

CITY CHIMES.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE GOING.—The time is fast approaching for the Leicestershire Regiment to bid a long farewell to our fair city and the many friends they have made during their sojourn here. Needless to say their departure will be regretted by a large number of Halifaxians, ladies in the upper circle who have found the officers society very acceptable, and maids at the foot of the social ladder, who have yielded their hearts to the soldierly fellows in brilliant uniforms, will alike sorrowfully say farewell. The officers have formed many warm friendships with gentlemen of Halifax, who will always rejoice to hear of their prosperity and success, and sympathise with any who may meet sorrow in their onward march. It is now nearly two years since the steamship *Orontes* carried away the West Riding.

CHOOSE THE VERY ONE THAT YOU LOVE BEST.—I wonder if the boys and girls of to-day are not interested in St. Valentine's Day. I am quite persuaded that the young men and maidens do not count upon the custom as a means of revealing their sentiments one to the other as they did in days of yore. Our fathers and mothers tell some exceedingly pretty and decidedly romantic tales of the celebration of the festival of good old St. Valentine in their youthful days, and perhaps if even the most unsentimental of us were to look among his or her childhood's "keepsakes," one or more flower-decked, gauzy productions would come to light, little epistles which at one time caused a flutter in a little heart, and even at this late day would perchance bring to memory a dainty wee sweet-heart or a staunch young gallant. I notice that a few shop windows have been decorated with a profusion of what is commonly known as "ugly valentines." That the artistic love tokens should have become obsolete, and these hideous, meaningless, unrefined specimens remain to remind us that St. Valentine's day has come again, seems a state of affairs uncreditable to all concerned. The custom of sending these offensive caricatures to antique maidens or cruddy bachelors, to friends or enemies, may furnish amusement to unkind spirits or thoughtless children, but the recipients thereof are not so likely to recognize any joke whatever, and it sometimes takes but a little arrow, carelessly shot, to wound a sensitive heart. I would say to the boys and girls, refrain from any "fun" that is likely to hurt another, and I would heartily advise the beaux of Halifax to revive the ancient and pretty custom of sending appropriate valentines to their special lady friends on the 14th of February. Methinks the birds will consider the spring too far off this year to choose their mates on St. Valentine's day, as they are proverbially said to do.

THE SEASON OF FASTING.—Lent begins on Wednesday next, and for the stated forty days of the spring tide fast the frivolities of the world will be renounced by many of our citizens. We have been favored with such grand opportunities for enjoying outdoor sports this winter that other forms of entertainment seem to have been to a great extent neglected, and with the exception of a few concerts there has been very little entertainment provided for the public since the departure of the Baker Opera Company. And now comes the season of fasting and prayer, when the church-going and religious devotions are supposed to supersede all worldly amusements. Probably after Easter things will be livelier than they have been for some time. We are promised an Opera Company at the Academy of Music in April, which will include in its repertoire, "Martha," "Faust," the old favorite "Mikado," "Daughter of the Regiment," and other good plays. With this and other social attractions to look forward to, business affairs to occupy the attention of the sterner sex, and the preparation for spring toilets, home duties, etc., to engage the time of the ladies, to say nothing of the devotions due at the Lenten season, the time will pass rapidly for even those whose self-sacrifice is merely a matter of form and not prompted by deep religious sentiment, if there be any such among the "Lent-keepers" of our city.

MORE CARNIVALS.—The carnival held at the Exhibition Rink on Monday evening was largely attended, notwithstanding the blustery weather that prevailed. The ice is in first-class condition now, and the devotees of this popular resort are making the most of the present. The children's carnival comes off on St. Valentine's eve, Monday next. I trust the little folks will have fine weather, for a postponement of a long-looked-forward-to event is to them a crushing disappointment, and hence must not be regarded by their elders as a trifle. Rig them up mothers, and let them go if the weather be at all fit, and in their wholehearted enjoyment find pleasure for yourselves.

REMARKS ON A POPULAR SUBJECT.—An icy wave struck Halifax on Saturday last, and cold is but a nickname for the weather experienced from then until Monday night, when the temperature moderated and a terrific storm of wind and rain raged until the following morning. Tuesday was as mild as though we had never heard of zero, but the streets afforded extremely dangerous footing for pedestrians, ice being anything but easy to tread firmly upon. Dignified matrons and graceful maidens, portly gentlemen and upright youths, were alike unable to walk straight, but instead performed novel gymnastics before finally taking a humiliating tumble. Wednesday morning we awoke to find that Jack Frost had again asserted his rights and was king of the situation, giving us clear cold weather again.

THE THIRD ORPHEUS.—An Orpheus Concert has been announced for Tuesday evening next. The Club have not had long to prepare for this Lenten musicale, but will no doubt have a good programme in readiness for the enjoyment of their patrons.

