

PARAGRAPHS ABOUT PEOPLE.

I read a very interesting article one day last week entitled "The Decay of the Chaperon" especially in English society. In both Canada and the United States young women have always in the past enjoyed more freedom than in the United Kingdom, but recently there has been quite a revolution in English society in this regard. Ten years ago very few girls rode in the park unattended by a groom, or drove in a cab or hansom alone. They were not allowed to drive out, or pay country visits by themselves, and certainly no girls, except those who lived in the sacred precincts of Belgravia (and never beyond), were allowed to take a walk without some sort of chaperon. Ten years ago a girl always came back to her mother after every dance. She would have been viewed with great displeasure if she frequented shady corners or "sat out" with her partners, and she was always within call when a tired mother wished to go home. No correspondence between two young people of the opposite sex would have been allowed even under the most searching maternal scrutiny. Absolute deference was paid to the maternal opinion on questions affecting the character or choice of friends or the general conduct of life, and from her verdict there was no appeal.

Bit by bit, like stones in a broken wall, little innovations have crept in, little concessions have been granted, small prejudices overborne, and this year has seen the eclipse of a great and hallowed institution in English society. The British chaperon has left us.

We will not be audacious enough to predict that she is dead and buried. She, however, will have to show a superhuman vitality if she is again galvanized into existence, but over her ashes we drop a respectful tear.

If the "decay of the chaperon" causes the young people of England to stay too late at their pleasure it will be a pity. The greatest objection to dancing parties in Canada is the lateness of the hour at which they usually wind up. I think this is especially the case in Halifax. The girls are often exhausted the next day, and the young men too tired to perform their business duties properly. An "early closing" movement in respect of dancing parties would open a new field for the reformer.

Our sister city, St. John, has given some very clever people to the American stage, and so far it has every reason to feel proud of its representatives in that profession. In the production of "The Christian"

now at the Academy of Music, Montreal, Miss Marie Furlong is in the cast. She belongs to one of the best families in St. John, N. B., and when the company played there last week, the whole city turned out to do her honor. She takes the part of Letty, not a very important one, but one which shows that it will only be a short time before Miss Marie Trevor, as he is known when behind the footlights, will be heard of in that theatrical world in which she has undertaken to make a place for herself. Another has joined the ranks in the person of Mr. Bertram Harrison, who left St. John a few weeks ago to enter upon a two years' course of study in an American school of acting.

Professor Baldwin, of Washington, a well-known Arctic explorer, is in the city.

Miss S. Jones leaves Halifax on the Lake Superior for Queenstown, December 8th. She will visit Miss Darville for some time and afterwards expects to be in London with Mrs. Craske (nee Miss Oliver) whose husband is still in Cape Town.

Mr. E. P. Allison is in Toronto. He expects to be absent about a fortnight.

Among those registered at the High Commissioner's office, London, for week ending Oct. 30, were Sir M. B., Lady and Miss Daly, Halifax.

Mrs. Wesley Smith and Mrs. Glenden have been visiting friends in Montreal.

Lieut. DuDomaine, 3rd R. C. R. has obtained leave of absence and will visit his home in London. He is to be one of the passengers on the "Lake Superior" on her next trip.

An extremely pretty wedding took place at the First Baptist Church last Wednesday morning at eight o'clock, when Miss Susie Murray, niece of Mr. James H. Austen, was married to Mr. Howard T. Ross, Barrister, of the firm of Ross and Ross, Sydney, C. B. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Mr. Chute who was assisted by the Rev. J. D. McKay, of Coburg Road Presbyterian Church. Miss Laura Ross of Pictou, N. S. was bridesmaid and Mr. Charles Ross, brother of the groom, was best man. The church was decorated with flowers and palms, and long before the appointed hour every seat was occupied. The bride looked charming in a tailor made gown of royal purple with velvet hat of the same shade. She carried a bouquet of American Beauty roses, carnations, and maiden hair fern. The bridesmaid was attired in a very pretty costume of gray and pink, and wore a black and white picture hat. She carried a bouquet of pink roses. Mr. Logan presided at the organ, and the choir, of which the bride was a member, rendered some delightful music. Immed-

ately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Ross left on the C. P. R. for the upper provinces. On their return they will reside in Sydney, C. B. The bride was the recipient of a large number of handsome presents.

Mrs. Wyldie entertained a number of young friends at a whist party last Wednesday.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, accompanied by Mr. C. B. Burns, have been in Halifax the past week.

Miss Susie Stairs, Kent St., gave a very pleasant tea on Thursday afternoon in honor of Miss Lockyer, who is visiting Mrs. John F. Stairs, South Street.

Mrs. McWatters and children, Dr. and Mrs. Oliver, Col. and Mrs. Farmer, Col. and Mrs. Biscoe, Capt. and Mrs. Elliot and children were among the Idaho's passengers this week.

Mr. Altman, violinist of the Halifax Conservatory of Music, is in New York and will play for the Arion Club to-morrow afternoon.

I went to St. Andrew's church last Sunday evening to hear Rev. Dr. Black lecture on Dante and the great Divine Tragedy. I had endeavored on one or two instances to get interested in Dante, but was quite nonplussed by so many strange names and so many classic and historic allusions. It seems to me that if a man wished to become a literary scholar the best foundation for him to build upon would be Dante, if he could only have the patience to take a few years in the reading of him. I cannot fancy a man reading that poet faithfully, taking time to turn up all the references, and not rising from the task without a complete idea of ancient history, literature, and mythology, besides a vast amount of knowledge regarding the politics and ecclesiasticism of the age in which Dante wrote. I hope I may have the time to do it some day myself, but meantime I owe considerable to Dr. Black for the summary which formed the first part of his discourse last Sunday evening. The course of which this formed an interesting part should prove highly attractive, particularly to people who have any interest in things literary. I should think that to-morrow evening's discourse on Thomas a Kempis' "Imitations of Christ" would be even more interesting than the Dante discourse, because of the greater opportunity it gives to treat of things that closely affect the every day life of the people.

The Halifax Girls' Literary Club held its first meeting of the season at Miss Robertson's, Pleasant Street, last Thursday afternoon. Everything seems to indicate even a more successful winter than last year.

Badminton has again commenced; but this year in much better quarters, viz.: in the lecture room of the Armories. Many of last year's good players will be missed, especially Mr. Cecil Uniacke, Miss Cady, and Mrs. McWatters.

A dinner and dance will be given by the officers of the 3rd R. C. R., at Wellington Barracks to-night.

(Continued on page 16.)