

CITY CHIMES.

Halifax society will deeply regret the departure for England on Tuesday of Surgeon Colonel McDowell, better known as the genial P. M. O. He will be missed especially by the ladies, with whom he has been a primo favorite during his residence here, and the little folks, to whom he has been a generous friend, will also be sorrowful over his removal from Halifax. As a matter of fact Dr. McDowell might have gone home some six weeks ago when his retirement was effected, but he lingered here until Christmas was over, much to the gratification of his host of friends.

We have all heard many amusing stories of that specimen of the genus homo, the absent minded man, but of the large number of these strange and unaccountable personages of whom we have read we think we have found none more pronounced in the symptoms than one of our own citizens. The story came to us a few days since with good authority as to its authenticity. It seems that a gentleman, a resident of the south end of Halifax, on his way down town last Saturday morning met on South Park St. a countryman carrying a large basket of fine fresh eggs, and being of a domestic turn of mind, he stopped and bargained with the man for a portion of his load. Having completed the transaction, and remembering that he had no money about him, and having evidently left his wife unprovided with the needful, he handed the countryman a bunch of keys and told him to carry the eggs to his residence, give his wife the keys and tell her to unlock the cash box and pay for the eggs. The gentleman then proceeded on his way down town. This was all very well, had he not entirely forgotten to give his name and address to the man to whom he had given the bunch of keys. A half hour later the man with the basket of eggs in one hand and the keys dangling from the forefinger of the other was to be found going from house to house in a sad state of perplexity, assuring all with whom he came in contact that he did not wish to be dishonest, but he had no idea to whom the keys belonged. We have not heard the sequel of the story, but would be very glad to know that the gentleman received both his keys and eggs in safety, and trust that he with any other of the same mental calibre our city may boast of will take the lesson to heart and learn to "never do so any more."

The reception given at the Church of England Institute last evening by the President and Professors of King's College proved a very enjoyable entertainment. The attendance was large and gave evidence of the extended interest that is felt in the Institute by the citizens of Halifax. Besides a large number of members of the Institute there were present members of the staffs of Dalhousie, Pine Hill and the Ladies' Colleges, Mr. A. H. McKay, Supt. of Education, Mr. A. McKay, Supervisor of Schools, Mr. Howard Murray, Principal of Halifax County Academy, and representatives of the press. Rev. C. E. Willets, President of Kings, and the Professors received the guests in the main hall of the Institute, and performed their duties as hosts in a most charming manner. The Hayden Quintette Orchestra rendered a most acceptable programme of music, and the evening passed very pleasantly. This entertainment was the third of the course provided by the Institute for the winter season, and the committee of management should feel gratified at the successful outcome of their efforts. On Thursday, January 21st, an exhibition of Mrs. Jarley's wax works will be given, and will doubtless afford much genuine amusement.

St. Mary's Young Men's Society held a very successful social in their fine new Hall, Barrington St., on Tuesday evening of this week. This Society is growing rapidly in numbers and usefulness, and has evidently a prosperous career ahead.

The concert to be given in St. Luke's Hall, Morris Street, on Tuesday evening next promises to be well worth attending. Mrs. Clarkson, Mr. Currie, Mr. Lucius Boyd and Professor Frank Deane are among those who are announced to take part in this entertainment, and a good programme has been carefully prepared.

The entertainment which was to have been given last evening by the Band of Hope in connection with the W. C. T. U. has been postponed until Tuesday next, when it is expected a very pleasant evening will be spent. Those interested in temperance work should not fail to encourage the efforts being put forth by these young workers in the cause.

The usual monthly concert at the Halifax School for the Blind took place at the Institution on Wednesday afternoon. The entertainment varied on this occasion from the usual order and proved very successful. Instead of gathering in the Assembly Hall the visitors were conducted to all parts of the building, and in the classrooms the several classes gave interesting exhibitions of the work being done in the school. The number of pupils now in attendance is over forty, and this increase over former years has enabled the literary department of the school to be more effectively graded, thus giving more satisfactory results. Concerts are held on the first Wednesday of each month, and those interested in the school and its work are cordially invited to be present on these occasions.

