

## CITY CHIMES.

Among the many costly and elegant gifts presented to Mr. and Mrs. Merlin on the occasion of their marriage was an elegant mantel clock given by the Grafton Street Church Choir, each of the high contracting parties having been old and popular members of that highly efficient musical association.

The first concert given by the Orpheus Club this season was a marked success. The chorus work being for the most part admirable, displaying as it did careful training and attentive practice. In No. 1 the voices were well balanced. No. 2 was equally effective. No. 4, which is a charming composition was not up to the mark owing to the volume of tone of the altos being greater than was necessary. No. 8, the chorus for male voices was well rendered, and Dr. Slayter did full justice to the part assigned him. No. 10 displayed in a special manner the excellent training of the club, the piano and crescendo passages being rendered almost faultlessly. Nos. 3 and 9, which were rendered by Miss Laine displayed artistic work, and that lady may be assured that among her list of admirers are some who can fully appreciate vocal talent of her standard. No. 7 by Mrs. Hagarty, was sung with much feeling and was appreciated by the audience. Herr Klengenfeld took charge of No. 4, and did it in his own excellent style. Taken all in all the concert was one of the best ever given by the club, and the public will look forward with pleasure to the other concerts which are to follow. Mr. C. H. Porter, the able and genial conductor, has gone for a short trip to visit his home in Bridgeport, Conn.

On Sunday night the "beautiful" began to fall in a way that seemed to indicate a fair prospect of sleighing for Christmas, but the hope proved delusive, like many another, and on Monday morning all was aslush again. Among those whose devotions may be supposed to take the shape of very sincere and earnest petitions for a white mantle for mother earth may no doubt be reckoned the hotel keepers of Bedford and other resorts of the customary winter drives. If Mr. Morrison of the "Bedford" be among the pious petitioners we heartily wish him a favorable dispensation. Bedford and the Halifax people who resort thither have sustained some loss in the departure of Beech of the Bellevue, but it has fortunately been fully made up for by the advent of Morrison. Mr. Morrison has the advantage of a larger house which, now that he is becoming settled, is replete with comforts, enhanced by the excellent style in which his tables are laid, and in which his dinners and other meals are cooked and served. Mr. Morrison's genial reputation when lessee of the Myrtle House at Digby is wide-spread, and those who have visited the Bedford entertain no doubt of its being sustained. We sincerely wish Mr. Morrison a good sleighing season this winter to give him the start he so well merits. A more pleasant resort it would be difficult to imagine.

The McDowell Dramatic Company has received valuable reinforcements in the persons of Miss Fanny Reeves (Mrs. McDowell), Mr. Hight and Mr. Sterner who opened at the Academy of Music on Monday evening in the "School for Scandal." A splendid audience was present who greeted Mrs. McDowell with a tremendous storm of applause when she first made her appearance on the stage in the character of Lady Teazle. The part of Sir Peter Teazle was capably played by Mr. Hight, while Crabtree received full justice in the hands of Mr. Sterner. Mr. McDowell took the part of Charles Surface, and played it well, notwithstanding the anxiety attendant on the first night of a new play, which he must have felt. The other characters were well taken, and as a whole the performance may be considered the most finished which the company have given here during a long and successful season. Mrs. McDowell as Lady Teazle was splendid and in the scenes with Sir Peter left little to be desired. The play gives an excellent opportunity for the display of dress, which is always attractive to the ladies. Without the strength added to the Company by the recent arrivals Sheridan's charming comedy could hardly have been presented. The scenery was not quite up to the mark, in fact it was unfit for such a play. The "School for Scandal" was repeated on Tuesday evening and will be given again to-morrow at the matinee. "Our Boys" was given on Christmas day at both matinee and evening performances. The matinee was attended principally by children, there was a fair sprinkling of ladies and gentlemen. The first two acts of "Our Boys" went smoothly, but in the last act the voice of the prompter was heard rather too frequently. Miss Fannie Reeves as Mary Melrose was charming, and Miss Morgan as Violet was very attractive. Mr. McDowell's Talbot was good, as also the Charles of Mr. Gibson, but Mr. Sterner as Middlewick pleased the audience immensely. Mr. Hight as Sir Geoffrey was excellent. The two prizes, a girl's hand sleigh and a boy's sharp shooter were won respectively by Miss Emily Angrove, daughter of Capt. Angrove, and Master James M. Hamm of Dartmouth. "Our Boys" drew a crowded house again on Christmas night. "Pique" was given last night and will be repeated to-night and to-morrow.

