

## CITY CHIMES.

The members of the Wanderers Amateur Athletic Club held their semi-annual meeting on Tuesday evening of this week. The club has been in existence for ten years, and the general report gives a satisfactory showing from both athletic and financial standpoints. The active membership at present numbers 244, a decrease of 25 since the last semi-annual meeting. This decrease is accounted for viz. an unusually large number having left the city and the loss of five members by death. The committee submitting the report on sports, expressed regret that the attention given to field and track sports is not what it should be, although a good example in this line has been set by Messrs. Henry, Tracey, Mackintosh, Bowen and others for the younger members to follow. The fair committee report a net balance of \$1,934. For this successful result the Wanderers may well move a vote of thanks to their lady friends, for only those immediately interested knew how the ladies worked during Fair week, and how indefatigable they were in their efforts to promote the success of the undertaking to which they had turned their attention. For services rendered Messrs. R. P. Greenwood and Stewart Wetmore have been made life members. The question of establishing a gymnasium in connection with the club is under consideration.

The Lorne Aquatic Association held their annual meeting at their club house on Tuesday evening. The reports on the season's work were very satisfactory, and it was decided to hold a regatta next summer. The young men of Halifax have many opportunities to indulge in athletic exercises, and if there be any who have not connected themselves with one of our athletic associations they would do well to consider the matter at the commencement of the new year.

The concert at Orpheus Hall to be given in aid of the Royal Blue Grounds funds, which unfortunately has had to be twice postponed, was set down for last evening, and I have no doubt proved all that the most sanguine of success could desire. The names of the ladies and gentleman on the programme were guarantees of a highly enjoyable entertainment.

## LYCEUM THEATRE, DEC. 15, "SHE." ZERA SEMON'S

That the urchins of our city have participated in the entertainments provided by the Baker Opera Company is evidenced by the cheerful whistling of the lullaby chorus from *Lorraine* or the bells from the Chimes of Normandy and other catchy airs as the youngsters go about their work or play. These operatic performances varied with luscious cries of "Re-corder, Echo, Mail" have become quite familiar during the early evening hours, and no doubt the little fellows, who have many hardships and few pleasures, consider the hard-earned cash exchanged for an admission ticket to the gallery of the Gods as well spent.

That the engagement of the Baker Opera Company is about to close is sincerely regretted by a very large number of Halifaxians who, during the past seven weeks, have patronized and enjoyed the excellent performances of comic opera which have been given in the Academy of Music. The operas have been wisely selected and have given much satisfaction to our theatre goers. Throughout the season the company have not played to any but large audiences, including always a goodly representation of the "four hundred." Of course in reference to the manner of presenting the plays, as on every subject under the sun, opinions have differed, and this week, in consequence of a letter contributed to Saturday evening's *Mail*, several persons have seen fit to give the public the benefit of their views on the mode of dressing adopted by the ladies of the Baker Opera Company. Whether those who strongly object to the scant gowns and betighted limbs of the fair ones, and claim that the conscientious woman must blush to behold the lack of modesty shown by her sister women, or those who consider the "chorus girls" of the company have simply dressed according to the requirements of the operas put on, have right on their side I am not going to attempt to discuss, perhaps there may be much worthy of consideration on both sides of the case, but certainly the controversy has not lessened the popularity of the performances in the slightest degree. One fact is indisputable, namely, that any one who does not approve of comic opera and the habiliments pertaining thereto is at perfect liberty to seek amusement in some other form, and to discountenance what he or she believes to be wrong by conspicuous absence. The success of the operas this week have been but an appropriate closing of a remarkably successful season, and for the future Manager Baker is justified in anticipating a hearty welcome in Halifax. This evening the "Bohemian Girl" is on the bill, and to-morrow afternoon "Nanon" will be given. To-morrow evening at the grand complimentary benefit to Misses Dickeson and Murphy the "Black Hussar," with the band of the Leicestershire Regiment, will be played, and it is almost a certainty that standing room will be quite unavailable ere the hour arrives for the curtain to rise. The untiring efforts to please and the faithful and satisfactory work of the Baker Opera Company will long be remembered by the thousands who have attended the Academy during the last few weeks.

November passed out as it came in, wet, dreary and chill, and now we have come to the last month of the year. December has always been characterized as the "month of snow and ice and mirth," but of late years, while we may have had plenty of mirth, the snow and the ice have been lacking, and rain and mud seem quite as probable on Christmas Day as frost and snow. However, this month has only just begun, and there is no telling what kind of weather we may experience ere it ends. Should the comet chance to run up against our little earth we might have worse things to contend with than a season of rain.

