

CITY CHIMES.

"A perfect success" is the verdict pronounced upon the ball given on Monday evening in Freemason Hall by the Maritime Commercial Travellers' Association. The Hall was very prettily decorated, and from one o'clock until nearly three a. m. there was indeed "a sound of revelry." Our hosts had spared no pains to render the affair as enjoyable as possible, and are to be heartily congratulated on the success which attended their efforts. About three hundred ladies and gentlemen were present, and apparently each and every one thoroughly enjoyed the evening's entertainment. American string band was stationed on the platform behind abundant foliage of palms and other decorative plants, and dispensed excellent music throughout a programme consisting of eighteen numbers, several of which were enthusiastically encored, and the merry dancers seemed to be indefatigable. The floor was in splendid condition for tripping the light fantastic, and there seemed no drawback to the complete success of this first reception of the M. C. T. Association. The supper was spread at one end of the Hall, and was served in first-class style by caterer Street and his efficient corps of waiters. While there were no remarkably beautiful dresses worn on this occasion by the ladies, the large number of very pretty ones was particularly noticeable, and the ballroom presented a truly fascinating and pretty scene. The committee of management should feel highly gratified with the results of their work, and we with many other friends of the Association trust that this tripping from the old paths may prove a happy precedent of further pleasures of a similar character in the future. The St. John members of the M. C. T. Association celebrated their annual gathering by a dinner on Monday evening, and sent fraternal greetings to their Halifax friends in the form of a telegram expressing the hope that they "were taking steps to enjoy themselves." As this appropriately worded message was received while the gay revellers at Masonic Hall were participating in a most frolicsome "militaire," the answering greeting was an emphatic assurance that the Halifax brotherhood and their guests were verily "taking steps" toward the enjoyment of the evening's pleasures. The commercial men start on their journeys the first of the year, and will carry with them the best wishes of the many friends who partook of their bountiful hospitality on Monday evening.

"It rained, and the rain seemed never weary." What very disappointing weather greeted us on Christmas morning, and undoubtedly rendered the day much less "a merry Xmas" than all had anticipated. Outdoor pleasures were out of the question, and those who did not have to face the elements were certainly the most favored. However, notwithstanding the mist and mud, Santa Claus made his usual calls, and young and old participated in the good cheer of the season, and doubtless were made happy by receiving as tokens of goodwill and thoughtfulness "the very things they had longed for." We trust the present more reasonable weather will continue, so that our New Year's Day may prove more propitious for the thorough enjoyment of the festive season. Once more let us wish all our friends happiness and prosperity in the new year upon which we enter to-day.

The Christmas entertainments in the public and charitable institutions of our city seemed to be especially enjoyable this year, and no trouble was spared by the managing committees to render the festivities of the season as attractive as possible. The many friends who so kindly contributed towards the success of these occasions have their reward in the gratification experienced in witnessing the genuine pleasure afforded the participants of their generosity. The "children of silence" at the Deaf and Dumb Institution had a very merry day, and thoroughly appreciated the Christmas cheer provided. Their entertainment consisted in a visit from Father Christmas right from Santa Clausville loaded with fruit, toys and suitable gifts for all. At one o'clock a sumptuous dinner was served, and good cheer and general satisfaction abounded. In the evening several of the old pupils of the Institution gathered in, and a very pleasant time was spent. At the School for the Blind the pupils spent a very happy Christmas day, and one that will long be remembered by them. The entertainment provided for them was a new departure in the School, and one that proved very successful. Cerebral parties have become very popular in the United States, and it was indeed a happy thought that suggested this amusing feature for the Christmas merry-making of the blind children at the School. Twenty-two stockings, filled with the good things kind friends had provided for each little one, were suspended to one wall of the Assembly Hall, and each labelled with the name of the owner printed in point print. A string twenty yards long also labelled at the end was attached to each and these strings were woven and interwoven around chairs, etc. Each child was given the end of the cord connected with his or her stocking, and then began the merry work of untying the cobweb of cords. This caused much fun, and the pupils were highly delighted with their happy Christmas festival. At the other institution beautiful dinners were enjoyed, and gifts of generous friends dispersed among the young people.

The good ladies connected with the Board of Directors of the Seilers' Home provided on Christmas evening a very pleasant entertainment at the Home, which was largely attended and very much enjoyed by the brave mariners. An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by some of our most popular amateur musicians, and a profitable and pleasant evening passed all too rapidly away. Many happy and grateful memories will remain of the kindness and goodwill of the friends who gave so much genuine pleasure to the strangers in the port on this occasion.

