

CITY AND CARNIVAL CHIMES.

Mrs. Watson's dance on the 1st inst. was a most thoroughly enjoyable and successful one. There was not, as is generally the case, the whole of the society of Halifax present, but just people sufficient to fill the ballroom comfortably, a state of things the dancers undoubtedly appreciated. Many of our hospitable Halifax ladies would do well to follow Mrs. Watson's lead in this respect, and invite to their dances only as many as their houses can with comfort accommodate and not double that number. A crush must necessarily be an unhappy entertainment. Some stand until they ache all over. Others get wedged into crowds from which it is next to impossible to exhumate them, while the dancers find their partners jostle and bump and tread upon each other until they feel physically unfit to continue in the fray, retire exhausted to a seat, if there is one. Others again spend one half of a dance in a struggling endeavor to reach their respective partners, each of whom, ever since the music began, has been distinctly visible in a remote corner, or supporting a distant wall with that impenetrable crowd between. After pushing manfully through, and being rewarded with a reproachful "the dance is half done," you get your fair partner to the ball room, and are about to take the first turn, when lo! a flourish of sound and a sudden cessation of the same announce that you have just got there "in time for the last car." Nothing of this kind was seen at Admiralty House, where there was plenty of room and air, and seats enough for everyone. There were four young debutantes whose pretty faces will be a welcome addition to our gaieties.

The long-prepared-for Carnival opened on Monday afternoon with a regatta on the harbor. The morning was as fine as could be desired, bright and sunny; the afternoon was cloudy, but very pleasant, and the water was just right for racing, calm and smooth; the evening—the less said about it the better—for it poured rain, and the concert at the Gardens was completely "knocked out." The harbor was gay with boats of all sizes and descriptions crowded with people watching the sports. Some of the races were exceedingly well contested and were worth seeing. In most of them there were a good number of starters, and the scene, as viewed from the Press boat *Goliath*, was very pretty. In the professional single scull race Hosmer was first, McKay second, and Lovett third. Time of winner 20.40. In the professional four-oared race the "West End Crew," of Boston, was first, the Bolyea crew, of St. John, second, and the Spain-Norris crew, of Halifax, third. Amateur races, especially those of the boats of H. M. Ships, were very interesting, but we have not space for details. A really grand contest was the race between the Men-of-War barges, 10 and 12 oars, which, however, was won by the *Bendigo*, *Leucellyn* second, and one of the *Bellerophon* crews third. It was growing late, and a drizzling rain had set in, so the Amateur Races were postponed until Tuesday, the flat race having first been rowed, resulting in a victory for the *Mary Alice*, *Lena* second, and *Stranger* third. Some comic boats and crews created much amusement, one rigged like a barque, with five very florid-looking women (!) in it, was propelled by shovels in the hands of these amazons. Unfortunately "a little summer shower," a fore-runner of the evening's deluge, somewhat marred the fun during the latter part of the afternoon. There were parties of ladies and gentlemen on the ships of war, and a great many private parties in all sorts of craft. The attractions in the evening were well patronized, and most of those who had intended going to the concert in the Gardens consoled themselves at the Minstrel show in the Academy of Music or at the Athletic exhibition in the Exhibition building. There were no accidents reported, and the first day of the Carnival passed off well. The street decorations are very pretty, all the bunting obtainable in the city being displayed, and some of the store windows are very creditable to those whose taste and labor has been expended on them.

According to programme the troops mustered at their several drill sheds etc., at 6.30 a. m., Tuesday morning, and proceeded to the common, where the march-past took place at 7.30. We have not space to particularise, and it must suffice to say that all the corps brought on the ground acquitted themselves well, the militia vying with the perfect marching of the Duke of Wellington's. After the usual march-past evolutions had been gone through the troops were directed on the points where the attack was to be made by the boats of the squadron. These unfortunately were but few, and it was evident, from the strength of the defending force, that had the attack of so small a squadron been a reality its constituents would have been swept from the face of the waters. It goes without saying that the calculated result was a repulse. Had it been, as we have said, real warfare it would have been destruction. Had the admiral seen fit to order the three powerful ships in harbor to sustain the attack there would have been grounds for a different conclusion, as the fire of their heavy and machine guns might and would have rendered the position of the defenders untenable. We must however take the results according to the conditions imposed in the conception, and we must also bear in mind that had the ships taken part in the mimic warfare, the whole of the formidable harbor defences would have been also brought to bear upon them. The harbor was gay with many steamers and pleasure boats, and the weather was all that could be desired, the absence of a strong sunny glare affording an atmosphere in which, to use one of the terms of a naval log-book, "visibility of distant objects" was a prominent feature. Altogether Tuesday morning did much to retrieve the damper of Monday night's rain.

