement was adopted simply to save a number of Captains from disability under the now arbitrary regulations for retirement in default of attainment of the rank of Major by the age of forty.

But if the Horse-Guards were innocent of any tactical motive in the matter, that is no reason that such an idea should not receive consideration from the authorities of a Force to which, as it appears to my humble perceptions, it is eminently adapted. It is not so much the German principle of strong Companies as the Cavalry principle of a double-troop unit applied to Infantry. But there are strong points in each.

Should this system chance to find favor, the first step would be not to fill up too hastily vacancies occurring in the higher ranks of existing Battalions.

I should then, as opportunity served, establish the strength of Companies, at from 100 to 150 men, with a Lieutenant to every 25. The Captain to be a mounted officer.

The Captain should be his own Paymaster and Quartermaster, assisted by Sergeants, part of whose duties should be those of Pay and Quartermaster Sergeants. Including these, there should be a Sergeant, a Corporal, and a Lance Corporal to every 25 men.

The fittest Subaltern might assist the Captain as Adjutant (unmounted), when necessary, but without relinquishing his special attention to his own section or squad of 25.

I say "his section," for a reason which will presently appear.

Whatever organization is carried out in a rural Battalion, can be carried out with greater facility in towns and cities. Considering the rural Company as co-incident with the rural Township, and the Battalion with the County, it has been my experience that the willing, enthusiastic volunteering material—on which alone it is desirable to depend—often fails to furnish readily Companies 50 or even 40 strong.

A County maintaining a Battalion, with perhaps a Troop of Cavalry, and a Company or Battery of Artillery, has, in some cases, its volunteer material overtaxed. The County of Durham, in Ontario, sustains two Battalions (one of 7, and one of 6, Companies) as well as Artillery at Port Hope. Both Battalions used to be, and doubtless are still, exceptionally good ones. But the proportion is unduly large, and probably could only be kept up in a County of more than average volunteer spirit. This is probably the key to the state of things which leads General Middleton, with the sound common-sense which seems to be one of his characteristics, to advocate a reduction of the Force.

By all means let it be reduced. An indifferent volunteer is worse than none, and one good Battalion of compact organization is better than two as now constituted. Of this compact organization, I now submit the completion.

Let the Battalion consist of two such Companies as I have sketched, *i.e.*, of 100 to 150 men, and be commanded by a Major. If a County or City supported two such Battalions, let there be a Lt.-Colonel over the two. In the field, two, three, or four such Battalions could be constituted a Brigade.

Instead of burthening a township with a Company 50 or even 40 strong, I would only call upon it for 25 men, unless the head-quarter village were large enough to enable the township to furnish with ease a Half Company, *i.e.*, 50 men. The requisite qualities would be more easily found in smaller numbers, and the quota would consequently be reliable.

This 25 men should be known as a Section, and be in its own township, under its own Lieutenant, Sergeant, Corporal, and Lance-Corporal, who should be capable of instructing them in rudimentary drill and simple movements.

This capability ought, in a very few years now, to be ensured by the Military College and the Schools of Instruction, by whose graduates the whole Force ought shortly to be permeated.

When called together, the four (or six, if the Company were 150 strong), sections would, of course, be under their Captain, and Company organization would at once ensue. The Captain would, of course, also exercise supervision from time to time over his sections, and inspect them, under regulations which should be laid down for his guidance and authority.

The responsibility of these partially isolated small commands would be beneficial for the Subalterns holding them, whose duties, authority, and responsibilities, would also be strictly defined by regulations, especially the care of arms, which would be easy in small numbers, every man of which would be of the best type of volunteer.

If there is one thing more than another from which a Volunteer Militia Force called out for service suffers, it is from inefficient N. C. O.'s. This great want ought to be supplied by the Schools of Instruction, which every Sergeant ought to be compelled to attend. A very good effect is produced in a Battalion even by examinations for N. C. O.'s rank conducted within the Regiment itself.

With the increased efficiency and higher military knowledge which we have a right to expect as the result of the new schools, the road should be



opened to a more general assignment of higher commands to pure Militia Officers, and some invidious regulations should be expunged. For instance, the extreme limitation of attainment of the rank of Colonel. The Deputy Adjutants General hold really important commands, and ought to hold that rank at least. I should say, indeed, that of Brigadier and Commander of a District, while the Brigade-Major (which is somewhat of a misnomer under present regulations) should be Colonels and D. A. G.'s and D. Q. M. G.'s together.

For it is to be hoped that the continued infiltration of Imperial officers into the higher ranks and commands will soon cease. So far as it has gone the system has been almost a necessity, but the time has come for initiating a change, and the greatest benefit attending Riel's rising was the absence of Imperial troops, and the consequent advance of status to the Militia.

In the Red River Expedition of 1870, but one Militia officer, pure and simple, received the C. M. G., while seven Imperial officers, besides Wolseley, were decorated. The Militia was ignored, except by Wolseley himself, while the 60th Rifles well knew, (at least their rear Companies) that the Canadian troops could outwork them hand-over hand over the portages. Moreover, our men conducted themselves on arriving at Fort Garry in a far more exemplary manner than the Regulars.

It is a further satisfactory feature of the late insurrection that no one but the General himself received the Order of St. Michael and St. George. I cannot but think even the medals a mistake. Other decorations would be still more out of place. The positions of the Minister of Militia and the General are exceptional.

I trust to see the day when we shall not look to the Imperial army even for the General Officer commanding.

FRANC-TIRKUR.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

#### FREDERICTON, N. B.—SESSIONAL NOTES.

The Provincial Legislature opened on Thursday, 25th inst., with considerable *éclat*,—guard of honor and band of the Infantry School Corps receiving the Governor, and a salute fired from a battery. The fine Legislative Council room was brilliantly lighted with gas, after the manner of the English opening, although we have no smoke or fog to justify the forced metamorphosis. The ladies appeared in full evening costume, and with the military braves formed quite a picturesque scene. The pageantry over, the members of the Assembly accomplished a double descent, one to their Chamber the other to the mire of politics and abusive denunciation. Mr. Wilson, the new member for York, moved the adoption of the address in an able speech in which he referred to the fact that New Brunswick was just entering on the second century of its legislation, the first Parliament having met in St. John, in February, 1786. After the secondor had discharged his duty, Mr. Wetmore, leader of the Opposition, took the floor and arraigned the conduct of the Government with much force, many damaging charges, but little proof, except that derived from common report, which Attorney General Blair in replying contemned as insufficient basis for serious statements.

