

CITY CHIMES.

"Hands Across the Sea" has been the great attraction at the Academy of Music this week. On Tuesday night the house was filled to overflowing soon after the doors were opened. A good all round performance was given, and Miss Albert as "Lillian Medford" won more golden opinions from her admirers. The play has never been presented here before, but everyone has heard of its success in London and New York. This evening and tomorrow it will be repeated, when doubtless the audiences will be large.

A fancy dress carnival is to be given at the Exhibition Rink on Monday the 19th inst. Great preparations are being made to ensure a success, and the band of the West Riding and the Fusilier band will perform fine programmes of music.

The popularity of dining as the means of celebrating an annual occasion appears to be on the wane from some cause or other. The North British Society gave an "At Home" this winter instead of the dinner at which it was wont to honor the pious memory of St. Andrew. The Red Caps gave a ball last week and Dalhousie students celebrated Munro Day by an "At Home." Something is evidently at work to bring about such a change. Can it be that the young men feel that there was something lacking at the dinners, that something being the presence of their lady friends.

Last Friday evening the Red Cap Snow Shoe Club gave a dance to their friends in Masonic Hall. The affair was most brilliant in every respect and as a substitute for the annual sleigh drive and dinner is much to be commended. Mrs. Geoffrey Morrow, Mrs. W. J. Stewart, Mrs. A. MacKinlay, Mrs. A. E. Curren, Mrs. W. C. Northrup and Mrs. James Mitchell formed a corps of chaperones sufficient to protect any number of lovely girls. The building was artistically decorated and the dresses of the ladies helped to make the ball-room a gay scene. This was the first big dance of ninety-one and it was a great success.

The reception held in the church of England Institute by the president and professors of King's College on Thursday evening of last week brought together a large number of the friends of the university, who were anxious to become acquainted with the faculty. A pleasant evening to all concerned was the result, but many expressions of regret were heard over the absence of Professor Roberts, who had not returned from a visit to New York. The Institute is performing an important work in drawing together the members of the church from all over the Province. This evening a high class concert will be given, in which several of our best known amateurs will assist.

The "At Home" given by the Students of Dalhousie in honor of George Munro, on Tuesday evening, was a pronounced success. Between seven and eight hundred guests were present, and as the whole building was thrown open there was no crowding. The decorations were artistic and reflect credit upon the designers. The colors of the University Athletic Club, black and yellow, were extensively employed, and nothing could have been more effective. Evergreens, palms and other ornamental plants, Chinese lanterns, flags and bunting, were not spared. The result was charming, and contributed largely towards the pleasure of the evening. The arrangements throughout were of the most satisfactory character. On entering the building, which presented a brilliant appearance from outside, ladies and gentlemen were directed by members of the committee to their respective dressing rooms, and after emerging from these guests were, presented at the foot of the stairs with artistic programmes of the evening's entertainment. At the head of the stairs a few more of the hosts were stationed, who took the names of their friends as they arrived, and announced them to President and Mrs. Forrest and Dr. and Mrs. Reid, who were receiving in the Assembly hall. This room was the *piece de resistance* in point of decoration. Opposite the entrance door hung the portrait of George Munro, and underneath it in gold letters upon white the following lines by one of the lady Students were inscribed:—

All hail to thee our generous benefactor!
A new star in thy crown to-day we set;
The gold that once thy generous hand has scattered,
For intellect exchanged, shall praise thee yet.
May heaven's richest blessings rest upon thee;
No noble deed is e'er performed in vain.
'Tho' some may scorn as less thy generous action,
Dalhousie students prove it is thy gain.

Passing from this room guests distributed themselves all over the building. In the law library a concert in which well known musicians and elocutionists took part was given, and those who were fortunate enough to be near enjoyed it exceedingly. Dr. Lawson and Dr. McGregor conducted experiments in their respective laboratories, and many people found these extremely interesting. Delicious refreshments were served in the arts library during the evening, and these, as may well be supposed, received their due share of attention. The music by the West Riding band was highly appreciated, the more so because there will not likely be many more opportunities of hearing it. Many prominent men were present, and the clergy were well represented. The temperature of the building was just right, neither too hot nor too cold, but as for the office of the *Gazette*, it looked altogether too comfortable to work in. The change from a dinner to an "At Home," as a means of celebrating George Munro Day at the College is highly endorsed by all who were fortunate enough to enjoy the hospitality of the Students.

COMMERCIAL.

