

THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW.

During March a little Screech Owl (*Megascops Asio*), took up its abode in the Rockwood Rink, and has now joined the happy family of pigeons, dogs and white mice presided over by Columbine. This Owl is an extremely dignified young gentleman, who takes life seriously, at the same time enjoys a certain amount of petting, will sit on your finger, and allow his head to be smoothed. It is possible, though, that the owl and white mice may fraternize in the same way as the lion and the lamb, and lie down together. When they awake, as in the other case, the mice will be inside of *Megascops*.

The Screech Owl is one of the most useful of our birds, and should be particularly encouraged by farmers, as it destroys multitudes of mice and insects. The old idea that hawks and owls should be destroyed whenever possible is rapidly disappearing, and science has long ago proved that we have few useless birds.

The Portsmouth Assessors are now making their annual friendly call on the taxpayers of the community. Their warm welcome must prove a great source of gratification to them. They have arrived at some strange facts. It seems that there is but one dog owned in the Village, and the owner of this unfortunate cur has not yet been located, so the tax cannot be collected, although the dog might be if he were not so large. At the same time, by actual count it has been proved that, Portsmouth furnishes shelter for eleven hundred and sixty-three dogs, all of which it is claimed are the property of the Ontario Government.

The Rinkman's Benefit Carnival, on Monday, the 11th March, was a great success, and Mr. Fenwick reaped a rich harvest.

The Assessors are at a loss to know what to do in the matter, and probably the Patrons of Industry will add a new plank to their platform, in which a remedy for the evil will be suggested.

The ice-boating on the harbor has been very fine for some time, and the boys have taken advantage of the opportunity to indulge in this magnificent sport.

Messrs. Davidson and McCammon are taking an active interest in yachting affairs, and it is said are spending their spare hours in designing and building a small clipper of new type. Mr. Davidson is devoting particular attention to the management of the centre-board, while Mr. McCammon is providing the non-capsizable effects. Mr. Wm. Shea will handle the tiller, from a safe position at the mast-head. The boat will have a preliminary spin with the *Defiance* as soon as the ice is out, the *Minstrel* and *Viola* being considered too small game to fly for.

On March 10th, Mrs. C. K. Clarke gave a delightful At Home, in Rockwood House, to sixty inmates of Rockwood Hospital. Mrs. D. H. Marshall, Mrs. Derby, of Kingston, and several of the officials of the Institution, helped to entertain the visitors, who spent a happy afternoon.

On Tuesday, the 19th, a very successful Concert was given in the Amusement Hall. A lengthy programme, including a new series of Living Pictures, was provided, and it goes without saying, it was a success. The feature of the evening was the presentation of the Curling Medals to Messrs. Potter and Shea. The presentations were made by Mr. Jas. Dennison, with dramatic effect.