The Governor's speech itself is about as watery as usual, and a *resumé* of it might be taken for that of Nova Scotia, so I will not attempt to mislead your readers.

The Legislative fare is scanty and not enticing. Bills relating to Highways, Public Health, Equity Courts, Registration, Conveyancing, and "other measures of importance" are all that are promised. But the discussion on these will probably fill two large volumes—with trash.

M. H. C.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

#### EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

It is painful to see in this enlightened age that one of the emblems of the great religion of civilization should be trolled out by partizans to do duty as a political factor in the scramble for office. Such, unfortunately, is the position of the Provincial and City Hospital of Halifax at the present time. In the first place, "the Commissioners of Public Charities" illegally appointed an interné to the hospital, in direct opposition to the well-understood wishes of the late hospital staff. Then, as the natural result of this partizan act, the actions of the medical officers in charge of the hospital have ever since been the subject of criticism by the press and laity, the results of which have been to obstruct the usefulness of this benevolent and humane institution. It is true that in the "McQueony case" Dr. McKay was unfortunate in his testimony before the coroner's jury, as it is a well known fact by surgeons, that in case of fracture of the cranium with symptoms of depression, an attempt should be made to relieve the compression as soon as possible, as this gives the patient at least a chance for recovery. It is also true that the history of injuries of the brain from a fracture of the skull shows but few recoveries. I can fully testify to this fact from an extensive practice during the American war in fractures of the skull from gunshot wounds and other missiles of warfare. The results from the various modes of "trephining" were not very satisfactory, although some remarkable recoveries did occasionally occur within my knowledge. Perhaps the most noted of this class on record is Prof. Bigelow's case, who recovered, although a tamping-iron three feet seven inches in length, one and a quarter inches in diameter, and weighing thirteen pounds, passed from the angle of the lower jaw on one side, to the centre of the frontal bone above, near what surgeons call the "Sagittal Suture," where the missile made its exit, and the iron thus forcibly thrown into the air was picked up several rods from the patient covered with blood and brain matter. From

this extraordinary injury the patient recovered in his faculties of body and mind, with the loss only of the sight of the injured eye. Without questioning the skill or ability of Dr. McKay, it must be conceded that he made a mistake in not attempting to relieve his patient sooner than he did, especially as the reputation of the hospital was at stake, with the opposite party striving to gain ascendancy in public favor by charging bad treatment of the unfortunate inmates of its wards and dead-house to the hospital authorities. This bad feeling was engendered in the beginning of the difficulty when Dr. Hawkins was illegally appointed to the position of house-surgeon to the hospital in place of Dr. Goodwin. Here we see the "laity" stopping in and overriding not only the law, but the opinions of the best medical talent in the city of Halifax. In this case we must presume that the "laity" are well versed in medicine and surgery, at least this is my conclusion from reading the various "non-professional" articles in the press since the beginning of the hospital troubles. Perhaps our learned "laity" will have the common sense to inform some of our more ignorant "Medicos" why Dr. McKay's case died from such a relatively slight injury when compared with Prof. Bigelow's case?

The adage that "blood is thicker than water" was demonstrated lately by a British man-of-war, "The Wanderer," coming to the rescue and protecting the American missionaries in Chin-Kiang from a Chinese mob until an American war vessel could come to their relief. From this it appears that "Mobocracy" is a game that can be played in China as well as in some portions of the Western States.

If the Morrison "Tariff Bill" passes both houses of Congress, Nova Scotia will be benefitted at least to some extent, as coal, mineral ores, lumber, timber, oats, potatoes, and hay, will be placed on the free list. This reduction in the Tariff is not made especially in the interests of the "Blue-noses," but simply to lower the overflowing coffers of the United States Treasury, and at the same time to lighten the taxes of the American people.

VETERAN.

#### POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK.

DOMINION.—The Federal Parliament was opened with the usual ceremonies on Feb. 25th. The Gov.-General's speech contained a reference to the harvest and prosperity and progress of the country. It referred to the restoration of order in the North-west and announced that precautionary measures would be taken for the protection of inhabitants and intending settlers. It expressed congratulation on the completion of the C. P. Railway which would be open in June next for the daily carriage of passengers and freight from ocean to ocean. The Governor-General also stated that should negotiations between Her Majesty's government and that of the United States for a joint commission to adjust the fishery question and develop our international commerce, fail to secure satisfactory results, provision would be made for the protection of our fisheries by the extension of the marine police system.

A measure for North-west representation on the basis of its late census would be submitted, as also bills for the improvement of the judiciary system of the North-west; the better mode of collecting claims against the crown; regulating P. O. Savings Banks in British Columbia and North-west; amendment of the Chinese Immigration Act, and an experimental farm. His Excellency intimated that the estimated receipts were fully realized, but that the North-west outbreak had added largely to the expenditure. The new members were then introduced.

Friday, Feb. 26th, after the presentation of several petitions, Mr. Everett, member for St. John, moved the adoption of an address in answer to the speech. His fluent delivery immediately claimed the attention of the house. He spoke of the prosperity of Canada, and the solid progress she was making, and pointed out the depression existing throughout the world. He expressed the pride he felt in his country when the volunteers put down the rebellion. He urged upon the government to provide full and ample protection to our fisheries.

Mr. Ward in seconding the answer, spoke of the agricultural prosperity experienced last year, and discussed the topics in the speech relating to the North-west.

Mr. Blake expressed regret at the lateness of the meeting of Parliament, and declared that the country continues in a state of severe depression from which there is no prospect of recovery. He attacked Sir John for making a speech in London, exaggerating the climate and fertility of Canada, and for saying that France would not dare to attack Canada, because the United States would not allow them, and for asserting that Canada would fight for the mother land to her last man, and last dollar. He did not believe that Canada would provide a navy to supplement the British Navy. He also criticised the reconstruction of the cabinet.

Sir John in reply said that it was evident the Opposition could find nothing to make a serious attack upon the Government, and their leader had been obliged to go over the old stories of differences between public men which had been healed by time. He had uttered no exaggeration about Canada in London, and would state it as his opinion that it was better to praise one's country than to describe it in such a manner as to keep intending immigrants from settling on this side of the line. Referring to the fisheries question he said it would have been folly to approach the United States till after the presidential election. He had hopes that the Morrison Bill would yet pass Congress, but should it not do so, the government wished authority to provide full and ample protection to the fishermen.

Sir Richard Cartwright followed and spoke of the exodus, and of the increase of the public debt. He accused Sir John of inconsistency in declaring in London in favor of closer relations with Great Britain and in

Canada declaring himself unwilling to agree to incorporation with the Empire.

