

CITY CHIMES.

The Orpheus Club's minstrel performances, to take place at the Academy of Music next Monday and Tuesday evenings, promise to be something good. The performers who will take part are all well known, and it is promised that the jokes shall be new—it is never a recommendation that they should be well known. Mr. Sobieski will give a whistling solo with harpette accompaniment which will be a novelty, and those who heard that gentleman's performance at the 66th's smoking concert will be glad to hear him again. An amusing burlesque, "Our Mash Caught," will be the concluding piece, and it is said to be full of fun and comical situations. An entertainment of this class always draws a full house, and we are safe in predicting a crush for the two performances.

Society promises to be gay after Easter, many dances and other amusements being talked of already, and of course the ladies are taking a great interest in the spring styles of dresses and millinery. It is said that the season is to be a lace, flower and ribbon one, so hats and bonnets will probably be prettier than ever.

The Halifax friends of the Rev. Dr. Holt, late rector of St. Paul's church, will be glad to hear that he now has charge of an important parish in Kent, England.

The weather last week was execrable, and on Monday it was scarcely better than it had been for the previous five days, so the sons of old Ireland had to celebrate the anniversary of their patron Saint through very dirty walking. The Charitable Irish Society procession was rather smaller than usual, but they made a good appearance, and the two bands, the 63rd and 66th, enlivened the route with music. The young Irishmen's procession in the evening was better attended, and they were viewed by crowds as they marched through the principal streets. They called upon several prominent citizens and were favored with speeches. The banquet of the Charitable Irish Society at the Halifax Hotel in the evening was most successful, a large number of guests being present, and a very pleasant evening was spent. The toast list and menu were tastefully got up, being printed and tied with green as a memento of the occasion.

The St. Patrick's H. C. T. A. & B. Society Minstrels have drawn very large audiences at their performances during the week, and their success has been well deserved, as taken all through no better performance has ever been given in Halifax. The stage setting of the opening *olio* was very artistic, and the end men convulsed the audience with laughter by their local and other hits and comic songs. Mr. B. Heenan's "McCarthy's Fancy Ball," was repeatedly encored, while the Grand Finale—"Listen to his tale of Woe," by Mr. M. Higgins and company, reflected great credit on the former, who not only sang and acted to perfection but composed the words of the song. There are some fine voices in the troupe and the patriotic and pathetic songs were well rendered and in some instances encored. Popular selections by the band, the artistic clog dancing of the Big Four, and the concluding original burlesque on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, entitled "Pat Malone and Fritz Von Blim," made a most enjoyable programme. The burlesque is worthy of more than passing notice from the complete success with which Mr. M. Higgins acted his dual character, a success which was heightened by the very strong support furnished by the balance of the troupe.

The citizens of the town across the water are humming with indignation over the announcement in the daily papers that after the end of this month commutation tickets will be abolished on the ferry and a fare of three cents a trip demanded from each individual on crossing, or 100 tickets may be purchased for \$2.50, making the rate per trip two and a half cents. (Other rates are arranged on a scale in proportion. This arrangement will be duly appreciated by people whose business or pleasure requires that they should cross the harbor but seldom, but for those persons who are obliged to cross once, twice or thrice a day, the matter is quite serious, to say nothing of the inconvenience of always carrying tickets, or having to stop and buy them. A worthy citizen of Dartmouth remarked a few days since that if the commutation tickets are done away with, there would be a "resurrection." That there will soon be another ferry provided is now certain, for the vote at the public meeting on Tuesday evening was unanimous for it. The old company may make a death-bed repentance, but it looks as if its doom is sealed.

The concert given at Orpheus Hall last Friday evening in aid of the building fund of the Sailors' Home, was one of the most successful amateur performances ever given in the city. Mrs. Siemens was of course the attraction of the evening, and her rich full contralto enchanted her hearers. If precedence can be given to any particular song, perhaps she pleased most when singing "Les Rameaux," being accompanied by Mr. Hugh McD Henry on his sweet-toned violin. Much regret is felt that Mrs. Peacock made her first and possibly her last appearance that evening, her playing was much appreciated, as was also that of our own well known pianiste, Miss E. Burns. Miss E. Black's soft sweet notes sounded well in her selections, "Last Night," and "The Cradle Song." Prof. Currie was unfortunately unable to sing, one always misses something good when he happens to be absent. Mr. Norman kindly sang a tasteful selection. Mr. C. E. Dodwell of Montreal, sang "Lue Heifen Keller," and also "More and More," he received an encore to his first song, to which he kindly responded. Capt. W. H. Smith, R. N. R., gave two selected readings with his usual jolly humor. Mrs. Siemens was presented with a dainty bouquet of roses tied with satin ribbons. In response to encores her rendering of "Annie Laurie," that sweet old song, was very touching. We understand quite a goodly sum will be handed over to the Directors of the Sailors' Home.

