

CITY CHIMES.

We have been having what the old ladies call a bad "spell" of weather, and it seems to be almost impossible for the air to be clear and dry or the sun to shine forth brightly on this rain-soaked district. Every day we are treated to copious showers of rain, and we are pining for some dry weather. Our hopes are high though for a west wind to blow ere long and clear the atmosphere of this depressing dampness, which, despite the strongest resistance, is bound to inflict that dread disease, "the blues," on even the most buoyant spirits. Very little is ever expected of November in the way of sunshine, but we have not yet had any Indian summer, so that our outlook for the month on which we are about to enter is not altogether without a bright line, although in truth at present "a formless gray confusion covers all."

The opening of the Y. M. L. A. bazaar has been postponed until Monday evening next, November 2nd. It will continue for a week and great results are looked for. If the success of former similar enterprises of this Association are to be a criterion, the expectations of the society and their friends will surely be fully realized. The bazaar is to be held in the drill shed, and will be formally opened by His Grace the Archbishop, who is patron of the Association.

It has been decided. The Professors of Dalhousie have pronounced the edict "no dancing" and the hopes of the gay terpsichorean devotees have been cruelly crushed. Seriously, though, we are sorry that the learned body feel that it is better to omit the dance in Dalhousie's annual celebration of George Munro day, but no doubt the Principal and those of his colleagues who agreed with him have carefully pondered this matter before they decided in opposition to the wishes of a large majority of the students, and it is to be hoped that the anticipated reception will come off as pleasantly and arrangements run as smoothly as on the former occasion when "the boys" entertained their numerous friends and well-wishers.

The Sunday School teachers and those interested in the work have been having a busy time this week in Halifax. The seventh Sunday School Convention of Nova Scotia opened in the First Baptist Church, Spring Garden Road, on Tuesday evening and continued meetings throughout Wednesday and Thursday. There were nearly two hundred delegates from different parts of the Province, and much practical discussion of this important work of the church took place. Many excellent addresses were delivered, and all attending these meetings must have been lulled and stimulated in the good work of winning the little ones, and developing the good that is in the young of our country.

We read in an exchange the other day directions for crocheting a waistcoat for wear in cold weather, and the article wound up by saying—"these vests are almost universally worn in England and Canada." We wonder if we are out of the fashion, for we have never possessed one of these warm and comfortable vests.

Dr. Partridge's lecture in St. George's Church on Sunday afternoon was listened to with much interest by a large audience. His subject was—"The Science of the Soul," and contained much deep and researching thought, which was ably expounded by the lecturer, who is always listened to with pleasure and attention. On this occasion the Reverend gentleman thoroughly discussed mind reading, spiritualism, and hypnotism, and brought out some very good ideas. As an answer to the query of many as to whether it is right that we should try to satisfy our craving for more knowledge, for deeper understanding of the talents and power with which man is endowed, Dr. Partridge reasons that "There may be room for difference of opinion on many details of systematic religion. There should be none as to whether man should cultivate all his gifts, and use to the full all his talents. Thought cannot be stifled. What is in itself permanent remains. The human mind will search, and probe, and reflect, and reason, and none can prevent it. It is the part of religion to guide and to watch, to stimulate and to balance, and in proportion to purity of motive and earnest seeking after God, to encourage and to bless." It certainly seems, as Dr. Partridge says, that we are but beginning to realize dimly our capabilities. This lecture was the fifth of the series which the pastor is delivering in St. George's church each Sunday at 4.15 o'clock, and all who have been privileged to attend these discourses are warm in their expressions of approval of the service which Rev. Canon Partridge is rendering by these thoughtful papers.

The grand military tournament and promenade concert which has been held in the royal exhibition building on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of this week has been a complete success, and the 63rd Rifles have every reason to feel proud of the favorable results which have rewarded their efforts. Large crowds attended both evenings, and the music furnished by the bands of the 63rd Rifles and the Leicestershire regiment was alone well worth the admission fee. Many spectators from the country were present. Most of the events were intensely interesting, and we find it difficult to particularize in our limited space. Perhaps though the tug of war between teams of the H. G. A. and the 63rd Rifles might be said to have proved the most exciting. Certainly both first and second teams of the H. G. A. are to be congratulated on their victory, the contest being a close one. The double trapeze performance by Serge-Major Kelly and Mr. McCulloch of the 63rd Rifles deserves special mention, and was much enjoyed by the appreciative audience. The gun drill by 18 men-of-war sailors from H. M. S. Bellerophon was the most amusing of all the events, and the agility of the tars in handling the piece of ordnance was wonderful to behold. They worked like "greased lightning," and made lots of fun with the wheel races, etc. The high jump was one of the most graceful feats performed, and

rounds of applause greeted Mr. H. L. Ruggles when he took first prize by jumping 5 feet 3½ inches. He was handicapped 3 inches, and had to beat Mr. O'Brien who jumped 4 feet 11½ inches. Mr. Ruggles is a particularly graceful jumper and seldom balks, as did some of the contestants. The music was good, for what else could be said where the Leicestershire band played, and we were by no means ashamed of the performance of the 63rd band. It was an oversight that no arrangements for the comfort of the ladies who patronized the assault were made. A very few chairs were available, and the regular plank seats by the railing were all occupied by men. The long waits between events were rather tiresome, and it appeared to onlookers that it would have been quite as easy to have things follow more quickly. The tournament must have been a success financially, for there was a full house, and the 63rd deserved it.