Speeches were also made by the Hon. Mr. White, and Messrs. Davies and Mitchell.

March 2nd. The House only sat for a short time. A number of petitions were presented. Mr. Mitchell asked for the returns of the Grand Trunk, which he said he had for two sessions vainly endeavored to obtain. In response, Chapleau produced the desired information.

PROVINCIAL.—The Provincial Legislature was opened on the 25th Feb Governor Ritchie's speech was an unusually lengthy one. He referred to the abundant harvest, the large outputs of coal and gold, and the rapid extension of the fruit-growing industry of the Province. He stated that the Dominion Government had refused the request of the Legislature for increase of the provincial subsidy. The work of the public schools is being carried on with increasing efficiency, and during the year has expanded to a marked degree. The charges of cruelty to paupers in Digby were enquired into by a commission and found to be not sustained. The speech refers to the disadvantage at which the fishermen were placed by the free admission of the fishermen of the neighboring republic to our fishing grounds, while the catch of our fishermen has been subject to heavy duties, and states that it is in the interest of both countries that the question should be settled by treaty, but that if such a settlement cannot be obtained on fair terms, it is of the highest importance that the rights of our fishermen be protected. The Governor regretted that the financial condition of the Province will not warrant a very large expenditure on railways, but that the claims of Cape Breton are such that if any aid within the means of the Province will secure the construction of a road through the Island, it would be cheerfully granted. The speech referred to the effort on the part of the Government to secure the completion of the railway between Digby and Annapolis, and consolidation of the lines between Halifax and Yarmouth with a view to obtaining more satisfactory results than hitherto. The Governor also referred to the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway, and regretted that the work on that line had not been vigorously prosecuted during the year. He estimated that during the session bills relating to elections, public charities, and independence of Parliament would be submitted by the Government.

Mr. MacCoy moved the address in reply in a lengthy speech. Referring to the fishery question he declared that if the Dominion Government did not protect Canadian fisheries, fishermen would protect their own interests. Mr. Fraser seconded the address, after which the debate was adjourned.

On the 26th February the House met, when Mr. Bell, the leader of the Opposition, addressed the House at some length. He was of opinion that the Address was up to the mark in quantity if not in quality. He said that this Province might confidently rely on the Dominion Government for protection of our fisheries. He regretted that the Government had made no provision for the completion of the Western Railway by filling in the gap between Digby and Annapolis, and that the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway was as far from completion as it was a year ago. Had the late government continued in power, the Province would stand in a much better position to-day as regards its railways. He also referred to the reference in the speech to agriculture. In concluding he expressed the wish that this might be a harmonious session. As far as he was personally concerned he would assist the Government in anything that was for the benefit of the Province.

The Provincial Secretary defended the Government. He agreed with the leader of the Opposition in what he said regarding the protection of our fisheries. The Government will in time express their views regarding the question of better terms. He said it was not the duty of the Local Government to build a railway in Cape Breton. They had not the means to do so, but they would give such assistance as was in their power to anyone who would do so. He believed that it was the duty of the Federal Government to see that a railway was built in Cape Breton. His Government would also supplement a grant from the Dominion Government towards the completion of the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway. He also referred to the Avon Bridge, and said that the County of Hants would not be taxed one cent for it.

On Monday the House met at 3 p. m., and shortly after proceeded to Government House to present His Honor the Lieut-Governor with the address of the House in reply to his speech. On their return the Speaker reported that he had presented the address of the House to the Lieut-Governor to which he had been pleased to make a reply.

The remainder of the day was taken up with the appointment of standing committees.

Tuesday, March 2nd. Petitions were presented from John Rowe, an old soldier, for free grant of crown land; Peter Mackintosh for new polling district at Pleasant Bay, Inverness Co., and from Mr. McMann, of Moose River, for a new road at Fifteen Mile Stream.

The following bills were then read for the first time. A bill to amend the Act respecting Fictou County Poor Asylum; to amend the Act incorporating the Glace Bay Coal Mining Co.; to incorporate the Maitland Telephone Co., of Yarmouth; to amend Chap. 56 of the Revised Statutes respecting county incorporations; to enable Lunenburg to borrow money to establish a poor farm; to amend Chap. 7 of the Revised Statutes respecting mines and minerals. Mr. Fraser, who introduced the last mentioned bill, stated it related to gold and silver mines only. The Prov. Secy. also introduced a bill granting \$7,000 per annum for 5 years for leasanship service on the south-western shore.

The Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the administration of the poor law in Digby Co., was laid on the table. Mr. Patterson requested the government to lay on the table correspondence between the government and any parties, relating to the bringing in force by order of Council, the Act passed last session entitled, "an Act to confirm and give

effect to an indenture dated July 27th, 1883, made between the North American Construction Co., the Short Line Railway Co., and William Stewart and W. H. Chisholm; and executed by Charles L. Snow."

[FOR THE CRITIC.]  
AUTHORITY.

Professor Schurman and a gentleman who signs himself "Observer" in THE CRITIC have perhaps been a little hard on Mr. Miln. But impartial and perhaps somewhat unsparing criticism, if not malignant, fulfills a salutary function. It protects the public against the tendency to which it is so prone, to accept second and third rate luminaries for infallible lights—to take, in fact, geese for swans, in using which term I need scarcely say I have no idea of Mr. Miln personally in my mind; my reference is general, and indeed applies more to literature than to art. It must be confessed that for want of deeper reading in the case of literature and research; from insufficient opportunity to study the highest in art; and from the self-satisfied complacency of crude empirics; we Provincials are but too apt to think we are relying on sound authority when there is none at all. Take theology as a good instance. We hear such men as Mr. Cook and Mr. Talmage extolled and sworn by as if they were really of heavy calibre, whereas if man would read the real theological lights of the last thirty or forty years, they would be able to assign them their due rank which, without disparaging them, is many degrees below the first. Now what sort of reading, and what extent of it, does it take to enable the student to attain such breadth of views as to make his opinions worth holding. Setting aside Hebrew and Greek, which are fairly open to but few, we require a pretty good acquaintance with ancient history, not only in the light of a record of occurrences, but in that of the effect of beliefs and institutions on men's minds and souls. For the man who knows little but his Bible, knows but very little of that. Then comes another class of history of great import arising out of archaeological investigations such as "origins of nations." A quick perception of the style and spirit of oriental literature from the "Vedas" and the "Zend-avesta" to the "Arabian Nights." A fair acquaintance with the fathers of the Church, and the Greek and Roman Poets, satirists, and dramatists, both before and after the inception of Christianity. Then the great mass of authoritative modern criticism on both sides, which is the deepest the world has yet seen, and is the most intensely interesting.

