

CITY CHIMES.

Halifax society has been having a gay time of it during the past few weeks, and balls and routs of all kinds must have about satiated the appetites for gaiety of all concerned. The general opinion as to the ball at Admiralty House on Thursday of last week, is that it was an unusually pleasant affair. Prince George of Wales and some of his brother officers entertained a number of friends at a ball on Monday night, and on Tuesday night the large ball given by General Sir John Ross at Bellevue House took place. About five hundred invitations were issued for this ball, and it was a brilliant affair. The night was perfect, which allowed of the grounds being available, thus adding much to the pleasure of the ball. Fairy lamps and Chinese lanterns were lavishly used for illuminating and decorating purposes, and tents were provided for sitting out. The grounds were also carpeted, so that promenading was much encouraged thereby. As the men-of-war leave Halifax for Quebec in a few days it is probable that there will be a lull in social circles until they return, when the "Nautical Fair" for the benefit of the Sailors' Home will take place.

Some of the visitors now in the city who have not visited Halifax for several years are very outspoken in speaking of our improved hotel accommodation, and say that it is now well abreast of the times. We are charmed to hear this endorsement of our hotels, and if all that is said is true, our more enterprising hotel-keepers are finding out that good board and accommodation will pay them for the heavy outlay of money which they have made in recent years.

A strong committee, backed by a petition signed by nearly five hundred of the heavy tax payers of Halifax, has asked the city council to grant a site at the southern end of the parade upon which to erect a fine building for the purposes of the Provincial Museum, the Institute of Science, the Provincial and City Libraries, and the Victoria School of Art and Design. The site is central, and eminently suitable for the purpose, and the space that the proposed building would occupy would never be missed from the parade; moreover, a handsome structure would serve to set off the City Hall, and make the centre of the city more than ever attractive.

The 66th band played in the Provincial Building Square on Monday evening for the entertainment of a great throng of people who promenaded the streets in the vicinity. Halifax people are fond of music and cannot get too much of it. It would be a good idea for the proprietors of the ice-cream parlors to exert their influence to have music on the Provincial Building Square more frequently. They did a thriving business in their commodity on Monday. The men of the 66th are deserving of the thanks of all who heard their music.

The band concert at the Lorne Aquatic Club House was postponed from last night on account of the concert in the Public Gardens until to-night. These weekly concerts are exceedingly enjoyable, and every one who owns a boat, or can beg, borrow or steal a boat, takes himself and his sister, or some other fellow's sister out for a "boat ride," as our American cousins call it. The Lorne Club, at the north end of the city, deserves as much credit as the Yacht Squadron at the south end, for enterprise in providing so much enjoyment for their friends. Our young men are not by any means asleep, either in business or pleasure.

The Nautical Fair, for which the Seamen's Friend Society have been preparing during the summer, is to take place in the Exhibition Building after the return of the ships next month, commencing on the 29th. The assistance of many society ladies and the promised patronage of Admiral Watson and officer of the fleet, including Prince George of Wales, as well as his Honor Governor Daly, General Sir John Ross and His Worship Mayor McPherson, will probably make the fair as successful as the recent concert for the same object. The booths will be presided over by a number of well known ladies who will be assisted by an army, or rather navy, of young girls who will be attired in sailor costume. Everything is to be as shipshape as possible, and Jack tars themselves will furnish music nightly. It is a good thing for the Sailors' Home that it has become fashionable to work for it. This sort of home missionary work is much to be commended.

From every side we hear pleasing expressions regarding our royal visitor, Prince George. The Prince is very popular, not only with his brother officers, but also with all with whom he has come in contact. He is a typical English gentleman, unassuming, courteous and frank, and is devoid of anything like snobbishness or assumption of superiority. The Prince is here as a naval officer, and he shares with his brother tars the good will and appreciation of loyal Halifaxians.

We are pleased to hear that the sum realized by the concert for the Sailors' Home was so satisfactory, but, in view of the fact that this worthy institution is supported by all classes of our citizens, we have yet to learn why the committee saw fit to sell many of the reserved seats before the box office was opened. Special check tickets are excusable, but the appropriation of many scores of seats is unaccountable unless on the ground of toadyism, and as this is a distinctive Halifax institution, such an excuse would be simply ridiculous.

The weather has been rather trying during August. While the fine days have been very fine, they have not been quite numerous enough, and the wet weather has been so very wet and so much of it. However, having had a perfect July, we must not complain, but hope for a fine September.

