

DIANA'S DIARY.

FRIDAY.—Went in the morning out to the common to see the Leicestershire Regiment inspected. It was a pretty sight, I seldom saw a prettier, it was almost like real war. The men looked very well and the officers especially so, although poor things they must have been fatigued after their efforts of the night before. When they left the ground they all looked as though they would make the mess waiter run for B. and S's. when they go to their welcome ante-room.

To Admiralty House in the afternoon and enjoyed myself hugely, the first time I have done so at that classic abode, but then there were circumstances. In the evening went round to the Arm to the Kermese. It was a very pretty sight, but might have been more so, if all the boats that were gathered there, had done their little something, even if it were only a chinese lantern a piece. The halls looked well, but by the time I got there nearly all the things were sold. The ice-cream was delicious. I noticed many people and everyone seemed to be very jovial. I hope St. Stephens benefited by the enterprise. One would not help thinking what a beautiful fete could be held on and about the Arm—if people would only join in. It was very late when I got in and mamma was very cross, but I brought her home a present which Mr.—— bought for me.

SATURDAY.—Went to the South End Lawn Tennis Tournament. It was very slow and I thought very uncomfortable, no place to sit down, if you had a new dress on, and no tea. Fancy that no tea, I don't know why it is, but when there is no tea I simply pine for it. I did not want sweets or ices, I wanted tea. Altogether I think the management of the S. E. Lawn Tennis conglomeration will have to brush up a bit, by next Saturday. So I went home early to read the Saturday nights papers. Papa says they are hateful and foolish things, but I notice he always buys them and reads them and generally reads them out loud for the benefit of his family that being a failing of old gentlemen. He is always complaining there is never any scandal in this paper.

However, to-day I got first go, I read good old "Lady Jane's" remarks about nothing and nobody, and also a new correspondent in the "Mail," she calls herself "Father" and writes afar off from the places she describes. I am glad "Gaseous" is defunct, so to speak, and I wish "Iris" would improve. There is somebody new writing in the "Echo" who is good, she seems to know of what she writes. Before the year is out there may be many more, but there won't be me, for I am going to stop when I am engaged and I expect to be engaged soon or I am no judge.

I went to the Academy, the acting was wretched, I have seen many bad things in our theatre, but this beat all. However, the house was fairly filled and everyone looked well and was jovial. I noticed one very pretty recently imported frock that I envied, but I had the proud conscience that my back hair was most becoming and that is a very important thing at the theatre.

SUNDAY.—St. Luke's was light and cheerful and I noticed many new gowns, but every one was sorry to hear of the sudden illness of an old member of the congregation. In the afternoon I walked a long way with a particular friend and brought him home to tea, he is rather shy, and mamma called him by the name of a hated rival all the time, I believe mamma does these things on purpose, she can be quite clever at times. After church we had a family supper and went to bed contented.

MONDAY.—I saw a lot of the American Sailors, what unny looking comic opera sailors they look. They were not nice looking. I would like to know some of the officers. But I can't will not call. Papa never will call on a Ship when he ought to.

As it was not much of a day I spent the afternoon in paying some visits and drinking tea. I heard some delightful scandals, but I

am frightened to put it down on paper. Went to the Theatre in the evening and enjoyed it muchly, although perhaps I ought not to say so. It was funny although not very good. I do like a comic-opera be it ever so bad.

TUESDAY.—Did quite a lot of shopping in the morning. They have some jolly things at Wood's and very cheap. I was going out to Polo in the afternoon, but could not manage it somehow everything went wrong so I had nothing to do, but stayed at home. I was glad I did for mamma went out, on some charitable work. I had a little tea all to myself, but not entirely to myself for Mr. M—— came and helped me. I am getting tired of Mr. M——, I do not find him original and his stock of conversation is not great. Spent a nice little quiet family evening, the joy of a family evening is to my mind doubtful.

WEDNESDAY.—Lots going on to-day to choose from, but I decided to go to the tea in Morris St. I wanted to do the Leicestershire Tea as well, but mamma thought it would be too much. It is a very grand feeling going to two shows in one afternoon, it makes one feel as though you were living in the very whirl of Society. Mrs. Wood's tea was very pleasant, not too crowded and everyone was jovial and the things were good. I noticed some very pretty gowns. One worn by one of the ladies lately came out, a beautiful effect of pink and green that was very becoming. I noticed a very pretty white corduroy worn by a young American lady, that was beautifully made. Corduroy is very fashionable this year, but is not the sort of thing that will last I am afraid. I also noticed two very pretty hats lately brought, I should think from New York. A very handsome gown of dark brown velvet and light fawn coloured china silk, was worn by a lady who is paying a visit to her family; it was exceedingly becoming. Many of the American officers were there, it is a funny thing about American navy men, that they never have the characteristic that English navy men have.

The chief topic of conversation was the accident that happened to Dr. McDowell last evening, every one was sorry to hear that that popular officer was laid up from the effects of it, but also glad to hear that his injuries were not serious. I don't know what Halifax would do without the genial "P. M. O."

Many people had been to the Barracks, and every one said it was much nicer than the one two weeks ago.

Such a jolly row on the harbour and up to the Ships and around the American ones. I did not go with Mr. M—— but with somebody else.

THURSDAY.—Went in for a moment to see L——, I found her doing what seemed to me a most curious thing, she had some powder ordinary face powder in a glass and she was squeezing a lemon on to it. She said it was an excellent way to test if powder was injurious or not, but if vesence took place then the powder was not pure. L—— is nothing if not scientific. It is hard though to get good powder here, and it is an absolute necessity in Summer. She also told me that a very swell wedding was going to take place in the last of October or first of November. Am just off to a jolly entertainment.

DIANA.

A large number of people responded to their invitations for the "at home" given by Lieut.-Colonel Rolph and the officers of the Leicestershire Regiment at Wellington Barracks on Wednesday afternoon, when the fine weather again favoured them, and a most enjoyable time was spent for those who either played tennis or sat in the shade listening to the band. Refreshments of all kinds, with teas and choice fruits, were served in a marquee. Admiral Sir George and Lady Watson and General Sir John Ross were among the guests.

We understand a tennis tournament is to be played there at the next "at home" next Wednesday, between the Leicestershire Regiment and R. A. and R. E.