I will enumerate a few. First the great German critics, Strauss, Schliermacher, Ewald, Eichorn, Hug, and others. Some great Frenchmen as Renan, and the Lenormants. Then our own great Divines, and some of them are very great, as Bishop Thirlwall, Bishop Lightfoot, Canon Westcott, Dean Welman, Archdeacon Farrar, Plumptre, Haweis, Bishop Wordsworth, Bishop Ellicott, and others; and on the other hand, Colenso, Professor Newman, and Greg. To these may be added Taylor, Norton, and others. There is a work by Chief Justice Wait, I believe, which is also of high value for research. The worst of it is it would take a very considerable sum to furnish a thorough theological library, and in the absence of first-rate libraries the student of theology is heavily handicapped.

I only adduce these names as instances of what may be called sound authority. It is the same in modern history. When you have access to the masters you care but little for small fry. The same in all Science, Art, and Literature.

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## COUNT WALDEMAR.

(Continued.)

The improvised course was pleasantly situated upon a slope of the Tannus mountains, commanding a wide view of the rolling plain on which Homburg stands, of yellow cornfields and waving woods, and the spires of Frankfort glittering in the distance. Mounted policemen, in spiked helmets, were galloping hither and thither without any ostensible object; flags were fluttering, a military band was in full blast; a large concourse of country people in holiday garb lined the hillside, and a triple row of carriages, displaying much quaint variety in build, was drawn up in the neighborhood of the winning-post.

In one of the latter I soon made out Mrs. Seymour, of whom, after the exchange of a few commonplaces, I could not forbear from inquiring her opinion of Herr von Ravensburg. She laughed heartily as at some diverting reminiscence.

"Charming!" she replied. "Thank you so very much for introducing him to me. I don't know when I have met any one who has made me laugh so much."

I doubted whether this were exactly the impression the young gentleman had intended to produce, and I said so.

"He does not intend to produce any impression at all," answered Mrs. Seymour. "That is just what makes him so delightful. Instead of thinking about himself, as most Englishmen do, he thinks about the person he is talking to—and tells you what he thinks, too, in the most innocent manner."

"Did he tell you what he thought of you?" I asked.

"He did, indeed. He said I wore false hair, and that that was very bad taste. Also he informed me that I ought not to go down to the springs in the morning alone."

"How very rude of him! Did he say nothing more than that?"

"Oh, yes, he paid me some compliments. He could hardly do less after being so plain-spoken. Ah, here he is. Now, we shall have some fun."

The dialogue that ensued was funny enough in all conscience, but I doubt whether Mrs. Seymour fully appreciated the humor of it. To an onlooker nothing could have been more comical than the freak of fate which had brought together these two widely differing types of humanity, and had inspired each of them with a desire to penetrate the outer crust of the other's individuality. By education, by habit, in thought and in mode of expression, they were as remote from one another as a Chinaman from a Choctaw; and I question whether they had a single quality in common, unless it were that of good-nature. Mrs. Seymour understood, no doubt, that this young German was greatly smitten with her—she must have been blind indeed to have ignored that—but I think that her comprehension of him began and ended there. As for him, he palpably could make nothing of the English lady whose charms had conquered his heart. It was easy to see that he was a little shocked, as well as fascinated, by her freedom of manner. The idioms of her fashionable slang puzzled him, and he could not quite follow her quick repartees. More than once I caught him gazing at her with a look of troubled bewilderment in his blue eyes, which gradually melted into a smile as reflection brought him a clew to her meaning.

"Ah, you were laughing at me," he would exclaim, breaking into one of his own hearty peals at this remarkable discovery. And then sat Mrs. Grey would laugh too, without knowing why; and so by degrees we all became very friendly and merry.

In the meantime the afternoon was wearing on. The three first events on the card—steeple-chases they called them, but the obstacles to be surmounted were not of a very formidable kind—were disposed of, and the time was approaching for the great race of the day, in which Count Waldemar was to take part. We all wished him success when he left us, and, as he hurried away, I noticed that he was twirling between his finger and thumb a white rose very much resembling a cluster of those flowers which Mrs. Seymour wore in the front of her dress.

After a short delay the riders came out, and thundered past us, one by one—a yellow cap and jacket steering a big-boned, fiddle-headed roan; a blue jacket and black sleeves struggling with a chestnut who seemed a little too much for him; then some half-dozen others, whose colors, to tell the truth, I have forgotten, and likewise their horses. Last of all, Count Waldemar cantered by, mounted on a little brown horse whose looks did not take the fancy of the ladies. Nor, for that matter, were they much better satisfied with the count himself. He wore his uniform—a queer costume, certainly, in which to ride a race—and what had he done with that white rose but stuck it in the side of his flat cap, where, I must confess, it looked excessively absurd and conspicuous. Mrs. Seymour was not a little annoyed, I think, by this bold advertisement of her favor, but she was too much a woman of the world to make mountains out of molehills. However, she unfastened her own roses from her dress, and tossed them into the hood of the carriage, saying plainly that she did not wish to be laughed at by all Homburg.

I am not a sporting man myself, and should never think of trusting to my own judgment in a matter of horseflesh. Therefore, although I was by no means so displeased as my companion with Count Waldemar's mount, I did not venture to say anything to excite their hopes until I had consulted a racing man of my acquaintance, whom I found near the judge's box, surveying the scene with hat cocked and arms akimbo, patronage not mingled with disdain, expressed in his gaze.

"God wear-and-tear little nag. Might win, I should say, over a long course like this, if his owner knows how to ride him," was the verdict of

this oracle. "The roan's the favorite, they tell me; but Lord bless you! looking at a horse'll never show you what he can do, especially with these fellows up. Lay you six sovereigns to four against the little brown, if you like, just to give the thing an interest, you know."

Modestly accepting this offer, I returned to tell Mrs. Seymour that I thought our man had as good a chance as anybody, and had just time to clamber up on to the box of her carriage and get out my field-glasses before a start was effected.

As I have already intimated, I have no pretension to say in what manner a race should or should not be ridden; but, dear me, the pace at which those young men dashed off, and the way they rushed at their fences! The yellow jacket took the lead, and kept it; the others were all together, a couple of lengths or so behind him—whipping and spurring, some of them, before they had accomplished a fourth of the distance. I was glad to see Count Waldemar lying well in the rear of this charge of cavalry, sitting still in his saddle, and evidently biding his time, like a sensible man. His little horse, with whom he seemed to be upon terms of perfect mutual understanding, popped over the fences cleverly enough, and looked full of running.