It is held by some good people that it is not only extremely foolish but an actual sin to teach the children to believe in the reality of Santa Claus and his works. These worthy people may be right in their logic that, this being a pure fabrication, we are doing wrong in encouraging the innocents in our care to put their faith in the myth, and are sowing seeds of deception, but who among us would give up the memories of the years when Santa Claus was to him a very dear reality. I remember well the shock to my faith in the world in general when an older playmate informed me that Santa was not, and having appealed to the home circle I received a confession that no such person "really and truly" lived. It is a question perhaps whether the pleasure derived from the implicit faith placed in Santa's existence more than repays for the intense disappointment experienced when the child discovers the illusion, but as the knowledge generally comes when other interests are crowding in, and baby hood's days are gladly left behind by the eager little traveller on life's highway, I cannot think it wrong of us to hang the babies' stockings up on Christmas Eve and send them off to dreamland to dream of coming delights. One of the hardest questions to answer, when inquisitive little minds are wondering this and that, is why does Santa Claus not give poor little boys and girls what they wish for? Poor little souls, it is very few of their wishes that are granted them, and it is a hard heart who can carelessly think of the disappointed children who on Christmas morning find no Christmas Choer. The families who have plenty and to spare will find it one of the best paying investments they can make to gladden some destitute home on the glad Christmas day, and those among us who feel we have nothing to give will be surprised to know how little it takes to make a poor child happy. The sight of a sad face made bright or the knowledge of a cheerless home made happier will bring full recompense for any sacrifice we may make.

While passing one of our public schools the other day, I was favorably struck with the music of childish voices singing a simple little song. The harmony was far from perfect, but the effect produced was very pleasing. The value of the study of music in the public schools cannot, I think, be too highly estimated, especially in the primary and intermediate departments. Rough and oftentimes unmanageable boys grow gentle under the influence of music, and restless pupils are at once quiet when the teacher says—"we'll sing." The *New York School Journal* speaks of this subject as follows:—"The study of music elevates and ennobles, and therefore tends to bring out the finer qualities of the child's nature. Singing to him is as natural as it is to eat. Let him sing to live, sing he must to give vent to his joys and sorrows. Music as a magnet has not only power to attract the child, but has power to reach out into infinite space and carry along all that it comes in contact with. In many of our public schools music is a new plant. In others it has not yet been planted. While in others it has taken root and has grown with great luxuriance." The aim of every true educator is to bring out the best that is in the children, and teachers who have tried the effect of music, even though the voices be totally uncultured and the tones oftentimes exceeding harsh, testify that the time employed in singing lessons has been well spent.

Much to the regret of their lady friends the North British Society decided to celebrate the one hundred and twenty-fourth anniversary of St. Andrew's Day by a good old fashioned dinner, instead of the conversation which has been held on the last two anniversaries. On Wednesday evening the Scots who have their homes in this capital of New Scotland, donned their best bib and tucker, and with their friends gathered at the Halifax Hotel, where the tables were laid for a bounteous repast. The company numbered about one hundred and thirty. After fully enjoying the good things provided, telegrams of greeting from Sister Societies in Vancouver, Quebec, St. John, Montreal, Boston, and Ottawa, were read. The various toasts of the evening were then proposed, and each having been happily responded to, was followed by a Scottish song. The evening, which had been very enjoyable, was brought to a close by the singing of "Good Night and joy be wi' ye a'," and "Auld Lang Syne."

I notice by Mr. R. D. Clark's advertisement that Halifax people are to have an opportunity of securing some more of the beautiful Japanese articles which were so popular some two or three winters ago, and which make such acceptable Christmas gifts. The dainty tables, beautiful screens, etc., etc., have adorned many homes, and housekeepers and lovers of artistic furnishings will do well to have a peep at these goods when they arrive.

CHIPS.

## CAMBRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL.

30 Salter Street, Halifax, N. S.

Term Commences September 2nd.

### STAFF.

HEAD MASTER:—MR. H. M. BRADFORD,  
M. A. (Cambridge)

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS.—MR. G. W. AYLON,  
B. A. (Cambridge).

MR. F. B. MELLISH, B. A. (Oxford).

FRENCH:—MONSIEUR BALVAL.

GERMAN:—HERB VON DE GROEZEN

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A SPECIAL JUNIOR CLASS OF BOYS UNDER is newly organized, under the direct supervision of the head-master.

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Applications for next term should be made at once as there are but few vacancies.