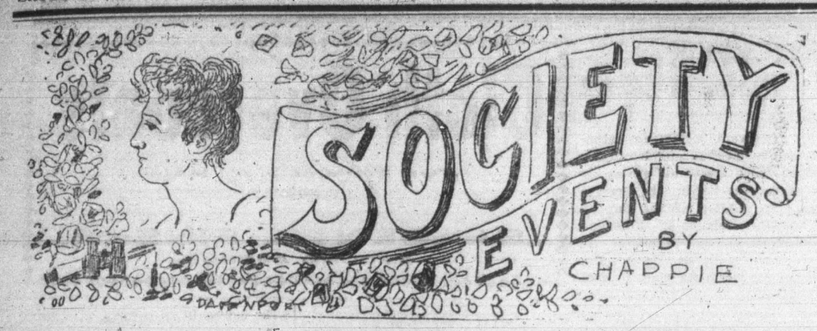

Society during the last week has been just about as brilliantly effervescent as usual. Several small functions have been held and many of the ladies took advantage of the mild weather in the early part of the week to return calls long deferred, but there has been nothing in the shape of a dance or anything of an ultra swagger sort. Society will hear with regret the news of the determination of St. Andrew's society to not have a ball this year in honor of their patron saint. It will be the first year since '98 that such neglect has been shown good St. Andrew and the strange part of it is that no one seems to be able to give any very rational excuse for so doing. It has been rumored quietly that the balls for the past two years have shown a deficiency when the finance committee came to report the receipts and expenditures and in consequence of which members have had to go down in their pockets and make good their pro rata, but that would appear to be bad management rather than a lack of appreciation by the social element of the city. Every dance ever given by the society has been very well patronized, tickets were never less than $15 and with a fund of over $2000 at their disposal one would naturally think that quite a swell affair could be given even in this land of high prices and still keep the expenditures within the limits of the receipts. The first intimation had that there would likely be no ball this season was last November, a week or so before St. Andrew's day arrived. Then it was stated that on account of political matters being at such a state of ebullition the ball would be postponed until January and then a dual celebration would be had of both St. Andrews and Bobby Burns, the birthday of the latter falling on the 25th. Now comes the news that there will be none at all, at least none directly under the auspices of the Scotch society. Well, I suppose the society knows its own affairs, when to dance and when not to dance, but it seems really too bad. I know of several handsome gowns that have been kept religiously under cover in anticipation of either St. Andrew's or the police ball and now there is to be neither one nor the other.

Apropos of the police ball. I was speaking a few days ago with one of the force and I asked him point blank why it was they did not intend giving another ball this year when their last was so successful? He was very frank in his reply and I must admit there was a world of logic in his conclusions. He said: "The dance last year being wholly complimentary cost us each $7 which made quite a little hole in our measly small monthly stipend. Of all the men on the force there were not a dozen who attended the dance. The enjoyment of the affair was wholly partaken of by the civilians who care not a fig for us. We have not the entree into society and why should we contribute a fifth of our monthly salary toward entertaining a lot of people whom we do not know and who care nothing at all for us? Dawson is not much like the Territories in that respect." And I was forced to admit that Dawson had ways peculiar to herself.

* * *

But there will be a big dance this month just the same and those in charge assert that it will be quite the most elaborate affair of the winter. The Arctic Brotherhood will be the sponsors and the date has been fixed for Monday, January 26. It will be a Bobby Burns ball and the probabilities are that the Scotch society will attend in force and give several of their national dances. Full dress will be de rigeur, the A. B. hall will be specially decorated for the occasion and the collation will be something more than salads and sandwiches. The price of tickets has not been fully agreed upon but it is thought they will not exceed $7.50 or $10 at the utmost. Cards of admission can only be secured through members of the committee, the personnel of which will be announced later. As the ball will be in honor of the favorite poet of bonny Scotland, the A. B.'s will follow the custom fashioned by the Scotch society and give a preliminary ball on Friday evening preceding the dance. The latter is intended more as a rehearsal of the Scotch dances, but there will be plenty of others as well. The attendance will be strictly limited to those holding tickets to the dance on Monday evening following, one ticket admitting to both without extra charge for the preliminary.