The race was twice round the course, and when the first circuit had been completed it was clear to the most inexperienced eye that there were only three horses in it—the roan, the chestnut, and the brown.

Of the remaining competitors, one had gone the wrong side of a flag, and had pulled up, two had come to grief, and the others were hopelessly beaten. The roan was still ahead; the chestnut, all in a lather, was separated from him by a few lengths; and the brown was a little farther behind than I quite liked to see him. Now, however, he began to creep slowly up; at every jump he perceptibly gained ground, and before very long secured the second place. This order of going was maintained up to the last fence, over which yellow-jacket lifted the roan as if it had been a five-barred gate instead of a modest little hurdle. Count Waldemar slipped past him while he was still in the air, and cantered in without once lifting his whip.

"I am so glad!" cried Mrs. Seymour, as soon as she could make her voice heard above the acclamations that greeted this finish. "He did ride well—did not he, Mr. Clifford?"

"Couldn't have ridden better," I responded heartily, thinking of my six pounds and of the knowingness I had displayed in picking out the winner. "You see I was not very far wrong. I must say for myself that, though I don't profess to know much about racing, I have a pretty good eye for a horse, and—"

"Oh, but it wasn't the horse at all," interrupted Mrs. Seymour, rather unkindly. "Anybody could see that that ugly little thing would have had no chance whatever if your friend had not ridden so perfectly. I wonder whether he is very much pleased."

"He looks so, at all events," remarked Mrs. Grey.

In truth, the countenance of the victor, who was just now being led away in triumph by a crowd of his comrades, wore an expression of delight which he made no attempt to conceal. He had dropped his reins, and was throwing his arms about and talking eagerly, evidently explaining what the nature of his tactics had been, while all his features literally beamed with glee. Those who have happened to observe the face of a very small boy who has astonished everybody by a clever catch at cricket will have some idea of Count Waldemar as he appeared in this moment of success. Only to look at him did one's heart good, and, as I watched him, I rejoiced more than ever in his victory, for I saw then how dreadfully disappointed he would have been if he had lost.

It is hardly necessary to relate how he eventually reappeared beside Mrs. Seymour's carriage, how he was received by the ladies with warm congratulations, and how every incident in the race had to be recorded in detail. I, for my part, having said what was proper, benevolently took away Mrs. Grey to look at the water-pump, perceiving that, if Count Waldemar was ever to make any impression upon the heart of the widow, now would be his opportunity.

No doubt he made good use of his time. I left the racecourse without seeing him again; but happening to dine that evening at the Kursaal, I had the satisfaction of witnessing from afar a well attended and somewhat uproarious banquet, at which he was the chief guest, and which was given, the waiter told me, by the *Herren Offiziere* who had taken part in the steeple-chases. A silver cup of surpassing hideousness, displayed in the middle of the table, was, my informant added, the trophy won by the hero of the day; the Herr Graf's health was about to be proposed, and doubtless he would make a speech in reply. Distance debarred me from enjoying the Herr Graf's eloquence; but, judging from the applause it elicited, I concluded that it was worthy of him and of the occasion, and I observed with pleasure that his high spirits had not deserted him.

While I was drinking my cup of black coffee in the open air afterwards he came out and joined me, as I had half expected that he would do. I asked him whether closer inspection had lessened his admiration of my countrywoman's charms, and he said, "Not at all." On the contrary, he was more than ever convinced that he was now in love for the first and only time in his life, and more than ever determined that Mrs. Seymour should, ere long, change her name for that of Gräfin von Ravensburg. At the same time he gave me to understand that love had not blinded him to certain imperfections in the lady of his choice. He took exception to sundry tricks of voice and gesture, which, with a German's instinct for spying out the indefinitely little, he had remarked in her; he pronounced her to be too *emancipiert*, by which, I take it, he meant "fast," and feared that the poetical side of her nature had not been sufficiently developed. But these, after all, he concluded, stretching out his long legs, and blowing a cloud of smoke into the still evening air, were but trifles, which marriage, and a residence in the cultured society of Stutgard, would soon correct.



"Do you know," said I, "I think you are about the most conceited young man I ever came across?"

He opened his eyes in genuine amazement.

"Conceited!" he cried; "now that has never been said of me before. What for do you call me conceited?"

I pointed out to him that modest men do not, as a rule, expect ladies to fall in love with them at first sight.

"Ah, that is your English notion. You consider yourselves the first nation in the world, and yet it is rare that you will find an Englishman who does not affect to speak against his country. That you call modesty, but I think it is a great foolishness, for you do not mean what you say. And so with other things. I do not expect as every lady shall fall in love with me—no! But one—that is another thing. If it has happened to me to love her, why should she not love me? I am very sure that your wife has loved you before she has married you."

"An impartial study of Mrs. Clifford's character during some twenty years of married life would have led me to form a somewhat different conclusion," I answered; "but doubtless you know best. I can assure you, however, that I have never had the audacity to offer marriage to anybody within a week of my first meeting with her."

"Perhaps," said he, gravely, "you have never met the lady whom Gott has meant to be your wife. If you had, you would know that it is of no importance whether a man shall speak in two days or in two years. For me, I have no choice. I must join my regiment to-morrow, and so it is necessary that I declare myself to-night."

"And, pray, how are you going to find your opportunity?"

"Ah, for that I have had to employ a little diplomacy," he answered, pronouncing the word "diplomacee," with a strong emphasis upon the last syllable, and accompanying it with a look of profound cunning which I would not have missed for worlds. "I have arranged to meet these ladies at the band, and to show them the race-cup, which, as you know, is in the restaurant. Now, diess is my plan. I join them when they are already seated, and I say: 'One lady will be so kind and keep the chairs while I take the other in-doors.' I take Mrs. Seymour first, and then—you understand."

He went off presently to carry out this wily stratagem, having first promised to call at my hotel early the next morning, and let me hear the result of his attempt.

Somehow or other I could not help fancying that there might be a chance for him. Women like youth and good looks and proficiency in manly sports and a pretty uniform, and Mrs. Seymour was rich enough to indulge in a caprice. I had taken so strong a liking to the young fellow myself during the three days of our intimacy that it did not seem to me an absolute impossibility that a lady should have fallen in love with him within as brief a period. I ought of course to have known better. I ought to have remembered that we do not live in an age of romantic marriages and love at first sight, and to have foreseen that Mrs. Seymour would receive the young German's declaration exactly as ninety-nine women out of any hundred would do; but I suppose Count Waldemar's self-confidence must have slightly disturbed the balance of my judgment; and, besides, I am always more prone to look at the sentimental side of things after dark than during the daytime.

