

CITY CHIMES.

A lecture will be delivered in Y. M. C. A. Hall this evening by Mr. Thomas F. Anderson of the *Boston Globe*, who is a native of Halifax. The subject is "An Evening in Nova Scotia" and no doubt many Halifaxians will be able to learn much that is new of our country, and enjoy seeing things as they are seen by others. The lecture has been delivered in Boston and found much favor there. It is to be illustrated, which will be an additional attraction.

Last Sunday was the ninetieth anniversary of the opening of St. George's Church for divine worship. Four services, at 8, 11, 4, and 7 o'clock were held, at which large congregations were present. The eleven o'clock service was a commemoration one, and the sermon by the Rector was mainly historical. In the afternoon a service of sacred music was rendered, the chief feature of which was the organ music by Rev. F. E. Lloyd, Rector of Georgetown, P. E. I. The evening service was largely attended and the Rector again preached. The music was particularly good, the congregation joining in the hymns with great spirit. It is a gratifying feature of modern times that music is becoming more and more used as a medium of worship, prayer and praise. It touches the hearts of all.

The music from the band of the *Bellerophon* is a great delight to those who are in the habit of boating on the harbor in the evenings, as well as to residents on shore who are near enough to catch the sweet strains from over the water. During the absence of the flag ship this music is much missed, and the Lorne Club are to be commended for their enterprise in arranging to have St. Patrick's band play on their pier on Thursday evenings from 8 to 10 o'clock while the ships are away. This is as it should be. We have bands enough in Halifax to supply the people with a goodly amount of music if only they were utilized as they ought to be. Point Pleasant Park should have added to its natural attractions the music of a band, which could perform in one of the summer houses on two or three evenings of the week. The money spent in this way would not be wasted, and the music would give a great deal of pleasure to those who have little opportunity to hear it otherwise.

A tennis tournament has been held on the W. A. A. C. grounds this week. Lovers of the game have been much interested in the play.

Another Halifax belle has been captured by a military man. The wedding of Miss Maggie Duffus to Captain Wood, of the West Riding Regiment, took place at St. Mark's Church yesterday at half past one o'clock.

The Public Gardens of Halifax, in which the people take so much pride, are indeed the beauty spot of the city, and the attractiveness of the place is mainly due to the artistic taste and untiring zeal of Mr. Richard Power, the well-known horticulturist. These Gardens are visited daily by hundreds of people, most of whom belong to our leisure classes, or visitors to the city, but owing to their being closed at sundown hundreds of daily trollers who would otherwise spend their evenings in the Gardens are prohibited from doing so. The Gardens Commissioners are progressive men, and they should at once grapple with the question of opening the Gardens to the public during the evenings of these beautiful summer days. The Gardens should be lighted each night until ten o'clock p.m., a policeman should be on hand to prevent vandalism, and a horn or bell should be sounded at the time of closing to prevent the necessity of clambering over the high picket fence. Let the Commissioners take this matter into consideration at once, and the Gardens will soon become a place of resort during the evening hours. The fact that the Japs drew seventy-one thousand people during their short stay here is a proof that the citizens of Halifax are so able beings, and are glad to take advantage of any opportunity of meeting their friends and neighbors. An evening band concert once a week would also be a progressive step.

BOOK REVIEW.

CHARLES FRANKLYN OF THE CAMEL CORP. By "HASMIB" LONDON, SMITH, ELDER & Co., 1890.—This is a romantic tale of the Nile Expedition, the Mahdi and the fall of Khartoum. It "consists of fact and fiction," the author tells us, not "clumsily told and badly strung together," as he adds with a conciliating modesty. The scene shifts and reshifts from Belgravia and Mayfair to the deserts and the wild life of the Soudan, which is invested with more color and picturesqueness than in any other description we have met with. The plot is of the simplest. Franklyn, who is not a hero morally, but an average British officer, is ordered to Egypt through the influence of a duchess, whose daughter he has captivated. On the voyage he falls in with a crafty and interesting Oriental, named Sulieman. This astute personage saves his life when he is taken prisoner by the Arabs, marries him by the Mahdi's orders to a lovely captive nun with a history, and afterwards, through jealousy, attempts to poison him. By bribing a friend of Sulieman's, Franklyn and his nun escape, but are overtaken. In the fight that ensues the prisoners are discomfited and Sulieman loses his life, but the nun intercepts a cut aimed at Franklyn and dies romantically, therefore enabling the hero to wed his English love, the charming lady Jane, who hastens to Cairo, in defiance of Mrs. Grundy, to nurse him in a fever induced by his various excitements and privations.

The book is written in a lively style, though there are one or two slight symptoms of amateurishness, among them the too frequent appeals to the "reader." It is an open secret that "Hasmib" is Captain H. K. Stewart, of the Gordon Highlanders, a son of Col. C. J. Stewart of Halifax.

COMMERCIAL.