* * *

Mrs. R. J. Eilbeck was "at home" to her friends on Thursday, the 15th, from 3 to 6. About forty cards were issued and but very few sent regrets, the whole souled hospitality of the Eilbeck mansion being so proverbial and so well known. Mrs. Eilbeck was assisted in receiving by Miss Craig, the accomplished daughter of Mr. Justice Craig, and the Misses Bourke. Small talk and seven-handed euchre was the frivolity of the afternoon, at the latter trophies being won by Mrs. J. Langlois Bell, Mrs. A. Ross Cuthbert and Mrs. D. W. Davis. A dainty collation was served at the conclusion of the games. Those participating in the joyous occasion included Mrs. C. D. Macaulay, Mrs. Z. T. Wood, Mrs. A. Ross Cuthbert, Mrs. Wroughton, Mrs. W. E. * * 2 Society.

Thompson, Mrs. Frank J. McDougal, Mrs. H. D. Hulme, Mrs. A. G. Smith, Mrs. F. G. Crisp, Mrs. Geo. Craig, Mrs. J. Langlois Bell, Mrs. Henry B. Macaulay, Mrs. Arthur Davey, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. D. W. Davis, Mrs. R. P. McLennan, Mrs. J. P. McLennan, Mrs. George Byrne, Mrs. N. F. Hagel, Mrs. T. Dufferin Patullo, Mrs. A. M. Thornburg, Mrs. W. H. Parsons, Mrs. Shannon, Mrs. Charles Macpherson, Mrs. Walter Cox, Mrs. A. R. Boyes, Mrs. Dr. Grant, Miss Craig, Miss Miles, Miss Macaulay and the Misses Bourke.

* * *

I was at the theatre a few evenings ago and witnessed an awfully pretty little love scene not down on the bills and not depicted on the stage. It was not made conspicuous and I probably would not have noticed it myself had I not known that things in that direction were progressing in the same old way, through channels plentifully sprinkled with an oasis of sweetness here and there. With a poet's license the contributor of the following little sonnet, which the occasion inspired, has substituted a Wagner opera as being on the boards instead of a melo-drama. More euphonious, don't ye know.

When Hattie talked across the crimson sea of plush,
From which her shoulders rose as sunlight fair;
Her voice was sweeter than the notes of wren or thrush—
When Hattie talked.

Forgotten then the sainted maiden Elsa's prayer,
Lost to his soul entranced the rich harmonious gush
Of muted strings and sighing flutes, his heart was there
To Hattie's box, with passionate and unchecked rush,
It flew upon the viewless wings of Love's sweet air;
But some unshackled Wagnerite cried loudly, "Hush!"
When Hattie talked.

* * *

Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Frank J. Heman entertained a crowd of little folk from 4 to 7, the occasion being the eighth birthday of young Master Byron Heman. Children's games were indulged in and at 6 o'clock when tired of their play dainty refreshments were served. In the games prizes were won by Hazel Shaw, Lena White, Charles Cunningham and Alfred Townsend. A novel conceit originated by the hostess for the entertainment of the children was a huge birthday cake in which a coin was concealed. This was consumed to the extent of the little ones' capacity and still none had been fortunate enough to draw the lucky piece. With no more space to fill and the prize yet to be drawn the hostess was in a quandary what to do. The problem was solved by recovering the coin and having a miniature lottery, Hazel Shaw being the lucky little girl to win it. The guests on the afternoon were Ivah Close, Frankie Close, Lillie Townsend, Lena White, Fay Perry, Hazel Shaw, Audray Rose, Violet Townsend, Lillian Mangold, Aurel Mangold, Alfred Townsend, Charley Cunningham, Norton Townsend, Howard Heman and Edwin Heman.

* * *

Lieutenant and Mrs. Hutchinson were "at home" to their friends on Thursday and Friday of this week and the popularity of the happy couple could not have been more forcibly evinced than by the throng of callers each day who paid their respects and warmly extended the congratulations of the hour. Mrs. Hutchinson was assisted by Miss Wilson. The bride was handsomely gowned in white and while reclining in an easy chair and chatting with her callers made a veritable picture of satisfied happiness.

