

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

LENT is over, and now, according to the canons of etiquette, the church, and womankind, society is free to plunge into the mad world of gaiety once more. A late Easter it was, to be sure, but nevertheless—if all the signs are reliable—it ushers in a spring social season of unusual brilliancy. Even at this early day a long line of parties, receptions and weddings are "lining up." The caterers and florists are smiling and happy, for they have many a tidy order down on their little books. As for the list of weddings, it rivals the list of last spring in the number of prominent young society people who are to seek Hymen's altar, and that is saying a good deal, for last spring was a most brilliant social season. May has a great number of these happy events for herself, and so has June. Quite a few of the weddings will be elaborate church affairs, and a multitude will be cosy home gatherings. Victoria will show an unusual number of brides this spring and summer. That is a settled fact.

The Lenten period, just over, has been distinguished by great social moderation. True, there have been many informal receptions and social gatherings of the interesting but not showy order; but speaking strictly from a social standpoint, society has been very dull. Ladies have canceled their little social debts with afternoon tea parties and luncheons of various hues—pink, yellow and blue predominating. These afternoon gatherings have been very popular, and have proved a delightful novelty compared with the time-worn calling receptions. But Lent is past and now on with the dance and merrymaking! That is the shibboleth of society for the next three months and until warmer weather.

Have you heard of the fashionable fad in engagement rings, which takes us back to our grandmother's day? For it is the same old-fashioned, heart-shaped design that was her pride and joy. Those who do not follow the season's fads, select a single stone, either a diamond or the young ladies' lucky stone, namely, the stone dedicated to the month in which she was born. An engagement ring is worn on the third finger of the left hand until just before the marriage ceremony, when it is transferred to the corresponding finger of the right hand. The marriage ring, a plain gold band, takes its place, and oftentimes the engagement ring is used as a guard for it, though most women of fine taste prefer to see the wedding ring alone on its finger.

The concert given in the Market Hall of Vancouver, under the auspices of Christ Church, last Thursday evening, proved a decided success. The programme was lengthy and very well carried out. Mr. Cambie filled the chair in an able manner. The Misses Nicholls opened the concert with an instrumental duet, which was well executed, and met with great applause. Mrs. Watson, one of British Columbia's favorite prima donnas, was supposed to sing two solos, but was decidedly fortunate in getting off with four, being encored twice. Mrs. Buntzen was also encored, and very heartily applauded. Mr. Lee Rogers gave a burlesque of recitations and songs, and delighted his audience. Professor Trendell, in his clarinet solo, proved himself to be master of his instrument and music. Mr. Adolf Gregory, who possesses a very clear and powerful voice, in his song, "The Storm Fiend," pleased the audience very much indeed. Mr. McClinton, of New Westminster, being unable to be present, his place was efficiently filled by Mr. Wilson, who gave a recitation. Messrs. Burnett and Ramsay were greatly handicapped in their single-stick contest by the narrow limits of the platform, but both proved themselves to be masters of the art of fencing. The *Telegram* says that the entertainment was a splendid success, and Mrs. Machon is to be congratulated in the result of her efforts.

The entertainment in Christ Church Cathedral school room, last Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the Willing Workers' Society, was highly successful. An interesting programme of music, vocal and instrumental, and recitations was given by the young people, after which refreshments were served by the ladies to all present. The young ladies who composed the broom company were: Lizzie Sharples, Sadie Sharples, Flossie Lettice, Maud Lettice, Annie Jones, May Creech, Gertie Collis, Birdie Cook, Mary Hiscocks, Annie Carter, Alice Carter, Goldie Tinsley, Flossie Parr, Edith Parr, Annie Drove and Nettie Gabriel. After the drill, a drawing for a fancy banner was held, Mrs. Lettice being the lucky lady.

The Assembly Hall, Fort street, was a scene of gay festivity and pleasure last Monday evening, a grand ball given under the auspices of Loyal Orange Lodges 1,426 and 1,610. One hundred and sixty couples were on the floor. A fine collation was served by Mr. J. Brown, of the Prince of Wales Hotel. Messrs. Thos. Ashe, John Braden, J. Holland, J. Walsh, J. Brethour, R. H. Walker, J. Hunter and Dr. Morrison were on the reception committee, and Messrs. J. Walker, J. Phillips, Geo. Bremston and J. Meldram acted as floor managers.

The sale of work and concert under the direction of the ladies and of Rev. D. MacRae's congregation, at Cedar Hill, last Tuesday evening, was successful in every particular, upwards of \$100 being realized, which, with about \$200 made by the same society last autumn, will be a good nucleus of a fund for the erection of a church. Special credit is due to Mrs. R. C. MacRae, the president, and Miss Scott, the treasurer, for the way in which they worked to insure success.

The Gorge Road Centennial Methodist Church will be opened on Sunday, the 22nd of May. It is not yet known what minister will preach the opening sermon, but it is the intention of the members to hold meetings for the first few weeks in the church, and entertainments of various kinds will be given.

A large number of tickets have already been sold for the entertainment to be given by the Young Ladies' Institute on the even of April 27.

F. G. Walker, of the legal firm of Walker, Pemberton & Dumbleton, has been confined to his house for the past few days through illness.

Hon. C. F. Cornwall, ex-Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, arrived down from the interior last Thursday night.

Rev. Dr. Good, of Nanaimo, will preach at Calvary Baptist Church next Sunday morning and evening.

Prof. F. B. Fenwick, late organist St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, is ill at Banff.

Dr. Lake, of Edinburgh, and H. E. Talk, of Liverpool, are guests at the Driard.

Mrs. R. Brodrick leaves for California on the next San Francisco steamer.

Lewis Lewis is again around, but still very weak.

J. C. McLagan, of the *Vancouver World*, is in town.

The lectures of Professor Alexander at the Imperial Theatre are being well attended, and the interest in the subject of phrenology appears to be increasing each night. The Professor talks common sense and has the rare faculty of telling in a way

that not only convinces those who listen, but also throws a new light on every phase of the momentous question of choosing the proper pursuit in life, which confidently leads to success. He has a happy method of illustrating his points by interspersing many amusing anecdotes and stories, which are wonderfully *apropos* and invariably create a laugh, but lose none of the telling effects desired.

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