

of social life. In the American cities comparatively few "exclusive" clubs have as yet been established, the great Unwashed, the Shoddies, and the Petroleums generally obtaining admittance to the same rink on the payment of the same fee—a field for which there is a large opening in this city, as none of the rinks—the Montreal, the Victoria, Guilbault's and Bronsdon's—are sufficiently central for general purposes, and an equally good one would probably be well supported by the less exclusive portion of the public if erected in the vicinity of the Champ de Mars or the Hay Market and properly managed. With the object of showing people at a distance from these congenial regions how a first-class Skating Rink is laid out and managed, we here give an engraving of the Victoria Rink on Dorchester street, with a general description of the way it is conducted:—

VICTORIA SKATING RINK.

This Rink was constructed during the season of 1892, and was first opened to its subscribers for use on the 24th December, of that year.

An Act of Incorporation was obtained from the Legislature on the application of James Torrance, John Greenshields, John Lewis, Geo. M. Millar, Alfred Brown, J. J. Jones, Thos. Morland, and other gentlemen of this city, under which the Club holds and manages its real estate, of a value now of about \$30,000, while their capital stock is kept within the limit of 300 shares, of \$50 each, or \$15,000.

The building is situated on Drummond Street, on a lot of 120 by 127 feet. The area for skating is 202 feet long by 80 feet wide, covering a space



VICTORIA SKATING RINK.

of about 160 square feet. This is spanned by a semi-circular framed roof rising to a height of 52 feet, and constructed in such a manner as to give an apparent lightness of effect, combined with great strength, the arched principals of the roof springing immediately from the ground. The skating area is surrounded on all sides by a platform 10 feet wide for promenading, and in the centre of one side is a recess in which, extending over the platform, is a handsome and commodious gallery for the music, which is supplied weekly by some of our fine military or other bands.

The Rink is lighted during the day by large windows on three sides, and at night by six pendant rings or stars, each containing 45 burners, and by a bracket light attached to each of the 48 principals of the roof, containing in addition 192 burners, making with those in the orchestra some 500 jets, by which the building is brilliantly and effectively illuminated.

There is also a small gallery at the west end over the entrance door, from which an excellent coup d'œil of the whole may be obtained.

The building fronts on Drummond Street, and is entered by a spacious hall, on each side of which, and opening on the platform, are separate dressing rooms for ladies and gentlemen, with attendant cloak rooms attached. These rooms are furnished with numerous boxes, each with lock and key, and of sufficient size to hold the skates, boots, &c. They are also stove warmed and thoroughly comfortable.

The superintendent lives on the premises, occupying rooms over the entrance hall.

Blessrs. Lawford & Nelson are the Architects.

The business of the Victoria Rink is managed by seven Directors chosen annually by the shareholders, and all application for admissions, as annual subscribers, are made to and determined by the Directors. The skating season opens about the middle of December, and continues almost uninterrupted, for four months. The Rink being opened for use from 8 A.M. till 10 P.M. Skating has been enjoyed as far as on the 15th of May.

Fancy Dress entertainments take place two or three times during the winter, which are thronged by enthusiastic skaters, with their friends as spectators, numbering in all some 1,500 or 2,000 persons. The effect of this stirring crowd, with the inspiring music, brilliant lights and extra illuminations cannot be adequately described. Mr. James Torrance was made a life member, as a recognition of his services in organizing and bringing the project to so successful an issue.

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