

## CITY CHIMES.

It is to be hoped that the weather will keep pace with the month, and that the bitter-cold and cutting winds which made some days of last month almost unbearable, may not again trouble us. Many people are beginning to experience "spring feelings," and are either taking to their favorite tonic or are waiting for better times. We do not know but that the latter course is the better, for it by no means follows that making a drug shop of your stomach, as some one puts it, is going to do any good.

The fashions are very absorbing to those ladies who are fortunate enough to have new gowns to make up just now. We have not much to say about them, but we ask in the name of cleanliness and civilization that "tails," otherwise trains, may not be selected for street wear. They are simply dirty, nothing else. We strayed into a show day last week, where indescribable head gear was shown in profusion. The sight was pretty as a sight, for there were marvellous color combinations and the show room was draped with pretty silks, but it appears to our taste that many of the hats and bonnets are *outré* and not suited for lady-like heads. There are exceptions, of course, and the hats which rest the eye and please the fancy at the same time, are not altogether lacking in the display. It requires great taste and judgement to make a judicious selection from the bewildering collection, and we should advise those in need of such things to wait until the show days are over before purchasing. They will save both their tempers and their pockets thereby, for prices are at the top notch now. It will not be wise, either, for the flimsy creations called spring hats to be donned until old Sol has more power, else colds in the head will certainly result. Flowers, lace and ribbon all seem to be in the ascendant at once, and the result is that a very dressy effect is secured. The goods of this description are exceedingly pretty and varied this year, and should afford a selection for all tastes.

The projected Home for Aged Men in this city should receive the generous support of all, especially men, young, middle aged, or old, for none of us can tell how we will be "fixed," to use an expressive slang term, when the fires of youth and the calm glow of manhood's prime shall have faded. It would be comfortable to be able to look forward to a cosy retreat when we are getting on in years and are perhaps not so well off as we would like to be. Surely what we can spare now will bear good interest, if not for ourselves, then for some other who needs it; and we should not be chary of our means when a worthy object presents itself. A circular giving particulars of the movement is now being distributed, so that those who are liberally inclined may make haste to let the committee know how much they will contribute. Ten thousand dollars is required as a starting fund, and it is proposed to set the annual fee from those who enter the Home at \$100. We need not enlarge upon the merits of the proposed benevolent scheme, but hope our readers will not delay to send their subscriptions to either C. C. Blackadar, President, or Robert Murray, Secretary of the committee.

The patrons of the Lyceum have been enjoying the performances given by Manager Webber's Boston Comedy Company. Miss Edwina Grey has become a great favorite, and shows an adaptability for different parts which is commendable. The season closed on Wednesday. *Zra Samon* opens with varied attractions in the Lyceum on the 25th inst.

A successful bazaar, for which the energetic ladies of the W. C. T. U. have been working for some time, was held in Masonic Hall yesterday afternoon. The Haydn orchestra discoursed acceptable music, while the ladies disposed of their many articles of use and beauty.

Last Friday evening a musical recital was given at the Ladies' College, which was much enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to be present. The several performers acquitted themselves creditably, and Mrs. Taylor, Miss Slayter and Miss Tremaine received accolades for their numbers. Much to the regret of their hearers there were no repeats, and the lengthy programme was continued without any additions. The Conservatory of Music is doing much good work, as is shown by the proficiency of the pupils.

Lovers of music will be glad of the opportunity offering to-morrow evening to hear the "Stabat Mater" performed at the Academy of Music by the Leicestershire Band, with the assistance of Miss Homer, Professor Currie and other favorite vocalists. There is beautiful music in Rossini's setting of this grand old Latin hymn, and all who can should avail themselves of the chance to hear it. The proceeds will be devoted to the Garrison Church, and the performance is under patronage.

There was an affectionate and touching farewell tendered to Mrs. Burns, wife of Rev. Dr. Burns, in St. Matthew's Church on Friday afternoon by the Auxiliaries of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of Halifax and Dartmouth. Fifteen years ago Mrs. Burns founded the Missionary Society, and has been its president and seen it grow in size and usefulness ever since. It was therefore meet that on the occasion of her severing her connection with the society that the members should show some mark of the love and esteem in which she is held. The basement of the church was crowded with friends of the departing president, and members of the Baptist and Methodist Women's Missionary Societies were present by invitation. Miss Fairbanks read a feeling address on behalf of the society, after which a beautiful bouquet tied with white ribbons bearing the words "Our beloved President" and "Miss Mary," was presented by the grand daughters of the first foreign missionary sent out from Nova Scotia—Rev. Dr. Giddies. Mrs. Burns made a fitting reply to the sentiments expressed. A large num-

ber of ministers were present and spoke in the highest and warmest terms of Mrs. Burns' services to the church. Music was rendered during the meeting, which, had it not been to say "Good-bye, God bless you" would have been a most pleasant occasion. As it is, everyone connected with the church of which Mrs. Burns has been a pillar, feels that her going away is a real loss to the community, but they all, and we with them, join in wishing her and those dear to her God speed and a happy home in the old country. They sail in the *Parisian* on the 16th inst.