The Exhibition skating rink opened for the season on Saturday afternoon and was largely attended. The season does not appear to be propitious for this form of amusement, but we cannot foretell when a "cold wave" may come and give us all the winter weather that even the most ardent lover of winter sports can possibly wish for. The band evenings at the rink have been changed and this year we are to be favored but two evenings of each week, Monday and Thursday, with a band in attendance. Of course Saturday

afternoon will as of yore have its music and merry crowd of young people and will doubtless continue in popularity. As we have before mentioned the private afternoon party have the rink on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, and now if Jack Frost will favor us with the pleasure of his company for the next two months we can anticipate some very pleasant entertainment at the Exhibition Rink. We have had a small share of outdoor skating, but the mild weather and heavy rains have not permitted us to enjoy this favor for long periods.

We have frequently of late observed references in the society notes of various public prints that several engagements would probably be announceable in the near future, and we could not help but call to mind a few lines from Byron's Don Juan that run thusly: "Tis a low, newspaper, humdrum country where a young couple of the same age cannot form a friendship but the world o'erawes it." We do not relish thinking of our glorious land of liberty as "a low, newspaper, humdrum country" but we cannot fail to recognize the fact that in our beloved little city it is out of the question for a young man and woman to form a friendship without exciting comment. Of course people will talk, and until these same people cease prying into affairs that do not in the least concern them Halifax society will have to bear its affliction in this line and be patient.

The "At home" given by the Y. M. L. Association in their rooms on Monday evening was a very pleasant affair and much enjoyed by the large number who were present. The rooms of the society have lately been thoroughly renovated and presented on this occasion a very comfortable and attractive appearance.

The members of the Women's Christian Association have again begun their good work in the night school, which they hold on Monday and Thursday evenings beginning at half-past seven o'clock. The attendance is good, but there must surely be still a large number of young girls who are unable to take advantage of the education to be obtained in our day schools, but who would do well to seize the opportunity of improvement offered free to all by the earnest kindly hearted ladies who devote time and means to this branch of Christian work. More teachers are wanted, and a large field of usefulness is here open for any who have time and inclination to enter into this good work.

The weather on New Year's Day was not very agreeable, but was a decided improvement on that of Christmas Day, for which we were accordingly very grateful. The levees held by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, His Grace the Archbishop, and the United States Consul-General were largely attended. Many Halifax ladies were also "at home" on Friday afternoon and held very interesting levees. The fashion of New Year calling is gradually passing into disuse, each coming year seeming to lessen the popularity of this old custom, which nevertheless has much in its favor.

The city schools and the colleges have reopened after the Christmas vacation and once more the busy searchers for knowledge have resumed work. The staff of the County Academy has lately been reorganized and the Institution is now well equipped for practical work. The many educational advantages offered to the ambitious youth of Halifax leaves little, if anything, to be wished for in this line, and our citizens are to be congratulated on the high standard our schools and colleges have attained.

The closing performance of the Orpheus Minstrels, held on New Year's evening, was very satisfactory to those who attended. The audience, although good, was not so large as on the former occasions, but the programme was carried out in much better form, and the entertainment proved very successful. The singing and marching by the young cannibals in the burlesque operetta, "The King of the Cannibal Islands," is deserving of special notice, the juveniles having fully entered into the spirit of the occasion and acted their part well. The financial result of these performances is very satisfactory.

Good houses have greeted Professor Semon this week, and his ever-interesting show has not decreased in popularity. The wonderful box trick was not given as expected, owing to the non-arrival of the necessary apparatus. Zora, however, expects to have it complete for next week's performance, and with an entire charge of programme will as usual give his numerous patrons an acceptable entertainment. Since the Ideal Comedy Company completed its engagement at the Lyceum Professor Semon has been again giving the public an exhibition of his skill in magic working, slight of hand tricks, etc. The contortionists who have been performing this week are very good and their amusing exhibitions of roller skating have been well received. Professor Semon has evidently found Halifax a pretty good place, since he has decided to in future make his home here.

The usual New Year's entertainment was given at the Sailors' Home on Friday evening and was highly enjoyed by the merry crowd of sailors present. The room was crowded, and the general feeling of satisfaction and goodwill which prevailed was clearly shown by the many expressions of appreciation of the efforts which have been put forth to promote the comfort of and furnish enjoyment for the lads who brave the seas. The committee of management in connection with this worthy institution are determined to leave nothing undone to provide a comfortable and attractive home for the sailors who sojourn in this port, and in this determination they have many who wish them success.