* * *

Ex-mayor Macaulay played the good spirit to a howling mob of youngsters Wednesday afternoon. At 2 o'clock he called at the school with a two-horse rig which in a moment was loaded to the guards with a noisy band of happy school children. They were driven about for an hour or two and thoroughly enjoyed the outing given them by the former father of the city.

* * *

Mrs. Smythe's dancing class has a soiree dansante Tuesday evening at Eagle hall which was participated in by some twenty-five couples. The dance was a sheet and pillow case party, the first of the season. At midnight the ghostly habiliments were laid aside and the young people continued in their joy unconfined until an early hour.

* * *

Mrs. R. A. Kalenborn returned today from a week's visit spent with Mrs. Chittock and Miss Daly, friends residing on 26b above on Bonanza.

* * *

Private theatricals will engross the attention of a number of the society folk during the next two or three weeks. The date of the production and where it will be put on has not been announced, but doubtless will be very soon. Dawson has plenty of theatrical as well as musical talent and the presentation of one of the old standard comedies would be very acceptable.

* * *

After his approaching departure having been announced several times and as often denied, Mr. Freimuth, the violinist, has at last torn himself away from Dawson, leaving on Tuesday's stage. He will spend a few weeks at his old home in Vancouver and expects to return the latter part of March, bringing with him a quantity of the latest music out. Mr. Freimuth's absence will make no difference in the forthcoming production of the "Pirates of Panzance" by the Operatic Society. A very capable substitute has been found in the person of Mr. Theilhorn, an excellent leader with a world of experience in operatic productions. Mr. Searelle informs me the rehearsals are progressing famously and it is quite likely that the presentation will be the best of any yet attempted by the company.

THE CHAPPIE.

"Son! de man dat sweats may be a real gen'l'man, but he got to prove it to me befo' I trust him."

"Son! de worst ob de imitation ladies isn't always to be found among de scrub ladies or de kitchen maids."

"Son! when yo' think yo' am havin' de bes' luck is de time to watch out, fo' dat's when bad luck am a-layin' plans de hardes' to swipe yo' outen de persimmon tree."

"Son! nowadays it am extremely obfusticatus fo' de too honest man; he jes' done seems to stand in de way to be skinned. To be a fust-class business man, be sho' you's am doin' nothin' illegal, den go ahead."

The Groom—What are you thinking of, dearest?

The Bride—I was thinking if your father and mother had never met, or mine had never met, or we had never been born, or hadn't loved each other or—or—something, how dreadful everything would have been.—Brooklyn Life.

Virginia—At Auditorium.

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....The Eldorado of the Ancients....

In his work "The Eldorado of the Ancients," Dr. Carl Peters, the German explorer, deals with his enquiries as to the identity of the ancient gold mines of the Zambesi country with the Ophir of Solomon's days.

In 1895 Dr. Peters was looking over an old historical atlas published in the years 1705-9, and, examining that portion of the map representing the Zambesi region, was surprised to see a mountain which bore the name of Fura. Dr. Peters writes:

The name Fura, as the Portuguese authors stated, was a corruption of the word Afur or Aufur, by which Arabian traders called the mountain. Adir, however, was, as I was taught by the Arabist, the South Arabian form of the Hebrew word Ophir. Was not here a possible starting point toward a solution of the Ophir problem? The entry on the map, as well as the description in the letter press, gave the impression of reality. Here was certainly no question of one of the numerous myths which characterize the history of African geography. By all appearances everything rested on reliable historical sources.

The doctor on this theory started for Africa. For years, he writes, my attitude toward this question has been that it was impossible to arrive at the situation of Ophir by means of theoretical deductions, and that one must actually discover it somewhere on the earth. It stands to reason that an Eldorado from which a single expedition lasting three years returned to Jerusalem with a mass of gold weighing 420 talents—of 114 pounds troy—must be indicated today by unassailable archaeological remains. One must reflect that this amount represents a value of over £1,750,000. And in First Chronicles xxix., 4, we even read that King David had brought together 3,000 talents of gold from Ophir, representing a value of £12,250,000.