Among the numerous Christmas presentations of the season we have space but to mention a few. The lady employees of the N. S. Telephone Company, whose dulcet tones are familiar to us all, presented the popular manager of the company, Mr. Harris, with a beautiful silver and cut glass

fruit dish, and the male employees showed their good will by contributing a gold-headed ebony cane to the same gentleman's list of gifts. Professor J. B. Currie, whose Academy for boys closed for the holidays on the 23rd, was made the recipient of a set of carvers of handsome design enclosed in case, with the compliments of the season from the pupils. The employees of the Halifax Confectionery and Baking Co. presented Mr. F. B. Wood, the genial manager, with no less than two handsome expressions of esteem, which took the form of a gold-mounted ebony cane, and a comfortable extension arm chair. Manager William Gordon and A. McGowan, foreman of the coopers of McDougall's Distillery, were presented, respectively, with a valuable chemical treatise in eight volumes and a gold breast pin; expressions of esteem from the employees. There were many other similar pleasant episodes just before Christmas, but our space is so limited that we must refrain from extended notices. Such kindly acts go far towards rendering the season a delight to both employers and employees.

Zera Semon has had a great attraction in the Boston Ideal Comedy Company which has been playing in the Lyceum Theatre this as well as last week. This company closes its engagement with Professor Semon tomorrow evening, and a complete change of programme has been arranged for next week, when Zera attends treating his patrons to a novel attraction in the form of a new trick which he styles "the great cabinet trick." This, he informs us, is without exception the most marvellous feat he has ever performed. The cabinet has been manufactured in Philadelphia, and Professor Semon expects to have it here in time for the first performance on Monday evening. There is no doubt the many patrons of the magic working Professor will bring their full force and commence another week of limited amusement.

Crowned King and the Orpheus Minstrels at the performances in the Academy on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of this week. The solos were fairly well sung; Master Reginald Knight's song "Carve" took well with the audience and this young gentleman particularly entertaining with his wonderful bones solos. The grand operatic ballad which concluded the performance, entitled "The King of the Cannibal Islands," created much amusement. The march by a squad of young cannibals was also very interesting and well done. Dr. Slayter sang in his usually highly pleasing manner and received an encore. Mr. Ad. Johnston's skirt dance in the "dusky maiden's" costume was good, and this infatigable gentleman took his part very creditably. Taken as a whole the performance were not quite up to the standard to which the Orpheus Minstrels have attained in times past and the comment of the public is not as favorable as might be desired. A third performance will be given this evening.

There appeared to be a rage among many of our storekeepers this season to attract attention to their wares by offering handsome prizes to the fortunate ones in various guessing contests. Much interest has been excited by the contest for the silver tea service offered by Hodge, proprietor of the Kandy Kitchen, Barrington St., and in solving the question, "how many candies in this jar," a very queer coincidence was disclosed. H. G. Bauld, H. D. Blackadar and R. F. Kellie counted the candies and found the number to be 3,457. Among a very large number of guesses deposited it was found that two persons had guessed the exact number, and these two lucky ones were Mrs. Saunders of this city and her son, neither being aware the other had guessed. Mr. Saunders had inspected the jar, but his mother had not seen it at all, proving conclusively that it is pure luck and not a calculating mind that wins success in these matters. Mr. Hodge did a marvellously large business at the popular Kandy Kitchen this season, and feels confident that he has taken a long step towards educating the taste of the public to appreciate purity and cleanliness in the sweetmeats that they consume.

The wedding of one of the most popular young ladies of Halifax society, Miss Edith Duffus, which has long been looked forward to by her many friends, took place at St. Luke's Cathedral on Tuesday last. The groom, Flag Lieutenant Trowbridge, of H. M. S. Bellarophon, is from Norfolk, England, and has become a great favorite during his stay in Halifax. At the hour set for the ceremony the church was crowded with eager spectators, the guests numbering about seventy included besides the immediate relatives of the bride, His Honor Lieut. Governor Daly and numerous other well-known ladies and gentlemen of this city. Rev. W. B. King, assisted by Rev. Mr. Allison, performed the ceremony, after which the wedding party were driven to the residence of the bride's father, Mr. William Duffus, where lunch was partaken of, and Lieut. and Mrs. Trowbridge left via C. P. R. for a visit to Montreal and Toronto. They intend leaving Halifax for Bermuda about the middle of this month, and will carry with them the best wishes of a host of friends.

If weather favors, the Exhibition Skating Rink will be opened this afternoon, and the many patrons of this popular winter resort will have an opportunity to compensate themselves for the pleasure postponed from last week. This year, we believe, is the first of many to disappoint the expectations of those who usually devote Xmas afternoon to rink skating, but we trust that a prosperous season is in store for this favorite place of winter festivity.

The Boston Ideal Comedy Company, which has had a very successful run at the Lyceum in connection with Professor Semon's popular show, intends giving a performance in Dartmouth on Monday evening, when our friends across the water will have an opportunity of enjoying this interesting entertainment. This Company has leased the Reform Club Hall, and an excellent programme has been prepared.