

TORONTO CHIT CHAT.

AS SUNBEAMS is ushered from the press, Toronto will be in the midst of the gaieties that will cluster around the visit of the Governor-General and the celebration of Her Majesty's birthday. Chief and foremost will be the races of the Jockey Club this (Friday) afternoon and to-morrow. On Friday evening there will be a gay dinner of eighty guests at Government House, in honor of Lord Stanley. I cannot speak now of the small but brilliant ball that follows the dinner. Neither can I mention any of the details of the dinner on the same evening at McConkey's, given by prominent members of the Jockey Club guests from a distance. Of all these gay happenings I hope to say something next week.

INTELLECTUAL "At Homes" have this season been of quite frequent occurrence. The Ambulance lectures at Trinity College have been a step in this direction, but the happy thought of combining instruction and hospitality pleasantly is due to Mrs. Foster, who left her charming residence at Erlescourt to take up her abode within the city last fall. On Saturday afternoon Mrs. Foster was "at home" to a large number of her friends, whom she had asked to come and listen to a lecture in her rooms by Professor Clark, that academic figure so well known to *belles lettres* and society. The lecture, delivered in a conversational style, and with all the attractiveness and entertaining power that Professor Clark possesses, was on the interesting subject of "Books and Reading." After an hour's lecture, the guests discussed the remarks over an ice or a glass of claret. This is the third "At Home" of this kind that Mrs. Foster has given. At the first, if I remember aright, Professor Clark gave his famous sketch on the "Water Babies," while the second was by Professor Ramsay Wright on a scientific subject.

AMONG those present at Mrs. Foster's on Saturday, I noticed Mrs. E. B. Osler, Miss Amy Osler, Miss Ethel Osler, Mrs. Allan Cassels, Mrs. and the Misses Yarker, Mrs. Hume Blake, Mrs. and Miss Hagarty, the Misses Boulton, Miss Small, Mrs. and Miss Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Beatty, the Misses Beatty, Miss Grier, Miss Cayley, Miss McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Cartwright, Rev. A. J. Broughall, Messrs. A. W. Cartwright, J. G. Carter Troop, Charles Hamilton, N. F. Davidson, F. Payne, and C. Temple.

SOMETHING went wrong with the mails last week, and my weekly budget did not, as it should have done, appear. I had something then to say about the successful entertainment of the Grenadiers, which consisted chiefly in theatricals in which the performers were all well-known society people. The "Trial by Jury" was certainly well presented with perhaps the exception of some solos, but or an amateur performance the work was excellent. The

'make up' of the male members of the chorus was very funny, and it was difficult to detect some of Toronto's darlings under some of the disguises. But the chorus of bridesmaids was what was most captivating to the eye. I may safely say that I have never seen in any opera presented in Toronto, professional or amateur, such a collection of graceful costumes and pretty faces. I believe a supper at McConkey's was the wind up for the performers of a jolly entertainment.

NATURALLY there were some amusing incidents at the performances. For instance, on the first night, Susan (Miss Stanley), in pulling off Nobb's (Mr. Dunstan's) cap, managed to dismantle him of his wig at the same time, and exposed the youthful bald spots of our heavy comedian to an appreciative audience. At the matinee it was very funny when Mr. Jim Macdonald, the usher of the Court, lost his ferocious black mustache, and showed his Amazonian shaven nether lip during the rest of the opera. Another laughable incident was when Noke, divesting himself of his concealing mantle, announced in tragic accents that Noke was himself again, and pulling off his hat and his wig exhibited the blond locks of Mr. Cecil Gibson. The transformation, it is needless to add, brought down the house.

AMONG some fair and charming visitors who are at present gracing society events by their welcome presence, I have noticed: Mrs. G. A. Kirkpatrick of Kingston, who is installed at Chestnut Park; Miss Benson of Port Hope, who has been staying with Mrs. Edward Morgan; Mrs. McRae of Winnipeg, who is now staying with her mother Mrs. VanKoughnet; and Mrs. Archer Martin, another Winnipegger, who is the guest of Mrs. John Reid.

THE close of last week saw the farewell of the Kendals to Toronto. They were of course greeted with brilliant and fashionable audiences. One prominent society lady I noticed occupying a stage box at no less than three performances. No entreaties induced Mrs. Kendal to accept any invitations.

THE ball which the Victoria Club men propose to give in honor of the Duke of Connaught is still a rather uncertain event. It is not yet definitely decided that the Duke is coming here. In any event as the date of his arrival is not fixed, the club ball may be described as of the number of "moveable feasts." It is to be hoped that the club men will see their way clear to give a dance, whether the princely visitor honors Toronto or not. They have an excellent building for a summer dance, and their committee is one that would be sure to make the affair result most enjoyably and successfully. The arrangements are in care of that ball managing virtuoso, Mr. Stuart Morrison, who is a youthful McAllister as regards the getting up of jolly public dances.

CALYPSO.

TORONTO'S GROWTH EXPLAINED.

WHY should boodlers naturally have chosen Toronto as a city of refuge? Because it's a good city To-ron-to.