No solution of the Ophir problem is worthy of scientific consideration that does not start from the clear and irrefrangible evidence of ancient and, to be more precise, ancient Semitic gold mining operations.

References to Ophir are shown in First Kings, ix., 26-28. "King Solomon sent his ships, "and they came from Ophir, and fetched from thence gold 420 talents and brought it to King Solomon." Then in Kings again, x., 10-11, the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon, "an 120 talents of gold." Many are the references to Ophir, as in Job you read: "Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the Ophir as the stones of the brooks."

Was Ophir in Arabia? Then gold or the traces of it ought to be found as existing today. It is enough to show that the precious metal was found here and there in the old world. We want to see actually with our own eyes a section of country where it was found in great abundance and was regularly mined, and on a very large scale.

All this we can show in the region between Zambesi and the Sabi, but nowhere else on the Indian Ocean side. Here we find one of the richest and most extensive gold formations existing on our planet. Here many thousands of old mines have been found which were sunk to a depth of 50, 150, 400, 600, 900, to 4,000 feet, and from which millions of tons of gold ore must have been extracted. Hall & Neal, in their highly useful book just published, "The Ancient Ruins of Rhodesia," enumerate over 240 modern mines in which such ancient workings occur in great numbers. This chain of ancient gold mines stretches from the north of Zambesi to the Murchison Mountains in the Transvaal; from Gorongova and the Lower Sabi to beyond the Hanyati, and as far as Bechuanaland to the west. Hall & Neal estimate that the area of this region is 750,000 square miles with about 75,000 ancient workings. Here at last we find the ancient ruins, whole cities, fortresses, and temples estimated to number some 500, characterized throughout by the civilization of the Himyarites of South Asabia, and by the symbols of the ancient worship of Baal-Ashera. What other country in the whole world can enter the lists in the face of these facts? If I can further add to this, that even the ancient name A. F. R.—Hebrew consonant letters for Ophir—has, though corrupted, lingered on in different parts of this region, my case is proved, not only by indirect means, but positively and unmistakably.

SHORT OF GRUB.

Freighting to Duncan is Now Particularly Active.

Ex-Mining Recorder Styles got in yesterday from a trip to Duncan and Clear creek districts, where he has been assisting surveyors Barwell and Renfret to run the base lines. He says that gsub was very short there, and as they came out they met Jimmy Butler and Corkery and a dozen others taking in supplies. They met five horse sleds on Dominion, and dog teams all along the trail.

He says that there is not a large amount of work going on on Duncan owing to the scarcity of supplies and many men are coming to the city in consequence; but he believes the outlook is good, and one reason that he has for this conclusion is that the men having claims there are doing very little talking.

The Nugget's stock of job printing materials is the best that ever came to Dawson.

..A Strange Buried City..

Senor Leapoldo Batres, the eminent Mexican archaeologist, passed through Chicago on his way to the City of Mexico from the congress of Americanists recently held in New York, says the Record-Herald. Senor Batres has long been an authority on the archaeology of his country, and for many years has been in the service of the government with the title of "inspector generally conservadoe de monumentos en la Republica Mexicana."

His published works have made his name familiar to scientists all over the world, and his discovery six months ago of the buried city of Monte Alban, four miles from the city of Oaxaca, in the southern part of Mexico, not very far from the ruins of Mitla, is the most important of its kind ever made in America.

Senor Batres and Senor Barriobai, the Mexican counsul in Chicago, were guests on Tuesday evening of "El Circulo Espanol," and by special request of the members, the former gave an account of his explorations in Monte Alban. Senora Corella-Phipps acted as interpreter, and with the ease and fluency of speech which characterize his race Senor Batres told in charming conversational style of the great city covering millions of cubic meters, with its spacious palaces, pyramids and tombs, built of stone and mortar on the top of a high ridge of mountains so steep and rough as to be almost inaccessible.

