

CITY CHIMES.

The presentation of the popular play "School" at the Academy of Music on Tuesday evening last by an amateur theatrical club drew a large house, which was well deserved. The plot was easily followed, and as the acting was good and the play well put on, a thoroughly enjoyable evening was passed. Among the ladies the part of Mrs. Sutcliffe taken by Mrs. G. Morrow is deserving of special mention. Mrs. Morrow was costumed according to a bygone generation and in her acting she displayed at once quiet dignity and intensity of feeling. Like Dr. Sutcliffe we too fell violently in love with Bella. The part of this charity scholar who afterwards became Lady Beau-froy was charmingly taken by Miss Roberts, whose natural unaffected manner added not a few to her score of admirers. The part of Naomi Tighe, the school girl heiress, was taken in a spirited manner by Mrs. W. Tobin who is unquestionably one of our very best Halifax amateurs. Capt. Vowell of the Leicestershire Regiment, who represented Lord Beau-froy, was far and away one of the best amateur performers we have ever heard, and it is evident that this gentleman has a pronounced talent for theatricals. Mr. Krux, the assistant master, was so horribly real that the audience almost forgot that the part was being taken by such a popular young man as Mr. L. Fuller. Beau Farintosh, Capt. Duffus, R. A., did some excellent acting which was thoroughly appreciated. Dr. Sutcliffe and Jack Poyntz may have been heard to advantage in the front seats, but the greater portion of the audience either missed what these gentlemen had to say or had to listen in painfully constrained positions. Our Academy is a good sized building and amateurs who wish to be heard should remember the fact. The young ladies who acted as pupils were Miss Anna Stairs, Miss Grace Uniacke, Miss Clara Nagle, Miss Hattie Albro, Miss May Farrell and Miss Kate Kenny. These ladies were very prettily attired, although a very amateur effect was produced by the dress skirts falling to their full length behind while in front they were raised several inches. According to our mannish ideas skirts should never be built this way. The young ladies had their hair very beautifully and naturally dressed, the tallest being conspicuous for the wealth and beauty of her tresses. The time between the acts was unnecessarily long, but as the Leicestershire band discoursed remarkably bright and taking music the minutes flew quickly by. Taken all in all the performance was one of the best ever produced by amateurs upon the Academy boards, and we heartily congratulate those interested upon the success of their efforts.

The reception to have been held last evening by the President and Officers of the Women's Auxiliary of the Church of England Institute was postponed on account of the storm. The ladies had spared no pains to ensure the success of their undertaking and the enjoyment of the many friends they expected to partake of their hospitality on this occasion.

A large audience assembled in the lecture room of St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday evening to enjoy the readings by Rev. James Carruthers, of Charlottetown. This gentleman is a successful elocutionist, and on this occasion delighted his many hearers with his pleasing renditions of the pieces selected. The programme also contained several musical numbers, all of which were well given, and added not a little to the enjoyment of the entertainment. Mr. Carruthers has this week completed a course of instruction in elocution at Pine Hill Theological College which cannot fail to be of great advantage to the students in attendance.

The third concert of the Orpheus Club was held on Thursday evening of last week and was unanimously pronounced a success. The audience was large and every available seat in the Hall was occupied. The programme consisted of fourteen numbers, each of which was rendered in a most satisfactory manner. The Orchestra of the Club did its work well, and fully merited the hearty applause which expressed the approbation of the audience. The Club and Ladies Auxiliary are to be congratulated on the excellent rendition of their selections. Encores were frequent and enthusiastic, and the whole entertainment may be characterized as a genuine musical treat. Mr. J. B. Currie's song "Love Me Beloved," was very pleasing, and Mr. D. C. Gillis earned an encore for "Star of My Heart." Mrs. H. B. Hegarty was greeted with much warmth, and in "Because of Thee" fully sustained her reputation as a favorite with Halifax music-lovers. Her response to the encore in "Let Me Dream Again," charmed her many admirers. Mrs. J. McD. Taylor's effective voice was heard to advantage in "The Cloister Gate." Miss Madeleine Homer sang magnificently and rendered the heroic part of "Fair Ellen" with pleasing effect. Herr Doring gave a Cello Solo, accompanied by Frau Marianne Doring Brauer, and was most vigorously encored. This third concert was undoubtedly a success, and the Orpheus Club, Ladies Auxiliary and Orchestra, each and all, may feel justly proud of the artistic manner in which the several numbers of the programme were rendered. One little complaint we must make, however, of the management of these popular concerts. Could not the door at the entrance to the hall be opened wider than is at present customary, in order that the undignified scramble for admission might be avoided. Ladies and gentlemen do not appreciate the "hard work" necessary to gain an entrance in time to secure a desirable seat, and an onlooker is forcibly impressed by the rude confusion of the scene, and is prone to wonder if the select four hundred of Halifax is particularly goodnatured that this state of affairs is countenanced, or if it implicitly believes in the maxim that anything worth having is worth striving for. It has been suggested that part of the Orpheus Hall be reserved, a suggestion, we think, worthy of serious consideration; but if it be possible to widen the entrance to the Hall, we think the improvement would be appreciated by all patrons of the subscription concerts.

