

The past week has been a very lazy one: it has seemed like a succession of Sundays,—perpetually running out of "baccy," and finding all the shops shut. All the same for that, there is a perceptible decrease in the amount of the "ready" that filled our pockets when the holidays began.

Mr. Arthur Silver sails on Saturday in the *Vancouver* for England, to be absent the greater part of the winter.

Among the earliest of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment to permanently leave this station is Mr. Gibbs, who sails for home on Saturday. Mr. Gibbs will not rejoin his regiment until after it has gone to the West Indies.

The ladies of St. Luke's congregation gave a Christmas tree on Wednesday afternoon to a large number of children. Toys, sweets, oranges, apples and clothing seemed to be provided in abundance, as well as a good substantial tea. The day previous mothers with little children were feasted, and a large number of warm blankets distributed. Among those who are most active in this good Christmas work are Mrs. Maynard Bowman, Mrs. Richardson, Miss Wier, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Hensley and Miss Payne. Next week, we believe, the Sunday school children of St. Luke's are to have their turn.

Miss Kehoe, who has been visiting the Lieut-Governor and Mrs. Daly, leaves for Ireland on Saturday.

Among the new books by authors well-known in Halifax, are *Belief in God*, by Prof. J. G. Schurman (formerly of Dalhousie College and now of Cornell, N. Y.); and *Dr. Le Baron and His Daughters*, by Mrs. Austin, of Boston. The latter is a story dealing with certain incidents in the history of an old colonial family which has many descendants in this province and in New Brunswick. The Le Barons of Plymouth furnished several United Empire Loyalists who are represented to-day by the families of Hazen, Nicholson, De Veber, and other well-known names.

Monsieur A. Behaghel, chief justice of the superior court of St. Pierre, Miq., Madame Behaghel and their three daughters (the eldest a young lady of remarkable beauty), spent Christmas week at the Queen Hotel. They left Halifax, Saturday in the "Parisian" for England, en route to the French capital to spend the winter. The venerable jurist will also visit the mineral baths in the south of France, where he expects to find relief for a nervous melody with which he suffers. They return to America in July.

The Young Men's Literary Association held a very successful "At Home" at their rooms Poplar Grove, Wednesday evening. We are used to hearing that literary men are morose and retiring in their disposition, and that they lack good manners; but the lucky hundred who bade good bye to 1890 in the Lyceum, discovered an antithesis to this; nothing but sparkling, whole-souled hospitality and good fellowship were discernable: President P. F. Broyderick supervised the entertaining, and did it grandly. Dancing was the predominant amusement, although some others, more in keeping with the divine mission of the Association, were provided. Among the gems of the literary portion of the programme (we crave pardon for particularism) was a charming recitation by Miss Beatrice Laurance, a young lady graduate of Mount St. Vincent Academy, which showed elocutionary ability of great promise.

The present Minister of Justice, Sir John S. D. Thompson, is a past president of the Young Men's Literary Association.

Few local organizations keep so prominently before the public as St. Patrick's Temperance Society and its strong auxiliary—the well-trained St. Patrick's brass band. Hardly a month passes

without the announcement of some entertainment in which the name St. Patrick figures, and the success of these entertainments have been so undivided that the name of the good old Irish saint (some of our Presbyterian brethren contend that St. Patrick was a Scotch saint) has come to be looked upon as a synonym for success. A proof of this was the masquerade ball at St. Patrick's hall New Year's Eve. Suggested as a novel means of ushering in 1891, besides assuring an evening of healthy fun, the members took hold of the idea with such zest that some fifty couples secured tickets. Some of the costumes were excellent—they were all good. Courtiers, princes, queens, gypsies, dominoes, Turks, and even a heathen Chinee, were represented. Among the ladies were several characters which deserve special mention, particularly an excellently dressed Mary Queen of Scots, whose regal robe and stately collar breathed a memory of that admirable woman. Two nicely dressed gypsy queens read fortunes, flirted, and were indeed very pretty. A "May Blossom," dressed in purest white, several Spanish ladies and many other characters were sufficiently attractive to tax the taste of an experienced critic to single out a belle. A similar event is announced for St. Valentine's Day.

Sporting Notes.

RED-CAP SNOW SHOE CLUB PROGRAMME.

SEASON 1890-91.

Friday evening, January 9th.—Subscription dance at Masonic Hall.
Saturday, January 10.—Long race. Course—Dartmouth Common to Bedford. Club dinner at Bedford.

Saturday, January 17th.—Short races. 440 yards race—Life members' Medal. Open to Club only. 100 yards race—Captains' Cup. Open to amateurs. 150 yards race—For married men. Club prize. Open to Club only. 200 yards race—Club prize. Open to Club only. 880 yards race—Club prize. Open to amateurs. 120 yards. Hurdle race. Taylor medal. Open to amateurs.

These races will be run under the rules of the Maritime Province Amateur Athletic Association.

Saturday, January 24th.—To be announced.

" *February 7th.*—Tramp to Coalpit Lake.

" " *31st.*—Tramp down St. Margaret's Bay Road.

Other Saturdays to be announced.

All entries for the short races to be made with the Secretary, at Messrs. N. Sarro & Sons, before 6 P. M. on the day previous.

The Club will meet at Exhibition Rink every Tuesday evening at 7.45 o'clock for Tramping, and for Saturdays' Tramps at 3 o'clock.

All Regular Tramps this season will be at a moderate pace, and the Committee trust that they will be sustained by the Club in their efforts to afford a good winter's sport, by a much larger attendance than usual, especially at the afternoon tramps.

Should the weather not be favorable on the dates mentioned, the events will take place on the Saturday following.

OFFICERS.—William L. Brown, *Captain*; George DeB. Smith, *Second Captain*; James C. Lithgow, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*; R. M. Symons, Frank Grierson, *Committee*.

CURLING.—There is a movement on foot to establish a Dominion Curling Association. The Ontario and Quebec branches are taking the lead. No doubt the maritime provinces will be glad to join. It is a scheme we should very much like to see carried out, as it would, if properly worked, facilitate the arrangement of matches, and lessen the expense of sending teams from one town to another.

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