

# OUR SOCIETY.

## Society Notes.

General Herbert with the Hon. Mrs. Herbert arrived in Halifax by the *Sardinian* on the 30th ult.

There was a euchre-party at Sir John Ross's on Wednesday night and one at Thornvale on Thursday, small but very pleasant. It is wonderful how euchre holds on after all it is a very pleasant way of entertaining, these parties can always be and generally are turned into an impromptu dance.

Mrs. S. M. Brookfield, who has been summoned to England by the death of her father, will probably remain abroad until after mid winter.

Mrs. Ralph Peake, and Miss Haviland, of The Lilaes, Charlottetown, will spend the winter in town, at the Halifax Hotel.

Mrs. McGhee, of St. John's, Newfoundland, and the Misses Fitch, formerly of this city, have taken up their quarters for the winter at Hillside Hall.

Miss Rutherford, of Amherst, who spent the early months of the year in Halifax, has returned to town for the winter.

Bishop Courtney was reported much better this morning, having passed a fairly good night.

Miss Mildred Stayner, after paying visits in England, has gone to Ireland, to stay with her cousin, the Hon. Mrs. Charles Alexander.

Great reticence is observed by the ladies who have the management of the entertainment that is to be given in aid of the Church Hospital. It is occasionally said that a lady cannot keep a secret, but the moving spirits of this entertainment have disproved this, for they have resisted all 'pumping,'—most cautious and wary pumping too. We can give some facts about the entertainment that are not yet known outside the charmed circle. The performance will take place in the Academy on or about the 12th January. It will consist of a fan drill, something quite new to Halifaxians, a farce, and a minuet. Sixteen young ladies, selected, so rumour says, for their beauty, attired in uniform dresses of various bright colours, will perform the evolutions of the fan drill. In the farce—which is to be *the Area Bell*, two well known city ladies will take part (or rather parts). The minuet will be danced in costume 'a la Watteau' by eight couples. Those who have seen the rehearsals say that a great surprise is in store for those who may be present at the entertainment: The ladies who are responsible for the direction of the performance are Mrs. R. Umacke, Mrs. E. D. Tucker, and Miss Fitch. The efforts of Miss Gliska, the able and talented instructress, are highly appreciated by those participating in the affair. The "deserving institution" in this case is the Church Hospital.

Rev. C. W. and Mrs. McCully have been spending a few days at Hantsport, where Mr. McCully preached last week at the opening of the new Anglican Church.

Mrs. A. W. Browne and family, and Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lundy are staying at the 'Bedford Hotel,' which seems likely to be almost as popular a resort during the winter as it has been throughout the summer.

Judge and Mrs. Weatherbe are expected soon to arrive at 158 South street, from Ste. Eulalie, the house near Grand Pre.

It seems as though there must always be a certain amount of friction between the Wanderers and the military, in spite of the constant efforts of the more sensible on both sides. On the part of the military—although now and again some youngster may be objectionably bumpions—we cannot help seeing that there is a general inclination to be friendly with all opponents in the field. But some few of the Wanderers seem to be in a constant state of irritation, and ready to catch the slightest excuse for a squabble. No doubt this feeling arises in many cases from causes deeper than is at first sight apparent; but when one club meets another purely for purposes of sport, we cannot recognize any cause whatever as justifying an exhibition of bad-temper. The first maxim in every kind of sport is 'winning or losing, keep your temper'; and it would be far wiser for each side to refuse to play a man who is known to bear ill-feeling to the other, than to run the risk of spoiling the season's pleasure by creating a general ill-feeling.

As far as cricket is concerned, at any rate, the Garrison XI. is a Godsend to the Wanderers, and the Wanderers an oasis in the desert to the Garrison. This year, for instance, when foreign matches fell through all round, six out of the eight fixtures were with Garrison teams. Of course, cricket is only one among the many branches of sport included

in the Wanderers' programme, but it is *the* one that distinguishes it from other clubs, and through which it has, perhaps, gained most honour abroad. And the Garrison, which is the mainstay of the Wanderers Cricket XI., should surely be recognized as a friend, and not an enemy, to the club generally.

These remarks are suggested by certain sentences contained in some of the sub-committees' reports read at the general meeting, which show plainly enough the feeling referred to. To all who take a broad view of the situation, who examine into the history of this club, which is to-day the greatest credit to the city, and who read over the names of those who originally founded the club and by their exertions raised it to its proud position, to all these it must be clear that there can be but one end to such grumbings, unless promptly subdued. The grumblers will awake some day to find themselves in quite a second-rate position, and to hear rumours of another Halifax athletic club whose members play in international cricket and football matches, which is the boast of the city and a credit to Canada, and the names of whose prominent members are strangely familiar to them.

We do not set up for being musical critics, but we *do* appreciate something soft to sit upon, and a place to keep our legs in,—though perhaps this doesn't amount to the same thing. Should we ever find ourselves leaders (save the mark) of a musical society, we should adopt a new method of selecting the seats for the audience,—something of this kind:—let half a dozen committee-men be chosen *by weight*,—let them borrow the oft-abused editorial chair and sit upon it from 9 a. m. till 7 p. m. (with half-hour intervals for bread and cheese)—then let them be removed to the proposed scene of action, seated on the proposed chairs, placed the proposed distance behind one another, and forced to remain on them from 8 till 10.30, due precautions being taken to prevent their interrupting each other's meditations by shuffling of feet or otherwise changing their positions. Then, and not till then, let the final vote of the fortunate six be taken as to whether the proposed chairs be accepted or not. If they are, let the name of the maker be at once forwarded to us, and we will be delighted to give him a free advertisement for the rest of his natural life.

From the same amateurish point of view, perhaps the next thing in importance after the selection of seats is the selection of the songs. No doubt the present system is excellent, but there is an alternative system, and one well worth considering. A piece may be chosen on account of its intrinsic value,—its undoubted beauty and exquisite harmony, such as appeal to the untrained ear as well as to the trained. It may on the other hand be chosen as being one of the few that exactly suit the particular range and style of a particular singer, and bring out in all their magnificence his—or her—pet notes. And this appears to be the system generally adopted, by both amateurs and professionals. Of course the result is very fine:—we are delighted to hear a good voice at its very best, and to admire the perfect execution of even a very medium composition. At the same time, as far as the actual pleasure is concerned, we must confess a preference for a masterpiece of harmony, even though it may contain just one note that the singer doesn't fancy himself on.

In Notman's window, George street, there is a photograph of the very excellent guard from the Princess Louise Fusiliers which paraded to receive His Excellency the Governor-General on his arrival in Halifax. but why was the band placed in front of the guard?

The ladies and gentlemen of Hillside Hall are arranging for a trip to Jerusalem at no very distant date. (N. B.—This item is guaranteed by the name and address of the sender. Eds. *Our Society*.)

A very pleasant dinner party, was given at Government House last night.

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