With the return of morning my common-sense recovered its sway, and was not surprised when my breakfast was interrupted by the entrance of Count Waldemar, with a rather long face and a confession of failure upon his lips. He was disappointed, but far from despairing, and assured me that he had no intention of accepting this check as a final defeat.

"I have been reflecting all night in my inside," he said; "and I perceive that I have been too hasty. No matter!—aufgeschoben ist nicht aufgehoben, as we say—to delay is not to break off. I shall meet her again, and then I shall know better how to act."

And so, with a hearty shake of the hand at parting, and a cordial invitation to best up his quarters at Stutgard if over my wanderings should lead me that way, he set off for the railway station.

III.

Shortly afterwards I myself left Homburg, having completed the period of my "cure;" and if at the end of a week I had not quite forgotten Count Waldemar and Mrs. Seymour, I had at all events ceased to think about them and their destinies. On one's way through the world one forever catching glimpses of disconnected dramas—the opening of a farce, the second act of a comedy, the tail of a tragedy. Accident interests for a time in the doings and sufferings of the actors, and accident hurries them out of sight and out of mind again, with their stories half told.

Accident it was—or destiny. I can't say which; certainly it was not inclination—that took me, in the autumn of that same year, to Nyères, in company with my wife, and Mrs. Seymour could give no more satisfactory explanation of her presence in that dull little winter station. I ran up against her, on the Place des Palmiers, a few days after my arrival; and if it had been Friday and she Robinson Crusoe, she could not have hailed me with a greater show of delight.

"I am so very glad to see you!" she exclaimed. "In an evil hour I made up my mind to winter in the south, and three weeks ago I came here with my cousin, Miss Grey, whom you may remember at Homburg; and now, after I have taken a villa for six months, we have discovered how daily we hate the place. We know hardly anybody, we have nothing to do, and, in short, we are bored to death. I do hope you are going to end the winter here."

(To be Continued.)

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**Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.**

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

The condition of the Assessment Law of this Province engaged the attention of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry as soon as the organization of a Provincial Grange rendered united discussion and action possible.

At the Session of the Provincial Grange of Nova Scotia held in Dec., 1881, a committee, of which the then Worthy Master W. M. B. Clair, M. P. P. was chairman, was appointed "to memorialize the Local Government of the Province in favor of a better Assessment Act in which the actual property of the Province whether real estate, personal property, or income, shall pay its fair proportion of the rates and taxes."

At the next Session of the Provincial Grange a committee was appointed "to prepare a petition to be circulated for signatures to be presented to the Legislature of Nova Scotia, to have the Assessment Law so amended that all forms of property shall pay a full share of local taxation." The resolution, in accordance with which this committee was appointed, also directed "that the committee have these petitions printed and copies sent to each subordinate Grange for signatures; and that each Division Grange be requested to send a delegate to present the petitions from its own jurisdiction at the next Session of the Legislature, and act in unison as might be required."

This duty was attended to and petitions numerously signed were duly presented to the Legislature of this Province.

At the Session held at Sackville in June 1883, a committee was appointed "to prepare a bill for a better Assessment Law to be laid before the Nova Scotia Legislature at its next Session." This Committee submitted a bill as directed at the Session held at Halifax in February of the following year, and the bill, as prepared by the committee, after thorough consideration was adopted by the Maritime Provincial Grange by the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Grange the principle of Assessment, as provided in the Bill before us, should become law, and that the members of the Local Assembly for the several Divisions in this Province, should be required to support the said Bill."

At the subsequent Sessions of the Maritime Provincial Grange and of its Executive Committee, the need of reform in the Assessment Law of this Province received prominent attention, adhesion to the Bill adopted by the Grange, as in its opinion embodying equitable principles of Assessment, was re-affirmed, arrangements were made for urging the Local Government to give the measure its support, and at the Session of the Grange held last month much enthusiasm was exhibited in favor of the measure, and strong determination was expressed to give the Local Government and representatives favoring the measure, support in return, irrespective of party considerations. One of the most remarkable developments of this agitation for Assessment reform is the entire sinking of party feeling, and the determination expressed to support, as political representatives, only those who were pledged to support the Bill, or at least the principles of the Bill, adopted by the Grange. We have every reason to believe that the demand for an equitable adjustment of Assessment for Municipal purposes has spread very generally over this Province; and that candidates chosen by the people to represent them in the Local Assembly will be chosen with reference to this demand, or their attitude towards it, rather than from party considerations.

Leaving the history of this agitation in the Grange, which we have briefly sketched, we have only to remark with reference to the attitude of the Government and Legislature of the Province towards Assessment reform that it has been distinguished for and characterized by inertia, and unwillingness to deal with it. Whether this arises from a consciousness of inability to handle a subject admittedly difficult of adjustment, or from a dread of the difficulty of steering safely between the charybdis of capital on one side, and the scylla of the popular and oppressed majority on the other, is not quite proved.

Nothing would have made the Government more popular with the majority who demand Assessment reform than a manly attitude with reference to it, evinced by the introduction of a measure that would command approval on account of its equitable provisions.

The appointment of a Commission "to inquire into the operation of the Municipal Assessment Act, and to prepare a measure to effect such changes in the law as may be found expedient," was in itself a wise measure, and the "Questions" circulated by the Commission have reference to the Bill approved of by, and introduced into the Legislature at the instance of, the Provincial Grange—but the happy idea—(of avoiding responsibility?) would have been happier and more likely to be productive of good results, had it occurred to and been acted upon by our government in time to have permitted of thorough work on the part of the Commission and of carefully prepared replies to their "Questions" by the people. Those opposed to the Bill have probably been prepared to answer these questions negatively (an easy task!)

We must not omit to state that the Assessment Bill approved by the Maritime Provincial Grange is a close copy of the Act now in force in New Brunswick, and that its adoption was due to the hearty recommendation of Patrons of that province, who assured the Grange that it worked satisfactor-

ily. This is indeed a great recommendation to farmers who know by experience, sometimes dearly bought, that what looks and promises well in theory, does not always work well when reduced to practice.

