

CITY CHIMES.

Christmas is over, and the festivities attendant thereon are now but a memory, I trust to all a pleasant memory. The weather was delightfully seasonable, perhaps a little too cold for comfort, but the sharp frosty air outside made home firesides most attractive. The slight fall of snow on Sunday night made the sleighing fairly good on Monday, and the merry jingle of the sleigh bells resounded on all sides, as those who were not afraid to face the cold wind enjoyed the sport. The Exhibition Rink was open in the afternoon and evening, and hundreds of skaters took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy good ice and the excellent music furnished by the band of the 66th P. L. F.

The pupils of the Deaf and Dumb Institution and of the School for the Blind spent a very merry Christmas. The deaf and dumb children began their festivities on Saturday evening when a children's pantomime was performed by nine of the pupils, the remainder with their teachers forming an appreciative audience. On Monday morning Santa Claus paid his annual visit and distributed his welcome gifts. After doing full justice to the good dinner provided the boys and girls spent a happy afternoon in skating and playing games. At the School for the Blind the scholars who did not go home for the holidays were given a memorable treat, and no pains were spared to make the occasion thoroughly enjoyable. A Christmas bazaar was held in the Assembly Hall, where tables were spread with a number of toys and useful articles. A candy booth and peanut stand were opened. Vendors of figs, dates and oranges were on hand, who, with the keepers of the booths and stalls, advertised their wares in the usual way, "Oranges five cents a piece"—"Peanuts ten cents a pint"—"twenty-five cents for any article upon this table." Such were the cries that greeted the pupils as they entered the hall. On the stage the Superintendent acted as cashier of the Santa Claus Bank, from which the pupils chequed out the amount placed to their credit and made their purchases at the different stalls. Each pupil in this way became possessed of several pretty presents, to say nothing of fruit, candy and nuts, and they all pronounced the Christmas bazaar most enjoyable. Before it was understood that the funds were to be supplied from the Santa Claus Bank one young lad told the Superintendent that he did not know that he would have to pay for the things, and asked to be loaned a half dollar until he got his money from home. The happiness and good-will that prevail at these institutions are very evident in the bright faces and cheerful voices of the young people, who are being trained to lives of usefulness and contentment.

We hear a good deal about hard times, no money, etc. etc. in Halifax, but nevertheless when the Christmas season comes there is a considerable amount of the needful put into circulation, and if we may judge from the depleted appearance of the counters of the stores, which a week or so ago were loaded with Christmas goods, very handsome gifts have gladdened the hearts of many this glad Christmastide. The poor of the city were not forgotten, and if there be one family which did not receive some token of remembrance it was certainly not the fault of the charitably disposed citizens, who this year as usual did all in their power to make the day a happy one for their less fortunate fellow creatures, who are not abundantly blessed with the good things of this life. Many, perhaps all of our churches, and several of our schools, gave liberally, and not a few cheerless homes were brightened by the kind thoughtfulness of generous hearts. That it is truly more blessed to give than to receive has been proven by a large number of the good men and women of Halifax, who have spent time and money in giving comfort and pleasure where they expect nothing but gratitude in return. The action of the scholars of our schools in contributing and distributing articles of food and clothing to the poor around them is worthy of commendation, but the boys and girls who participated in this act of charity would not, I feel sure, willingly have missed the pleasure they derived from thus doing their duty.

The pupils of the Deaf and Dumb Institution assisted by kind friends are to give an entertainment this evening, to which they have invited as many friends of the Institution as their accommodation will permit.

Our first cold snap this year was long and quite severe, and the change in temperature on Tuesday, when the mercury went up, was not unwelcome. The mild weather experienced throughout the autumn and early winter seemed to unfit us for enduring the cold, and the frosty air and biting winds of Christmas week called forth all our efforts to keep ourselves comfortable.

The Sailors' Home was the scene of an interesting gathering on Tuesday evening, when nearly one hundred and fifty seamen partook of an elaborate Christmas feast. After enjoying the tempting edibles provided the mariners were entertained by an excellent programme prepared and rendered by kind friends, who must have felt their efforts well rewarded as they saw around them the large number of happy, manly faces. Sailors who were present will not soon forget the pleasant evening spent in the Halifax Sailors' Home this Christmas season.

One of the most successful balls ever held in Halifax was that given at the Halifax Hotel on Tuesday evening by the Maritime Commercial Travellers Association. Between two hundred and fifty and three hundred guests were present, and, in the language of the gushing debutante, all had a simply lovely time. The arrangements made at the Halifax for the accommodation of the large number of guests were much the same as those of the H. G. A. ball, and were complete in every respect. The large dining hall was beautifully decorated and formed a model ball room. Supper was served in the

dining room, and was all that the most fastidious could desire. Some of the dresses worn by the ladies present were very handsome, and the scene presented to an onlooker was exceedingly gay and pretty. That the travellers have found the secret of successfully entertaining their many friends has been amply proven, and the "boys" start out on their work for the new year followed by the best wishes of all who enjoyed their bountiful hospitality on Tuesday evening.

