

## CITY CHIMES.

Everything in, around and about the city is exceedingly quiet and the weather and politics furnish the chief topics of conversation. The political meeting on Saturday evening in the Academy of Music was largely attended by both Liberals and Liberal Conservatives, the building being filled to the uttermost. Seats were reserved for ladies, a goodly number of whom took advantage of the opportunity to acquaint themselves more fully with the all absorbing questions of public interest. The platform was decorated with foliage plants and at the back of the stage a banner bearing the words "Welcome to our Leaders, Kenny, Thompson, Tupper, Stairs," was displayed. Of course it was a grand gathering of the faithful around the tery standard, but Tories and Grigs alike, with the exception of a few who wished to be funny, listened attentively to the addresses of the Conservative leaders. Hon. Charles H. Tupper was not able to be present on account of illness, but Sir John S. D. Thompson and Messrs. Kenny and Stairs very ably presented the issues of their party. The meeting closed with the national anthem.

The boys' branch of the Young Men's Christian Association gave an exhibition of class drill for the benefit of their mothers, sisters and lady friends on Wednesday afternoon. The branch association now numbers twenty-five members composed of boys from eleven to sixteen years of age. Classes for the instruction of the school boys are held on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at four o'clock, and a special class for the benefit of boys who are employed in the city is held on Monday evening from eight to nine o'clock. This branch organization was only formed some two months ago and has already accomplished much. We would strongly advise the boys to join these ranks and take advantage of the benefits to be derived therefrom.

We note that fashion authorities state that the enthusiasm for the souvenir spoon is declining with significant rapidity. Like everything else it had its day. Leading modistes say that puffed sleeves have also had their day and that in the very near future ladies will discard them for the small plain sleeves, which have for long been considered obsolete.

On Friday evening last, although the weather was anything but agreeable, the lecture room of St. Andrew's Church was well filled, Professor Macdonald's lecture on "Time" being the attraction. Rev. D. M. Gordon, the pastor of the church, occupied the chair and introduced the lecturer. The subject is an interesting one and was ably treated by Professor Macdonald on this occasion. Simple and striking illustrations were given to bring out the many strong points of the discourse, and throughout the audience listened attentively and at times enthusiastically applauded. Professor Macdonald possesses a happy faculty of fitting in quaint phrases or apt anecdotes and thus making his lectures attractive and thoroughly enjoyable as well as highly instructive. The Institute of St. Andrew's Church is to be congratulated on the success of this effort to afford the public a treat, and to Professor Macdonald our thanks are due for the pleasant evening spent with him.

A poem which is now going the rounds of the press recites the woes of the type-writer girl somewhat in the same strain as Hood's Song of the Shirt, although there is no attempt at parody. It appears to hit off fairly well one of the evils of the day, for it is well known the business woman is very liable to keep at her work until she is ready to drop. If she falls sick she is tempted to work as long as she can drag herself to the office. She may be fully aware of the value of a stitch in time, otherwise a day in bed or within doors, but she also remembers the applicants for her place if she is remiss in her duty. The business woman may see more of the world and wear better clothes than the housekeeper, but the latter has the advantage of being able to put off until to-morrow what she has no strength to do to-day. Business men who employ girls should bear in mind that they are not mere machines, and that their faithful service should be rewarded by all the consideration they have in their power to show. The conscience of the man whose type writer girl dies of the "clickety click," like the girl in the poem, must be unusually tough.

The entertainments which Professor Semon has been furnishing this week for the benefit of the charitable organizations of the city have been well worthy of patronage. On Monday and Wednesday evenings the proceeds were devoted to the Poor's Association, while those of Tuesday's and Thursday's entertainments were for the benefit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and this evening's proceeds will go to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. Saturday afternoon there will, as usual, be a matinee and in the evening an exhibition of wonderworking. Professor Semon appears to have a warm heart and is deserving of the thanks of our citizens for this generous movement to assist the worthy poor among us. Zera gives an interesting entertainment and the evenings at the Lyceum Theatre will be much missed by his large host of patrons. The closing entertainment will be given on Monday evening for the benefit of the widow and orphans of the late W. D. F. Smith, the well known journalist of this city. This worthy object, coupled with the fact of its being positively Zera's last appearance for some time to come, should ensure a full house. Zera will not leave Halifax, but we are told will open a restaurant at the corner of Argyle and Jacob Streets, and there dispense a large variety of new and tempting viands. This establishment will bear the quaint title "Pepper-Pot Kitchen" and will doubtless rapidly grow in popularity.