An incident occurred during the trip of the *Halifax* with the Press Representatives on board after the boat attack on Tuesday, which calls for a somewhat special mention. Passing close to the French war steamer *Roland*, that vessel with great courtesy dipped her colors to the *Halifax*. That this civility was allowed to pass without acknowledgement by the Press

Steamer, though unfortunate, was not, we think, a matter of blame to her officers. These, we believe, were all "forward," and we do not think there was a single person belonging to the vessel any where near the ensign-staff. A gentleman among the passengers who observed the impending discourtesy endeavored to find an officer but could not succeed in pushing through the crowd in time. His first feeling being a natural diffidence as to doing anything unauthorised on board another man's ship, took precedence of the idea that he might perhaps have ventured to run aft and dip the ensign himself, but there was not time for a second thought. It is our intention to send a copy of THE CRITIC containing this notice to Captain Rouston of the *Roland* in order that Halifaxians may be exonerated in the opinion of himself and his officers from an appearance of boorish discourtesy.

The weather on Tuesday was perfect for outdoor sports, and thousands of visitors crowded the Riding Grounds in the afternoon, filling the two grand stands, and overflowing into the spare ground inside the enclosed race track. Here were witnessed a series of interesting military and naval sports, including gun drill, dismounting and mounting heavy ordnance by teams of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, tilting at rings, lemon cutting and tent pegging by the officers of the garrison, musical physical drill, (a most delightful and interesting performance) tugs of war, blindfold wheelbarrow races, Victoria Cross Race, and other events too numerous to particularize. A more delighted audience it would be impossible to gather together and it was six o'clock before it dispersed. In the tent pegging and lemon cutting contests the fine riding of the officers and the skill displayed drew great applause as they cantered to the starting point after each successful rally. The following were the prize winners. Tent pegging, prize silver cup.—Capt. Rawson, R.E., first, making 18 points: Major Maunsel, Mil. Secretary, second, and Lt. Price, R.E., third. Lemon cutting, prize Silver Cup.—Lt. Douglas, R.A., first; Capt. Rawson, R.E., second. Tilting at rings, prize silver bangles.—Capt. Jenkins, A. D. C., first; Major Maunsel, second.

The Cricket match between the Wanderers and the Staten Island eleven, which had been begun on Monday was continued on Tuesday, and resulted in a victory for the Staten Islanders by 10 runs.

At three o'clock there was a fine game of baseball played between the Lovells, a famous Boston team, and the Socials, which resulted in a victory for the home team by a score of 8 to 3. This game was witnessed by a large crowd, every available inch of space being occupied.

In the evening there was a concert and fireworks in the Gardens, which were thronged to such an extent that locomotion was at times almost impossible. The continuation of the military and naval sports at the Exhibition Rink, a moonlight excursion on the harbor, and a minstrel troupe, at the Academy—a varied bill of amusements, were witnessed by enormous crowds.

In the Exhibition building the tugs-of-war excited the utmost enthusiasm, a stalwart team of stevedores from Halifax gaining five successive victories over army and navy competitors, and carrying off the first prize of \$60. Their last victory over a team of gigantic Royal Artillerymen was as grand an event of the kind as could be witnessed, and Halifax has reason to feel proud of the achievement of her hardy stevedores.

The sports closed with a surprise and attack, which was most realistic of actual warfare, the surgeons being on hand to dress the wounded, and the wounded being carried to the rear on stretchers. The military are to be congratulated on the perfect success of all their performances, which in point of fact were of surpassing interest to thousands.

The remainder of the aquatic sports postponed from Monday took place on Tuesday afternoon. Spectators were quite numerous notwithstanding the fact that the interest in them had pretty well died out in favor of other attractions.

The concert in the Public Gardens on Tuesday evening was an immense success. At least 12,000 people were present, the night was a perfect one, the display of fireworks was beautiful and the music furnished by two bands was delightful. No concert in the gardens was ever a greater success than this, and the thousands of visitors present were perfectly charmed.

Wednesday was a beautiful day with a warm southerly wind which caused some apprehensions of a misty evening, and a consequent spoiling of the harbor illumination. The streets were thronged with visitors and the hotels and restaurants did a great business. The first event of the day was an excursion on the steamer *Dartmouth* to Bedford. This was well patronized by the knowing ones who had a delightful sail and escaped the morning heat in town. The races at the riding grounds drew large crowds, all the stands being filled while hundreds of turnouts, fine and otherwise, lined the course and were occupied by merry parties of sight-seers. The absence of a band to lighten up the long waits between races was very much commented on but otherwise there was little to complain of outside of the evident lack of superior racing stock. The most interesting event of the day was a match race between Muffin and Tramp, ridden respectively by Messrs. Jones and Morrow and in which Muffin came out the winner.

The professional base ball match at the Royal Blues Grounds between rival Massachusetts' teams did not prove as exciting a contest as was expected, the Woven Hose Nine, of Cambridge, being evidently not up to their usual brilliant play. They were easily defeated by their opponents, the Lovells, by a score of 9 to 3. As the latter were vanquished by the Socials the day before, it will be seen that our local team is well able to hold its own against the crack teams of New England.

The illumination of the harbor on Wednesday evening was witnessed by the members of the Press from the steamer *Electra*, and was a charming spectacle. The procession of illuminated boats, the huge bonfires along the