In the absence of any indication of there having been water there, the supposition must be that not only were all the building materials brought from a great distance below, but also the water for mixing the mortar. It was a mighty enterprise. The speaker calculated that it would take 10,000 men a hundred years to construct such a city in that place. The walls are still in an excellent state of preservation and have upon them carvings which throw some light on the belief and customs of the inhabitants, who, according to Senor Batres' calculations, must have lived over 2,000 years ago.

He traced several points of resemblance between these ruins and those of Egypt, the most striking being the obelisks, which, as in that country, stand facing the tombs of the monarchs, who apparently erected their own tombs before their death. On the four sides of the obelisks are carved statues seven feet in height in a sitting posture, with the head bent forward and the eyes closed. The inscriptions on the sides are in picture language and commemorate presumably the achievements of the rulers.

The speaker thought there was no hope of the inscriptions ever being correctly interpreted, as they show conclusively that ancient people had no knowledge of an alphabet to which a key might some day be discovered, as in the case of the Egyptian hieroglyphics. One of the pyramids of Monte Alban is larger than that of Cheops, and, as in Egypt, gives every indication of having served for the purposes of burial.

The stone steps of the stairways in the ruins are evenly hewn with sharp cut corners. The origin of this ancient city is as mysterious as the cause of its destruction. Some of the stones of the stairway are found thirty meters from their original location and have the appearance of having been hurled there by some mighty force.

As a delegate to the congress previously mentioned, Senor Batres exhibited before the members sixty water color views of these extraordinary ruins, and they were a marked feature of the gathering of scientists.

Speaking of the progress of Mexico he said:

"Under the liberal policy of President Diaz, millions of dollars of American capital are being invested in the mines and agricultural and grazing lands of that country and are giving a tremendous impulse to the development of our resources. Public instruction has been systematized and placed under the direction of a permanent board appointed by the president. Senor Justo Sierra, an accomplished orator, statesman and author, the leader of the new educational movement in Mexico, is the president of the board, and under the title of minister of public instruction is a member of the cabinet.

"Senor Sierra is beginning at the foundation and directing a large share of his attention to the normal schools. The two in the City of Mexico are the largest and best equipped in the republic and are the model schools. The one for women has an attendance of 1,000 pupils and has an efficient woman director. The men's normal school has outgrown its quarters and has lately purchased two or three additional buildings adjoining. Coeducation is gaining ground. The government industrial, commercial and professional schools, the Academy of Fine Arts and the Conservatory of Music are open to both sexes on equal terms, and the instruction is absolutely free in all of them. In the girl's school of arts and trades the government even furnishes the noonday meal. Most of these higher educational institutions are commodiously housed in the old convents and monasteries which were confiscated under the reform laws. The common schools, however, while equipped with modern school furniture and appliances, have only such accommodations as the government can rent, and they are far from adequate."

Senor Batres spoke enthusiastically of the Field museum and stated that Mexico had nothing that could compare with it in size or completeness, but that the National Museum of Mexico had the largest collection of original archaeological relics in the world. Though the Mexican scientist did not say so himself, it is well known that many of these have been brought to light through the personal efforts of Senor Batres.

OTTAWA DECISION

As to Dawson Murderers Labelle and Fournier.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—The government has decided that the law must be allowed to take its course in the case of LaBelle and Fournier, the Dawson murderers. The former will, therefore, be hanged on January 10th and the latter on January 20th. The circumstances in this case were just as atrocious as in the celebrated O'Brien case, and the mounted police were equally as prompt in bringing the murderers to book. The victims were three unsuspecting and honest French-Canadians from the province of Quebec—Boutilbette, Constantine and Beaudin, who while on their way up to Dawson fell into the company of LaBelle and Fournier and were decoyed to a lonely islet and shot down in cold blood. This awful crime was committed for the sake of the money which the victims carried, amounting to about $260. The corpses, weighted down with stones, were cast into the river, but the waters gave up their dead, and the finding and identification of the bodies led to the discovery of the crime. The murdered men's remains were found in June last, and LaBelle and Fournier were convicted and sentenced in November. This speaks volumes for the detective work performed by the mounted police and the swiftness of British justice. The two men are suspected of having killed a miner named Guilbault, but as the fourth murder took place at Circle City, in United States territory, it was not investigated by the British authorities.—Toronto Globe.

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