

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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Allen, cashier of the Toronto Central Bank, got away with \$50,000.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has decided to open an agency at Montreal. T. V. McDonald will be the manager.

A large shipment of carriages has been made from Ontario for the Australian Centennial International Exhibition.

A letter has been received from Mr. Mercier, Premier of Quebec, from Rome, stating that his health has improved.

The annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia began yesterday, at Wolfville, and continues to day.

Dr. Room (Conservative) M.P. for West Middlesex, has been unseated for corrupt practices. Judge Falconbridge's decision carried costs.

The Fire Insurance Companies doing business in Montreal have lost so heavily the past year that it has been found necessary to increase the rates.

There appears to be good reason to question the wisdom of the Dominion enactment for the protection of the lobster fisheries, in limiting the time to the 1st July.

The grain-blockade on the C. P. R. is becoming of serious import to the Manitobans, who are said to be quite despondent at the heavy loss which will inevitably result.

Manhood suffrage is to be brought before the Ontario Legislature. Its advantages are perhaps problematical, but it is bound to come, and no doubt other Provinces will follow suit.

General Middleton, in his annual report, will recommend a longer period in camp for the militia, and a slight increase in the permanent force. He urges the need of paying greater attention to rifle shooting by all corps.

A movement is on foot amongst the public school trustees of Toronto to secure for women the right to principalships of large city schools, when they are qualified for and entitled to such positions in the way of promotion.

The address in answer to the Queen's speech was seconded by Col. Duncan (D.C.L. of King's College, Windsor), who married a daughter of the late Rev. Wm Cogswell, who was himself a distinguished graduate of Kings.

Much attention has lately been given to the deplorable state of the houses of the poor in Halifax, and a large subscription was taken up at a meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, under the presidency of His Grace the Archbishop.

The powerful and affecting terms of the sentence pronounced by Chief Justice Palmer, on the dastardly murderer of Mary Tuplin, leave nothing to be desired, and assure us that whatever depth of idiocy may be attained by juries, the Bench is sound.

On Saturday night last the rain descended in earnest, making, for a time, many valuable mill sites at the corners of our principal streets. Those citizens who were spending the evening away from home, heartily wished themselves at their "ain firesides," as they bade their friends good night, and plunged into the seething waste of water.

A dishonest trick on the part of some subordinate official of the I. C. R. is reported in the *St. John Globe*. Three Pullman car passengers, with tickets for St. John, were compelled to leave at Moncton, under the false statement that a wheel was broken, the car being wanted to go back to Montreal. It is probable the higher authorities of the road are unaware of this sort of trickery.

It is understood that the recent delays on the W. & A. R. might have been easily obviated by the employment of a sufficient number of men to clear the track, which would not have been so much obstructed, had a snow-plough even been run over it. The blame for this piece of false economy is probably to be shouldered by the I. C. R. as well as the W. & A. R. Certainly, the latter is chargeable with a full proportion of it. Such a disregard of the public is most censurable.

We have at the time of our going to press but an imperfect account of the Treaty concluded by the Fisheries Commission. It is stated to deal only with the Atlantic Fisheries, to the exclusion of every other subject. The London *Standard* thinks it worth congratulating the Commissioners upon, but its merits or demerits cannot be pronounced upon till more detailed information is before us. Any treaty is of course subject to the action of a hostile Senate, and will displease politicians of the candid type of General Wilson. It will be something, however, if a step proves to have been made even in the direction of settling the Atlantic Fisheries question. Admiral Heltage may probably be trusted to look after Canadian honor and interests in the Alaskan waters.

The third theatrical performance in aid of the School of Art and Design, took place at the Academy of Music on Monday evening last, and was attended by a large, brilliant, and fashionable audience. The play, "A Husband to Order," in which eight characters were represented, was presented in a most attractive manner, each performer winning well earned laurels for the way in which their respective parts were taken. Mrs.