The yacht race for the "United Banks" Challenge Cup will take place to-morrow afternoon. It promises to be very interesting.

Much interest was taken in the base ball matches between the Shamrocks of St. John and the Socials of Halifax last Friday and Saturday, even Prince George of Wales and some other officers being present. On Friday some of the lovers of the game, when they left their homes in the morning, fearing it was going to rain, had faces nearly as long as their walking canes, but in the evening after witnessing one of the best games ever seen in Halifax, there was a marked change of expression. The Socials won the first game and the Shamrocks the second. The rain was most accommodating and did not come down just when it might have spoilt the fun.

E. A. McDowell, whose excellent Company had such a successful season in Halifax last winter, is negotiating for dates at the Academy of Music. If he comes he will open with "The Balloon," a play which has proved a great success in New York.

The second ten cent concert of the season took place in the Public Gardens last night. The band of the West Riding Regiment furnished music. After the rain of Wednesday the air was particularly fine and pleasant, and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

COMMERCIAL.

Nothing new can be said as to the condition of trade during the past week. Farmers are too busy over harvesting their crops—in which they have been seriously hampered by continued wet weather—to give much attention to selling their produce or to buying dry goods, groceries, etc. Consequently trade has been comparatively quiet and dull. Still payments are reported to have improved considerably, and solicitations for renewals are less frequent than they have been for some time past.

The building business is having a decided "boom" in this city, and a large number of dwellings, stores, etc., are under course of construction or have been completed this season. Similar reports come to us from nearly every section of the country. Ship-building is active in several portions of Nova Scotia—notably about Windsor, Maitland, etc., where a considerable number of vessels are being built. The crops throughout the Province continue to promise to be above the average except as regards apples, which are reported to be small both as to size and quantity as compared with the yield of the past few years. Hay will be a very large crop. Some forecasts are expressed that the wet weather, of which we have had so much this season, may produce rot in potatoes. No sign of rot has yet been developed so far as we have learned, and a few weeks of fair, dry weather would doubtless enable the crop to be harvested in safety.

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

	Week ending		Weeks corresponding to			Failures for the year to date.			
	Aug. 22	Aug. 22	1889	1888	1887	1890	1889	1888	1887
United States.....	160	148	218	157	137	6643	7427	6585	6269
Canada.....	20	29	13	24	23	1044	1055	1131	818

DRY GOODS.—The market continues quiet as to actual business, but the indications for future improvement grow more definite. Returns continue favorable, and travellers now out with their samples return encouraging reports as a general rule, in fact more so than for some time. The tone of values is firm and the outlook is against any cutting, as the situation of British and home manufactures is strong, and a small advance has already been made on English woollen dress goods. The city retail trade is dull, but this is its normal condition at this season with most people out of town.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been no change in the iron market since our last, but the firm feeling continues and is, if anything, intensified this week, although we can cite no actual change. All the conditions indicate that present prices will be at least maintained, if they do not go higher. Recent cables from Glasgow quote the market strong with a strengthening tendency, while warrants gradually improve, and the general tone of the market there is firm. On spot, here, however, business rules rather quiet on the whole. Most buyers appear indifferent and persist in holding off in the expectation of better terms. The outlook now is that they will be disappointed as the conditions above enumerated certainly point the other way. A nice little business has been transacted in pig. In other lines the tin market presents the same aspect, and for the plates, especially, our remarks of a week ago apply fully to-day. Recent cables indicate a continued strong feeling, and an advance of 6d. per box is noted in Great Britain. We have nothing to note locally, business ruling rather quiet.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market continues strong under a good demand. Prices are unchanged. Beerbohm's cable reports wheat and corn very firm. Liverpool spot wheat and corn, firmer. Wheat in Paris, a turn dearer. At New York the wheat market continued rather easy in tone, experiencing a decline of about $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Corn and oats have been steady there. At St. Louis wheat was irregular and declined about $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. for August; at an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. for September, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. October, while December and May were unchanged. At Toledo the wheat market was quiet and easier, all options showing a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. to $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢. except September, which showed an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢. Oats there were dull. At Duluth wheat was steady and unchanged.

PROVISIONS.—There is nothing new to note concerning provisions, business continuing to be made up of a few jobbing sales. In Liverpool lard continues to advance, having gained about 9d. in the past week. Tallow was also stronger and made a like gain.

BUTTER.—The market continues in the same dull and uninteresting state.