It has been said that the weather is like the Government—always in the wrong. It is certainly true that we find too much fault with each season, but one thing we feel confident of is that comparatively little fault is being

found with the fine winter weather we are enjoying just now. We began this week well; Sunday was clear and bright, the ground frozen, the air sharp and invigorating and we hoped the long looked for winter had really arrived, but alas for our great expectations; Monday's temperature was milder and the day ended in mist and mud. On Tuesday the rain descended in torrents all day and on Wednesday morning we were treated to a rare sight indeed, that of snow over all, though not enough to be of any use except to make the walking a little more unpleasant when the thaw may come. Whether the weather is to blame or no, we have rarely had so much sickness in our midst as during the present season. As in other places the fashionable malady, which bears the very appropriate and expressive appellation, La Grippe, has secured a firm footing in our city by the sea, and several deaths resulting therefrom have occurred.

The ladies of Toronto had the opportunity a short time ago of listening to a lecture by Mrs. Jerness Miller, the great exponent of dress reform. From all reports of this charming woman's views we should say they are eminently sensible, and deserving of the serious consideration of heavy-skirted, tight-banded, uncomfortably and fashionably attired womankind. It is always a good thing for a theory of any sort when its advocate is one worthy of respect, and we think it not unlikely that Mrs. Miller's beautiful figure, and especially her lovely plump white neck, which she gives the credit of to her system of dress, will do a good deal towards impressing the merits of her reformed garments on the women before whom she appears. It is a pity that our Halifax ladies cannot have an opportunity of hearing what Mrs. Miller has to say of dress, for to judge by the narrowness of some of the waists we see there must be a corresponding narrowness of mind afflicting some people.

Rev. Mr. Bond's lecture in Brunswick St. Methodist Church on Tuesday evening was, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, well attended. The subject was "The Land of the Pharaohs," and the lecturer held the close attention of his audience from beginning to close. The stereopticon views by which the lecture was illustrated throughout are of an unusually fine character, and greatly assisted the audience in following Mr. Bond in the journey through Egypt, and afforded a rare opportunity to gain a knowledge of the land in which we are all more or less interested, but which a large number of our people will probably never visit. Many of these views are from photographs taken by Mr. Bond during his travels in Egypt in 1887. Journeying from Alexandria to Cairo the audience was treated to views of the great pyramids, mosques, palaces, Port Said, the Suez Canal, copies of the earliest sculptures ever produced, mummy faces of our fellow creatures who inhabited the land six thousand years ago, pictures of the great Pharaoh of Red Sea fame, etc., etc. This first lecture of the course may be pronounced a success in every sense of the word, and the Reapers' Mission Band of Brunswick St. Church, under whose auspices the series is given, have every reason to feel highly gratified. Rev. Mr. Bond's next lecture will be given on February 9th, when he will give an account of his experiences "Round and about Jerusalem," which will doubtless prove very interesting and instructive.

We have many fine drug stores in our city and not least among them ranks the new establishment opened last week by Mr. H. W. Cameron on Brunswick St., two doors north of Hurd's Lane. Mr. Cameron is an enterprising young man who has until lately been connected with the drug business of Messrs. Buckley Brothers, and his many friends will be pleased to note this indication of progress and will no doubt gladly extend their patronage. The store presents a very attractive appearance, viewed both from within and without. The walls are prettily papered, the counter and shelves are in handsome stained wood, and the front of the dispensing department is ornamented with a plate glass mirror and colored glass. The windows are of plate glass and are very tastefully arranged. Every facility for accurate work is afforded in the dispensing department, and Mr. Cameron may well feel proud of his compact establishment and we feel sure he has the best wishes of a large circle of patrons.

Messrs. John Silver & Co. and Messrs. G. M. Smith & Co., two of the large dry goods firms of Granville St., have this week dressed the windows of their establishments in a very effective style expressing the universal grief at the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. In the window of Messrs. Silver & Co. the decoration partakes of a military character, referring to the connection of the late Prince with the British army. A regimental staff draped in black with mourning tassels and funeral wreaths displays the Royal Standard of England at half mast and draped with crape borderings surmounted by the crest of the Prince of Wales in black feathers. The north window of Messrs. G. M. Smith & Co. shows a large picture of the late Prince Albert Victor, which is appropriately draped with black and is surrounded by mourning materials tastefully arranged. These displays have attracted much attention and are expressive of the general public feeling. Photographs of the lamented Prince and the late Cardinal Manning are exhibited in the north window of the London Drug Store, Hollis St. Flags have been at half mast all over the city and a salute of sixty minute guns were fired from the citadel, commencing at four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. A memorial service was held at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning, the day of the funeral of His Royal Highness, in Garrison church, Rev. F. E. Norman Lee, chaplain of the forces, officiating. Rev. R. H. Ballock, D. C. L., honorary chaplain to the Queen, delivered an address. The band of the Leicestershire Regiment played the Dead March in Saul, and the whole service was exceedingly solemn and affecting. The usual mourning will be worn by all officers of the Imperial Forces in memory of the Duke of Clarence until February 26th.