

Provincial Notes.

BRIDGEWATER.—Christmas has come and gone, and everything is again in *statu quo*. The most of our shops were very pretty and tastefully arranged and decorated for the season. It is a credit to the town that it has so many merchants with enterprise enough to place before the public a stock of goods so varied and extensive that even the most fastidious are pleased and satisfied.

Christmas day was very quietly spent here. With nearly all it was—as it should be—a day for family reunions and family parties. On Christmas afternoon a special train was run to Lunenburg and back. A good many of our townspeople took advantage of this excursion, and judging by the merriment, the feeling of “having a good time” seemed to rule the day.

I am sorry to say that the good custom of calling on New Year's Day appears to be dying out. But a limited number of our young men seemed to recognize it this year. Social usages, which have a degrading tendency, ought not to be followed, but surely there is no pleasanter or more appropriate custom than that of expressing to our friends on New Year's Day our wishes for their happiness during the coming year.

The young ladies belonging to the different churches gave a reception at Cashion's Hall New Year's night to the young people of the town. An enjoyable programme of music, tableaux and readings was carried out. A most pleasant evening was spent by all present.

Talking of the churches reminds me of another holiday item. The popular pastor of St. John's Presbyterian church was presented by the young people of the congregation with a gold-headed walking stick. Rather a useful present for this kind of weather.

A very successful concert and cantata, under the superintendence of Miss Snyder, was given here last week. One of the most interesting features was the acting and singing of the children in the cantata. The way they went through their parts was most creditable to their teacher.

Mr. E. Brown has resigned his position as agent of the Peoples Bank at Mahone Bay, and has been succeeded by Mr. Bailly.

The river is frozen, and we must do without our steamer till next summer. Until the river opens the “Bridgewater” sails between Lunenburg and Halifax, and connects by rail with Bridgewater.

On part of the river the ice is good for skating, but as yet has only been enjoyed by the ubiquitous small boy, who, by-the-way, is always the first to find out such things. Our new exhibition building could easily be used as a rink, and would make a grand one. The patronage of our young people is assured to anyone who will go ahead with the matter.

I noticed Mr. J. C. Starr, of Kentville, on our streets the other day. There seems to be something connected with the “festive season” that makes us look happy. Queer, isn't it?

Mr. Bedford, General Manager of our railroad, after an extended visit to New York, is back with us again.

The elements did not favour the opening of our “Quadrille Club,” which took place on Friday evening last. Unfortunately the rain poured and the streets were in a dreadful condition. The weather prevented any coming from Lunenburg; although we had some guests brave enough to come from Mahone Bay. Much to the satisfaction of the committee, nearly all the members of the club were present. The dancing was kept up quite late and the evening passed—as such evenings always do—most pleasantly and only too quickly. Taking everything into consideration it was a most successful opening dance. The chaperones were Mrs. W. H. Owen, Mrs. C. V. G. Taylor and Mrs. N. C. Owen. The committee was composed of Misses. G. A. Hunter, Leech and Roberts.

Miss Dustan of Dartmouth, is visiting at the manse with her brother Rev. Mr. Dustan.

I have heard some rumours of a toboggan club. If the weather is going to continue as severe as we have already had this winter, we shall have ample opportunity of enjoying this exciting sport.

In a few days I believe Mr. C. H. Davison and Capt. T. A. Wilson leave on an extended tour through California and British Columbia.

PETE.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.—We were not able to print any items from this City last week owing to the most unsettled condition of the mail service. The steamer “Stanley” has been laid up for repairs just when most needed, and the authorities have pleaded all sorts of trifling excuses for the want of mails. One says, it is “stormy,” another “the mails have been sent by the Cape Route,” a third day it is pleaded “Stanley brought sixty passengers but the mail had not yet arrived from Cape Tormentine.” And so we have had six or seven mails this month, but as yet are without our Christmas letters.

Hon. W. Laurier had a practical experience of our wants. He and his party proceeded to Georgetown to cross to the main land. After waiting here for some time, they had to proceed to the Cape, by which route the politicians crossed on Christmas Day. 'Tis said the hon'ble member is prepared to vote all the millions needed to build the Subway.

Hon. L. H. Davis was not able to accompany the party into New Brunswick.

The Chief Justice and Mrs. Sullivan, en route to Montreal to spend Christmas with their daughters at school there, were also storm-stayed at Georgetown.

Thus it is that “those in high places” are sometimes subjected to the inconveniences which more humble people suffer every day. We are anxious that the Cabinet Ministers one and all should visit us now, we might have a chance to go under the ice; and if they would come again next summer we might see the promised fence around Queen Anne's Gardens.

Mr. Justice Peters has been dangerously ill; while not yet relieved of all anxiety the Judge's family and friends do not fear any immediate cause for alarm. The patient's condition is, however, a serious one for a person of eighty years of age.

Christmas was a quiet one. The streets were thronged by reckless drivers rendering moving from place to place dangerous for ladies and feeble or youthful pedestrians.

Mrs. Carvell invited a large party of poor people (partly more or less colored) living near Government House, to a feast on Christmas Eve, and sent each one home refreshed, rejoiced and laden with good things.

For the first time for several years a formallevée is announced for New Year's Day.

This year will pretty well decide whether or not the old custom of New Year's visiting is to be upheld in future—that is to say if the whether be propitious. Of late years the custom has seemed to be gradually dying out, but there have been climatic obstacles which may be absent this year. It is to be expected that as the city grows larger and our friends live further distant from each other, we cannot see so many on New Year's Day. A natural result to be looked for,—and hoped for, is that gentleman will visit more ordinarily, instead of expecting the fairer sex to take a New Year's visit for many which should be paid at other times.



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