

## CITY CHIMES.

Next week will be ushered in by a grand reception at the School for the Blind, on the occasion of the formal opening of the new wing. Invitations have been issued to the elite of the city and the friends of the blind generally, and there will surely be a great gathering on Monday evening. A fine musical programme has been prepared, and the arrangements for entertaining the guests are very complete. The ladies are getting their best frocks ready for the occasion, and it is probable that the scene will be a brilliant one. This formal opening of the new wing marks an important era in the history of the Institution for the Blind. The school has steadily grown in size and usefulness since its beginning in August, 1871, until it was found necessary last spring to increase the accommodation by the erection of the handsome and commodious new wing, the opening of which is the occasion of the reception on Monday. It is to be hoped that fine weather will aid the Board of Directors and the officers of the school in their efforts to make the evening a success. In any case, the youth, beauty and fash on of the city will surely be present in force, and a pleasant and profitable evening is assured. Guests are expected to present their cards of invitation at the north door of the main building. This precaution is necessary in order to avoid any misunderstanding. Carriages may be ordered at 10.30 o'clock.

Wm Redmund and Mrs. Thomas Barry, supported by an excellent company, opened at the Academy of Music on Monday in "A Cure for the Blues," preceded by a farce "Yellow Roses." In the latter Mrs. Barry and Mr. Redmund acted splendidly and made lots of fun. It is rather hard for two people to do better as the sole performers in a piece than Mrs. Barry and Mr. Redmund did in this. "A Cure for the Blues" is full of ridiculous situations, and kept the blues far away from anyone in the audience. We enjoy good fun as well as our neighbors, and laughed heartily at the comical parts of this play, but we must say we prefer dramas of more solid worth. "A Cure for the Blues" is funny, but childish, and were it not filled with the various forms of patting a fellow upon the back, and such stage work, it would be hard to make it go. As it is, the company proved its worth by making it very attractive, and received due praise for their success. Fair audiences were present. The dressing of the several characters must be remarked upon, the ladies in particular doing well in this line. Last evening a piece of a totally different character was presented. "Cuchillo" is an emotional drama in which the talents of the leaders of the company ought to shine. It will be repeated this evening and to morrow evening.

General Sir John Ross has returned from his visit to the United States

The destructive forest fires that raged on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in the vicinity of the city, ought to be a warning to men and boys to be careful to put out their fires when they are done with them. It is just a wonder that the whole of Sanford Flemming's beautiful estate back of the Arm was not swept by the flames. If the Dingle had been utterly disfigured, great would be the mourning in Halifax. On two or three evenings the flame-lit hill tops presented a very grand appearance, but one could not help regretting, while admiring the conflagration, the desolate black waste that the districts will present for some years to come. On Sunday the air was quite warm, and the fires received some of the credit for this. As the smoke was hanging all over the city, it is quite likely some of the heat found its way here too. There appears to be no method of avoiding such fires, except by each person who sets a fire seeing that it is put out. It is a difficult thing to decide who set a fire, and so the offender gets off scot free, no matter what loss others may sustain from his carelessness.

The dust during the first part of the week was almost unbearable. The wind was high, and clouds of dust were blown about many of the streets. This should not be allowed. Street dust is a very unhealthy substance to be taken into the lungs, and the sight is not improved by having it blown into the eyes. As a destroyer of clothing it ranks next to rain, and is in many cases worse. Watering carts should be kept going all the time in each weather. What is the good of having a city if we cannot keep it decently clean?

The report that a wealthy "widow lady" residing at the south-end of Halifax contemplates erecting a tabernacle, either on Inglis street or Victoria road, in which all classes may worship free from denominational forms, has created some little curiosity. The idea is that the Clergyman who officiates at any particular service shall receive the offertory of those present for his services. No doubt this sort of a church will suit many people whose ideas of religion are a little off the orthodox, yet who desire to engage in public worship. If the tabernacle should materialize it is likely that the worshippers will also make their appearance.

A propos of the above, why is it necessary to say "widow lady." Did anyone ever hear of a widow gentleman? Sometimes the expression takes the form of "widow woman," which is equally ridiculous. The word widow means a woman who has lost her husband, and is fully descriptive in itself. We read the item in several papers and in each of them the "widow lady" appeared.

The young English lad whose sweet voice was listened to by so many people in Halifax, a few weeks ago, has been adopted by the Rev. J. M. Davenport of St. John. During the time the Italian harper Pierrot and his son, with this boy, whose name is Frederick Hornsley, were in Halifax, at

various times in the day and evening crowds of people gathered around this little group to listen to the music. The harper was a splendid performer and the little boy who played the violin had a particularly fine voice, which blended well with young Hornsley's. We are glad that the latter has found kind friends in St. John and that he has been rescued from a strolling life. How many of us think of the hardships endured by street singers while we listen to their plaintive strains? The Italian is said to be very much enraged at having the boy taken away from him, but as he is no relation to him he has no authority to keep the boy.

Mr and Mrs. Klingensfeld have been deeply engaged in a charitable enterprise this week, which took the form of a bazaar and entertainments in Mason Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and evenings. On Tuesday evening the opening entertainment took place, being a most enjoyable concert by Mr. Klingensfeld's pupils, consisting of orchestral pieces, quartettes, solos, etc, and songs by Mrs. Klingensfeld. On Wednesday evening Mrs. Jarley's wax works, shadow pictures, sculpture gallery and music by Mrs. Jarley's orchestra formed a most attractive programme, which was enjoyed by a much larger audience than was present on the previous evening. Last night a series of tableaux were presented. The decorations of the Chinese tea room and other booths were very tasteful, and reflect credit upon the enthusiastic workers. Among the articles for sale, some dainty pillow shams constructed of handkerchiefs and embroidery were much admired. This was a private charity bazaar on a larger scale than we usually have in Halifax, and Mr. and Mrs. Klingensfeld deserved the encouragement of their friends. The trouble they went to in order to make such a successful display of work must have been great. We believe part of the proceeds are to be devoted to Halifax charities and part to assisting a German friend of the Klingensfelds who is in need of it.

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