

Mrs. Fred Jones had a small dinner, followed by a card party, on Monday evening last.

Mr. Rupert Chipman of Halifax, an old pupil of Mr. Leigh's, has taken first-class honours in medical jurisprudence, pathology, and therapeutics at McGill University.

The Services at the Garrison Chapel on Sunday will be:—Holy Communion at 8; Parade Service at 11; Full Choral Evensong and Anthem at 7, (with the String Band of the Leicestershire Regiment.) Preacher, Rev. C. W. McCully.

Captain Groeme Duffus, R. A., (son of Mr. John Duffus), and Mr. E. J. Duffus, (son of the late Mr. J. B. Duffus), are expected to arrive here to-morrow, on a few months' leave.

The Captain Boileau who is mentioned amongst the officers killed in the rising of the native tribes of Assam, the terrible news of which is just to hand by cablegram, is Captain Thomas Smalley Boileau of the 44th Goorkha Light Infantry, Bengal Army. He first joined the service in 1871, as an Ensign in the 54th Foot, from which he entered the Indian Army. He served in the Naga Hills Expedition 1879-80, for which he was mentioned in despatches and received a medal and clasp, he also served in the Burmese War of 1886-7, for which he received another medal and clasp. In October next he would have obtained his majority. He is the only surviving son of the late Colonel Archibald Boileau, Madras Engineers, who served with distinction in Sir Charles Napier's wars at the conquest of Sind. Capt. Boileau leaves a wife and two little children, also a mother and three sisters to mourn his loss. He and Major William Boileau, R. E., and Captain Arthur Boileau, R. A., of this garrison, were the only three surviving male members of a large branch of the well known Boileau family, that is to say in the present generation.

Mr. Herring, of Windsor, is spending a short time in Halifax.

The Grau Opera Company, previously to their coming here, had been extensively boomed. In consequence, the audience naturally expected them to be something better than usually visits Halifax, and to this view the increased price of seats was confirmatory. Notwithstanding the high standard which in consequence would have to be reached, to only satisfy the public, we are not wrong in saying that the audience was more than pleased with the performance. The company, one and all, succeeded in giving a representation that delighted everybody and as the newspapers say where "all did so well, it would be invidious to particularize," but we are of opinion that it is some considerable time since Halifax has heard such a sweet, powerful, and sympathetic voice as the Duke's daughter, Miss Marie Laurens, shewed herself to possess, or such genuinely funny acting, though at the same time quiet and free from any suspicion of vulgarity, as Mr. Maurice Hageman gave us as the Grand Inquisitor.

The Duke is very good, too; and in fact this is an exceptionally strong company all round. Very few companies to be found outside the great cities possess more than a couple of really good men and one or two good woman performers; while the company at present before us puts on five decidedly strong men, and three women, one of whom possesses a voice that ought to make her fortune on the concert-stage. We could even forgive Miss Laurens the introduction of an Italian song, which is no small liberty to take with a "Gilbert & Sullivan;" We not only forgave, but encored uproariously.

And now, having thoroughly enjoyed the performance as we saw it, we will say a few words about the Opera itself:

That portion of the public who take an interest in things theatrical, have been aware for the last twelve months that the *Gondoliers* was, on the occasion of its production at the Savoy Theatre, London, adjudged by critics to be below the usual standard of the Gilbert-Sullivan comic opera in so far as the libretto is concerned. They were also made aware through the medium of newspapers that

Sir A. S. Sullivan's score, whilst being remarkable for the absence of the catchy airs that have in the past been a feature of his collaborations with Mr. W. S. Gilbert, shewed on the other hand a tendency to soar towards the heights of grand opera. This attempt of Sir. Arthur Sullivan to break new ground was not altogether favourably regarded. After seeing and hearing the *Gondoliers* at its head quarters, and again at a country theatre, in England, our views coincided with those expressed above.

However, there are several beautiful airs, which are only thoroughly appreciated after two or three hearings; and certainly there is no lack of that peculiar Gilbertian humour that never fails to raise a smile on the most stolid countenances.

We are sorry to notice that Mr. Downs has taken such offence at our enquiry about the pigeons. From the day when the Government decided to try the experiment, we, and many others, have taken a genuine interest in their welfare and progress; and we were naturally astonished to hear—from one who is in a position to know something about it—that nothing had yet been done, and that the number of the pigeons had remained stationary. We did not even know who was in charge of the department, so there was nothing intended to be personal in our remarks. If Mr. Downs will devote his superfluous energy in informing us what steps have really been taken towards the establishment of pigeon communication with Sable Island, instead of wasting words in ungentlemanly abuse, this "watery, vapid sheet" will be delighted to do him full justice.

The number of people who are interested in this experiment is far larger than one would think, and we have had many enquiries on the subject, nothing definite having appeared in the Press since it was first mooted.

Mrs. Harriet Farrell leaves to-morrow morning for a trip to the U. S., visiting Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington and then Buffalo, taking in Niagara Falls and home by way of Montreal.

From the *Kingston (Jamaica) Gleaner* we hear that the Commissioners of the Jamaica Exhibition, will give a Ball to Lady Blake in the month of April, as a slight act of their recognition of the trouble that has necessarily fallen on His Excellency Sir Henry Blake and her Ladyship during the past few months. There is no move that has been taken by the Commissioners that will be as popular as this. Every one connected with the exhibition has been most anxious for some recognition of services that will prove of lasting benefit to the Island.

In December last, when the exhibits of potatoes from the Government of Prince Edward Island were being opened in the Canadian Annex of our Exhibition, Mr. Dimock gave a few specimens to the men engaged in opening the cases. One thoughtful laborer, Jas. A. Cameron, planted his variety, the well known "Prince Albert," and yesterday he brought to the Canadian Court five or six perfectly formed tubers and asked to have them exhibited in the Jamaica Court. This rapid growth is to be attributed not only to the fertile soil and genial Jamaica climate but also to the fine healthy seed forwarded by A. McNeil, Esq., Secretary of the Prince Edward Island Exhibition Association.

Mr. Welsh has kindly taken this interesting little exhibit in his charge and it can now be seen in the Jamaica Court.

In the Exhibition Gardens are to be seen good sized and healthy looking potato plants—Garnet, Chili—from the Nova Scotia Government, planted by Mr. Dimock on Xmas Day and also peas in pod from Ontario sown December 27th.

From a recent issue of the *London Times* we learn that the first class twin-screw-cruiser "Blake," 12 guns, 9,000 tons, 20,000 horse power, is being brought forward at Chatham Dockyard as the flagship of Rear-Admiral Lord C. T. M. D. Scott, C. B., as Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Station, where the "Blake" will relieve the "Orlando." It is said that Lieut. His Royal Highness Prince George now in command of the "Thrush," on the North American Station, will be promoted to be commander and appointed to the "Blake."