Since our last review no pronounced change has occurred in the general features of trade, but the favorable signs on which hopes have for some time past been built are in a slight degree more prominent than formerly. In the first place, although crop reports are contradictory as to the position in some sections, they are looked upon as being, on the whole, favorable, while in the second the large increase in bank deposits shows that there must have been a considerable turn-over of cash somewhere. Owing to these two special causes there has prevailed a steady seasonable movement of late, while the present week exhibits increased animation of a quiet kind in lines of heavy materials and goods that enter into daily consumption—groceries especially showing pretty marked activity in the week under consideration. Allowing, therefore, that these influences will have their due effect, there is a certain amount of confidence in the future.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

| | Week Prev. | Weeks corresponding to | July 25, week. | July 25, week. | Failures for the year to date. |
|---------------|------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| | 1890 | 1890 | 1889 | 1888 | 1887 |
| United States | 186 | 181 | 221 | 217 | 163 |
| Canada | 22 | 21 | 20 | 40 | 17 |
| | 186 | 181 | 221 | 217 | 163 |
| | 6069 | 6646 | 5911 | 5701 | 5701 |
| | 912 | 951 | 1009 | 725 | 725 |

Dry Goods.—Trade in this branch rules quiet—its normal condition at this season—but some late straggling orders continue to be received. A fair sorting trade has transpired during the past week in both English and Canadian dress goods, and the volume of business is reported to be increasing in quite a number of lines. Since more favorable reports of the crops have been received a greater willingness to place fall orders is manifested. Sorting orders for Canadian tweeds have been received during the week from parties who formerly purchased British goods exclusively, thus proving that what we always maintained—that Canadian cloths are equally as good as any foreign productions in their lines—was and is correct. It is, therefore, purely a matter of sentiment that leads consumers to imagine that because they pay an extra price for foreign cloths they must necessarily get a superior article. Advices from Great Britain cite matters as very firm over there, and importers here are calculating on pretty firm prices for their spring supplies.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The improved feeling in iron contingents, and, although there is only a quiet movement in progress at the moment, the tone is good, as advices from the sources of supply indicate a steady feeling all round. In the way of actual business there is nothing special to note. Some small transactions in pig are reported. It is very unlikely that any figures than those now obtaining will be realized by buyers for some time to come. Though Summerlee is reported as firm it is probable that for round lots some shading might be allowed, other brands in proportion. Manufactured iron has ruled firm, and advices from Great Britain state that markets are well supplied with orders, and that the feeling there is steady. Hoops and bands are without change, while tin plate rules very firm in consequence of the strong feeling that has characterized the market on the other side for some time past. Latest advices report more buying on American account and a very bare market. As this has continued for some time back it is but natural that stocks should be light.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local enquiry for flour has been fair, but scarcely anything has been accomplished beyond supplying the actual consumptive demand. The reports regarding the now rapidly maturing crops are so conflicting that dealers do not care to be in haste in stocking up. Beerbohm's cable reports cargoes off coast, on passage and for shipment, wheat firmer and held higher, corn quiet but firm. Weather in England unsettled. French country markets firm. In Chicago wheat was active and strong, though the chief advance was during the latter part of the week, and was chiefly due to a good export business at New York. Cables were firm, and news from the North-West again mixed. The strength in corn helped wheat largely. The continuance of this strength depends upon the export business. Oats and corn were again higher with big buying for both local and country account. Crop advices were generally very gloomy. The New York wheat market was very firm, advancing about 1½c. on all options. At Toledo wheat was strong and active, and advanced 1½c. to 1½c. Corn and oats were unchanged.

PROVISIONS.—Provisions continue to move slowly in a jobbing way. The rather cooler weather has somewhat checked the demand for smoked meats, but prices have remained firm. The Liverpool provision market has been unchanged. The Chicago hog market was a trifle easier. Prices of best native and Texan cattle there were steady, but other grades were slow.

BUTTER continues quiet and uninteresting as, beyond the wants for immediate local consumption, nothing worthy of mention transpired.

CHEESE.—As far as the market on spot was concerned there was little to note, and no information was elicited which indicated that there was any material change in the position, except that the market seems to have a general feeling of steadiness.

FRUIT.—The fruit market rules steady all round, while the feature now prevailing is the tendency to dried fruit—raisins and currants particularly—which, in sympathy with other lines of grocery specialties, have shown a decided upward tendency. Spot stocks are well reduced. In fact there is practically very little remaining in first hands, and, as the enquiry is pretty active, strength is a natural consequence. On the whole the market is a decidedly strong one. With regard to now crops no receipts of raisins can be expected much before the end of September, as advices state that shipments will not commence till about the latter part of August. The crop promises to be large, but all quotations now are purely speculative. The same remarks apply also to currants, the crop of which will be plentiful.

SUGAR.—In consequence of the unfavorable weather which has lately prevailed in Europe the prospects for a large crop of beets are not as promising as they were, and prices have in consequence advanced 1s. per cwt.