

## Society Notes.

"Lady Jane," has apparently taken a leaf out of our book, in her remarks about the exclusive young lady whose mamma didn't think it proper to dance at the Academy. My lady does not, however, quite emphasize the point. We can quite conceive of people not liking their daughters to act in public,—we have even known several most estimable mammas of a puritanical way of thinking, who did not approve of their sons—much less their daughters—dancing in a private drawing-room. What we cannot conceive is how any well-bred young lady can say so. Truth is a most excellent thing, but in society (alas!) the person who cannot equivocate is worse than a liar. If twenty equally modest young ladies decide to take part in a certain performance, it is not for two or three exceptions to stand in judgment of them by announcing that they cannot do it themselves, because they do not think it proper. Let them have a previous engagement, develop a weak ankle, or express doubt to their ability to learn the part; and then if anybody comes to suspect the real reason, it will stand a chance of being respected instead of being laughed at.

It isn't always the mammas who are so very fastidious in this respect. Let a girl once get engaged, and she will find she has to deal with someone whose opinions are inclined to be extreme—for a little while: and to be on the safe side, she must consider his foibles as well as mamma's.

It seems to be a very open question whether strangers who meet in the course of their afternoon calls should be introduced or not. There are many cases, of course, where it is inadvisable; but as a standing rule, unless the hostess knows some reason to the contrary, it is better taste on her part to introduce her visitors. This is especially the case when there are only three or four people in the room: most ladies make it a rule to introduce new arrivals in Halifax, but very few go beyond this; and the result is that conversation is often brought to a sudden standstill by the entry of a stranger, who sits as long as he can stand it, hardly knowing whether he has the right to address anyone except the hostess. On rising to go after such a trying interview, a well-bred man should ignore his hostess' lack of manners, and say good bye to the other visitors; and if any one of them has the rudeness not to return the salute, he should remember him as a man not worth knowing; for this is an insult both to the hostess and to the departing guest.

Halifax must be an insignificant place when even the New York "World" has not heard of it. We must hide our heads and weep, for this is what I find in the above mentioned paper: "The Annex No. 4 takes the place of the Annex No. 2, which was sold to the Dartmouth Steamship Company. That ill-fated craft, it will be remembered, was bought to ply across the beautiful harbor from Annapolis to St. John. She was regarded by the blue-noses with such curiosity that hundreds of people flocked to see her when she arrived last summer. The pier on which they were gave way, precipitating scores of them into the water, with deplorable loss of life."

The leading article in the "Evening Mail" of December 31st was lovely. As it borders on our field, we may be allowed to criticise it. The gentleman who wrote wonders, who originated the Polish fashion of full dress at levees, and the custom of having a private entree, exist, nowhere but here. What wonderful knowledge of the world that displays. We refer him to the Court Guide before he starts out on society leaders again.

We congratulate the Dalhousie students on their change of manner of celebrating "George Munroe" day by an "At Home," instead of a dinner; it will give a large number of people a chance of assembling at the celebration, and also of seeing the interior of the handsome building. It was proposed, we believe, by

the young and frivolous members, to have a dance, but the older, more staid and serious ones, squashed it, and so it remains an "At Home."

This week, things have been rather quiet after the Christmas and New Year festivities. The weather has been against all outdoor enjoyments. Not enough snow to make either good sleighing or tobogganing, but there was a report that the Red Caps intended tramping along Hollis Street one night. Therefore, the rink has been the one and only way of indulging in what are called by some glorious winter sports. The private afternoons are more largely attended this year than they ever have been,—at least it seemed so. The rehearsal of the Minuet on Tuesday could hardly have been called a success, but we have no doubt that in time it may be very pretty, especially with suitable costumes.

Mr. Harry Chipman and Mr. J. D. Ritchie left in the *S. S. Halifax* for Boston on Wednesday morning.

Lieut. Grant, R. N., arrived here in the *Alpha* on Tuesday from Bermuda on his way to England.

Mr. R. Chipman has left the city for McGill College, Montreal.

Mr. J. E. Chipman returned from England in the *Sarnia* on Sunday, having had a remarkably quick trip. He is in his old quarters at Hillside Hall.

Mr. R. Moren is back from St. John. He is now fortified for a month or two's residence in Halifax.

Mrs. George Macleod gave a dance at her house in South Park street on Tuesday. All present enjoyed themselves exceedingly.

Mrs. Taylor, of Tobin street, and her daughter, Mrs. W. Curry, of Windsor, sail for Bermuda in the *Alpha* on the 15th instant. Mrs. Curry goes south for the benefit of her health, and takes two children with her. They will be accompanied by Mrs. Arthur Curren and the Misses Lithgow, who will proceed to Jamaica for the exhibition. We wish the party "*Bon Voyage!*"

The dance to be given to-night by the members of the Red Cap Snow-Shoe Club should be a great success. We are informed that some 250 have accepted invitations. The Freemason Hall has been decorated in a manner that reflects great credit upon the committee who have had the matter in hand. Amerino's string band will provide the music, and the catering is in the hands of Street, a guarantee that it will be perfect. The floor is in good condition, and all things point to an enjoyable dance.

With regret we record the death of Mr. James Zohrab, who spent his lifetime in the British Consular Service. Though he only recently came to reside here, he had made many friends, who will now miss him.

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