

ment men of sense have a living interest in. We may learn lessons from the mistakes and follies of the past, and apply them to the conditions of to-day, and thus endeavour to get the best results out of those conditions for ourselves and our children. It is the business of the statesman to do this for the nation. It should be the office of the philosopher to hold aloft the lamp of truth and point out the way. But what shall we say to one who, having spent his life in the work, can only tell us: "We trust and believe in our hearts that all will come right, but we do not see how;" and then acknowledges his belief that all will go wrong unless Mr. Gladstone can see how to set the world right. As if the progress of civilization depended on one man, whose life must certainly be near its close! When the *Bystander* appeared, the cleverness and coruscant volubility of its writer made people think for a time that Canada possessed a philosopher of the first water. His latest utterances, however, would seem rather to entitle him to be called a "Prophet of I don't know."

## Society.

To secure insertion in the issue of the succeeding Friday, announcements intended for VANITY FAIR should be sent in not later than Wednesday noon.

It must be distinctly understood that all items sent to us for this column must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, not for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

## TORONTO.

Undoubtedly Toronto society is mainly plutocratic. The aristocratic element has not yet been imported in sufficient numbers to form a very important factor in it; though, when a new-comer from the old country, with some pretensions to blue blood, does make his appearance, his advent is welcomed so heartily by all classes, that it is at once seen to be only a question of time as to when the aristocracy of birth shall assert its supremacy over that of wealth. At present, the Englishman and the golden calf are both as assiduously worshipped as ever, though of course there are more devotees of the golden calf. Any person or persons of sufficient wealth (or an English birthright) can be admitted into society without the prolonged and vigorous knocking at the gate, which is necessary in older and more exclusive societies. We have in mind a family of wealthy parvenus, who entertain largely. Beautiful as is their house, surrounded as they are by the rarest paintings, the most costly decorations, and the choicest objects of luxury, the refining influences such surroundings ought naturally to exert upon their owners are lost. They are of the earth earthy. Their veneer of pomposity and ostentation only serves to emphasize the ugliness of the sordid foundation which it fails to hide. Many are bidden to their entertainments,—and many go. Why not? The fools of Vanity Fair are all there. The wine is good—the price is marked in plain figures,—and everything is managed on a scale that defies the pocket of the poorer, though perhaps fully as ambitious, competitor. True, it may be slightly galling to be patronized or fawned on, according to your social standing, by such people; but we have all in turn to eat our leek, and if it is served in a golden spoon, why, so much the better. We have, of course, a leaven of educated and refined people who choose their associates; but not many of these are society people. It will be our aim to recognize in these columns no person of either sex who is conspicuously vulgar or unrefined, either in manners or speech, no matter how wealthy, whether English or not.

A great deal of prominence is being given at the present time to a number of professional crushers or "mashers"—men who make it their daily vocation to look pretty and ogle the girls. As every dog has its day, these pests of society will enjoy for a period a certain amount of popularity, but it is a pitiable commentary on Toronto society that some of these things are looked upon as its representative men.

St. John's Lodge, F. & A. M., give an At Home this evening.

Mrs. Beverly Heath, 76 St. Patrick street, gave a very pleasant At Home on Thursday afternoon, from 4 to 7.

Mrs. C. Holmes, D'Arcy street, will give a young people's dance on Monday evening, 31st Jan.

On Thursday afternoon, 20th Jan., Mrs. Henry Moffatt, Cecil street, had a large and fashionably attended five o'clock tea. Among those present were Mr. Fortescue, Miss Helen Ferras and Captain Riddell.

Miss Cochrane, of Rochester, who is such a general favourite here, is coming over for the junior bachelors' ball.

We clip the following from one of our Washington, D.C., exchanges:—"The rivalry among the fashionable ladies in their receptions and other entertainments is greater than ever this season, and each one tries to outdo the rest in attractions to increase the number of her callers. Afternoon receptions are getting to be as entertaining as matinees. Last year it was a strife over luncheons; then they ran into wines; then it was novel features—tea or chocolate served in some outlandish way. Then the other ladies gathered all the pretty girls they could around them to attract gentlemen. Receptions, knowing very well that the gentlemen would be an attraction to other ladies. The demand for pretty girls and pretty dresses was unlimited, and when some *passee* matron who was scheming to maintain her popularity would find a fresh arrival with the blessing of beauty, it would be, 'You must receive with me next week, my dear, and every week thereafter through the season; don't let any one else coax you away.' This winter there must be something new, of course, and society is running into the theatrical business. First, singing by amateurs was introduced, and now professional singers are in demand to outshine them."

Miss Brehaut, who has been the guest of Mrs. Victor Armstrong, left for her home in Montreal on Tuesday.

Mrs. E. B. Osler, Rosedale, gave a luncheon on Wednesday, 26th.

Mrs. Beverly Robinson, will give an At Home at the Government House, on Monday afternoon, 31st Jan.

Toronto College Literary Institution will give a *Conversazione* in Convocation Hall, Wednesday evening, 9th February.

There will be a grand Kermis given by the managing committee of the Infants' Home, in the Pavilion, for four days in Easter week. Already most elaborate preparations have commenced, and a greater success than the World's Fair is anticipated. The committee of management is composed of the following ladies: Mrs. Brough, Mrs. Judge Osler, Mrs. McLean Howard, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Bendelari, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. H. Mason, Mrs. Grantham, Mrs. Fiske.

The unusually large number of young people who were present at the dance given by Miss Harrison, 131 Beverley street, on Friday evening, 21st January, have expressed themselves in most glowing terms of the pleasant time they had.

The Toronto Liederkrantz had a most successful concert and ball on Monday evening, 24th January, in their hall on Toronto street. The concert was of a high order. The following well-known performers shared the applause of the evening: Prof. R. Riegger, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Wagner, Mr. J. Reimers, Miss M. Braun, Mr. E. Schuch, Mr. F. Warrington, Mr. H. Gunther, Prof. J. C. Arldige, and Messrs. Taylor and Lee. The ball was a very enjoyable affair, owing largely to the energy of the committee.