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CITY CHIMES.

The Jost City Mission is to give a course of entertainments this winter, the first of which is to take place this evening. I do not know what the committee has prepared for the evening's entertainment, except that the programme is to be made up of choruses, readings, addresses and recitations, but I have no doubt that all who attend will spend a pleasant hour. It is nothing less than the duty of every citizen who takes an interest in the philanthropic work that is being carried on in our city, to assist in every way practicable the efforts that the workers in the Jost Mission are making to carry on their work among the poor and ignorant. The field is broad and the laborers are few, and there are many ways open for all who are so inclined to lend their aid. Sympathy and encouragement is appreciated, and visitors to the meetings held for the benefit of the people for whom the teachers are laboring and praying will not fail to receive a cordial welcome. The course of entertainments deserve to be well patronized.

The students of Dalhousie College have this week organized a glee club, with Herr Doering as musical director. This is certainly a wise move on the part of the students, and will afford much pleasant as well as profitable entertainment. That the public will share in the benefits to be derived from the organization I take for granted, and they with Dalhousie's many friends eagerly await the first public performance. Under the efficient instruction of Herr Doering the aspiring students of music will no doubt rapidly advance in the art to which, along with the numerous other branches of education, they are turning their attention. W. E. Thompson is President of the club, and F. Yorston, Vice-president.

I wonder how much Halifax people expect for their money, or is it that even our most prosaic citizens get wildly, enthusiastically musical when they attend a concert. Nineteen numbers, including encores, make a long concert, and yet I enjoyed it thoroughly. Perhaps the most noticeable feature, and one which has helped to make the Orpheus Club concerts more enjoyable, is the varied nature of the programme. The predominance of choral work a few years since has given way, and now we have the concerts varied with orchestral music. By the way, this ambitious Orpheus Orchestra shows a steady improvement. Its charming rendition of the striking overture, "Stradella," pleased me greatly. The combination of instruments is very agreeable, and some of the performers, especially the slide-trombonist and the French-horn player, did some excellent work. Herr Klingensfeld's violin solos, two in number, were doubled by the audience, proving that our violinist knows how to please and captivate his hearers. I was favorably struck with his accompanist, who appears to realize that it is her province to accompany and not to outdo her soloist. Mrs. Kennedy Campbell wins an audience as much by her manner as by her singing. Her rendition of the superb song, "On the hills there is no sin," was charmingly effective. I have never heard Miss Homer sing better than she did on Tuesday evening last, and each time that I hear her I come away impressed with the idea that her voice has a wonderful compass. I cannot recall ever having heard a lady who possessed such rare fullness of tone in her lower notes with such clearness in her higher ones. Miss Homer's power is that of a dramatic artiste, and the rapturous encores which she received would indicate that her singing is steadily growing in popularity. Mr. Dodwell sang admirably Schumann's "Spring Journey." The Orpheus Club with Ladies' Auxiliary appeared in six numbers of the programme, all of which were uniformly well rendered. The last selection, from the opera of Martha, was exceedingly well given, and I could not help feeling that the Orpheus Club would do well to prepare the choral work in two or three of such operas and make arrangements to bring to Halifax a star or two of the first magnitude in the spring or early summer. On every side I hear expressions of satisfaction with respect to the reserved seats, but it is to be hoped that now this question is settled the concerts will commence at the hour named. I object to twenty minutes of expectant do-nothingness, and judging from the remarks of my neighbors on Tuesday evening, they equally object to unnecessary delay.

