

CITY CHIMES.

A very pleasant gathering was that I old at the Sailors' Home last Friday evening. About three hundred ladies and gentlemen responded to the invitation of the Directors, and spent an agreeable two hours in the Home, which has been recently thoroughly cleaned and put in order. The visitors had every opportunity of inspecting the convenient and handsome building, and all were agreed in praising it. The Leicestershire band furnished music, and light refreshments were served during the evening. The object of the "At Home" was to awaken an interest in the work of the institution. As a large number of gentlemen were present, this effort must have been largely successful. The new manager of the Home, Captain Hopkins, was present and made the acquaintance of the ladies and gentlemen interested in the work. Sergeant Graydon, the Missionary elect to the Seamen, and Mrs. Graydon, under whose care the coffee room will be conducted, were also present. The Sailors' Home is a necessary and deserving institution; it has had the benefit of the work of many of fashion's votaries; and a constant interest in it is kept up by the ladies of the Seamen's Friend Society. Under the new manager we trust the Home will flourish, and be a real benefit to all seafaring men.

The old glebe house at the corner of Pleasant Street and Spring Garden Road is no more. The greater part of it was removed last week, and before long in its stead will stand a handsome new building, more in keeping with the surroundings. The removal of this building exposed to view the entire side of St. Mary's Cathedral. What a pity it is so ugly and out of keeping with the front, which scarcely looks as if it belonged to the dark iron stone wall. If it could be faced with cement it would present a better appearance, but we suppose when the new glebe is built it will be once more obscured from view, and being out of sight will be out of mind. But it is a pity that the handsomest church in Halifax could not be "all of a piece."

The reconstructed warerooms of Messrs. Gordon & Keith, and their new windows on Barrington Street are an ornament to the city. Such things as this are what we need to show that not all our citizens are asleep. Every little while some of our firms expand in this way and beautify their premises to the mutual advantage of themselves, their customers and the city generally. The dressing of Messrs. Gordon & Keith's windows is very attractive, rivalling in it way the flower shows of the milliners' window.

Last evening was set for the complimentary benefit concert tendered to Professor S. Porter by the Orpheus Club. A splendid programme was prepared and we doubt not, a large audience filled the hall.

If open horse cars and the watering carts going their rounds are signs of spring, then we are getting on towards summer. The open horse cars are very comfortably fitted this year, and are pleasanter to drive in than the close kind. In the States they call them pneumonia cars, but this is a libel. At any rate nearly every one prefers them to the others.

The grand Assault-at-arms given in the Academy of Music by the members of the 63rd Rifle gymnasium under the direction of Staff Sergt. Kelly, garrison gymnastic instructor, was a genuine treat. We are proud of our boys, but when we see them give a public entertainment of this sort to a full house and acquit themselves with such credit, they well merit our praise. The performance opened with a selection, "Bohemian Girl," by the band of the battalion, after which the curtain arose and a series of graceful light dumb bell exercises were gone through with, to music. Staff-Instructor Kelly then executed successfully a number of sword feats, which fully demonstrated his dexterity with his blade. The salute and fencing by Private W. J. Forbes and Instructor Kelly were also interesting. During the intermission between the parts, the performance by the band of "A Night in Berlin" was much enjoyed by the audience. Bandmaster Hanson deserves credit for this part of the entertainment, which was not, as is too often the case, too loud for the building. The horizontal bar exercises were very well done by the whole class, but Private McCulloch must be congratulated on his excellence. In grace and ease of movement he almost equals the Instructor. The trapeze performance by these two was the gem of the evening and received well merited applause. Among the contests the infantry sword exercise and single sticks, and bayonet vs bayonet were much enjoyed by those who know the movements. The Indian Club swinging by Private A. Smith was splendidly done and kept up for a long time. The audience duly appreciated his efforts and applauded generously. The vaulting horse afforded scope for some of the most attractive work of the evening, and to our mind nothing in the performance excelled in grace the diving over the horse through an arch composed of three young men. The professional boxing contest did not come off, as one of the contestants was not present, but Instructor Kelly, notwithstanding his previous hard work, consented to take the place of the absent man in order to keep up the interest.

Clown Skibbo (Private Cooper of the Leicestershire) must not be passed over without notice. He kept the audience well pleased throughout the performance and showed himself no mean athlete either. In view of the fact that very few of the young men taking part had any instruction previous to last October, when the 63rd's gymnasium was opened, we think both instructor and pupils deserve praise and congratulations for the progress made. Such fine athletic specimens of young manhood are a credit to our city. A fine sturdy class of boys was paraded by Major Egan, and the prizes won in the competition last week were presented to the winners by him. A large and brilliant audience was present and the receipts which are to be devoted to the gymnasium will probably not \$200.

Dealers in mouse traps say that during the present week, hundreds of traps have been sold in the city to those who propose attending the mouse entertainment to be given at the Ladies' College, this evening, by Miss McGarry and her class. Whether the mice are catchable or not we cannot say, but we are safe in predicting the attendance of hundreds of trappers, and twenty five cents a mouse would be cheap for half the money. Go! Of course. Everyone will go.

Next week William Redmund and Mrs. Thomas Barry will open at the Academy of Music for a three weeks engagement. A double comedy bill "A Cure for the Blues" and "Yellow Roses" will be presented on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and if reports from Boston are to be relied upon, plenty of fun may be expected. A thorough mirth provoking play "takes" well in Halifax, and if we may judge by experience we should say our people have an affinity for laughter rather than sadness. The well known ability of Mr. Redmund and Mrs. Barry will be sure to make the season a success. During the latter part of next week an emotional drama entitled "Cuchillo" will be presented.

The Union Bank building is undergoing repairs and improvements inside. When finished it will present an attractive appearance. The business of the bank is at present being transacted in the back part of the building. We are glad to see light cheery offices taking the place of the old fashioned kind, although the Union Bank was never a great offender in this way. The Halifax Banking Company used to have very dingy rooms, but they were altered a few years ago. The Peoples' Bank was a short time ago remodelled and improved, and the Bank of British North America has just been undergoing alterations. The Bank of Montreal is gloomy after the morning sunshine departs from its windows, and on dark days gas is necessary nearly all the time. Only a few days ago we were reading of the experience of a merchant whose clerks were frequently ailing. He had his offices moved to light and airy apartments, and his clerks immediately improved in health. Air and sunlight are necessary to all, and young men should discriminate in accepting situations, so that they will not have to spend a large part of their lives in unhealthy offices.

We are glad to see the attention of the public again turning—and this time with some degree of seriousness—to the advantages that could be secured by somewhat improving our surroundings, and then "booming" our city all over America as a delightful summering resort. We do not need to reiterate this statement—the fact is patent to all, and when we but think of what might be done with our city and suburbs with a little enterprise, the vision that arises is alluring. With Bedford Basin and the Northwest Arm, not to mention other delightful spots, provided with accommodations in their vicinity for the reception of visitors, there is no reason why tourists by the thousand should not come here to increase the business and prosperity of the place. The improvement of the roads is one of the necessities, and if we could but have the road built, as Judge Weatherbe suggests, from the Northwest Arm all along the rugged coast, Halifax would be an unrivalled ocean resort.

Lt.-Col. Humphrey and the officers of the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers have issued invitations for one of their delightful evenings, when music and the fragrant wood will mingle their charms. The "At Home" is to be held in Masonic Hall on Friday next at 8 p. m.

April went out as March is popularly supposed to come in—like a lion. It is to be hoped that merry May will treat us more gently.

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