Another consideration of a more sentimental character, but that yet might be allowed to have some weight, even around the red benches and among the easy chairs of our legislators, as it has with at least some of our prominent Patrons in their adhesion to this measure—is that every assimilation of the laws or interests of these Maritime Provinces, whose best interests are already and always have been identical, prepares the way for and hastens the Legislative Union which is increasingly the desire of all true Acadians. Apart from these influences and considerations—had the Grange or its Committee started from an independent foundation to construct a measure that would in the simplest way secure the desired result; an income tax—pure and simple—would probably have been the result. Indeed an influential Division of the Order favored and advocated such a measure, but loyally yielded to the decision of the majority. It will not be worth while for us to venture into our quarry where lie unhewn the principles of equity, which should form the foundation of laws directing assessment for Municipal purposes.

That all should contribute towards the objects for which direct taxes are imposed in proportion to financial ability and the degree of protection severally afforded by Municipal institutions is generally admitted—and no one will be found to deny that our present law does not ensure such an equitable adjustment of taxation. That the Act in force in our sister provinces fully ensures an equitable Assessment on every description of property must also be admitted by every one who carefully examines it.

Should not therefore the adoption of this Act for this province be the practical as it is the logical corollary of these propositions?

We trust that the Legislature of this province will signalize its last session and earn grateful returns from the majority of the people which it represents and acts for by passing an *Equitable Assessment Law*. Failing which, we trust that Patrons will be true to themselves, to equity, and expressed determinations.

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## MINING.

We regret to see a disparaging article in the last issue of the *Trades' Journal*, upon the important subject of deep gold mining in Nova Scotia, whereby it would appear that the influence of our valued contemporary is inimical to the best interests, not only of the struggling, though important interest of gold mining, but also to that of the laboring class of the Province. However, we do not believe anything of the sort, but conclude at once that the *Trades' Journal* has been simply misled or misinformed as to the past history and present status of the Nova Scotia gold mining industry.

The *Trades' Journal's* statement, or rather theory, that the presence of a second strike has been proved by the workings of the Dewar and Wellington Mines of Sherbrook, is news not only to our miners generally, but to the owners of those mines themselves. No less, however, than the further statement, that those mines were abandoned on account of quickness of water.

One of the owners and late managers of these very mines informs us that the Wellington was worked to a depth of 500 feet. They had rich ore at the surface, which continued down for nearly the entire depth, or to about 450 feet, in one strike all the way, when the yield was diminished, from 3 oz. to 7 dwts. As the mine would not pay at 7 dwts., it was abandoned. But at no period did the mine make an unusual quantity of water, but on the contrary, she was considered unusually dry, even for Nova Scotia gold diggings, wherein, we will here state, that it is generally admitted by men who have mined in other camps, that the water is remarkably "slow" and easily handled.

Our informant further states, that the "Dewar" shaft was sunk 620 feet, encountering but one strike from the surface, yielding, at times, as high as eleven oz., until at the lower levels, it fell away to eleven dwts., at which it also failed to pay. This mine, like the Wellington, encountered but little water for a mine of that depth. But a fact most significant, and to which we beg to call the *Trades' Journal's* particular attention is, that at 500 foot level, the increase of water over that at the 200 level was so small as to be scarcely perceptible.

Therefore, in the light of the above, we do not anticipate any necessity for the ponderous pumping machinery, such as is used in Staffordshire, and in scores of mines located upon other great coal basins, both in the old world and upon this Continent, the geological formation of which is the very antipodes of the iron like bands of quartzite and slate, penetrable only by steel, which surround and encase the almost perpendicular quartz veins of Nova Scotia, forming, in most instances, in both the hanging and foot walls, everlasting barriers to any great or expensive influx of water.

As to employing the diamond drill for prospecting for a second strike, which, we presume, the *Trades' Journal* has in mind, in condemning "Bore holes," we would certainly deprecate any such mode of work. The only practical method is in sinking a good sized working shaft, and thoroughly exploring the ground therefrom, in all directions, at different points down, from one to two hundred feet apart.

Considerable foreign capital has been heretofore, and now is, invested in our gold fields, with more or less profit, and more is waiting for investment. But capital is proverbially timid, and it seems to us that the statement, or even suggestion, in a home journal, that deep mining would necessitate the handling of ruinous volumes of water is not calculated to encourage or embolden it, but will exert an influence quite the contrary, and suicidal to the best interests of the community or state at large.

**FIELD FOR CAPITAL.**—Probably no epoch in financial history has ever shown so large an amount of idle capital as at the present time. This capital is seeking investment upon such basis as is deemed secure by those controlling its movement. Interest rates are unusually low but capital still continues to accumulate and stagnate the centers. Capitalists are apparently no longer eager to realize large returns for their investment, but the precaution lies chiefly in the direction of safety and security.

The large amount of money offered, whenever a satisfactory opportunity to loan is presented, shows the feeling and condition. Recent loans made by States in this country at a yearly rate of 3½ per cent has called out more money than could be accepted. Subscriptions to the new Egyptian loan of \$45,000,000 were opened in three principal European cities, and the amount of money offered was twenty-two times that required.

As there is such an abundance of capital to be obtained at low rates of interest upon reliable and substantial security, it is certainly to be regretted that the conduct of mining operations in this country have not been such as to inspire confidence, for as a matter of fact the proper development of our mineral resources furnishes one of the most secure and profitable investments for capital that can be presented. The truth will be demonstrated, that when a true basis is reached, the mining industry is one of the most reliable and permanent known to intelligent enterprise and investment.

A satisfactory tide of capital was at one time attracted toward the mining field, but an unwise selfishness, if not dishonest intention, prostituted a magnificent industry, and set back the day of the proper development for the purposes of present gain. Now with the world's coffers full of the lifeblood of industrial activity a great industry languishes, traduced and unknown so far as real worth and time value is concerned. An odium covers which should fall with withering blight on those whose ignorance and dishonesty have wrought all this evil.

The lessons of experience are costly and enduring. Capitalists that now look beyond the present and comprehend the enduring basis upon which the mining industry of this country is to be founded, may reap a harvest that will not be found when the real facts are demonstrated.—*Miner's Review*.

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Holts and Nuts,	Bells for Churches, Fire Alarm, etc.	Gage Glasses, Steam Gages,
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OILS of all descriptions,	Pumps, Steam and Hand,	Injectors, Inspirators,
Packings and Caskets,	Piping and Fittings,	Shovels, ALL STEEL,
And Supplies of every description.		STEEL, Black Diamond,
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		Safety Lamps and Fittings,
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		Wire Ropes and Screens,
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Patent Top'd Salmon Twine,	Seal Srawl, do
Salmon Trawl Twine	Mackerel Twine,
Tr ut Twines,	Caplin Twines,
Mullet Twines,	Herring Twines,
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ENGLISH ALE AND BROWN STOUT.  
LOWER WATER STREET, HALIFAX.