The Lyceum Theatre has drawn good houses this, the third week of Zera Semon's latest show. The special attraction this week has been Sahib Ben Hommed in his wonderful black art. He is a good magician and has introduced some features never before seen in Halifax. Professor Powell continues to delight his audiences with his clever sleight-of-hand tricks and Hilton is doing good work in his line. Mlle Vera is also giving very satisfactory performances, and taken altogether Zera is giving his patrons an excellent programme. Ladies and children who enjoy this form of amusement, and what child does not, have an opportunity at the matinees which are held Saturday afternoons.

The end of the year has come, and the season for reflection and the forming of new resolutions is present with us. Perhaps as we stand on the edge of the old year and look back to the day when we turned down the last leaf of '91, and with many good resolutions began the yet unblotted page of '92, we feel discouraged at the long array of failures and mistakes that come to our view. Yet even if this array be formidable I think it well to start afresh each year, and if we are thoughtful men and women we may profit even by our past mistakes, remembering them as warnings for the year to come. To each of us no doubt the year has brought many dark days, to some of us crushing disappointments and deep sorrows, but surely each has found many joys and unexpected blessings as the weeks have passed away. We are so much more prone to remember the sad events than the countless happy experiences of our lives, but whether grief or gladness has been our lot in the year that has gone we can all look forward hopefully to the year on which we are about to enter. That to each of my readers it may prove replete with happiness and sunshine is the sincere wish of

CHIPS.

BOOK GOSSIP.

Of course it was to be expected that the *Ladies' Home Journal* should put forth even more attractions for the coming year, and the January issue for 1893 is proof positive that the expectation is to be gratified. The front-piece of the "New Year Minute" is a dainty bit of work, causing the foot of the debutante to tap merrily with its suggestions, and the same bright miss will learn much in a perusal of Mrs. Burton Harrison's advice on the subject of "The Well-Bred Girl in Society," and she will also consider with Mrs. Burton Kingsland "The Danger of a Social Career." The burning question on "The Art of Keeping Servants" is well handled, and much practical advice is given to mistresses both old and young. Miss Mamie Dickens has another delightful paper of reminiscences of her gifted father, and the blythe face of Mrs. Haggard looks out from a neighboring page. Perhaps it is to the editorial departments that most of us turn first. If so we may consider "Three Pretty Girl Papers" or the art of "Putting a Gown Together." Mrs. Bollome has a helpful paper under the caption of "The King's Daughters," and Mrs. Abbot another where quiet talks may be had "Just Among Ourselves." Fact and fancy are asserted to the reader's taste and the critical souls who are disatisfied with the issue would find it hard work to even suggest a needed improvement. Published by the Curtis Publishing Co., Philadelphia.

The *Illustrated News* for December 24th is a particularly good number. From the fine engraving of an Investiture at Windsor as a front-piece to the humble advertising columns in which the merits of Boecham's pill's are proclaimed there is much to interest the reader. The strong face of Sir George Stewart, the successful contestant for the coveted office of commander-in-chief for India, will delight those who study the human face and form, while the appreciative account of his martial career will win many admirers. A capital illustrated sketch is given of the new play now on at the St. James Theatre, "Liberty Hall." The full page picture of the *Christmas Carol* is exquisite in subject and treatment, and is especially welcome because of the new interpretation it gives to a hackneyed subject. Dog fanciers will smile and sigh over the page of comic pictures devoted to their pets, and with a too sudden transition they will be carried forcibly on to our rambling article from the pen of Andrew Lang. "The Gods of Olympus," the picture of an Albanian interior, will find many admirers who will be fascinated by the Eastern spirit so well imparted to the scene. A short and striking love story, "The Deposit" and the advertising columns bring the fine issue to a close.

The *New England Magazine* for January begins the year 1893 very promisingly. It is a particularly varied number. The opening article deals in an attractive gossip fashion with the childhood and early life of Amelia B. Edwards, the famous Egyptologist and novelist. Helen Campbell, the author of "Prisoners of Poverty," contributes the first two chapters of a new serial, "John Ballantyno, American." The Rev. Julius H. Ward, the well known literary critic of the Boston *Herald* writes an interesting budget of reminiscences of James Parton, whose historical studies have pleased two generations of readers already. Lucia Tru Ames writes a thoughtful and thought-provoking paper on "The Home in the Tenement-House." These with many other good things form a number well put together and well worth reading.

Blow, blow, blow! That disagreeable catarrh can be cured by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, the constitutional remedy.