

CITY CHIMES.

Preparations for the Wanderers' Fair are steadily advancing, and the Managing Committee of the Club, with the able assistance of their lady friends, will spare no pains to make this festival one of the most interesting ever held in the city. Of course in these large fairs there must necessarily be a certain sameness, but several new features give the whole affair a novel appearance, and without doubt the attractions at the Wanderers' will be many and varied. Several of the ladies who are in charge were interested in "the World's Fair" and the Nautical, and hence will have the benefit of experience in making ready for this gala occasion.

Beils of all kinds, from the plain black ribbon and canvas to the most elaborate development in gold or silver, leather or kid, will be worn during the summer.—June *Ladies' Home Journal*.

The Royal weather of the Twenty-Fourth so immediately following the heavy rain did not attract as large an attendance to witness the trotting matches at the Riding grounds as the merits of the sport provided warranted. The belief became general that the track would be too heavy for speeding, and hundreds in consequence remained away and missed a most enjoyable afternoon, as although the track was slightly heavy the races were all well contested and the time made fair. There was a sprinkling of the fair sex on the grand stand and in carriages, but it takes a running race to draw fashionable Halifax, trotting not having yet become the craze it is in the adjoining Republic. All our most noted horsemen, however, were present, and the attendance, all things considered, was fair. It was not a particularly hilarious crowd, but groups of four or five each on the grand stand and in the grounds amused themselves in drawing pools and risking small sums, and had plenty of fun over the results. Promptly at two o'clock the horses in the three minute class were called. The entries were—"Young Clay," b. g., R. O'Brien; "Millionsaire," b. g., J. A. Waugh; "Major," b. g., G. Hirschfield; "Gentle Annie," b. m., E. J. Fenton; "Tommy Stewart," b. g., J. A. Leaman. "Major" was scratched, but all the other horses responded to the call-bell, and after considerable scoring got away, "Tommy Stewart" soon taking the lead and winning the heat in 2.54, with "Young Clay" second, followed by "Gentle Annie" and "Millionsaire." In the next two heats the superiority of "Tommy Stewart" was made plainly apparent, he winning in 2.47 and 2.55, Leaman very good-naturedly holding him in so as not to distance the other horses on the final heat. "Young Clay" took second place and won admiration by his square, honest trotting, not making a break in the three heats. "Millionsaire" took third place and "Gentle Annie" was withdrawn on the final heat.

In the second race—2.50 class—the entries were "Bess," ch. m., R. O'Brien, "Modesty," b. m., J. Burns, "Gray Boy," b. g., J. A. Leaman.

"Bess" took the race in three straight heats; time 2.50, 2.47, 2.55. "Gray Boy" second and "Modesty," as is too often the case in this world, came last. In the first two heats "Bess" had her work cut out, being closely pressed by "Gray Boy," but in the first heat had things his own way, as "Gray Boy" made a bad start and behaved badly. "Modesty," driven by Frank Hill, continually broke and did more galloping than trotting. When she got down to her work she showed good speed.

The race of the day, however, was the "free-for-all" in which the entries were "Little John," b. g., Frank Hill; "Stranger," ch. g., E. J. Fenton; "Nellie T," b. m., J. A. Leaman; and "Maud May," ch. m., W. Gibbons—"Maud May" was scratched. In the first heat "Little John" took the lead and held it without a break closely followed by "Stranger," also trotting prettily, but coming down the home stretch the pace proved too much and "Little John" lost his feet as "Stranger" pressed to the front. It was neck and neck at the finish but "Stranger" took the heat in 2.37½. In the two succeeding heats "Stranger" took the lead and held it although closely pressed by "Little John," "Nellie T" not being in it, the time being 2.44 and 2.41½.

This ended the second annual trotting meeting of the Halifax Driving Club, and the management are to be congratulated on its success.

We were favored with delightful weather for the holiday this week, and our citizens loyally did their part in celebrating the Queen's birthday. Business was generally suspended, flags were flying from all points, and Halifaxians turned out in force to enjoy the day. The several excursions and city attractions were extensively patronized. The baseball matches and the trotting races at the Riding Grounds drew fair crowds, and the Academy of Music and Lyceum had immense audiences. The outgoing trains were filled with people eager for a day in the country, while the incoming trains brought scores of our country cousins to town to see the sights. The weather was a little chilly for picnicking, but several parties were out nevertheless and doubtless enjoyed the day. The military display, which a few years ago was a principal feature of the 24th celebration, consisted only of a royal salute fired at noon, and not a few expressed their disappointment that "the soldiers were not on the common." A large number of amateur fishermen sallied forth to popular resorts, but our private opinion is that comparatively few of the finny tribe were made aware of their presence, and the small boy with homemade fishing gear perchance could tell many a tale of the well-filled baskets of trout that our sporting friends proudly displayed as the result of their outing. The usual official Queen's birthday dinner at Government House was given, at which, besides the principal officers of the Imperial and Militia forces, several leading citizens were present. With perhaps a few exceptions we busy people went back to work on Wednesday morning rested, refreshed and feeling decidedly the better for the day off. Long live our gracious Queen.