## MINING—Continued.

In his speech at the opening of the Provincial Legislature, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor said: While the general condition of trade during the past year was far from satisfactory, gratifying and encouraging features were not wanting. A more than usually favorable season enabled our farmers to gather an abundant harvest, the output of our coal mines was but little less than that of the previous year, and the product of our gold mines was larger than for many years before.

In moving the reply in the address, Mr. McCoy said: It is a curious thing—and I would like to call the attention of the house to the fact—that the decrease in the sales of coal has been in the consumption in the province of Nova Scotia alone, while the amount consumed on the Intercolonial during the year has been no less than 152,590 tons, while the amount shipped to Quebec in excess of the previous year was 335,497 tons, it certainly must be very gratifying to the coal owners of this country to find a market in that province as well as in this province and in the United States. During the last year the gold fields of the province have increased very rapidly. When we think of the figures alone, that the miners of this country have taken out of the earth 21,500 ounces of gold of the value of \$16 an ounce—no less than \$344,000—it is a matter on which we congratulate every member of this house. We can only hope that this increase will continue and will be the means of bringing a much larger population into the province, which it so much requires.

Mr. Fraser in seconding the reply to the address, said: In reference to mines, it is gratifying to know that our coal miners have been in a measure successful, and it must be gratifying to the government to find their receipts from the mines nearly as large as ever before. But when we remember that the output has fallen off considerably there must have been a little squeezing to enable the government to get as much royalty as last year. My view would be to abolish the royalty, and if possible make that industry free as every other industry is free. Men embark their capital in it, but in every ton of coal they raise the government must have a certain sum. That trade, therefore, is not on an equality with the other trades of the province, but I hope to see the day when it will be placed upon an equality.

Referring to our gold mines I think the outlook for the future is hopeful. I have been personally interested in that branch of our industries, and I presume there are other gentlemen in the house who have also tried their luck in it. To me at least it has always proved fascinating. I have lately seen a discussion in some of our journals in which it was urged that the government should undertake to prove whether or not there is a second pay streak. It is a fact that on no lead as yet discovered in Nova Scotia has a second pay streak been found. The geologists and practical miners agree that in all probability it may exist and is to be found by sinking a shaft some hundreds of feet into the bowels of the earth. No company in the province is able to do that work, and therefore I believe it to be the duty of the government to facilitate it by granting to some company such aid as would enable them to sink such a shaft.

Mr. Bell said: The facts referred to by the honorable member for Shelburne with regard to what might be called our peculiarly local industries, our coal mines, our gold mines and our fisheries, were pleasing to listen to. I was particularly struck with the fact stated by him that, while our coal trade, so far as the home consumption is concerned, is not as prosperous as it has been, yet our trade with Quebec has largely increased. I felt that that honorable gentleman and the government of which he is a supporter would like, if they were situated otherwise, to congratulate the national policy on the good effect manifested in this respect, a good effect which, I presume, we owe to that national policy.

We agree with our contemporary THE CRITIC, in its opinion that an attempt should be made to prove whether deep mining would or would not pay. The cost would be considerable, but some risks must be taken, and if this second pay streak is found to exist, another great source of material wealth will be given our country. Gold mining is yearly developing in Nova Scotia, and judging by the discoveries made within the past year or two, appears yet to be only in its infancy.—*Bridgewater Monitor*.

An exhibit of coinage of gold, silver and copper, in the Republic of Mexico from the first of July, 1872, to the 30th of June, 1885, indicating approximately the precious metal product of the country for the years named, furnishes the following totals: Gold, \$7,930,540; silver, \$288,974,126; copper, \$226,110; grand total, \$295,140,776.

CARLTON.—Gold was discovered at Carleton, in this county, a few days ago, by Mr. James Durkee, on his property. Applications for licenses to work have already been made to the mines office in Halifax, among them one from Mr. Durkee for 40 acres.—*Yarmouth Times*.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.—The report of the United States Geological Survey shows that the mining industries of the United States are assuming giant proportions. Not less than \$800,000,000 is invested in mining enterprises as productive capital, and over 400,000,000 people are furnished employment, and the mining product of the United States for the year 1884 had a value of \$413,104,620.

The company working the Newfoundland mine in Colorado, are taking out some excellent ore. The last shipment to the stamp mill yielded fifty-two ounces of gold from ten cords of dirt.—*Chicago Mining Review*.

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## Twenty-Second Annual Statement

OR  
The Travelers  
INSURANCE COMPANY,  
OF HARTFORD, CONN.

Cash Capital, \$600,000.

Assets, \$8,417,038.21

Liabilities, 6,321,199.33

Surplus, \$2,095,838.88

## Life Department.

No. of Policies written to date, 41,300

New Life Insurance written in

1885, \$5,645,200

Gain during year in amount in

force, \$2,477,400

Paid Life Policy - Holders to

date, \$3,290,175

Paid Life Policy - Holders in 1885, \$379,433

## Accident Department.

No. Policies written to date, 1,185

No. written in 1885, 108

No. Claims paid to date, 137

No. paid in 1885, 17

Total Claims paid, \$8,145,151

Amount paid in 1885, \$885,012

GAINED IN ASSETS. GAINED IN SURPLUS  
GAINED IN NUMBER OF POLICIES ISSUED  
GAINED IN LIFE INSURANCE WRITTEN  
GAINED IN AMOUNT OF LIFE INSURANCE  
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**New and Elegant Designs**

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that cannot be equalled in the Dominion for the price.

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Dear Sir,—When you visited me in the latter part of January, I had been given up to die of consumption by a consultation of physicians, who considered that my recovery was simply impossible. I had no hope myself, nor had my family. When you expressed a hope of my recovery, it was received with a good deal of doubt. Confined to my bed, with low, weak, wasted, night sweats very bad troublesome cough, raising large quantities of matter, in fact every appearance of a speedy death. After using your Respirator and Spirometer, and medicines, I began to recover very fast, so much so that during three hard winter months I have gained from 20 to 25 lbs., and was able to walk out on Easter Sunday. My strength is daily increasing, and I shall be able soon to be at work. To you I owe a deep sense of gratitude, and am anxious for others who are suffering as I was, to consult you. You can make what use of this letter you see fit, and thanking you for what I consider a most wonderful treatment. I remain yours truly,  
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