

Society Notes.

A genuine treat was enjoyed by those who attended the Orpheus Club Concert last week. The programme was a veritable crescendo of good things and altogether the most interesting programme presented to the subscribers this season. The selections were bright and pleasing, and were more or less familiar. The interspersing of a little operatic music is a pleasant feature, and told well upon the audience. The market chorus from Martha was very well done. The popular quintette finale did not seem to meet with such enthusiasm as was expected. The orchestral accompaniment was excellent; it gives a body and a life to these choruses, which would be now considered tame without it.

The orchestra played two numbers very well, the wedding march by Suedermann as an opening piece, and Spanish dances by Moscovski, farther down on the programme. Gallia, by Gounod, was a grand piece and showed the club singing to great advantage; it was well rendered all through, Miss Laine doing good work in the solo part. The Jerusalem was simply grand. Dr. Slayter sang "Let me like a soldier fall," and also the tenor part in the quintette of Martha. Miss Laine received an encore for her solos from "Child's garden of roses," and Mr. Dæring's cello solo of the Carnival, by Swert, received a well merited encore, to which he responded with the adagio which he played last Tuesday night.

The gem of the evening was No. 8 on the programme. By a piece of luck, Miss Hinckley of Boston, is spending a few days in Halifax and consented to sing for the club on this occasion. It was a pleasurable surprise to all. This lady possesses an excellent mezzo soprano of a full, strong, broad, and sweet quality, a splendid method and highly dramatic character. It is by all odds the finest voice heard here among our visitors for a long time and the splendid rendering of her song, "Sognai" by Schira, which gave her an excellent opportunity, should be a pattern for imitation to our singers. "Bonnie Bessie" was given to a most enthusiastic encore with equally good and artistic taste. We understand that this gifted singer is an amateur and a favorite pupil of Mr. Adams, of Boston, and we shall be glad to have an opportunity of hearing her again. Such a concert as given last night would be a credit to any city, and Mr. Porter should feel proud of the success in which all who participated may claim a right to share.

It is just fifty years ago this year since the formation of the first city council in the city of Halifax. Let us compare the men who now sit on the council with those who were elected in 1841. We give the names of those who contested that election and the number of votes received:

WARD I.		WARD IV.	
Presiding officer, Wm. Lawson, Jr.		Presiding officer, Hugh Hartshorne.	
Edward Allison.....	54	Robert Romans.....	—
W. G. Anderson.....	44	Hon. H. Bell.....	109
James Tremain.....	35	John Duffus.....	116
Joshua Tee.....	retired.	Joseph Jennings.....	97
		Hon. Leander Starr.....	114
WARD II.		WARD V.	
Presiding officer, J. McGregor.		Presiding officer, Geo. P. Lawson.	
Wm. Storey.....	67	A. McKinley.....	116
Alex. Keith.....	90	Conrade West.....	107
T. Williamson.....	96	W. J. Starr.....	107
C. Twining.....	60	A. Hemeon.....	94
		W. H. Roche.....	24
WARD III.		WARD VI.	
Presiding officer, the High Sheriff.		Presiding officer, J. C. Tobin.	
Stephen Binney.....	184	John Steele.....	53
John Naylor.....	retired.	Nepean Clarke.....	48
Thos. Forrester.....	"	J. E. Starr.....	39
A. M. Uniacke.....	"	John Winters.....	43
Henry Wright.....	"		
Thomas Ring.....	126		
Edward Kenny.....	180		
Wm. Caldwell.....	146		

Of all these only one is now living, Mr. Andrew Uniacke, who resides in London. Without wishing to say anything which might reflect upon the present city council, still we are bound to admit that the men who formed this the original council of the city of Halifax are a different style and stamp of men from those who compose that body to-day. They are the men who represented the citizens both in a business way and also socially and were thoroughly representative men, and we must say that it is a pity that men of equal standing can not be induced to come forward to contest the wards, in order that the council may be improved and the government of the city reformed.

We cannot understand why the arrangements for the removal of ashes and refuse have not yet been completed. People were given to understand that the carts would go round early in May, and refrained from going to the expense of having them removed by private teamsters; and the consequence is that there is already a large accumulation, even in yards that have been carefully looked after all the winter.

The recent order of the city council to have all the refuse cleared away by a certain date was on the whole very well acted upon, though the masses of filth turned out in the street from cellars and yards in all quarters of the city proved conclusively that the inspections so far had not been so careful as they should have been. A new outbreak of sickness was the natural result, but we congratulated ourselves that the city was at last reduced to a fairly clean condition, and that the authorities had taken the right course to keep it in that state. And now another month—the most critical month in the year—has gone by, and not even the usual spring measures have been taken to ensure the clearance of refuse.

We beg to submit to the city council that this delay is neither wise nor fair. Citizens of Halifax have been for many months at great expense and trouble in trying to further their own and the public welfare, and they have a right to demand the assistance of the authorities.

The experience of the last fortnight has caused many people to exclaim that sanitary measures are no use, and that sickness comes in the spring and the fall in spite of all human efforts. This is childish reasoning, however. The council did much good work early in the year, and if their efforts are sustained throughout the summer, and the public attention constantly called to the subject, we confidently predict a cleaner bill of health next winter. But it is simply childish to expect results to show before then, or to allow our efforts to fall off in the smallest degree when the fine weather brings about a temporary disappearance of epidemic.

On the whole we are glad to think that our visitors from the United States will find the city in a sweeter condition than it has been able to show for several years past; and we hope that this fact, together with the great improvements in our Hotels, will combine to make this a most successful summer.

A recent number of *Le Patriote*, the opposition paper in St. Pierre, contains a long address on the existing mail arrangements. The writer calls upon the colony "not to submit to the humiliation of seeing a foreign flag floating on a ship which the colony itself pays for and allows to live." The answer of the Government to this address is uncommonly short, to the effect that it was not considered expedient to call a session extraordinary to debate the question, and that, moreover, ministers did not take the same view of the matter as did the writer.

On the whole, we don't think any radical change will be made on the expiration of the present contract, though it would be very advantageous in many ways if the "S. Pierre" extended her trip to the coast of Newfoundland.

One important factor in the settlement of the question will be the immense personal popularity of Captain Angrove, who is known and respected by everyone in St. Pierre. He knows all these coasts and islands like a book, and has an extraordinarily clean record as a sea captain. This goes a long way with the merchants of St. Pierre, who are above everything men of business.