

CITY CHIMES.

THE BAND AT THE GARDENS—The announcement that the Saturday afternoon concerts at the public gardens are about to be commenced, will meet with universal rejoicing among our citizens. The first one takes place on Saturday, July 1st, at which, as on succeeding Saturday afternoons, the band of the King's Own regiment will perform. The gardens are now in magnificent order, and if the weather but proves kinder this season than it did last, it goes without saying that the band afternoons will prove an unfailing source of delight to Halifaxians and to all strangers within our gates.

JULY 1ST, DOMINION DAY.—The *Atlantic Weekly* is doing its part nobly to stir up the patriotism of those in authority in the proper celebration of Canada's National holiday, and there is much truth in the arguments advanced. Could even the widest stretch of imagination conceive the idea of one small village, let alone a city or town, in the United States calmly ignoring "the glorious fourth." We are not behind our neighbors in patriotism, but we sadly lack the enthusiasm which characterizes them as individuals as well as a nation. It is unfortunate that Dominion day follows so closely upon our annual civic holiday, but it is surely not a wise course to make ourselves a peculiar people in this matter. The cities, towns and villages of Canada, almost without exception, are making preparations for a suitable celebration of the anniversary, and in this, as in every other respect, Halifax should set an example worthy of the position she holds.

THE OPERA.—Theatrical companies may or may not "take" in Halifax, but opera is sure to prove an irresistible attraction to the public. When it was announced that the Gilbert English Opera Company had made an engagement at the Academy of Music our theatre-goers were glad indeed, and now that the engagement has been fulfilled they have sought but kind words of approbation for the group of musicians which form one of the best all-round opera companies we have had for many a day. Miss Carrie Trevelyann-Carvell, the prima donna, has a beautifully trained fine mezzo-soprano voice, which cannot fail to charm everyone who hears its sweet tones. Apparently Miss Carvell experiences no difficulty in taking her parts, even the highest notes being sung with delightful ease. Her appearance on the stage is very pleasing, and Halifaxians need not be told that she is "one of us," that is, a maritime provincialist, in order that their sympathy and admiration be given her. Mr. John Lloyd is the fortunate possessor of a very fine tenor voice, well cultivated, which he uses to good advantage. The other ladies and gentlemen of the Gilbert company have exceedingly good voices, and perform their parts very acceptably. The chorus is well balanced, and its performances indicate careful preparation and display much artistic taste. The orchestra is exceptionally good, the musician who plays the flute being particularly worthy of mention. Altogether the company is very satisfactory, and it is pleasing to note has been well patronized. This evening and to-morrow afternoon "Maritana" is on the programme. To-morrow evening "Bohemian Girl" is to be given as the closing performance in Halifax.

CLOSINGS—This has been a week of farewells. No less than three of our educational institutions having chosen from it dates for their closing exercises. The pupils of the Deaf and Dumb Institution gave a very interesting programme on Tuesday afternoon. Unfortunately a heavy shower of rain between two and three o'clock kept away a number of the friends of the Institution who would otherwise have been present. The Lieut. Governor occupied the chair and several prominent citizens were present. The exercises of the afternoon were exceedingly interesting, not the least important being the articulation and lip reading.

The School for the Blind held its closing exercises on Tuesday evening. The Assembly Hall was filled with an appreciative gathering of our citizens and a good programme was furnished by the pupils of the School. Mr. W. C. Silver, President of the School, occupied the chair. The musical work which is being done in the Institution under the proficient instruction of A. M. Chisholm, was well demonstrated. The Kindergarten exercises were very interesting, as was also the reading from raised letters by a young man who is deaf and dumb as well as blind. Prizes and diplomas were presented, and the proceedings were brought to a close by a song by the choir and a selection by the band.

Time and space forbid going into details of the closing exercises of the Ladies' College, which have occupied Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and last evenings of this week. Three musical recitals have been given by the pupils of the conservatory, at each of which very enjoyable programmes were well rendered. Both in vocal and instrumental music the proficiency and marked talent displayed at the entertainments this week was a revelation to many, and while it is out of the question to here particularize, hearty congratulations are freely extended to the young ladies who acquitted themselves so creditably. The elocution recital on Tuesday evening was one of the most enjoyable features of the series of commencement exercises. Miss Waddell, under whose direction the programme was prepared and rendered, merits unlimited praise, as do also her pupils who so ably filled their various parts. Yesterday afternoon the graduates were presented with their diplomas, and to-day are bidding farewell to school friends and teachers.

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THE 21st.—Although it is hard to believe, yet is nevertheless true, that there were a few Halifaxians who did not join in the general merrymaking of our natal day. It really seemed as though every inhabitant, old or young, was on the move. Grand weather, bright sunshine, with cool, refreshing breezes, was our portion for which we should be accordingly grateful, since it is an acknowledged fact that upon the weather depends the whole success of a public holiday. On Wednesday the numerous excursions were well patronized. The steamer *Bridgewater*, bound for Bridgewater, was compelled to leave a large number of her would-be passengers standing with crestfallen countenance on the wharf, owing to lack of accommodation on board. The *Lunenburg* took another large crowd to Lunenburg. The excursion to Antigonish was largely patronized, and on a 1 outgoing train standing-room was at a premium, notwithstanding extra cars by the score. At Rockingham, Sherwood, Birch Cove, Prince's Lodge and Bedford, as well as at Lawrence town and Cow Bay, picnic parties were much in evidence. The ships in the harbor were gaily decorated with bunting, and the city presented a genuine holiday appearance.

THE RACES—At the Riding Grounds there was a large assembly of the fashionable, as well as a goodly representation of the sporting fraternity. The ladies were out in their brand new gowns, some of which were very handsome, and set off to advantage the natural attractions of the fair ones. The meeting was under the patronage of Vice-Admiral Hopkins K. C. B., Lieut.-General Moore and His Honor Lieut.-Governor Daly. The races were one and all exceedingly interesting, and at times the excitement of the spectators was intense. It was much to be regretted that false starting prevailed to such an extent as to seriously detract from the pleasure of those who watched with interest every move. With the exception of this drawback which is a mistake not to be overlooked, the summer race meeting may be pronounced a grand success.

THE GARDENS CONCERT.—The first concert of the season given on Wednesday evening was a grand success. The Gardens looked as usual, beautiful, the band of the King's Own and the 66th P.L.F. dispensed sweet music and the attendance was large.

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