A large number of society people are sitting just now. The *Labrador* on Saturday carried away Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. Dalziel, Miss Norton-Taylor, Miss Nagle, Mrs. Trowbridge and others who will leave blanks behind them. Sir John Ross will leave on the *Numidian* to-morrow, and when he returns it is expected he will be accompanied by his daughter, who will take her place as hostess at Belle Vue. As this going to England makes us think of Browning's rhapsody,

"O to be in England, now that April's here!"

No doubt it's lovely there.

A more than commonly interesting evening was that spent at Argyle Hall last Friday evening to hear Mr. Peter Lynch read his "Reminiscences of St. Paul's." This old church has many memories clustering around it that should not be allowed to pass into oblivion, and those who are taking pains to preserve them are worthy of many thanks. The Misses Payzant, whose violin playing is a welcome addition to the musical ability of Halifax, gave two duets which were much appreciated, and Master Banfield gave a vocal solo. The Young People's Society of St. Paul's mainly composed the audience.

The skating season is gone and over for the present, and the rinkers will have to do their skates up in greased flannel until next winter. Last Saturday closed the regular season at the Exhibition Rink, but there were a few events, such as a benefit for John Irons, the popular manager of the rink, and races, etc., planned for other evenings. The season has been so mild as to make the skating very uncertain, and Mr. Clarke, the Lessee, has lost considerably.

We are now entering upon the month of smiles and tears—a charming month for all its vagaries. No one will need to be reminded that this is the festival of All Fools, for wherever a small boy is—and he abounds in this happy land—there is sure to be some very pertinent reminder of the fact. One Leeds to beware of tricks at this time.

Mr. C. F. Fraser, Superintendent of the School for the Blind, is in New Brunswick this week with a party from the school giving entertainments in various places. Our friends in our sister province have scarcely become aware yet what a boon this school is, and they will doubtless be glad to have the opportunity of finding out what education can do for those deprived of sight.

The fourth subscription concert of the Orpheus Club was given in Orpheus Hall on Tuesday evening by the Club with Ladies' Auxiliary and Orchestra, assisted by Miss Homer. There were four numbers on the programme, all of them Mendelssohn compositions, and it would be difficult to say which was most generally appreciated. "The First Walpurgis Night" was a long and difficult number, but the club, ladies' auxiliary and soloists earned high praise for the manner in which they rendered the music. Professor Currie was in especially good voice and was completely satisfying. The "Priest's March from Athalia" was performed by the orchestra in a praise-worthy manner, and was to our mind the gem of the evening. Herr K. Ingenfeld has got his orchestra into first-rate working order, and the simultaneous bowing of the violins was particularly noticeable. He deserves great credit for the hard work which such training must have entailed. The most pleasing vocalist of the concert was undoubtedly Mrs. Harty, who sang "Lord at all times I will praise Thee" with much feeling and expression, and her sweet clear voice was never heard to greater advantage than in her parts of "Praise Jehovah." "Loreley," an unfinished opera, which was given at one of the concerts last season, completed the programme, Miss Homer taking the part of Lenora. This lady certainly knows how to sing, but her mannerisms are not exactly pleasing. It is not to our taste an improvement for a singer to keep time with the whole body to the music, and Miss Homer did this to a degree that was distracting. Nevertheless her rendering of the solos of "Loreley" was fine and impressive, and she received an encore to which she did not respond. The concert as a whole was one of the most gratifying to truly musical people yet given, and the evening with Mendelssohn may be pronounced a success.

We were sorry to see that the doors of the hall were opened at 7:30, which as there are no reserved seats and the concert did not begin until a quarter past eight, meant a wait of three-quarters of an hour for all who wanted to get a good seat. If the doors were to be opened at six o'clock we believe there would be the same unseemly scramble to get in, and it is a disgrace to those who make it so. If the time for the concert to begin is set at a quarter after eight, a quarter before eight would be early enough for the doors to open. It is very annoying to busy people to be obliged to go at half-past seven and waste three quarters of an hour.

Mr. James Shand, the well-known Auctioneer, says: "Had considerable expectoration and disagreeable cough. Physician recommended *Pattner's Emulsion*. Took six bottles—cough vanished. Am convinced your preparation brought about my convalescence."