

## News from the Clubs.

To CORRESPONDENTS—Please make your letters brief and newsy, and then we will not be obliged to crowd out other letters of equal importance.

### TORONTO.

#### THE WANDERERS.

DEAR EDITOR:

Your last issue, very much improved in appearance, made its appearance in the Club Rooms last week, and was eagerly read by the Club, who commence to see the need of such a paper, which gives information about our Canadian clubs which could not be got in any other way.

We held our monthly meeting last evening and our spacious meeting-room was crowded by the members assembled. Owing to illness the President, Col. Otter, was absent, and his place was taken by Captain Robinson. Several members were added to the list, and some new names proposed. Hereafter, it was decided that nobody would be admitted into the club unless he is positively a rider and owns a bicycle, and, after joining he must have a club uniform not later than six months after his name is proposed. During the meeting the 1st Lieutenant, Mr. George E. Cooper, thanked the Club in a few well-chosen remarks, for the kind gift of flowers presented to Mrs. Cooper, who is the leading vocalist in the New York Opera Company, which lately visited Toronto.

A short lecture on the "Peculiarities of Gas" was delivered by Mr. George E. Cooper, after the adjournment of the business meeting, in very enjoyable and humorous style, in which several new theories of "Nitrogen," "Oxygen" and "Old Tom gin" were advanced and explained.

Now that the cold weather has set in and bicycling in the open air is pretty well shut down on, several schemes are being talked of to bring the members together during the winter months. One plan is to hold social gatherings at different members' houses, and judging from an invitation just received, we are to have the first next week.

Several of the "old heads" have formed a small debating society, and intend holding debates once a week. Of course, the subjects will be purely "bicyclic" and no doubt a good deal of information will be derived from these debates. Of course the rooms are the best scheme of all, and being well lighted and heated, are sure to draw a crowd every evening. Next to the piano for creating amusement comes the reading table, which contains nearly all the bicycling journals, besides sporting, dramatic, and other literature. The latest addition has been three new small tables whose drawers are filled with all kinds of games, cards, etc.

The returns of the late entertainment held by the Club were made at the last meeting, and show the receipts, after paying all expenses, to be over \$200, which is quite a reinforcement to the funds, which were quite low at that time.

Club drill in our old winter quarters on Jarvis street, will probably be resumed after Christmas. The "Bone-Shaker" class will probably be started some time sooner.

A Club photograph is to be taken by Dixon, the well known photographer, and will no doubt make a good picture as by actual count over sixty members with bicycles and uniforms will be taken.

Wishing you and your readers a merry Christmas, I remain,

Yours, WANDER"OR."

Toronto, December, 1883.

### OTTAWA.

I regret that the first subject of my December letter should be the announcement of the sudden death, on the 22nd November, of Sidney A. Woodburn, late First Lieutenant of our Club, from congestion of the lungs, after a very short illness, originating from a severe cold caught while witnessing a foot-ball match here.

His death has been a sad blow to his brother wheelmen. At club "meets" every one hailed "Sid" with a hearty greeting. He was amiable and warm-hearted to a fault, and always ready to help a comrade in distress—a persevering rider, and the acknowledged wit of the Club. Club runs were always jolliest when Sydney was one of the party. He could sing a good song and tell a good story. But how keen is the irony of fate! when your last number arrived, containing an account of his exploits, the poor fellow was lying in his coffin.

The pall-bearers were all members of the O. B. C. The floral contribution of the Club was the most beautiful I ever saw; the design was the Club badge (a shield), made entirely of flowers. At a meeting held on the 27th ult., a committee was formed to draft and forward a letter of condolence to Mr. and Mrs. Woodburn. It was also decided that each member should wear a mourning badge for one month, the badge to consist of a piece of the Club (cardinal) ribbon, edged with black.

I understand that permission has been granted the O. B. C. to use the magnificent drill hall here for drill and practice. I do not think much riding will be done, however, until spring, as riding in our frosty climate would be almost certain death to the machines.

The O. B. C., as a club, has not joined the newly formed Ottawa Athletic organization, though several individual members belong to it. The question of "Club" action was discussed at the special meeting held on the 27th ult., but owing to so many of the members' being out of the city, action was deferred.

I, in common with many others no doubt, read with pleasure your account of how justice was eventually done to a persecuted bicyclist, in the person of Mr. Moore, of Stratford. Last month I nearly had a somewhat similar incident to record. One of our wheelmen had the misfortune to be within half a block of a spirited young team

attached to a farmer's wagon; in the wagon was a young woman, very much muffled up, and holding the reins. At first sight of the wheel the horses turned suddenly round and rushed up street, throwing the girl out, breaking a lamp-post, and finally completely demolishing the wagon against the post-office, and spilling the contents in every direction. The girl was not badly hurt, fortunately, and she afterwards confessed that the runaway was due to the fact of the bolt coming out of the whiffletree, and not to the bicycle. Chief of Police Grant said a great deal for a few days about putting a stop entirely to bicycle riding in the city, but we rode as usual without interruption, no doubt because "his worship" knew he could not legally sustain his threats. Some of our country friends still wax wrothy when we are the cause of their having to "haul up" or stop to allow us to pass. They usually express their opinion that "them things shouldn't be allowed." However, they are getting reconciled by degrees. In most cases all that is necessary is a little patience and a conciliatory tone on the part of the rider, to smooth over all trouble.

Our Captain (Jenkins) is an enthusiastic hockey player. He is exerting himself to convert his brother wheelmen to his way of thinking.

President Mothersill, Second Lieutenant, and Mr. Blythe and T. D. B. Evans are members of the Metropolitan Athletic Club.

All of our leading roads have had a thorough overhauling this fall, so that we look for good roads next season.

Yours,

OTTAWA.

### NEWCASTLE.

DEAR WHEELMAN:—

I have just received the copies of your paper you so kindly sent me, and am happy in adding my good opinion to the others. As our Bicycle Club is a very young one, it is hardly likely that very many know that there is such a thing as the "Newcastle Bicycle Club;" but although we have only been organized about two months we have a membership of thirty-six, ten of whom are active members. The citizens are giving us every encouragement, for which we are much obliged to them. Mr. S. B. Chandler has very kindly allowed us the use of his club-rooms, free of rent. We have had them thoroughly repaired and decorated by a first-class firm, Rolfe & Son, whose names only have to be mentioned to convince all who know them of the thoroughness of the work. The rooms are to open (to club members) every night, commencing on the 3rd of December, and a small library of books (about one hundred) has been bought by the Club, besides all the leading periodicals of the day of all classes to suit all tastes. We have also a first-class "pipe-top organ" in the rooms, and as about one-quarter of the members can play we are never at a loss for music; some of our singers being noted far and near for their talent.