

# At the Sign of the Maple

A NEWS DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN



SOME OF THE BOHEMIANS  
Whose picturesque costumes and artful poses contributed much to the charm of the recent Kermess.

## The Capital Kermess

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TO the Victorian Order of Nurses, Ottawa is beholden for the most stupendous spectacular production ever witnessed in the Capital. The Kermess, just lately held, with such artistic and financial success, was under the distinguished patronage of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and practically all the prominent people in Ottawa were represented, in one way or another, within its ranks.

"Kermess," or Church Fair, derives its name from the old word—Kirchmesse, meaning Church Ale, which referred to that portion of the brew and vintage given as a tithe to the churches. In the Middle Ages the Annual Fair was held in open places above the village church, and the merchants went from one Kermess to another with their goods for sale. In the process of time, the old Kermess lost its distinctively commercial character and assumed that of merry-making. The word was later used to signify a gift, and was so applied by the people of Spain, France and Italy to any festivity, or bazaar, or entertainment, giving pleasure to the populace. Still later it was used to designate a sacred festival, which expressed in song and dance the joy of the German villagers at the completion of a church.

While in this case, there was no church erected, the proceeds from the Kermess were devoted to quite as noble an object—the maintenance of the Victorian Order of Nurses, about which charitable organization nothing further requires to be said.

Opening with a magnificent spectacular effect, a Grand March took the participants (of whom there were upwards of three hundred) up a tremendous pyramid, and there they posed beneath vari-coloured lights. The enthusiasm of the audience from the rising of the curtain was never allowed to flag—"A Night in Koko's Garden" speaks for itself; the "Phorty Phunny Phellows," also, these being quaint little clowns between the ages of six and eleven years, who acted their droll parts with a pleasing lack of self-consciousness and gained much applause. The "Midsummer Night's Dream" was well named. About eighty little girls took part, and were voted (at ten cents a vote) the most popular Court. Their total was something like 3,300. Bohemians, Roumanians, Summer Boys and Girls, Cigarette Girls, Merry Widows, and members of the Royal Minuet and the Parisian Romance should have been repaid for their many hours of tedious rehearsing if stormy applause counted for aught.

The three performances were succeeded by a Kermess Ball, at the Chateau Laurier, every one of the participants in costume, and the scene excelled in brilliance anything ever witnessed in the Capital.

## The Season in London

Extracts from a Letter

THE season promises to be unusually brilliant, and there are already a great many people in town among whom are a number of young married women willing and anxious to entertain lavishly and a bevy of charming debutantes with rich and hospitable parents. So a great many more dances than we have had for some years past are arranged. The first dance which the King and Queen will grace by

their presence will be Lady Irene Curzon's coming-out ball, given at her father's handsome residence in Carlton House Terrace. An unusual honour it is for a debutante, but Earl Curzon is a great favourite with the Royal Family, as was also his beautiful American wife.

The Duchess of Devonshire's dance is another at which Royalty will appear, and it is to be a very splendid affair indeed.

Mrs. Lewis Harcourt and Miss Violet Asquith (the Prime Minister's daughter), who is taking a prominent part just now in social affairs, will act as hostesses at the "Eighty Club" ball, where Liberals will foregather. Miss Violet is a very charming and interesting girl, and everyone sympathized with her in the great sorrow she had a few years ago when Mr. Archie Gordon, Lord Aberdeen's son, to whom she was engaged, was killed in a motor accident.

Nowadays there is no lack of dancing men—a contrast to a few seasons ago, when even the most popular hostess could hardly count upon sufficient partners for her guests. Of course all the interest and criticism aroused by the Tango and kindred measures caused people to think more of dancing than heretofore, and the vogue for dancing of a graceful and unexaggerated kind has been greatly encouraged by the Queen, who is quite the best waltzer in London. At the State balls there are always two sets of ceremonious Quadrilles, usually followed by polkas and waltzes, but in general society the Boston and the One Step are the most popular dances.

Everyone was delighted to see Queen Alexandra at the first night of the opera season. She looked



A PHEW OF THE "PHORTY PHUNNY PHELLOWS"  
Who appeared to "check" the phrollicsome proceedings, but in reality greatly assisted the phestive Kermess.

regal in a gown of sparkling jet and wore a diamond dog collar and a long diamond chain.

