

Pleasant memories and sad reflections are conjured up by the remark that the day of Christmas Pantomimes is past. We might extend this and say at once that the day of children is past. Childhood is rapidly becoming a myth, a dream to be read of in books from the old countries. When a great city confesses that its children cannot raise a laugh for Clown and Harlequin we are no longer surprised to meet old men of 10 who spit and smoke and talk politics. Alas! poor Harlequin! there's many an old man among us who would fain laugh at you even now, but our children have forbidden it!

An interesting discussion on Canadian Literature by the Toronto University Language Club was held last week, the chief speaker being Dr. Rand, one of Nova Scotia's most famous scholars. He said, among other things, that Canadians, as a rule, are not readers of literature, except that found in the daily papers. He might have added that the cultivated classes are great students of second-rate novels, but we quite agree with him as far as he goes.

The engagement has been announced of Lieut. Grant of H. M. S. *Forward*, to Miss Hattie Albro, younger daughter of John Albro, Esq.

We regret to hear that Mrs. Albert Hensley is confined to her room, by a severely sprained arm. Mrs. Hensley fell while walking in Hollis Street one slippery day.

We regret to hear that Dr. Weston is to leave this station early next month. Dr. Browne will go down with the Duke of Wellington's Regt. to the West Indies in the *Oronles*; and Dr. Fowler, it is said, is to go home with some of the Grenadier Guards, who pass through Halifax on their way from Bermuda to England.

The Archdeacon of Nova Scotia paid a flying visit to town at the beginning of the week. He was the guest of Mr. Peter Lynch at 22 Tobin St., and preached in St. Luke's Cathedral on Sunday morning. We saw the Archdeacon of Cape Breton also in town a few days ago.

The Bishop continues steadily though slowly to improve. His Lordship and Mrs. Courtney will probably leave Bishopsthorpe for the South early in March.

Major and Mrs. Mansel are to be congratulated on the birth of a son, who was born in Somersetshire, England, on the 31st. ultimo.

Major and Mrs. Bagot, who sail for England in the "Circassian" on Saturday, will be very much missed in Halifax Society, and will carry with them the good wishes of a host of friends. Major Bagot is a smart and agreeable officer, and as such will be a great loss to the Garrison; he is also a keen sportsman, but perhaps his departure will be most felt in dramatic circles, where the numerous and varied parts he has taken in Theatricals from time to time with so much success will long be remembered.

Captain Jeurwine, R. A., was married to Miss Grace Meynell of Halifax at Manchester, England, on the 10th inst. Captain and Mrs. Jeurwine sail for the East Indies in a Troopship on the 10th March.

Miss Cadell sails for England in the "Circassian" on Saturday.

Mrs. James Morrow gave a large sleigh-drive on Saturday, the guests including the General, Colonel and Mrs. Nesbitt, Capt. and Mrs. Trench, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kenny, and many others. The party had a most enjoyable drive out to the "Bedford," where they sat down to one of those recherche little spreads, for which Mr. Morrison is rapidly becoming famous.

The last English mail brings the news of the death of a very distinguished military officer, General the Hon. Sir Leicester Smyth, K. C. B., K. C. M. G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief at Gibraltar, whose decease took place in London, while he was absent from his command on 3 months sick leave. He belonged to the Rifle Brigade, and had seen active service in the Kaffir war and

the Crimea, and from the latter he brought home the despatches announcing the fall of Sebastopol. His last appointment but one was that of Military Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, in which he was succeeded by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught.

In a recent *London Gazette* we regret to observe that a Captain of the Battalion of the Rifle Brigade quartered at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, has been removed from the service, "the Queen having no further need of his services." Happily it is very rarely that the military career of an officer is closed in these terms, the formula: "Is permitted to resign his commission" being usually resorted to, except in very serious cases. The case here referred to is all the more distressing as the officer who has come to grief had previously distinguished himself on active service, and had been rewarded with a Brevet Majority in the Egyptian campaign.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Hartlen has finally decided on undertaking the job of cleaning away our ashes; and that his carts were actually at work yesterday. It only remains for householders to do their part in the matter by communicating with Mr. Hartlen at the Colonial Market, and the city may be reduced to a fairly decent condition of cleanliness.

The Rev. W. S. Cunningham, A. B., B. D., of New Jersey (formerly of Halifax) accompanied by his wife (daughter of the late William Jordan, Halifax) embarked February 18th on S. S. "Westmoreland," Red Star Line, from Jersey City, on a foreign tour. They proceed direct to Belgium, thence through Europe to Egypt, the Holy Land, returning via Asia Minor and Great Britain.

The St. Andrews Church Concert on Tuesday night was very enjoyable, the events ranging from the purely classical of Herr Klingenberg to the extreme comic of Mr. Godfrey Smith. The programme was as follows:—

1. Quartette.—"My lov' is like a red, red rose"..... Misses Burns and Bligh, Messrs. Gillis and Ward.
2. Song.—"Give me thy love" (*Wellings*)..... Miss Mackay.
3. Violin.—Seventh concerto (*de Bériot*)..... Herr Klingenberg.
4. Song.—"This is my dream" (*Wellings*)..... Mr. E. F. Smith.
5. Song.—"Ask me no more" (*Tosti*)..... Miss Bligh.
6. Piano Solo.—"Romance" (*Babiar*)..... Miss Irene Chamberlain.
7. Song.—"The standard on the braes O'Mar"..... Mr. S. Crawford.
8. Song.—"A brook song" (*Mazson*)..... Miss A. Burns.
9. Violin.—"Nocturne" (*Chopin*)..... Herr Klingenberg.
10. Song.—"The Scottish blue bell" (*Jarvis*)..... Mrs. G. M. Campbell.
11. Vocal duet.—"Love is a voice divino" (*Donizetti*)..... Miss Bligh and Mr. G. Smith.
12. Song.—"Smile once again" (*Millard*)..... Mr. Godfrey Smith.
13. Quartette.—"Sleep my Sweet"..... Miss Bligh, Messrs. Gillis, Smith and Ward.  
Accompanist..... Mr. T. J. Payne.

The question of whether people take sugar in their tea or not is a troublesome one for hostesses, and an aggravating one sometimes for guests, especially when one who does not take it is given three lumps and then asked "Are you quite sure your tea is sweet enough?" but everyone must admit it forms a great staple of conversation at 5 o'clock tea parties. We therefore throw out a suggestion to some of our readers, who are fond of statistics, that it would be interesting, in this Lenten season of afternoon tea parties, for a person to note how many times he overhears any of the following stock sentences in one week, or in one afternoon—

1. Do you take cream and sugar, Miss Muffin?
2. It is so difficult to remember who takes which.
3. They say it's fashionable not to take sugar.
4. So many people don't take sugar now.
5. I have given up sugar during Lent.
6. Not taking sugar brings out the flavour of the tea so much better.
7. Tea without sugar is undrinkable in my opinion.
8. I have never taken sugar since I was a little girl.
9. You are sweet enough without sugar!
10. I have always taken sugar.
11. I have a very sweet tooth.
12. Sweet to the sweet!