Much has been said at different times about the careless way in which women carry their purses and watches. No doubt much that has been said is true, but the following article recommends itself to our judgment for the reason that both money and watch may get lost together, however, we give it for what it is worth, as some of our lady friends may like to adopt the plan:—"It is a lamentable fact that but one woman in ten can reach her pocket to put her purse in it. Sometimes it is deposited in the seat of the car; sometimes it is left on the counter of a shop; again it is so carefully put away at home that several weeks are devoted to its search, and it is at last discovered in one of Charley's coats that he has put away to go to the cleaner's. Where do you keep your watch? Hanging at the side, forgotten

at home, or tucked in some mysterious way in the bosom of your frock just so you can't get at it without unbuttoning the bodice and causing a blush to come upon the face of the messenger boy? Be wise in your generation and make a syndicate, a combine of watch and purse. They are very fetching to look at, and the little watch peeping out from the corner of your purse is a constant reminder to you that time is money. You will clutch your purse with greater vigor when you know it contains your time framed in small diamonds in it; then, too, you will not be likely to let it go, as you will want every woman who has not got the combination to see how lucky you are." A better plan we think would be for women to insist upon having plenty of sensible pockets in their gowns, and if they make a determined effort they will get them. Women have as good a right to pockets as men have, although the latter have enjoyed a monopoly so long that it would seem strange for the weaker sex to be put on a level with the lords of creation in this respect.

Very swell and very elaborate are the Christmas dinners now prepared by the leading hotels of Halifax, indeed so marked a feature in hotel management have these become that many who are cut off from their home circles are glad to avail themselves of the bountiful hospitality of the hotel proprietors. The Messrs. Hesselein's spread at the Halifax hotel on Wednesday included, in addition to a long list of salads, all the delicacies that could be obtained, and one and all of the five score of guests who sat around the Hesselein's board, pronounced the bill of fare all that could be desired and the cooking perfection.

Christmas in Halifax passed over very quietly. We had the poorest sort of weather that could be mixed, and the streets became so slippery during the latter part of the afternoon as to make walking a dangerous amusement. The several churches were well attended at the morning services, and the various attractions in the afternoon and evening were well patronized. All the charitable institutions were kindly remembered by those philanthropic people who make it their duty to see that the poor and needy are made happy at this festive season. The Exhibition Rink was opened both afternoon and evening. The ice was good, and the 66th band furnished music. A large number of skaters were present in the afternoon. An enjoyable entertainment was given at the Sailor's Home, where sixty-two sea-faring men took tea and listened to the concert which followed. The prisoners at Rockhead had a jolly good Christmas dinner, and the aldermen in charge of the various city institutions did all in their power to make the inmates happy.

## COMMERCIAL.

The weather continues to be unsatisfactory, in that it has largely retarded the progress of trade and the delivery of goods ordered. Retailers have done a very good business in all lines, but we doubt whether the aggregate will come up this season to the average for the past few years.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—M. F. Eager, whol. druggist, Halifax, assigned, N. H. Brightman, baker, Amherst, assigned to J. R. Learney and W. T. Pipes in trust for benefit of creditors; Geo. E. Forsyth & Co., wholesale grocers, Halifax, Geo. E. Forsyth consent to Eliza Forsyth, his wife, to do business in her own name; Jas. A. Freeman, general store, Kempt, consent to Heresa Freeman, his wife, to do business in her own name.

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

	Week Prev.	Weeks corresponding to					
	Dec. 20, week	1883	1887	1886	1889	1888	1887
United States...	330	370	335	267	312	11353	10082
Canada.....	38	23	40	34	19	1578	1679

**DRY GOODS.**—Another dull week has passed in the wholesale dry goods trade, owing to the protracted spell of unusually mild weather, which has proved very serious to country trade and rendered collections slow. In consequence remittances have been very unsatisfactory and no improvement can now be expected till after the turn of the year. Cottons are quiet, the only feature of any note being a new arrangement made by the mills in the Upper Provinces for the export of grey cotton to China. Woollen goods are dull and unchanged, even the sorting trade being at almost a stand still. Most wholesale houses have ordered their travellers home, as many country firms refuse to order their spring goods.

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—The situation in iron and steel of all grades continues very firm. Most holders, however, have every confidence in the market and are not offering, as they feel certain that higher prices will rule later on when buyers find themselves compelled to replenish their stocks. Bar iron is steady. Tin plates are not changed, though it is believed that prices would be shaded for large lots. Canada plates are firm with prices tending upward. In metals the strength reported last week has been well sustained, copper being firm.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The flour market has continued quiet, a steady jobbing business being transacted. The tone is steady on the whole and figures are practically unchanged. Beerbohm's cable reports "cargoes off coast—wheat firm, corn quiet. Liverpool spot wheat and corn firmer. French country markets firm." The Chicago wheat market was stronger and advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. In New York wheat advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢. In St. Louis and Toledo wheat was firm and oats have remained unchanged.

**PROVISIONS.**—Loc. provisions have been quiet with nothing of interest to report and very little business doing. Dressed hogs were quiet and easy, owing to the prevalence of unfavorable weather. Lard in Liverpool declined 3d., while pork, bacon and tallow were unchanged. There has been no change worthy of note in the Chicago provision market. The hog market there was firm and advanced 5¢. The cattle market was fairly active and steady.