MAKE NO MISTAKE.

MAKE no mistake when buying a remedy for dyspepsia, headache, constipation or bad blood, be sure to get the kind that cures, Burdock Blood Bitters. "It is an excellent remedy for headache."—*C. Blackitt Robinson, Pub. Canada Presbyterian.*

THE HALIFAX W. C. T. U.—The sixth report of the Halifax branch of the W. C. T. U. contains much interesting matter and much food for reflection. The ladies interested in the temperance movement seem to have been most energetic in the work, and the various side-issues of the union, such as the flower mission, the juvenile temperance legion, and the temporary home for girls out of employment, have been great factors for good in the community. The report from the coffee rooms is an excellent one. Besides the large number of meals which are served daily to paying patrons, over eighty poor families have been supplied with food, and through the W. C. T. U. employment agency 136 girls have been placed in domestic service. Another excellent service of the union is little known to our citizens, who will doubtless take a lively interest in its working. The Union endeavors to supply good reading matter, books, magazines and papers to the hundreds of men who spend the winter months in the woods employed in lumbering. The parcels of books are greatly appreciated in the camps, and they have a strong moral influence in refining the reader, and inducing him to spend restful evenings in the camp instead of indulging in noisy and unprofitable merry-makings of a demoralizing order. Our citizens are urged to send to the Union any old magazines, illustrated papers or old books to be distributed. There is scarcely a garret in the better part of our city but would be benefited by a cleaning out of the useless literature. The Rev. Mr. Bond, at the annual meeting of the Union, made a timely suggestion in asking for more interest in the shivering beings, both black and white, who are the most picturesque and uncomfortable market men and women in the world. He asks that a coffee wagon be brought down for their benefit and the cheap refreshing drinks popularized among them. The financial report of the Union is also satisfactory, and the ladies are to be congratulated on having lifted a thousand dollars of their building debt within the last year. It is to be hoped that the remaining indebtedness will be steadily decreased. I cannot include my short summary more suitably than by reminding THE CRITIC readers that donations of books, papers, fruit, jelly, articles of clothing, &c. will be thankfully received by the Union ladies, who will send messengers to any address throughout the city.

The highest praise has been won by Hood's Pills, for their easy yet efficient action. Sold by all druggists. Price 25 cents.

DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS'

All communications to this department must be addressed directly to the Checker-Editor, Mr. W. Forsyth, 36 Grafton St.

SOLUTION.

PROBLEM 315.—The position was : black men 10, 16, king 29; white man 31, kings 2, 13; white to play and win. Up to the time of writing we have received no solutions to this very fine problem.

2	7	10	15	15	13	17	21
10-14	18-22	16-23	white				
7	10	13	17	31	26	wins.	
14-18	22-25	23-30					

GAME 203 "Original."

Being one of the many curious and original games played between Messrs. Gaskin and Forsyth for the championship of the Maritime Provinces.

10-15	8-12	9-14	10-15
23	19	17	13
6-10	14-17	14-18	15-22
22	17	21	14
9-14	10-17	18-22	29-25
17	13	25	21
11-16	15-18	22-25	25-29
24	20	21	14
16-23	18-22	25-29	11-15
27	9	26	17
5-14	1-5	29-25	12-16
25	22	c-14	10
8-11	7-21	25-29	15-19
a-13	9	9	6
4-8	2-9	3-7	19-26
22	17	13	6
12-16	5-9	7-10	white
29	25	6	2

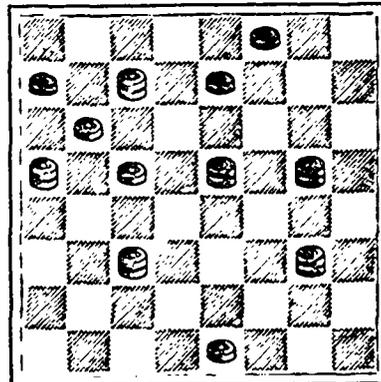
a Bold but safe, for though black might steal the piece by 1-5, 22 17, 14-18, yet white would win by 9 6, 2-9, 17 13.

b A bold sacrifice.

c White at once relinquishes the two pieces to secure an advantageous position. This is a piece of strategy seldom resorted to by young and inexperienced players—they very often holding on to a piece or two ahead until the game is eventually lost.

PROBLEM No. 318

By the late James Smith, Champion of England. Given as a selected problem in the competition for the Liverpool Mercury prizes. Black men 3, 5, 7, kings 15, 16, 24.



White men 9, 14, 31, kings 6, 13, 22. White to play and win.

We wish our solvers to give their opinions as to which is the finest, this or No. 315, the solution to which is above, and which is by James Ferris, Champion of Scotland.

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