Certain habitues of Covent Garden are seen in the same boxes each season. These include Lady Ripon, Lady Derby, Lady Esher, Sir Ernest Cassel and Mr. Alfred de Rothschild. The Duke of Bedford, though no longer the owner of Covent Garden, still keeps his box. The most fashionable nights are Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Saturday has been quite ruled out by the week-end departures from town. In connection with the opera a few unwritten laws are carefully observed by those in the best sets, for instance, one does not eat there except on Wagner nights, when ices and coffee are quite permissible, and although tiaras are donned for the French and Italian operas, they are prohibited by the mode on Wagner nights.

Talking of ornaments, quite one of the prettiest modes of the moment that is being launched by one or two of the leaders of society is to have a picture pendant—instead of an ordinary jewel or enamel centre the pendant is composed of a miniature landscape or a fancy picture painted on ivory framed in opals, pearls, diamonds. Crystal ornaments, too, are most fashionable.

Among the beautiful souvenirs that the Queen brought back from Paris is a most elaborate piece of embroidery typifying the "Entente Cordiale"—the border is composed of an Arabesque design of roses, thistles, and shamrocks, and in each corner scenes exemplifying the cordial relationship between Great Britain and France are shown. The British Lion and the French Cock are also worked. The whole was designed by Monsieur Pinchon, decorator of the Grand Opera. I am told that Her Majesty intends this gift to be placed at Windsor Castle.

The Queen was delighted with her visit to the Royal Academy, where she spent about two and a half hours. She told Sir E. Y. Poynter, the President, with whom she had tea before leaving, that she and the King would both come soon again. Her

Majesty was charmingly gowned in mauve and was accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Princess Mary, and the Princes Henry and George—and was joined later by Queen Alexandra, Princess Victoria, the Duchess of Teck, and Prince and Princess Aage of Denmark.

## Recent Events

COMMANDER EVANS, of the Scott expedition, recently addressed the Women's Canadian Club, of Winnipeg, and chose as his subject "Heroes at Home." "Heroines at Home" he might well have called it, for he paid special and touching tribute to the women folk of the ill-starred South Sea crew. He referred in particular to Mrs. Oates, the mother who gave her splendid son and in return received the diary with its fly-leaf dedication, "To my mother, the only woman I ever loved," and to the mother and sisters of the little Scotchman, Bowers.

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Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, of Toronto, was one of the speakers at the congress in Rome of the International Council of Women, this month. "Women in Country Life" was her subject, she being convener of the Committee on Agriculture for Women of the National Council of Women of Canada. Mrs. Hamilton recently wrote on this theme in these columns.

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The Australian suffragist, Miss Margaret Hodge, who has travelled widely and is now giving lectures on Woman Suffrage with the authority of one who knows, spoke in the Capital a week ago to-day under the auspices of the Ottawa Equal Suffrage Association.

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Word comes from Montreal that the only three gold medalists in the Arts course at McGill this year are ladies. The Anne Molson Gold Medal was won by Miss Violet E. Henry; the Governor-General Gold Medal for Languages by Miss Marjorie H. Goldstein, and the Gold Medal in General Course by Miss Clara W. Fritz.

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In Halifax the Ladies' Auxiliary of the S. P. C. A., of which Mrs. John E. Wood is president, are directing efforts to raising money with which to buy an ambulance for the use of injured horses and a shelter for dogs and small animals generally. Recently a wealthy lady of Philadelphia donated to the Auxiliary for the said purpose a check for one hundred dollars; to which the society added, the other day, the proceeds of a successful bridge which was given at the Waeqwollic Club house.

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A Woman's Consumers' League was formed recently in Edmonton, Alberta, for the purpose of bringing the producer of farm products and the consumer of the same into closer relationship. The honorary president of the new organization is Mrs. Bulyea, wife of Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta. The president is Mrs. A. N. Mouat.



SNAPPED AT THE "STAGE ENTRANCE."  
An elusive group of the clowns and fairies, the exercise of whose magic talents substantially swelled the receipts at the Ottawa Event.