Writing in a strictly local sense there is very little to which to refer as having any bearing on the course of the wholesale trade. Although busi-

ness men generally admit that matters are quiet, and most of them are pursuing a conservative course, they claim that the retail trade is in good condition, and that what movement there is is of a healthy nature. From this they argue that there is nothing in the situation to cause any anxiety. It is, of course, to be understood that they do not by this recommend anything like reckless or indiscriminate selling operations, which, when the kernel is reached, are usually, or in the majority of cases at least, found to be the cause of the troubles that occur. Statements in regard to payments are conflicting, some declaring them to be satisfactory, while others assert the direct opposite. Though there are more renewals than traders desire, the banks appear willing to accommodate their customers, and the monetary position appears to be on the easy side.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.			
	Jan. 0	Prev. week.	1890	1889	1891	1890	1889	1888
United States...	391	303	354	357	537	653	623	603
Canada.....	16	21	16	28	69	74	59	50

DRY GOODS.—There is little mention except in a general way, as this trade is passing through a rather quiet spell just now. It will, therefore, suffice to say that, although houses state that trade is not very brisk, they admit its volume compares favorably with that of last year. Payments are fair on the whole, but those in the trade say that they would be better pleased if there were less renewals. Taken altogether, the tone is fairly steady, but a cautious policy is being pursued by wholesalers generally. The city retail trade has put in a very indifferent record during the past week, both as regards the volume of business transacted and collections; but such features immediately after the holidays are usual. The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* remarks as follows:—"Quite a demand has set in for flannelettes, which has induced the Canada Cotton Company to devote a considerable portion of their machinery to the production of these goods, which are used for childrens' nightgowns and underwear, as they have proved excellent substitutes for flannel, being almost as warm, and much less heavy and cumbersome. Owing to the rapidly increasing demand for Canadian flannelettes, prices have advanced within the past two months about 10 per cent, and it is a very difficult matter at present to fill all orders. The intrinsic value of these goods consists in the cotton cloth being napped, which imparts considerable warmth to the body, and at the same time possesses a much smoother and more pleasant touch than flannel. In fact, flannelettes have a softness approximating that of silk, and are no doubt bound to become as extensively patronized as any of our cotton fabrics. They are turned out in different shades and colors to suit the tastes of the most fastidious, and are fast gaining popularity, so much so in fact that it has been found difficult of late, as before observed, to meet the growing enquiry therefor. This is another victory for Canadian over imported goods."

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—As business in this department has not fully opened out yet, and consequently no general change occurred, there is little to note in connection with this market. In fact, generally speaking, the trade are uncertain about the future position of values, and this has induced a policy of careful buying, so that what business is done is of a hand-to-mouth nature. Advice from Great Britain state that the furnaces expect to "blow in" this month, but that they are uncertain about their workmen, and are, consequently, unable to talk definitely about business. In the meantime they have practically no stock in hand, while stocks in public stores are 400,000 tons less than they were last year, which some urge that the market is just in the right shape for a sudden jump. Some insist that no such jump will occur, but one fact is worthy of note, and that is that, although the stocks in store are less than they were last year, warrants are considerably lower now than they were then. This is attributed purely to tight money, and not to the condition of the iron market. Locally there has been little to note in lines of heavy iron. A slight jobbing business is doing in pig on the old basis, but it is restricted to small lots, and none of the importers have made any contracts as yet, nor do they expect to do so for some time to come. In other lines the same condition prevails to a great extent. In shelf goods the houses are still engaged on their stock-taking, but some accession is noted. A feature in this connection is the advance in all kinds of screws, equal, it is said, to about 50 per cent, and stock of this kind is naturally firmly held, owing to the tight supply.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market continues unchanged with a quiet business at easy prices. Beerbohm's cable reports cargoes off coast, wheat *nil*, corn firm; do on passage and immediate shipment, wheat very firm, corn steady. At Chicago wheat advanced 3c.; corn was dull, but firm; oats were active and firm, advancing 3c. The local trade there in all kinds of grain has been very large. The reduction in the Bank of England rate and firm cables helped to maintain prices, and the market was quite firm. The French markets are higher, and the condition of wheat in the ground in that country is reported to be the worst for years. The whole of Europe has been subjected of late to exceptionally severe cold with tremendous snow storms with, in some large sections, disastrous blizzards, and considerable speculation is rife as to its probable effect on the next crops, but it is far too early to form any judgment on the subject as yet. At St. Louis and Duluth wheat has been steady and at Toledo quiet. Corn and wheat were steady at all three places.

PROVISIONS.—Locally a fair jobbing trade is doing in pork and lard, but business on the whole is dull and unimportant at unchanged prices. No change has occurred in the Liverpool provision market. In Chicago pork declined 5c. to 7½c. and lard lost 5c. The hog market was firmer but figures were not altered. The cattle market was steady to firm. Sheep were steady and lambs strong.

BUTTER.—There is little doing in butter aside from the trade in table descriptions. Holders, however, although they are not inclined to force matters, are not anxious about the future, and look for a good healthy