MINING.

Spring is now upon us, and we may soon expect to hear of considerable activity in mining. Prospectors for gold are preparing for work as soon as the ice and snow disappear, as the very successful results of last year's work have given new impetus to the business, and it is generally felt that the rewards of careful work are larger than can be obtained from any other employment. While a prospector's life is a hard one in many respects, it has all the charms of active out door exercise and perfect independence. In season hunting and fishing may supplement his more arduous labors, supplying the most tempting food to his larder and giving a never-failing pleasure to the prospector, who is the Prince of sportsmen, gold hunting if anything being keener sport than fishing or shooting. But, prospecting aside, the regular working mines are all doing well, and, unless something impossible to foresee happens, the year 1890 will see a large increase of the gold yield of the Province.

The case of Putnam vs. Hardman and Taylor has been before the Supreme Court during the past week.

In the matter of the order for the sale of the mine it was ordered that the sale be postponed until May 3rd next, that the Baker and other mines be pumped out for inspection by intending purchasers, and a further postponement of sale be granted if proved necessary. The argument of the appeal from the first decision of Judge Weatherbe in favor of the plaintiff occupied some days, and was finally concluded, the court reserving its decision.

CARIBOU.—Mr. D. Touquoy was in the city with his February gold brick, weighing in this instance 51 ounces 11 dwts.

ERRATA.—The belt of leads in the Goldenville district, referred to in our last issue, is 30 feet wide—not 3 feet as stated.

SOUTH UNIACKE.—The Withrow Mine continues its large yield, and now the adjoining Thompson Mine is rapidly being developed, and gives promise of proving very rich. The yield from this district this year should prove very large.

The financial returns from the Worke and Mines Department were presented to the Legislative Council on Wednesday week last, and while being debated the Hon. Mr. Fraser "let the cat out of the bag" by giving a lot of information which is usually not obtainable until the report of the Department of Mines is laid before the House. The Hon. gentleman said: "A comparative statement for the years 1888 and 1889 would show that the amount of gold raised in 1888 was 22,407 ounces; in 1889, 26,155; quartz crushed in 1888, 22,280 tons; in 1889, 36,178; iron ore raised 1888, 44,611 tons; in 1889, 45,907 tons; coal mined in 1888, 1,776,128 tons; in 1889, 1,756,279 tons; coke made in 1888, 28,809 tons; in 1889, 35,565 tons; gypsum quarried in 1888, 125,800 tons; in 1889, 147,344 tons; limestone, 15,448 tons in 1888, and 19,000 tons in 1889." The yield of gold, 26,155 ounces, proves that 1889 was the second highest year in the annals of the Province in the amount of gold produced, the highest being 1867, when the total was 27,314 ozs. In comparing the amount of quartz crushed in 1889, 36,178 tons, with that of 1888, 22,280 tons, it will be seen that some 14,000 tons more quartz were crushed in 1889, and in comparing the yield of the two years—1888, 22,407 ounces, 1889, 27,314 ounces—there will be found an increased yield of 4,907 ounces, a most substantial gain. In iron, coke, gypsum and limestone there is an increase in the output and only a slight decrease in coal, the returns as a whole showing that the mining industries of the Province are in a very healthy condition.

COMPARISON OF REVENUE RECEIVED FROM GOLD FOR YEARS 1888 AND 1889.

	1888.	1889.	Increase 1889.
Prospecting Licenses.....	\$9571.49	\$16358.08	\$5786.59
Rents.....	4720 50	6055.00	1334.60
Gold Royalty.....	8612.41	9959.25	1346.84
	\$22904.40	\$31372.33	\$8467.93

Increase of gold receipts for 1889 over 1888 \$8467.93.

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SOUTH UNIACKE.—The returns from the ——— Eastville Mill, Thompson Mine, for February were 71 ounces from ten tons crushed. The sworn returns show that 4 tons yielded 53 ounces, as previously announced in THE CRITIC.

MONTAGUE.—The Annand Mine returns for February 140½ ounces from 76 tons crushed.

The Rose Mill is shut down for the present undergoing extensive alterations and repairs.

CARIBOU.—The Truro Gold Mining Company, now at work at Caribou with a gem of a five-stamp mill from the Truro Foundry and Machine Company, have had good success in their initial crushings in this well-known gold area. Messrs. Clish, McMullon, Dr. McKay and W. G. Fraser returned to Truro from this mine on Saturday last bringing a brick of some seventeen ounces—the result of a few days' crushing—and with a yield of a little over a half ounce per ton. The six owners of this property, all citizens of