

burned till Candlemas eve, kept out the severe cold weather. There was an abundance of music, riddles, hot-cockles, snap-dragon jokes, laughter, forfeits and dances. The large bowls of punch never failed to please the merry makers. The favorite and first dish on Christmas day was a soused boar's head, which was borne to the principal table with great state and solemnity.

The common custom of decking the houses and churches at Christmas with evergreens is nearly altogether an English custom. The holly, ivy, rosemary, bay, laurel and mistletoe furnished the favorite trimmings.

The celebration of Christmas now in England has lost its noisy character, and family reunions and evergreen decorations of houses and churches are nearly all that remain of the various rough sports which used to mark the festival.

Editorial Notes.

The long talked of Fair was held Wednesday and Thursday the 5th and 6th inst., in the new Art Gallery and was a great success. It opened at one o'clock Wednesday afternoon and for both days it was kept up until ten o'clock at night. The object of this fair is to fit up picture galleries for the Mt. Allison Museum of Fine Arts. The ladies of Sackville and other towns took a great interest in it, and presented some beautiful and delicate work. The tables were loaded with handsome and costly articles. The fancy table which first attracted the eye was on the right-hand side, and as it was called the linen table and was nicely decorated it presented a very pretty appearance. The china painting also deserves mention, for it was certainly exquisitely painted and was one of the chief attractions of the fair. The Japanese and art tables also looked very pretty. Candy and ice cream were in great demand, large profits being realized thereby. Suppers and oysters were served up in good style. The band was in attendance and by giving some choice selections they made the evening much more enjoyable. The Fair realized the sum of four hundred and thirty dollars on Wednesday, and one hundred and eighty five dollars on Thursday, making a total of six hundred and fifteen dollars. The college girls were allowed to attend in the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, and nearly all of them availed themselves of the opportunity. They were also allowed to go Thursday afternoon, providing they came home in time for study hour. On the whole the ladies are much pleased with their success.

The Mission band of Mt. Allison Ladies College is composed of about forty members, meeting monthly in one of the college school-rooms. The band was started by the college girls and its object is to educate, clothe, and board a little Japanese girl. Although forty members are enrolled they do not all attend the meeting regularly. Sometimes the officers get very much discouraged, and lately for a time they thought that there were so few members present that it could not be kept up, but we know that they are over the crisis by this time. Last meeting it was quite an encouragement to find twenty members present. On Monday, the 2nd inst., the members were much pleased to receive a visit from Miss Hart, a missionary from Japan, who now lives in town, but intends going back again in the course of two years. She read them a report of how the work in Japan was progressing, and also talked to and encouraged them in their work. They aim at raising fifty dollars yearly, and for this purpose mite-boxes are distributed among the members. A missionary from Japan, Mr Balderston, lectured at Beethoven Hall about two weeks ago, and the proceeds, which amounted to about seventeen dollars, were handed over

to the Mission Band. We hope that great success in the future may attend all the members and officers of the Band in their great and noble work. And we also hope the little girl for whom all this pains is taken may become apt and brilliant scholar, and amply reward her kind friends for all the pains they have taken in her behalf.

Christmas is coming. With what a thrill of pleasure we think of this fact, and particularly those girls who are away from home, for it is so pleasant to think of spending Christmas at home. The college girls have two weeks holidays which to rest and prepare themselves for the coming school term. As it is customary to have examinations at the end of each term all the girls are preparing for them. When these examinations are over, with what delight do we look forward and plan for the two weeks of pleasure. What good times and what fun we intend having, and how we hate to think of coming back again, for these two weeks at home will be so enjoyably spent taking in everything as it were. However, the day of parting comes, and we begin to pack. It makes one very lonely to think of not seeing the faces we love for five long months. But when we are at school again these months will pass all too quickly. The second term at school is always very lively, there being plenty of concerts and receptions to while away the time, although we do not approve of going to everything. There are also a great number of girls present, and that helps in a great measure to make things more lively. It is said we are to have a few school next term, and we then hope for successful and faithful work.

The Eclectic Society was started and is now carried on by the College girls. Its name signifies a literary society, but most persons do not consider it as such. It holds its meetings every second Saturday night from eight-thirty to nine o'clock, and sometimes later. The meeting is opened with a few verses from the Bible, then the roll called, and the minutes of the last meeting are read. The programme for the evening is then commenced, and the young ladies are lightly entertained by tableaux, solos, recitations, &c., &c. It has been moved that we have a debate for next meeting, and it is hoped the members of the Society will take a deep interest in this, and will stick to their purpose of carrying out this plan. We hope that in the future earnest efforts will be made to change this Society into a literary character, so that by going to these meetings we may improve our minds and come away from it greatly benefited.

THE NEW CZAR.

BY THISTLE.

In the last issue you were given a short sketch of the late Czar of Russia, Alexander III., and on that account we thought you might be interested in his son Nicholas, who is his successor. Nicholas was born in May, 1868, being now 26 years of age. He is short and rather delicate looking. He is said to bear a marked resemblance to his cousin the Duke of York. Much of his life has been spent in travel. Some five years ago he went to England, to Denmark and to Germany, yet studying was his only pleasure, being a very literary man the amount of information that he managed to obtain, and carry back to Russia, made the old Czar uneasy. He decided that it was inhuman and ridiculous to punish the Jews. But what seemed to displease his father most was that he had become the devoted admirer and friend of the Emperor of Germany.

His betrothed, Princess Alix Victoria Helene Loui Beatrix, the daughter of the Grand Duke of Hesse, Darmstadt and Princess Alix of Great Britain, was be-