

CITY CHIMES.

A large audience listened attentively to Hon. Mr. Anglin's able exposition of the Irish Question at the Lyceum on Thursday week. The lecturer rapidly sketched the most important events in Irish history, and cleared away many popular errors in regard to the land question. Coming down to the present time he described and defended boycotting and the "plan of campaign," warmly eulogised Parnell and Michael Davitt, and had a good word to say of O'Brien, with whom he fully acknowledged he was not always in accord. He criticized severely the appointment of Chamberlain as Commissioner to arrange the fishery treaty, his foolish speech in Belfast, almost a detour to the Irish Americans, and the resulting defeat of the treaty in the United States Senate in response to the demands of the 1,000,000 Irish voters in the States. He instanced the power of the Irish elements in contending elections in the States, plainly intimating that the "Murchison letters" had alienated the Irish vote from the Democratic party resulting in the defeat of Cleveland. He spoke feelingly of the horror that had filled all true Irishmen's breasts on the news of the assassination of Cavendish and Burke, a feeling that was so fully participated in by Parnell that he had at the time determined to retire from public life, and was only dissuaded by the earnest appeals of his friends. He spoke in scathing terms of Piggott and the persecutors of Parnell, and closed with a warm appeal to the audience for funds to help the great Irish leader to carry on his case before the commission. The lecturer was warmly applauded throughout.

On Tuesday evening the beautiful steamship *Halifax* was crowded with a concourse of visitors at the invitation of the Canada Atlantic Steamship Company. Political and commercial magnates, as well as all sorts and conditions of ordinary mortals, jostled each other in the labyrinths of staterooms, gangways and passages in the inspection of the perfectly appointed vessel, and subsequently partook of the liberal hospitality of the directors. The beauty and efficiency of the *Halifax* was done full justice to in many effective speeches, and the hope was expressed that a sister boat may soon be added to the line. This, indeed, is "a consummation devoutly to be wished." The *Halifax* is the most striking instance of energy the city has yet put in evidence, and the construction of another such boat would crown the enterprise in the eyes of the world.

Both of the pieces played by the Amateur Dramatic Club on Monday and Tuesday were well cast. In particular, Captain Price and Miss Grant, and perhaps we should add Col. Gunter, were admirably adapted to their parts. "A Wonderful Woman" is a comedy with an improbable denouement rather abruptly arrived at; but it fairly bristles with points and most of them were effectively brought out by the performers. Captain Price played the ruined Marquis de Frontinac in a way that enlisted the sympathies of the feminine part of the audience. There was none of the over-affectation of politeness and the straining after fine pronunciations which often mar the performance of professional actors playing the parts of fine gentlemen. Col. Gunter, as DeMillefleurs, was a fop and a gentleman to the life—a combination which was not uncommon under the *ancien regime*. Mr. Marshall's impersonation of the cobbler was capital and consistent. He was, however, confronted by the perplexing problem, how is one to reproduce in English the dialect of an uneducated foreigner? By a mixture of good and bad English, by a medley of brogues, or by assuming one provincial brogue consistently throughout? Each of these methods is open to objection. Mrs. Jones played the title role very creditably indeed, and Miss Stewart played her minor part of Cecile with unembarrassed spirit. All the minor characters were satisfactorily represented. The piece was most elaborately costumed, the noblemen's suits being particularly effective.

In "Boots at the Swan" Miss Grant's make-up as Miss Moonshine was "immense," and her acting was as good as her make-up. Mr. Fuller's mimic melodramatics were irresistibly comic, and Mr. W. Hill was of course an excellent Jacob Earwig, though we have sometimes seen him in better form. The way Mr. Beale did the shaking and shivering business when he saw the policeman in the closet, deserves honorable mention, and, as in the first piece, the minor roles were all more or less creditably filled. The performance was enjoyed by large audiences on both evenings.

The past week has been quiet, but still a few social events took place on Monday and Tuesday. The fragrance (?) of frying pancakes was noticed in many homes on Tuesday, and rings and thimbles were discovered in pieces of cake at some of the shrove-tide parties. Five o'clock teas still hold their own, and we are sure that where the fair sex alone are admitted they must have a good time, if chatter and laughter are any criterion. Of course ladies are not given to talking all at once, but it sounds as if a good many of them might be so employed, if you happen to be near on one of these occasions. Tea-tea, coffee-tea and jocularitea, and sometimes other kinds of *tease* are discussed by the girls, and I am afraid that we are not missed very much at these gatherings, and when there is a crush we are just as pleased to be absent in body, if present in spirit.

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