

## PERSONAL GOSSIP.

The bachelors at 9 South Park street entertained their friends with music and dancing Friday evening.

Miss Winnie Phillips, who has been visiting friends in Victoria, has left for her home in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dalby entertained about thirty friends at their regular "at home" Thursday evening.

Hon. C. E. and Mrs. Pooley gave a pleasant "at home" Thursday evening at their residence, "Fernhill," Esquimalt Road.

Mr. Wm. Dee, formerly in the C. P. R. Telegraph office in this city, has returned from Vancouver, having been appointed night manager here.

A social dance was held in Harmony Hall Thursday evening. Messrs. J. Grice and H. Flemming were the promoters, and they hope to organize a dancing club.

Mrs. M. Cameron, Miss Sophia Cameron and Miss Cecelia Cameron left for San Francisco Thursday morning. They will spend the winter in California.

The visit of a prominent Government street merchant tailor to Vancouver this week is regarded as a sure sign that the matrimonial market is booming. Full particulars next week.

The Ladies Aid of the Pandora Avenue Methodist church will give an at home, next Tuesday evening at the residence of Mrs. J. W. Williams, 137 Blanchard street.

The St. Andrews Choral Society are making preparations to give a grand concert on January 15th in the Pro-Cathedral on View street. The music will be of a secular nature and the numbers will comprise some choice selections from the celebrated composers. Mr. Werner, the conductor of the society, is desirous of securing additional talent for the society, especially soprano voices.

## THE Y. M. C. A. CONCERT.

The much talked of Y. M. C. A. concert took place last Wednesday evening in the Victoria theatre, before a large and enthusiastic audience, every reserve seat being taken and occupied. The concert was under the direct patronage of Lieut. Governor Dewdney and party, and the elite of Victoria were present in large numbers. As usual, at a fashionable gathering, the entertainment was late in starting, and, owing to the great length of the programme, it did not close until midnight. The management of the entertainment was fearfully bungled, the performers were moved about, on the programme like chessmen, until the programmes in one's hand were useless. The working of the scenes was evidently in amateurs' hands. In fact, there did not

seem to be any head, tail or body to the management of the concert at all. So far as the financial part is concerned, I am glad to say it was a big success, and I congratulate the Women's Auxiliary in having attained the primary object of the affair. In criticising the various performers at a concert like this, it is always best to bear in mind that amateurs should be judged from a totally different standpoint from that of professionals, and at this time we will follow this rule. The selections by the Warspite band were very much enjoyed, serving as they did to pass the time during the long waits between the numbers.

I always feel a great deal of sympathy for those taking part in unaccompanied concerted pieces, and although Messrs. Kent, Wollaston, Kingham, Floyd and Keith sang well, their selection received but little marks of appreciation. Mr. W. Ralph Higgins again made his debut before a Victoria audience after a lengthened stay in Europe where he went to qualify for his adopted profession. The daily press before the concert was full of the fact that he was to appear, and perhaps caused me and others to expect a little more than I ought, and I confess to having been disappointed. He sang well, especially in his first *encore* song. Judging from a professional standpoint, he came far below the standard; from an amateur's, he sings well. His singing is vastly improved, and no doubt will still further improve, especially as he intends to follow music as a profession. Miss Harrison's singing was excellent, showing careful training. Her voice is a flexible soprano, rather thin and wanting sympathy and expression. She deserved her basket of flowers. The cornet solo by Sergeant Proctor, accompanied by full band, was not up to the usually high standard of his performances. Perhaps the bungling of the scene shifters unnerved and excited him, for he kept continually ahead of the band and rattled through his solo as if for dear life. The rifle drill by the young ladies was exceedingly well done, and, if any of the B. C. G. A. were present, they might have received lessons on precision and martial bearing. Miss Gowen, who was in command, has the ring in her voice suitable for one to give orders, and, as the orders were given, the various movements and exercises were executed beautifully. "The Arrow and The Song," by Miss Mouat and chorus, did not allow Miss Mouat an opportunity of showing her fine soprano voice, yet it was excellently rendered and received well merited applause. Mr. J. G. Brown then sang "The Village Blacksmith." His appearance on the stage was the signal for an outburst of applause amounting to an ovation, which continued for several seconds, during which the singer bowed his acknowledgments. His rendering of this beautiful song of Longfellow's was exquisite. The pathos and expression put into the song could not be surpassed, and, at the close of the song, the audience were fairly wild with enthusiasm and were not satisfied until he again favored them with another masterly rendering of "The Bugler" by Pilsute. There could be no question as to who was the favorite on Wednesday evening, Mr. Brown's singing imply carrying the audience by storm.

Corporal Hamilton, of "C" Battery, gave a very pretty exhibition of club swinging and was well received. Mr. A. Werner sang "Salvi di More," but was unhappy in his selection. Although he is possessed of a very sweet tenor voice of good range and pure quality he can certainly do much better than his performance last Wednesday. Miss Rhodes' soprano solo would have been much better had it not been for the wretched violin obligato. Mr. Hawthorne, the basso cantante, made his first appearance in concert selections, substituting that well known and popular song "The Storm Fiend" for "Love's Sorrow," which was his original selection. His singing of the Storm Fiend was a grand effort and succeeded in producing a well merited *encore*. He is inclined to make a little too much of his really fine voice and at times approaches a howl, letting the music leave his voice and paying attention merely to volume. Whether this was from not being acquainted with the capacity of The Victoria or not, the fact was apparent that at times his big voice was altogether too much for the theatre. For an *encore*, Mr. Hawthorne sang "Love's Sorrow," which showed his voice to even more advantage. He has a fine stage presence, easy and graceful, and will always be a favorite at entertainments in Victoria. The quartette by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Jay, Miss Arrowsmith and Miss Bowden was painful to listen to, probably because of nervousness on account of the piano having to be moved from the wings to the proper place. Miss Brady is always sure of a welcome. Her selection from Byron was exquisitely rendered, full of pathos, deep expression; the prisoner, the cell and the bird all coming in for a most powerful description. Her voice is very musical and sweet. She deserved the vociferous *encore* and responded with a short description of an English hunting scene, which made one feel as if he were really on a good hunter and taking ditches, hedges, stone walls along with her. The duett "Excelsior," by Messrs. Kent and White, was not particularly well rendered, Mr. White making two or three bad mistakes. I remember the days when Mr. White would not be given second place to any singer in the province, but one cannot be young always. Mr. Kent deserves great sympathy for the noble way in which he helped to carry the duett through. Mr. E. Wolfe gave a very fine violin solo, and, but for the lateness of the evening, would have received an *encore*. I had almost omitted to mention the song by Miss O'Neil. She has a sweet little voice, rather thin, yet telling. She sings with ease and simple grace, which have a power in themselves. "Down the Shadowy Lane" was very prettily given, and deserved the applause received. I cannot conclude this report without commenting on the fact that great complaints were made against the committee of management for paying some of the performers and not all, for granting complimentary tickets to a few while others had to pay at the door. It is hardly fair to the performers, and makes an invidious distinction where none should be at such an entertainment as that. I trust those remarks will be taken by the various parties interested in the spirit in which they are written and that is one of the kindest and best intentioned.

TENORO ROBUSTO.