

CITY CHIMES.

The Orpheus Concert which was to have taken place last evening has been postponed on account of the illness of Herr Klungenfeld, leader of the Orchestra of the Club, until Thursday evening next. As this concert is only the second of the series of seven, appearances seem to favor the idea that the Orpheus Season will be extended well into the gentle Springtime.

The Nova Scotia Historical Society held a very pleasant meeting on Tuesday evening. After several new members had been elected, among whom was Mrs. H. W. Rogers, of Amherst, the first lady admitted to the membership of the Society, the Secretary read a paper prepared by Miss Frame of Shubenacadie, which was listened to with much interest. This paper consisted of extracts relating to Nova Scotia taken from the first journal published in America, the *Boston News-Letter*, which was issued in 1704, and gave many very interesting accounts of our Province and city in their early days.

If possible the weather has been talked of even more than usual during the past few weeks, all agreeing that "it is wonderful weather," "never the like seen before," etc., etc. The public prints of the Province teem with stories of pansies and violets having been plucked since the New Year came in, blades of grass in full color having been discovered, robins and butterflies making their appearance, and numerous other phenomenal events never before known in the history of that friend of the race, the oldest inhabitant, having transpired. A lady from Hopewell informs us that she picked a bunch of dandelions in a field not far from her home one morning this week. Without any doubt the present season is a novelty in the line of weather, and we patiently await developments as the winter wears on. No snow, no ice, no frost; plenty of rain, so much in fact that serious thoughts have been entertained of changing the name of winter to "the rainy season" as in California; but perhaps it would be well to see what comes next before arriving at any rash conclusion. By no means among the least of the signs of approaching spring we note in the window of one of our principal fruit and confectionery establishments the sign "Ice-cream." This we consider very enterprising of the proprietor, in view of the probability of one of the chief factors in the manufacture of this favorite luxury being almost unobtainable when the warm weather that usually accompanies the months July and August comes. Perhaps, however, he is working on the idea that one never knows what is coming, and believes in using the ice while it is to be had. *Grip*, in a short article on the extraordinary caper cut by our climate this season humorously assures any strangers in our midst—especially the more or less bloomin' Englishman—that it is all as disappointing to us as it can be to the man who has come all the way from England to see the natives of the Dominion in picturesque flannel suits disporting themselves upon toboggan slides. Alas for our "picturesque Canada" this winter. The toboggan slide and the merry tinkle of the sleighbells are merely memories, and our numerous plans for the season's outdoor festivities have all been nipped in the bud. We have heard of one skating party, to be given by a young lady of this city, that has been on the tapis for weeks and is still awaiting something to skate on. Truly we are not in it as far as our winter sports go.

The lecture to be given this evening in the hall of St. Andrew's church under the auspices of the Institute promises a treat to the many admirers of the genial lecturer, Professor Charles Macdonald, of Dalhousie College. The subject will be "Time," and the lecture, which was delivered some years ago, is known to be one of the Professor's best, which fact is in itself highly commendatory and should insure a large attendance.

More minstrels! Halifax pleasure seekers have been favored this season with more than the usual share of minstrel performances; and the last is not yet. St. Patrick's minstrels, a popular company of young men of this city, are preparing an entertainment to be given at the academy of music on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, January 25th, 26th, and 27th. Former appearances of this minstrel band have always been highly enjoyed by large audiences, and we feel quite safe in predicting success on this occasion.

There has, as usual, been much merry-making at the old Lyceum Theatre this week, and Professor Semon has furnished attractive entertainment for his large audiences. Next week's performances are to vary from what has gone before and will bring to a close the long and successful season at this popular resort. Professor Semon intends devoting all of next week's proceeds to the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor of this city and will be very glad to have any ladies or gentlemen who can assist in any way to render these entertainments attractive, and thus further the end in view, volunteer their services. Professor Semon has made hosts of friends during his engagement in our city, all of whom will be glad to know that he has decided to remain here and will probably reopen his wonderful show in the spring. The never failing fund of amusement which Zera has provided for his host of patrons has been highly appreciated, and his reappearance on the stage will be eagerly welcomed.

Next Thursday evening, 21st instant, is the date announced for the entertainment in connection with the Church of England Institute, and notwithstanding that a counter attraction for the same evening has arisen in the form of the Orpheus concert, we feel sure that the exhibition of Mrs. Jarley's wax works at the Institute will draw a large audience, and trust the energetic promoters may meet with the success their efforts merit. The winter course of this Association is providing very acceptable entertainment

for the members and friends of the Institute, and is well worthy of the patronage of our citizens.

