

## CITY CHIMES.

**THE ORPHEUS.**—The members of the Orpheus Club are hard at work preparing for their Lenton concert, which is to take place on Tuesday evening next. Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* are the features of the programme, and if faithful preparation is to be taken as a criterion for a successful concert the patrons of the Club may without fear of disappointment anticipate an enjoyable evening.

The Native African Choir at the Academy of Music is one of the attractions for next week. They give performances on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and, judging by notices in the English press, which as we in Nova Scotia have not had the pleasure of hearing these musicians, are all we have to judge from, a treat is in store for lovers of good music. The following from the *Review of Reviews* is high praise:—"Since the Jubilee singers, of Fisk university, Tennessee, there has been no troupe to compare with them in interest, and compared with the South African choir, the Jubilee singers are nowhere." The *Illustrated London News* says: "The Kaffirian singers have, by performances of genuine merit, gained a position as first-class vocalists, stood the test of criticism and are rapidly winning public favor." Photographs of the choir are on view in the city, and the quaint costumes and to us novel appearance of the men and women who have appeared before and won the commendation of Her Majesty the Queen promise to be very fascinating, while there is no doubt that their perfectly trained voices will more than charm all musical minds.

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**THE CONCERT.**—On Tuesday evening I had the pleasure of attending the concert given by the Doering-Brauer Conservatory of Music, assisted by the Dalhousie Glee Club. Upon entering the academy I was first favorably impressed by the appearance of the stage. Several rows of young ladies and girls who have not yet attained to that dignified title, were arranged in front, their bright and pretty dresses forming a pleasing contrast to the sombre gowns of the collegiates who occupied the upper seats. The hearts of the concert givers must have beat high with satisfaction as they looked out upon the well-filled house that greeted them. The orchestra and parquette chairs were all occupied, and a large number of people had seats in the gallery. The usual bustle of getting seated and the hum of conversation in the audience was hushed when Herr Doering stepped to the front, and in his own charming and inimitable manner addressed his audience, giving a brief but comprehensive sketch of Beethoven, "the greatest among German composers and the most universal musical genius the world has ever produced." The programme which followed was purely Beethoven, the chorus rendering with good effect four Scotch Folk songs which, as Herr Doering informed us in his little speech, were selected from a collection arranged about one hundred years ago by the great musician. The solo by Fraulein Buedinger and the duet between Fidelio and Florestan, sung by this sweet singer and Mr. McDonald, a member of the Dalhousie Glee Club, were heartily encored. Fraulein Buedinger declined to respond in the first instance but the audience was favored with a repetition of the duet. Herr Doering's cello solo was simply perfect. The rich volume of melody which was brought out of this wonderful instrument held the audience spell-bound. Perhaps only cultivated musical minds can fully comprehend all the marvellous talent displayed in Herr Doering's execution, but the rich beauty of the violincello which Halifaxians have enjoyed in his playing cannot fail to charm every ear, and invariably calls forth expressions of deep appreciation. On Tuesday evening, much to my delight, Herr Doering kindly responded to the enthusiastic encore accorded his solo. The programme concluded with a floral fantasia, arranged for chorus and two pianos. The piano duet was performed by Frau Doering and Miss Minnie Doyle and was exceedingly enjoyable. Heretofore the Doering-Brauer Conservatory concerts have had very long programmes, but on this occasion the other extreme was reached, and before the nine thirty gun went off the strains of the national anthem had ceased to echo in the academy, and the large assemblage of people were wending their way to their homes. Herr Doering and his bright little helpmate are doing good work in training the musical faculties of our city, and success in their labors is well merited.

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**THE WEATHER.**—Another winter gone. The March winds and sunshine with warm rains have united with good effect in causing the ice and snow to vanish, and in some parts of the city the sidewalks are quite clean and dry, while sleighing is now a thing of the past. There is every indication of an early spring. The deep snow which has covered the ground during the winter months has proved itself a frost-proof covering, and hence we city folk reasonably hope for less spring mud than usual, while the residents of agricultural districts rejoice in the promise of an early seed time. Some learned professor, in perusing an old latin manuscript note book covering the period of time between 1677 and 1799, has discovered several rules for the prediction of the weather. As this is a subject in which we are all interested I give these rules, which I have clipped from *Public Opinion*, for what they are worth.

