

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY AT VICTORIA, B. C.

SUBSCRIPTION - - \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates on Application.

Address all communications to

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

Office: 77 Johnson street,
Victoria, B. C.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1894.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Major and Mrs. Nicholles gave a dance at their residence, Dallas Road, Thursday evening.

There was a pleasant surprise party, Thursday evening, at the home of Mr. Jas. Holden, Cadboro Bay.

The Cowichan Rugby Football Club gave an enjoyable dance at Duncans, last evening. Richardson's orchestra furnished excellent music.

A young man permanently indentified with the printing interests of this city will be married to a Superior street young lady next Wednesday.

The Sons of Erin gave a smoking concert, last Wednesday evening, an interesting feature of which was the reading of a clever essay on Ancient Ireland by Mr. T. M. Jones. It was decided to observe St. Patrick's Day with a grand concert.

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MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

BURNS' ANNIVERSARY CONCERT.

Something that makes one forget the cares of life; does not tire the mind to listen the thing out, and is markedly successful in banishing the blues; not severely classical, but withal thoroughly musical; such was the Burns' anniversary concert. In fact, at the risk of being considered heretical by some of my musical friends, let me say that after all there is a soulfulness and musical depth in an old-fashioned ballad, and an inspiring effect in a jig that does the heart more good than a whole portfolio of the most difficult compositions by the great masters.

Probably it was an unintentional mistake that placed the part song "Cam ye by Athol" as the opening number on the programme for the choir. It was too solemn, slow and heavy for an opening piece, though sung with fairly good precision and correctness. The fault was redeemed in the closing number of the first part, and the first song of the second part of the programme. There were both liveliness and cheerfulness in the rendering of "The Auld Man" and "Willie Wastle," especially in the latter, the effect of which was very quaint, and not a little amusing. The tenors wanted to be first in opening a bar, and last in closing, and the basses were a shade slow a couple of times in obeying the conductor's baton, but these slips were not of such magnitude as to mar to any extent the pleasure of the listener. As a matter of fact, it may be said that Mr. Brown has about the best balanced and

best trained church choir in the city. It may not be quite so pretentious as some but the results on the whole are more creditable. Mrs. J. Duff Stuart, whose name was on the list for several items, was very acceptable in her vocal numbers, her method being simple and sincere singing with the heart as well as the voice, and this, like charity, covers a multitude of defects in a vocalist. The same may be said of Mrs. McCandless, whose voice seems to improve if anything, and who sings to produce the sympathetic as well as the musical effect. She attempts no vocal pyrotechnics, and in this is sensible, for she has a sweet and winning voice. Her rendering of "My Heart is Sair" was well worth listening to. Miss Jameson selected her second number first, "Doon the Burn," and "Caller Herrin" second. As I have said before, Miss Jameson is one of Victoria's most promising sopranos. Mr. G. F. Watson, or some gentleman appearing for him sung, a song that was not on the programme, which was not in keeping with the otherwise meritorious standard of the rest of the concert. Mr. Kinnaird earned an encore for the "Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond," but was fearfully out of tune in the encore. Rev. Mr. Chisholm was very entertaining as an elocutionist. Mr. Brown was in his natural element, although his selections hardly gave sufficient scope for his well known ability. He showed this year, however, as he did last, that he can give comic sketches without burlesquing and yet impart to the performance all the humor required.

At The Victoria, last Thursday evening, the Calhoun Opera Company began