

The guests at the fifth sessional dinner at Government House, on Tuesday last, were:—

Hon. W. S. Fielding, M. E. C.	Mr. F. Laurence, M. P. P.
Hon. Geo. Murray, M. E. C.	Asst. Clerk H. of A.
Hon. Geo. Whitman.	Sergt. at Arms.
Hon. Thos. Dedge, M. L. C.	Mr. Vizard, R. N.
Hon. J. McNeil, M. L. C.	Mr. Stubbing, R. N.
Hon. J. Mack, M. L. C.	Lt. Col. MacShane.
Hon. H. H. Fuller, M. L. C.	Major Reader.
Hon. John Robichau, M. L. C.	Lt.-Col. Humphrey.
Hon. Mr. Drummond.	Canon Madden.
Mr. Morrow, M. P. P.	Rev. Owen Jones.
Mr. A. Comeau, M. P. P.	U. S. Consul Frye.
Mr. J. A. Fraser, M. P. P.	Mr. George Troop.
Mr. R. Hunt, M. P. P.	Mr. Pitcaithly.
Mr. Jas. MacGregor, M. P. P.	Mr. A. G. West.
Mr. A. Wallon, M. P. P.	Capt. Taylor Wood.
Mr. A. Drysdale, M. P. P.	Rev. Dr. Foley.
Mr. J. McPherson, M. P. P.	Major Gordon.
Mr. C. Chisholm, M. P. P.	Sir John Reid.

It is wonderful how engagements accumulate on Thursdays. Yesterday was simply an impossible day for those who like to see all that is going on. There was the St. George's Society Parade in the morning, the Dalhousie Convocation in the afternoon, and the final C. E. I. Concert and Mr. Mountjoy Walker's Benefit in the evening.

We are sorry to think that we shall have no more of these very pleasant concerts at the C. E. Institute this season. Last night's performance went off very well; the programme had few numbers, but all good ones, and well selected. The programme was as follows:—

Quartette—Greeting to spring	Strauss.
Lyric Quartette	
Song—Looking back,	Sullivan.
F. C. Sobieski.	
Song—Hagar in the desert	Bordese.
Mrs. Lear.	
Trio—I Naviganti,	Randegger.
Mrs. Lear, Messrs. Sobieski and Blois.	
Song—Angels' whispers	Daly.
Mrs. Tremaine, with violin obligato by Miss Tremaine.	
Piano Solo—Les adieux de Paris,	Hammell.
Herbert A. Logan.	
Song—Voices of the words,	Rubenstein.
Mrs. Lear.	
Song—Last night,	Krughoff.
O. Blois.	
Serenade—Dorine pure.	Scudari.
F. C. Sobieski.	
Song—In an old garden,	Hope Temple.
Miss Sharp.	
Duett—Nina	Guercia.
Mrs. Lear and Mr. Sobieski.	
God Save the Queen.	

Mr. Porter's Benefit Concert has been postponed till the 30th of this month. We understand that this is to be quite one of the events of the season—as indeed it should be—and that a large number of seats have already been booked.

We omitted to record last week the departure from the city of Dr., Mrs. and the Misses Fitch, who have gone to Wolfville for the summer. Miss Fitch it will be remembered took a prominent part in organizing the "Fan Drill" entertainment a few months ago—her success in these matters is well known. We hope we shall have Dr. Fitch and his family in Halifax next winter.

Rumours are afloat that we shall shortly have another amateur dramatic performance. As the Saturday evening writers say, we can say no more at present, our life would not be worth a minutes purchase were we to divulge what we know.

The discontinuance of the direct mail service to England does not necessarily imply that the mails will take longer to reach their destination. The service *via* New York is more reliable than, and for Haligonians, quite as expeditious as, the direct service, even in the winter when this is the port of departure and arrival.

The seventeenth annual report of the church of England Institute lies before us. We observe that during the year ending January 31st last there was a net gain of 45 members and in the ladies' Auxiliary 16, making a total of 61. The minimum annual subscription has been increased from two to three dollars, by this means it is hoped that the financial standing of the Institute will be placed on a firmer footing. The balance sheet shews that the Institute just paid its way last year, leaving a balance in hand of \$1.61. It appears however that \$206.50 of the present year's income (subscriptions paid in advance) has been made use of. In addition to this there are out-standing liabilities on the years working of \$543.98 making a total of \$750.48, against which there are \$101.64 assets. It is with the view of meeting this deficiency, and to prevent it becoming annual, that the minimum subscription was raised from \$2 to \$3.

An account by an eye-witness is given in a London paper, of the following amusing episode, which occurred at a banquet given to the Czarewitch at the Government House, Madras, less than a month ago, an incident which, however, is not without its more serious aspect, inasmuch as it draws attention to the atmosphere of constant suspicion and alarm which is breathed by the highest circles of Russian Society.

The Czarewitch and his suite were seated at the banquet when suddenly a bottle of sodawater on the verandah burst with a loud report, and in a shorter time than it takes to write, the Heir Apparent of the Russian Empire and all his suite had started to their feet and, drawing their swords half out of their scabbards, prepared for the worst; thoughts of treachery, treason, and bomb-shells being apparently suggested by the mere sound. On learning the simple cause of the disturbance, the expression of terror and alarm on their countenances gradually subsided and gave place to looks of such serio-comic ludicrousness as are easier imagined than described. The whole event sorely tickled the risible faculties of the English present, which politeness compelled them to restrain, but it never seemed to suggest itself to anybody but the Russians that any danger was to be apprehended from the report.

The diners at the Attorney-General's on Monday last, were Hon. L. E. Baker, Mr. F. B. Crofton, Mr. M. Dwyer, Dr. Farrell, Hon. H. H. Fuller, Hon. S. H. Holmes, Hon. A. G. Jones, Hon. G. H. Murray, Hon. D. McNeil, Lieut.-Col. Rolph, and Prof. G. D. Roberts.

An Assault-at-arms will be held in the Academy of Music on Tuesday evening next, by the Gymnasium Committee of the 63rd Halifax Rifles. Among other interesting events will be a boxing competition for points, open to city and military professionals.

To-night and tomorrow night the Academy is occupied by Atkinson Cook's Minstrels.

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