1. When the winter solstice has not been preceded nor followed by the usual storms, the following summer will be dry at least five-sixths of the season.

2. Easterly winds on the 19th, 20th and 21st of May indicate a dry summer, and the same is true if the winds from any direction are high on the 25th, 26th and 27th of March.

3. Storms from the east or southeast between the 17th and 23rd of March indicate a wet summer.

4. A wet autumn followed by a mild winter is the forerunner of a dry cold spring, prejudicial to vegetation.

5. A wet summer almost always precedes a cold stormy winter, because evaporation absorbs the heat of the earth. As a wet summer is favorable to the growth of the blackthorne, whenever this shrub is laden with fruit a cold winter may be predicted.

6. Whenever migratory birds, especially the cranes, take flight earlier than usual, a cold winter may be expected.

7. When September has been rainy the following May is generally dry, and when May is dry the following September is apt to be wet.

8. If during the autumn the winds have been mainly from the southeast, or if the temperature has been lower than usual, it generally rains a great deal about the end of the year.

9. High winds and storm clouds can generally be predicted for days before if the atmosphere is noted and the clouds carefully observed.

10. A mild, wet winter always follows an unproductive summer.

11. If the lunar period has continued rainy throughout, good weather will follow for several days followed by another period of rain, and *vice versa*.

12. The surest indication of good weather is when the heavens seem farther away from us than usual.

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**A GOOD IDEA.**—A happy thought has struck THE CRITIC this week and, as the various other departments are having their say, I see no reason why we of the last page shouldn't "chime" in. It is in reference to the exhibition idea mentioned elsewhere, that I feel called upon to hold forth. Nova Scotia has done herself credit in the response she has made to the invitation of the World's Fair managers to send exhibits to the great Exposition to be held in Chicago during the coming summer. Our agriculturists, fruit growers, manufacturers, educational authorities and others have given their time and energy to this object, and so far as I can see, the various interests of our Province are to be well represented. I have no doubt that the Nova Scotians who visit the great Fair will gaze upon our collection of exhibits with great pride, and that many foreigners who have hitherto regarded Nova Scotia as a place of small account and, with the exception of its "vast coal fields," which have of late been brought prominently to the front, of little interest to the world, will open their eyes at the evidences of our prosperity and the marks displayed of our being fully abreast of the times. All this is very good. Loyal Nova Scotians will rejoice that we are to become better known through the advertising we shall receive at the Fair. But what about us who have to stay at home and attend to home affairs while our more fortunate brothers and sisters take a trip to Chicago. Are we to content ourselves with listening to their accounts, graphic though they may be, of how well "we" showed up at the Fair? Do not Halifaxians in general, and the more energetic of the city's public men in particular, consider the idea of having the huge cases marked "N. S.," shipped when the great Fair is over direct to Halifax and during the following summer exhibited here, a good one? The cost would be comparatively small, more than covered by a small admission fee to the show, the benefit to the city and province immense, and the gratification of the people who would flock to see this great provincial exhibit very considerable. The idea is capable of enlargement, and I trust it will be taken up and fully discussed, and that some practical scheme will be evolved whereby our people and the strangers within our gates may enjoy the privileges of viewing the excellent representation that is now being collected from the various parts of this fruitful province by the sea.

After the grip, when you are weak and "played out," Hood's Sarsaparilla will restore your health and strength.

**THE LAST OF THE SEASON.**—As I could not be in more than one place at a time, I did not take in the children's carnival at the Exhibition Rink on Tuesday evening, but my "substitute" reported it to be rather a tame affair, with few spectators, few skaters and a decided lack of novelty or beauty. The day of carnivals is pretty well over and two or three in one season seems to be quite enough. However, I have no doubt the young folks who were on the ice enjoyed themselves and the prize-winners went home feeling happy. This ends the carnivals for this season.

**COMING EVENTS CAST A SHADOW.**—If taking time by the forelock will ensure success in carrying out the plans laid for the Masonic Fair to be held in Halifax during the coming summer, the various lodges may even now look happy. The brethren did wisely in calling to their aid the ladies of their households. Committees have been appointed and the originality of ideas possessed by the members thereof as well as the experience of a large number who are giving valuable assistance are being used with good results, and there is every prospect of gratifying success rewarding the vigorous efforts that are being put forth.

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