

CITY CHIMES.

The closing exercises of the Halifax School for the Blind will take place in the Assembly Hall of the Institution at 4 P.M. on Monday next. A good programme of band and other music will be given.

One of our staff found some ripe wild strawberries last Sunday, and contrary to custom he did not lay them on our table. He thought he would save us the trouble by eating them.

The band of the 66th P. L. F. discoursed sweet music in the Province Building Square on Thursday evening of last week to the delight of crowds of promenaders. On the previous band evenings in the square this season, rain unfortunately prevented any enjoyment.

The Redpath Concert Company gave excellent concerts in Orpheus Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We attended the first, and found it to be first-class. The performers are some of them known to Halifax, and were greeted with applause. There were nine numbers on the programme, all but one of which were encored. The feature of the evening was the piano playing of Mr. John Francis Gilder, whose performances were applauded to the echo. It seldom falls to our lot to listen to such playing; the clearness and purity of tone produced by him is unusual, and his execution was perfect. "Plantation Echoes," of his own composition, was the most popular piece he gave, although to our mind the encore to his first number was preferable. Miss Chamberlin whistles very sweetly, and shows great skill in difficult passages. The selections from "Erminie" draw forth a rapturous encore, to which Miss Chamberlin responded with "The Mocking Bird." Miss Christie's skill as a violinist was amply demonstrated. She made a graceful appearance in her white evening gown and harmonized well with the sweet tones of her instrument. Mr. Hood gave a number of recitals which took well. The best was that given in response to an encore, Mark Twain's "Mean Corporation," and his "Impersonations." The latter was very amusing, being the various ways in which verses of "The Bells" were recited at an academy closing by the scholars. The audience was not large, but as there have been a large number of concerts given during the past winter and spring it can scarcely be expected that people will turn out in force for them. It was unfortunate that the thunder storm came up just as the people left the hall. The rain soon got to be very heavy, and pretty hats and frocks suffered accordingly.

Miss Louise Laine gave the pupils of the School for the Blind a treat last Friday evening. She was in splendid voice and sang one song after another until nearly all the favorite selections of our accomplished songstress had been heard. The pupils will never forget Miss Laine's kindness, and they may be counted among those whose best wishes and sincere regrets for her departure will follow her when she leaves Halifax. Miss Laine makes her farewell appearance at a special concert in the Church of England Institute on Tuesday evening the 23rd inst.

The King's Daughters of Dartmouth, the "Steadfast" circle, give their entertainment in the Reform Club Hall this evening. It is in aid of a fund for establishing a cottage hospital in their town, and the good object, as well as the expected excellence of the performance should insure a full house.

The first ships of the fleet arrived early last Saturday morning from the West Indies. They are the *Bellerophon*, *Thrush*, *Canada* and *Pylades*. Admiral Watson and suite came on the *Bellerophon*, and Prince George of Wales is in command of the *Thrush*. The warship *Pylades* will remain here for three weeks when she will be succeeded by the *Comus*, which will leave Bermuda on the arrival of the *Pylades*. The *Bellerophon*, *Canada* and *Thrush* will remain here for a month when they will go to Montreal and Quebec, where they remain some time. On their return to this port the *Thrush*, under the command of Prince George, will sail for England, where the vessel will go out of commission. The French flag-ship *Marad* is now expected to arrive here. In consequence of this valued accession to the social life of Halifax, things and people will be sure to brace up and have some style about them. Not a small part of the pleasure of having the ship in port is enjoyed by boating parties in the evening, when the band of the flag-ship plays. The pleasure is shared by high and low, rich and poor, and those who do not move in the select circles that enjoy the cosy little teas and other entertainments on board, can at least make the most of their opportunities in the boating line.

Bedford has a tennis club, and two courts are being made on the banks of the Sackville river. Such a fashionable place could not much longer get along without such an organization. The name of the club will probably be "The Riverside."

The Harkins Company opens at the Academy of Music on Monday. They are highly spoken of, and have been playing to great houses in St. John.

Last Sunday a soft, gentle rain fell nearly all day and Monday morning as well. It did the country much good, cheered the thirsty ground and made the crops rejoice.

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The very interesting closing exercises of La Salle Academy took place in the Academy of Music on Wednesday evening. The oratorical contest between Masters Murphy and McGibbon, who tied in the previous competition for the Archbishop's gold medal, was not the least interesting event. The medal was awarded to Master McGibbon.

Sir Ambrose and Lady Shea will shortly be in Halifax again.

A band concert will be given as usual in the Public Gardens in honor of our natal day. It comes on Sunday this year, so the holiday will be kept on Monday.

The steamer *Halifax* makes an excursion to Lunenburg under the auspices of the Oddfellows of the city on the 22nd.

A number of entries have been made for the races at the Riding Grounds on the 22nd.

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"Sunday Headache."

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