Sunday last was a memorable day for all who attended the harvest festival services at the Garrison Church. Rev. Dr. Gilpin preached at the parade service in the morning, and in the afternoon at the children's fruit and flower service, the little ones were appropriately addressed by Rev. F. B. N. Norman Lee, chaplain of Her Majesty's forces. In the evening standing room was at a premium and many were turned away, unable to gain admission. The other city churches suffered accordingly, but a full choral service, the music being by the full band of the Leicestershire Regiment, the organ and the choir, proves an irresistible attraction, and the quaint little church was filled to overflowing. The text of the sermon by Rev. W. B. King was well chosen, the love of the bountiful giver of all and thankfulness due being the theme of the discourse, which was attentively listened to by the large congregation. After the service was over the full band rendered, in its usual grand style, the beautiful selection "The Heavens are Telling," and thus closed the thanksgiving services of the day. The church was beautifully decorated, bunches of wheat tied with clusters of red berries, ornamented pillars, windows, etc. The pulpit and reading desks were profusely covered with flowers, fruit and autumn leaves, while a table behind the chancel rail was loaded with fruit of all kinds, apples, grapes, peaches, bananas, etc., etc., all forming a delightful profusion of the good things of our land. This English custom of setting apart a Sunday for devotional exercises of thanksgiving and praise is a very pretty one, and our English churches do well to perpetuate it.

The Grau Opera Company has been playing to large houses in the Academy of Music this week. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings the bright and attractive opera, "Said Pasha," was on, and was heartily enjoyed by appreciative audiences. This is a two act comic opera, and contains some very pretty music, and the parts are well taken by the members of this excellent company. The Pasha, a Turkish Diplomat, was impersonated by Francis Gaillard, who understood his part, and played it well. Adolph Mayer, "Hassen Bey," has a strong but hardly a pleasing baritone voice. Herman Waldo as "Terano," a Mexican nobleman, had a very pleasant role, and although only a fair actor, being a little constrained, possesses a good tenor voice, and will probably grow in the favor of his audiences. Stanley Felch and Kirtland Calhoun provoked much merriment and formed a good team of humorists. And now for the ladies; Miss Elith Mason, the young and pretty prima donna, fully came up to the anticipations of the audiences, and promises to prove a great favorite. She possesses a fine clear voice, well cultivated and very pleasing, and as "Sereas," the Pasha's daughter, had a very pretty part. Miss Julia Calhoun scored a great success as "Ali," the Queen of Alton, and was presented with a lovely basket of flowers after her duet with Terano. The other ladies did not have much scope for their talents, but did well what was required of them. The chorus of this company is very strong indeed, and the orchestra, assisted by some of our local talent, is exceptionally good. Miss Grace Gailey's dance in the second act of "Said Pasha" is very pretty and graceful. Just here we might speak of the rich and varied costumes worn, all of which are undoubtedly beautiful, but while in the large American cities this style of dress, or undress, would be taken quite as a matter of course, in conservative, critical little Halifax we have many whose ideas of good taste would undoubtedly be much offended by the appropriately called "abbreviated skirts" worn by the female portion of the company. All in all the Grau is by far the best opera troupe Halifax has been favored with for a long time, and we trust the theatre goers of our city know how to appreciate a good thing when they find it. Manager Clarke is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts to have the Academy occupied by a good company, and we hope the present engagement may prove advantageous to all concerned, and provide acceptable entertainment during this dull season.

That neither wind or weather daunts the football enthusiasts was proved last Saturday afternoon, when the Wanderers and Garrisons met on the Polo grounds and played the fourth game of the championship football series. The day was damp, cold and decidedly unpleasant, the wind being very penetrating and blowing straight from the north east, but the attendance was fair and the spectators appeared to forget discomfort in the excitement of the contest. The game was a good one, and both teams did some fine work, the Wanderers coming off victors, score 6 to 0. There are only two more matches in the series, and the game to-morrow, when Dalhousie and Garrison teams meet, is eagerly looked forward to. Each victory scores two points, and the competitors now stand—Wanderers 6, Dalhousie 2, Garrison 0. The red and blacks are evidently bound to win, and the members of the team feel very good just now. The College boys have two more chances however, and their hopes are high. The second fifteens of the Dalhousians and Wanderers are doing some very good work, and have had several interesting matches. Interest and enthusiasm runs high, and the game is rapidly growing in favor with our citizens.