The last Orpheus Concert of the season was held last evening. This concert closes a very pleasant series of entertainments which has furnished much pleasure to the musical members of the community.

The North American Squadron sailed for Bermuda for Halifax on the 24th. This announcement will be hailed with delight in society circles of the city, and as the arrival of Her Majesty's ships is the signal for the commencement of the season's gaieties, we may reasonably hope that the present calm, dull state of affairs is nearly at an end.

The promoters of the Oddfellows' Bazaar displayed their wisdom in opening the fair on the 24th of May, as the large crowd of people who thronged the handsome new Temple on Tuesday afternoon and evening demonstrated. The fair was opened at 2.30 p. m. by Hon. W. S. Fielding, and remained open until Thursday evening, during which time thousands of people visited the hall. Everything that ingenious minds and willing hands could do to further the success of the event was done by the Oddfellows and their lady assistants. The entire building was thrown open for inspection of the visitors and was much admired. The departments were admirably arranged and the novelties took well. The guessing competition was extensively taken part in, and we await with interest the name of the lucky prize winner who gets a ticket for the Exposition at Chicago. The shooting gallery, situated in the basement, was also well patronized, and the successful sportsmen were awarded handsome prizes. The fancy table and art goods department contained many very beautiful articles and the prices were fairly reasonable. The fortune teller, Madam Carmencita from Spain, did a good business in revealing the mysteries of the dim future to her patrons. The refreshment tables abounded in luxuries, the strawberries and cream, ice-cream and other dainties being in great demand. The supper tables were spread in the lodge room at the top of the building, another instance of the wisdom of the managers, as the exertion of mounting the long stairs did much to sharpen the appetites of the sight-seers. The H. G. A. and 63rd bands furnished excellent music throughout the evenings. The success attained and the proceeds of the sale must surely have reached the expectations of the most sanguine, and the debt on the new building in consequence thereof will be materially decreased.

The last few days have been bright and springlike, and we at last feel that we may venture out without our winter coats. The evenings, however, still retain their icy air, and the cheerful fires in parlor grates are as welcome as they were two months ago. We implore the prophets to never again predict an early spring. The Park and Public Gardens are showing signs of the awakening of Nature, and the small wild flowers in the fields have blossomed forth. We trust June will be more faithful to her predecessor's examples than May has been, and will bring warmth and sunshine in her train.

Zara Semon's Lyceum attractions have drawn well during the present week, and in addition to the artists who have been before his patrons, Prof. Semon announces two new stars for the coming week, the "King Brothers." The pantomime "The Four Lovers," which has provided fun for the multitude, will be changed to "Humpty-Dumpty," and will without doubt be well put on and well received. The ladies and children have an opportunity to enjoy this excellent variety show at the Saturday matinee.

The Uncle Hiram Company at the Academy of Music this week put on a good sensational comedy, and on Tuesday had overflowing houses at both afternoon and evening performances. On Wednesday evening the audience was very small, but Uncle Hiram and his supporters did not appear to notice the emptiness of the orchestra chairs and were as vivacious and interesting as when playing to a full house. Mr. Woodhull makes a typical farmer from away back, and keeps his audience in the beat of humor throughout the performance. Robert Callington, Uncle Hiram's nephew, as impersonated by Mr. H. E. Davis, is a decidedly stiff young man, and does not call for the sympathies of his audience as his part warrants. As he stands weeping into a copious silk kerchief we confess we felt more like smiling than carrying out the scriptural injunction to weep with those who weep. James Stenson as "Arthur Murdock," and H. H. Lynton as "the clerk," the two villains of the plot, act well their parts as the society vulture and the New York slarper. M. L. Kenney as "Senator Joseph King" carried out acceptably the roll assigned him. Miss Truja Griswold made a capital harum-scarum girl and was received with loud applause. Although her songs took well with the gallery people, speaking for ourselves we would have liked her better had she not favored us with her carols. Her voice is coarse and unpleasant and spoils the effect of her really good acting. Mona Carrington as the banker's daughter is a loveable young lady, but has little dramatic power. The sensational parts of the play are well presented, and all in all Mr. Woodhull and his Company furnish a pleasant evening's entertainment for theatregoers.

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