

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[THE HOME JOURNAL would be pleased to receive the dates of parties and the names of persons attending social gatherings. To insure publication, this information would have to reach this office not later than Thursday noon.]

The Y. P. A. of St. Andrew's Church held their usual fortnightly meeting on Tuesday night. Being Christmas week, the executive arranged that the meeting should take the form of a social. Mr. Burnette, the new organist, opened the proceedings with selections on the piano, which were well received by the audience, whose close attention was compelled by his skilful and delicate manipulation of the instrument. Solos were given by Miss Jameson and Miss Christie, and Messrs. Martin and Robertson, all of which were artistically rendered, and consequently well received. Recitations by Miss Gordon and Miss Lawson and Mr. Allen made pleasant breaks in the programme of song, and a quintette by Misses Christie and Spring and Messrs. Martin and Patrick was warmly applauded, the sweetly blending voices making a very pretty effect. At the termination of the concert the chairman, Mr. Gregory, announced that Tuesday, the 5th prox., the date of next meeting, would be devoted to Burns and Scotch music, Mr. Allan to read an essay on Burns. Mr. Allan is a warm admirer of Scotland's national bard, so the essay should be an excellent one.

A most enjoyable party was given by Mrs. E. B. Carmicheal, of 117 Menzies street, the other evening to commemorate the birthday of her daughter. Dancing, games, music, singing and recitations contributed to the pleasures of the evening. The party was serenaded by a number of characters in the most grotesque costumes, who played some choice selections on banjo, flute, bones and rattles. After participating in the hospitality of the hostess they favored the company with some songs and musical selections, and departed leaving pleasant recollections of their welcome visit.

A serenading party of six or

more young gentlemen will pay visits to friends this evening. The orchestra is said to be good and the members are excellent company. They have several new songs, recitations etc., for their hosts.

The many friends of Mr. Walter Morrow, who welcomed him at his accustomed place of business not more than a week ago, are sorry to learn that he has since taken a relapse, from which he is, however, recovering nicely, although it will be some days before he will be able to be out again.

Invitations were issued last Friday by Mrs. Erb to an "At home" Thursday evening, December 31st, at the family residence, 283 Douglas Street. Dancing will be the feature of the evening.

Mr. Geo. A. Morphy, a junior member of the legal profession, will eat his Christmas turkey with friends in Port Townsend.

Mr. J. A. Johnson, who lately returned with his bride from a visit east, has taken up his residence at 100 Quadra Street.

The Iolantha Club are making elaborate preparations for the ball and supper they are going to give next Tuesday evening (29th) in the Harmony Hall. An enjoyable evening is assured to all who accept the hospitality of the Iolantha.

There will be a social in the schoolroom of the Pandora Avenue Methodist Church, Thursday evening, the 31st inst., under the auspices of the Sunday School.

The charity concert given at the opening of the market hall was highly successful, much money being raised for the benefit of the Jubilee hospital.

There will be a children's service in Christ Church Cathedral next Monday evening at 6:30. A special musical programme has

been in preparation by the children under the direction of Mr. Wollaston. After the service the usual Christmas festival will be held in the school house, and a good time is in store for the young.

The concert given by the pupils of the Conservatory of Music, in the R. E. church, last Wednesday evening was a pronounced success. Miss MacGregor on account of a bad cold was unable to sing, which caused much disappointment.

Mr. Alf. Blackburn of Toronto, now in the city, will spend Christmas with the Rev. Mr. Baer, of Nanaimo.

The Hebrews of this city will celebrate on the 25th day of December, the feast of "chanuka" and will continue to celebrate the same for eight days. Special services will be held in Temple Emanuel on Sunday eve when the school children of the synagogue will perform the whole services. A good programme has been arranged by Rev. Dr. Philo and all are welcome.

Mr. F. Bourne, practical piano tuner, of this city, has written an article on the preservation of the piano. After the usual cautions to be found in most piano catalogues, he says some things tersely and as an authority. The article is well calculated to be valuable to the owners of pianos, as it contains such expressions of common sense as follows:

"The piano is a musical instrument, and a work of art at the same time, and requires care and good treatment. The piano is not unlike the human organism, and, as it is in many parts very delicately and finely made, it needs careful handling, and, when out of order only a competent regulator and tuner should be employed."

"The use the piano has, has not everything to do with its getting out of tune. The expansion and contraction of the strings by the temperature is what puts it out. If it were not used at all, it would get out just the same."