A cold wave rolled over our city on Saturday last, and those who during

the balmy days that preceded it had fondly imagined that "gentle spring" was going to glide in at once experienced a rude shock. Cold, piercing winds and a drifting snow storm have forced us to realize that although we have had an unusually mild season the characteristics of wild March have not changed, and we are evidently not to be spared the usual severities. The ice at the rink is good and the skaters are making the most of the present advantages. There are few signs of spring as yet, but in all probability 'twill not be long before the organ grinder and the travelling piano appear on the scene to charm our ears with sweet melodies, which though not as welcome as "the flowers that bloom in the spring tra la" are unfaillingly the sure forerunners.

The young people connected with the Sunbeam Mission Band of Grafton Street Methodist Church gave a good concert in their school room on Tuesday evening. The programme included vocal and instrumental music, recitations, etc., and an address by the pastor of the church, Rev. Mr. Moore. Refreshments were for sale and the young folks who so creditably managed the entertainment are deserving of commendation.

The ladies are beginning to plan their new spring gowns, and the opening of new goods is eagerly awaited. The buyers for our large dry goods houses have gone "home," and the show days are not far distant. Meanwhile the fashion magazines are much in demand and are closely studied by the fair ones in order that the most appropriate designs may be selected in readiness for the days when the dressmaker takes possession. The long basques and jackets do not appear frequently in the latest books, and the many to whom this style was most unbecoming may therefore rejoice. Blouse waists are still in favor, but are made in such elaborate manner that the first idea of an unceremonious attire seems to have been lost. However, these blouses combine elegance and ease, are very becoming to slender girlish figures and as well are decidedly economical. One feature of the spring fashions to be severely frowned down is the demi-train on the skirts. How many of our ladies are going to stand firm in a resolve to be old-fashioned rather than allow their dainty gowns to be used as street-sweepers. Fashion's a merciless tyrant, and it is pitiful to see so many following in the footsteps of the martyr to style who makes her plaint thusly:—

"If I only had the courage to endure the scornful smiles
Of my fellow female creatures, I would cling to olden styles,
But my newest gowns I'm making with a hateful, horrid 'dip,'
Over which some luckless mortal will (some day) be sure to trip."

It is to be sincerely hoped that when our fair ones in Halifax think of the dusty streets of our beloved city they will reason wisely and refuse to adopt the prevailing mode of wearing trailing street dresses.

The popular Professor Zera Simon has this week opened a coffee-house at the corner of Argyle and Jacob Streets and is prepared to cater to the public in a most efficient manner. The premises have been thoroughly fitted up to suit the requirements of the Professor's new business, and the ingenuity displayed in the arrangement of the rooms is worthy of note. The lunch room is tastefully furnished, and every comfort is afforded patrons. Professor Simon assures us that he is prepared to supply a large number of delicious dishes new to Halifaxian palates and sure to delight the most refined and epicurean tastes. His oyster stews and clam chowders he claims will rival any yet produced in the city and his "popper-pot" is said to be a most savory edible. Hot and cold lunches and dinners may be obtained at any hour of the twenty-four, for Zera proposes to keep open all night and is determined to make his restaurant a valuable addition to the city. Tea, coffee and milk will always be on hand, but positively no liquors or the so called "temperate drinks" are to be sold in this establishment. All the breads and cakes are made in Zera's own kitchen (which by the way is situated at the top of the building and is a model of cleanliness and convenience), and cannot fail to please as soon as sampled. We feel quite sure Professor Simon's efforts to provide our citizens with a first-class coffee-house will be appreciated by the public and that this appreciation will be practically demonstrated. Among the many delicacies offered is real Virginia sugar-cured ham, a rare treat for Nova Scotians to enjoy. The Professor's prices are moderate and we trust he may be accorded the patronage he merits.

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