Morrow, who took the part of Josephine, the Baron's niece, displayed histrionic talents of exceptional merit, her identification with Josephine being thoroughly realistic. Mrs. Rose as Elise, was charming, vivacious, and altogether pleasing, while Miss Grant, as Madame Phillipeau, made a typical French dame of advanced years. Major Bagot made a decided hit in his representation of the character of Pierre Marceau, and Capt. Blackburn added not a little to his well established repute by his impersonation of the Baron de Beaupre. Mr. Hill was, as usual, the personification of humor, and as Phillipeau, the wealthy farmer, proved himself to be a broad-minded republican, a close observer of human nature, and a kind but firm husband. Mr. L. J. Fuller, as Anatole Latour, displayed powers, which, if more generally cultivated, would place him at once at the head of amateur actors in Halifax, possessed as he is of a fine voice and kindly manner, he is at once *en rapport* with his audience, and no matter what character he may be representing, he never fails to please his listeners. It would be unfair to Mr. Maul to omit mentioning his name, for, in very truth, his obsequious bow would be worth many a shilling to Johnnie Atkins, while his aeraphic smile, if it could be made a transferrable commodity, would be willingly paid for in gold by the patrons of the photographer's saloon. Instead of the customary farce, which usually follows the performance of a melodramatic play, the audience were given as a substitute the pretty operetta, "The Rose of Auvergne." We have no desire to criticise too harshly this exhibition of the musical talent of Halifax, but we have to offer our commiseration to Capt. Rawson, conductor, who, like the Israelites of old, was forced to make bricks without straw. In the choruses the time was good, and the attempts at shading quite passable; but the voices, oh, where were they? Echo answers, where? The facts appear to be: that the ladies and gentlemen who formed this chorus of twenty peasants were selected, not on account of their musical abilities, but according to their standing as patricians in the community. They had a plebian part to perform, which could have been well done by a score of plebians, but society demanded that the selection of voices should be made within a certain circle, and this exclusiveness made the failure of the operetta a foregone conclusion. Of those taking the leading parts, Professor Currie is the only one who deserves honorable mention. The part of Fleurette should have been taken by a young lady, with a fresh, true voice, and Alphonse by a shoemaker whose vocal powers entitled him to be ranked above the dull level of mediocrity. For the sake of the Art School, and for those who have untiringly worked for the success of these entertainments, we are delighted to think that the results have been so satisfactory, but for the sake of art, musical, histrionic, and otherwise, let not the promoters of these entertainments imagine that the social cloak will hide the weak points of a performance, but on the other hand, let them strive to give us only that which is worth seeing or listening to from an artistic standpoint.

The third concert of the Orpheus Club, on Tuesday evening last, drew out, as usual, a very large number of music loving Halifaxians, and these were more than repaid for their pilgrimage through the sloppy streets on a damp, disagreeable evening. The Club, with the Ladies' Auxiliary, sang three numbers of the programme in excellent style, the closing number, Vogel's Arion waltz, being rendered in a highly creditable manner, the accentuation being almost perfect. The Ladies' Auxiliary sang Brahms' Barcarole in a most telling style, the voices blending in the sweet harmony in almost faultless tune, winning for the number a rapturous encore, to which the ladies responded with "A Kiss"—(the balance of the words have escaped our memory). Miss O'Dell sang "Ernani Involam!" in quite an artistic manner, the song bringing out to excellent advantage her powers of execution, but while we greatly admired the ease and grace with which the lady performed some of the difficult running passages, we experienced a certain degree of disappointment whenever a trilling passage had to be encountered, Miss O'Dell in this respect not having attained perfection. Mrs. Campbell knows well how to tickle the ears of an audience, and a Scotch song, sung as she sang "Bonnie Prince Charlie" on Tuesday evening, would have won a rapturous encore from any intelligent audience. Of the three gentlemen who took solos in the concert, we think Mr. E. I. MacDonald the most pleasing singer, although Mr. Foster, in his billowy line, always scores a success, and is well worth listening to. Mr. Phillips has yet to win a place among our leading soloists, and as we have no wish to discourage one who aspires to success, we pass over his song in silence, simply recommending him to practice diligently before he again essays to entertain a Halifax audience. Turning to the instrumental part of the performance, which we are delighted to note is becoming a strong feature in the Orpheus Club concerts, we have to express our regret that a change in the programme necessitated the omission of two of the movements of Mr. Porter's Sonata, for the violin and piano. Suffice it to say that Herr Klingenfeld and Mr. Porter did justice to the two movements that were played, bringing out the melodious theme in the first movement in a manner that must have charmed every one present. But if the audience had to regret the omission of the two movements before mentioned, they had reason to feel pleased with Mr. Porter's unselfishness in substituting for these two movements, Mendelssohn's glorious trio for the piano, violin, and cello, performed by Messrs Porter, Klingenfeld, and Mahr, the last-named gentleman, who has but recently arrived from Berlin, being a decided acquisition to Halifax musical society. The trio, rendered as it was by three artistes, was a treat that we in Halifax seldom have the pleasure of enjoying, and it is gratifying to be assured that this is but one of many concerted pieces that we will have the chance of listening to in future concerts. Mr Porter has our hearty congratulations for the successful manner in which he has conducted the Orpheus Club concerts, and the Club has our best wishes for its continued improvement musically, and its healthy condition financially.