One of the most enjoyable and most largely attended meetings of the Dartmouth Fortnightly club took place at the residence of Dr. T. Millsom, corner of Portland and King streets, on Tuesday evening. A number of guests from "town," chiefly gentlemen, were present, and the members of the club turned out in force to lightly trip it on the delightful floor of the hostess' drawing-rooms. The harpers, as usual, came early and departed shortly after eleven o'clock, but willing hands were at once at the keys of the piano and dancing was kept up until after midnight. The next meeting will be held at Mrs. John Oland's, and some time soon a number of young ladies will unite their forces and give a large dance. There are also rumors of a similar graceful act on the part of the young men at no distant date. Thus speeds the time away; our Dartmouth friends will find themselves all the better for going in for social life, and there is no doubt that the Fortnightly is a great success.

The annual social gathering of the Sunday School of Trinity Church was held at Temperance Hall, Cornwallis St. on Tuesday evening. A bountiful tea was served at six o'clock, which the scholars evidently highly appreciated. Later on in the evening a good programme, consisting of music, recitations, etc., was rendered and a very pleasant evening was spent by the large number of parents and friends of the school who were present. The presentation of prizes formed a very agreeable part of the proceedings, and the report of the past year read by the Superintendent showed the affairs of the school to be in a flourishing condition.

The temperance workers of the neighboring town are once more at active work. The Dartmouth Reform Club has been reorganized and with the able assistance of the Women's Christian Temperance Union are resolved to clear off the mortgage now held on the Reform Club Hall, and intend to use every endeavor to push the temperance work in their town. A tea-meeting and musical and literary entertainment will be held this evening in the hall under the auspices of the W. C. T. U. and a pleasant evening is assured to all who can attend. Many leading amateurs have kindly promised to assist, and friends of the temperance movement, as well as those who appreciate a good entertainment, will do well to be present.

The Young Men's Society of Christ Church, Dartmouth, is an enterprising association. The members must surely possess a large amount of individual push and energy to undertake the erection of a handsome and spacious building for their own use. Dartmouth needs a building of this sort, and the people of that town, as well as many from this side, will do what they can to assist the young men in their work. As a means of raising funds for this end, a grand concert will be given early in February, when it is to be hoped numbers from Halifax will attend, and so in a measure repay the Dartmouth folks for their always generous patronage of the city entertainments.

We are glad to note among the signs of progress in our city that the large and enthusiastic meeting of citizens, which was held at the Queen Hotel on Monday evening to consider the organization of a recreation club, decided that such a club was a necessity which we could no longer do without. An athletic club building containing Turkish baths, swimming baths, bowling alleys, gymnasium, racket court, covered lawn tennis court, etc., is what we really require, and a committee was appointed to report on various available sites at a meeting to be held next Monday evening at the Queen. This proposed building will cost some \$50,000, but we hope the athletes of Halifax and their friends may see the way clear to raise the necessary funds. This athletic club would be a valuable addition to the city, and would without doubt prove a successful departure.

The annual meeting of the Halifax County Sunday School Association was held in the schoolroom of Park St. Church last evening, at which a large number of Sunday school workers was present. Interesting addresses were made by Rev. J. F. Dustan and other prominent members of the Association, the subject, "How to Hold the Scholars," receiving much attention. Many practical suggestions were made and much valuable information afforded young teachers. Officers for the ensuing year were appointed.

A lady visitor to Japan gives a description of a prison in that country that would be amusing were it not perfectly sincere. The "Japs" are a peculiar people, we all know, but how they can be induced to stay in a "prison" where there are no outside walls and open gates to the farm and garden in which the building stands is a mystery. Such is the state prison on the outskirts of the great spreading city of Tokio, as described by Mrs. Ernest Hart in *The Hospital*, and there she states 1,661 "prisoners" reside, 1,542 of which are men, and 119 women; and of this number 1,062 men and 61 women had been committed for robbery. This presents a startling contrast to the frowning stone walls and gloomy severity of prisoners in this enlightened land.

The following from an English musical paper is "not too bad." The best music, according to the stanza below, is that which *Othello's* servant desired of the serenaders—"music that may not be heard":—

The sweetest songs are always those
That in the soul are spent;
The minute that you whistle them
It lasts the sentiment.