Just one month from to-day is Christmas. Think of that, little folks, and be patient. Probably many of the grown-ups would rather not think of it, for, as usual, each busy housekeeper shrinks as she sees in her mind's eye the work that is to be accomplished between to-day and this time a month hence, and the heads of families grow thoughtful as they consider the numerous demands that are sure to be made upon the family pocketbook. The young ladies are busy with the wonderful creations that are being formed by their deft fingers for the delight and comfort of dear ones, and already an air of mystery pervades our homes. Articles hastily hidden and an air of

innocence assumed as a certain step is heard in the hall, mysterious confabs over shopping expeditions, a few wee wee white, oh very white and quite pardonable, fibs told in answer to awkward questions, etc., etc., indicate that preparations are not lacking for the usual celebration of the glad season. I think one of the most touching of the many pleasing incidents of the Christmas time is the opening of the children's "banks," the eager counting of the precious pennies that have been "saved up for Christmas," and the earnest planning of the purchases to be made, so that all the loved ones may have an appropriate gift. The generous little hearts seem to catch the spirit of Christmas giving in a truer and nobler sense than their elders are capable of, and it is indeed a rare case when a boy or girl may be found who does not get genuine pleasure from the bestowing of their little all upon their friends at Christmas tide. How, too, they enjoy the surprise and pleasure expressed as their gifts are presented. Bless the little innocents, may they long find Christmas a time of naught but pleasant anticipation and glad realization.

The promoters of the entertainment given in Masonic Hall on Wednesday evening conceived a happy idea in affording the public an opportunity to spend an "evening with Dickens." I think I can safely state that every one who has read anything above dime novels has read Dickens, and I feel sure that this author, so dear to the hearts of his thousands of readers, has but few among them who are not enthusiastic admirers of his works. Therefore the programme performed on Wednesday evening could not fail to delight the audience which filled the hall. The sketches from the famous novels were admirably given, and assisted by performances by the band of the Leicestershire regiment made up a highly enjoyable entertainment. To Mrs. Courtney and her assistants much credit is due, and it is gratifying to all interested to know that the affair was a financial success. The proceeds are in aid of church funds.

The Baker Company's engagement at the Academy of Music is drawing to a close, but their popularity gives no sign of decreasing. Large audiences have been in attendance this week, and the operas have been put on most creditably. On Monday and Tuesday evenings "Boccaccio" was played, and the opinion generally expressed was that the Baker Company had given the best performance of this popular opera that had been witnessed in Halifax. The several members of the Company did well the parts allotted them, and the appreciation of the audience was enthusiastically expressed. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings "Fra Diavolo" was on, and once more the Company secured a success. Miss Dickson, whose sweet voice has won many laurels, took the part of Zerlina, and while not displaying great power gave a very pleasing representation of Matteo's daughter. Miss Cora Bolton in this opera shared the honors with Miss Dickson, her sweet singing and good appearance gaining much favor. Mr. Armand as the brigand Fra Diavolo was fine, his clear tenor voice charming the most critical. "Joe" has made many friends and admirers during his sojourn in our city who will not soon forget the talented singer. Mr. Wooley made a good Lord Alcazar, and Wolff and Ranney as Fra Diavolo's followers did well. Ranney is new as a comedian, and admirably succeeded in the part assigned him. Messrs. Ryan and Arnold as Matteo and Lorenzo respectively were the other principal figures in "Fra Diavolo." The choruses were well given. This evening and to-morrow afternoon and evening "Patini'zi" is on the programme. I have never heard this opera, so cannot speak of its attractions, but that it is very pretty they who have heard it can testify. Next week brings the end of the Baker Opera Company's performances in Halifax. It goes without saying that it will be with deep regret our theatre-goers part with the artists who have furnished such acceptable entertainment for the long autumn evenings, and who have given our citizens so many opportunities of hearing old and new operas acceptably presented. Proprietor, directors, orchestra and actors have combined in their efforts to please, and have been more than successful. Requests having been made for a repetition of operas already given, the Company will next week put on seven of the most popular as follows: "Grand Duchesse" on Monday, "Said Pasha" on Tuesday, "The Chimes of Normandy" on Wednesday, on which occasion a benefit to Messrs. Armand, Wolff and Wooley will be tendered; on Thursday "Erminie," Friday "Bohemian Girl," at the Saturday matinee "Nanon," and in the evening the "Black Hussar" with special features. This farewell performance will be a benefit to the Misses Dickson and Murphy, and I have no doubt that standing room will be at a premium.

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