

CITY CHIMES.

DEAR READERS,—Having been assigned the editorship of the department of the CRITIC known as City Chimes I beg to introduce myself without further ado. In entering upon the work of briefly chronicling the events of the weeks as they come and go, my sincere desire is to give the satisfaction and pleasure that have been enjoyed in the past by those who are interested in this column.

The audiences which filled the Academy of Music on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings of this week to witness Goethe's "Faust," as presented by Mr. Lewis Morrison and his company, were as enthusiastic as they were large, and although the play was long, lasting over three hours, the interest of the immense assemblies seemed to never flag. I would I could describe the production, be it never so inadequately, to our readers who had not the good fortune to witness it for themselves, but words fail to do justice to the grand scenic effects produced by skilful arrangement of cillum and electric lights. The Brocken scene, in which the fiend, Mephisto, conducts his victim, Faust, to the edge of a high cliff, where he may stand and gaze upon the carnival of witches and the agony of the inhabitants of the abode of his Satanic Majesty, by far surpassed anything ever put on in Halifax. It was grand, and even the gods expressed their appreciation in loud applause. The story of Faust as made famous by Goethe is well known to many, and no doubt many who have hitherto been ignorant thereof will have interest enough aroused to obtain and read the immortal tale. The legend of which Goethe has given us a practical rendering is briefly as follows: Dr. Faustus, according to tradition, was a celebrated necromancer, born about 1480 in Wurttemberg, who had mastered all the secret sciences, and being dissatisfied at the shallowness of human knowledge, makes an agreement with Satan, according to which the devil was to serve him for full twenty-four years, after which Faust's soul was to be delivered to eternal death. The contract, signed by Faust with his own blood, contained the following conditions: "1, he shall renounce God and all celestial hosts; 2, he shall be an enemy of mankind; 3, he shall not obey priests; 4, he shall not go to church or partake of the holy sacraments; 5, he shall shun wedlock." Faust having signed these conditions Satan sends him as a familiar spirit Mephistopheles, a devil "who likes to live among men," and with this imp ever by his side he begins a life of wild dissipation. He revels in all kinds of enjoyment, of which his attentive devil servant constantly invented new forms. As the term of twenty-four years draws to a close Faustus seeks relief and salvation from the priest, but nothing avails him, and after a tragic death's struggle at midnight, during which heart-rending shrieks for help and cries of anguish mingle with the demeriacal laughter of fiends, Faust's soul is given up. The tragical fate of Faust is represented as resulting from an irreconcilable conflict of faith and knowledge. Mr. Lewis Morrison's conception of Mephisto is original, and although a critic in this city has pronounced it lacking in weirdness, in my humble opinion the laughing, mocking, cringing fiend, as personated by Mr. Morrison, is quite uncanny enough. He portrays the character with much vigor and strength, and his changes of facial expression are marvellous. In Mr. W. R. Owen he has an excellent Faust—the old and decrepit man, tormented with conflicting doubt and faith, who, having quaffed Mephisto's draught of youth, stands before his audience transformed, a young and handsome knight. Marguerite, the sweet and pure maiden who is brought into Faust's life by Mephisto, and who gives her love wholly to him, is represented by Miss Florence Roberts, to whom the sympathies of her audience spontaneously go out. Fair and sweet, with much dramatic power, Miss Roberts did her work in a way which has never failed to win for her favor wherever she has appeared. Mr. Lawronco, as Valentine, Marguerite's brother, was good, and the rest of the company performed acceptably the parts assigned them. Mrs. Clifford as Dame Martha supplied the comedy, and in conjunction with Mephisto called several times into play the risible faculties of the audience, but the piece was much too full of pathos and sadness to admit of much levity. The musical ability of the company is worthy of note, and the sacred music of the cathedral was excellently well rendered. Personally I do not remember when I so thoroughly enjoyed a theatrical performance, and I could not but wonder if the suggestive nearness of the tempter of mankind at all times when good seemed rising in Faust's heart might not "turn out a sermon" perhaps more effective than one from the pulpit. Mr. Clarke merits the thanks of our theatre-goers for the opportunity afforded of witnessing Mr. Morrison in Faust.

One of the most interesting events of last week's full programme of outdoor entertainments, was the annual sports of the Wanderers' A. A. Club, held on their grounds last Saturday afternoon. The weather was glorious and the spectators numbered nine hundred, perhaps more. It really seemed as though everyone was there. All the fair maidens and comely matrons, the enthusiastic youths and dignified gentlemen, one meets in a day's walk seemed to be eagerly watching the movements of the participants in the various events, and the grand stand presented a scene almost as interesting as did the field. Time and space forbid me giving a detailed account of the sports. The running, walking, jumping, vaulting etc. all went to prove that we have some athletes in our city worthy of encouragement. Several of the younger competitors in Saturday's sports did some excellent work, and give promise of in a few years holding well their own, and of bringing honor to the associations to which they belong. At the conclusion of the sports Mrs. W. A. Henry presented the prizes. The band of the 66th P. L. F. rendered some excellent music, and the sports of 1892 were pronounced a grand success.

Other Cough Medicines have had their day, but Puttner's Emulsion has come to stay because it's so nice and so good.

It is too bad altogether that our yachtmens get so little encouragement from that despot "the weather." Almost without exception this season the weather has been very unfavorable for the yacht races, and consequently the interest in this summer sport is by no means intense, except of course in the breasts of the few who are enthusiastic on the subject and never grow weary of the "white wings." Our magnificent harbor affords every facility for yachting, and the squadron possesses some very jaunty crafts. The wind on Saturday afternoon was doubtless blowing somewhere so vigorously that it had only a very slight breeze to spare for Halifax, and consequently the race for Captain Russell's cup was slow. Five boats started—*Mentor, Hildred, Youla, Lenore* and *Wym*. *Youla* drifted over the finish line, followed by *Wym* and *Lenore* and some three hours later by *Mentor*. The last race of the season was sailed on Tuesday afternoon, and for a change the weather was perfect with a fresh south-west breeze. Four boats started: *Lenore, Youla, Wym* and *Elienne* and the race was well sailed. *Wym* came in victorious, thus winning the Russell cup by forty seconds. *Youla* was second and *Lenore* third.

A treat is in store for all who appreciate genuine wit and enjoy a season of merriment, in the lecture to be delivered in Orpheus Hall on the 12th of next month by Mr. Bangough, late of the *Grip* staff. Mr. Bangough is now on a lecturing tour and will no doubt meet with a cordial reception in Halifax. He calls his lecture a "Sketching entertainment, music, elocution, comedy and lightning crayon sketches with local hits." This title has a very attractive sound, and Halifaxians who in the past have enjoyed the efforts of the clever artist in his literary work will eagerly look forward to his appearance at Orpheus Hall. Mr. Bangough has many personal friends in the city who will extend a warm welcome.

Our young people who are interested in the University Extension scheme have reason to rejoice in the announcement that Dr. Archibald MacMechan, of Dalhousie College, is making arrangements for a course of nineteen lectures on Shakespeare, provided a sufficient number of students enroll themselves. The fee for the entire course is but five dollars, and Professor MacMechan is certainly justified in expecting a large class. It is important that those intending to take the course should send their names in at once, so that there may be as little delay as possible in getting to work. The fees will be expended in the purchase of books for the library of Dalhousie, to which members of this Shakespearean class will be admitted on the same terms as undergraduates, an advantage not to be lightly considered by searchers for knowledge. If this class is organized it will meet in the Assembly Hall of the School for the Blind on Tuesday afternoons, beginning October 4th. The subjects of the lectures give promise of an interesting course, and it is to be hoped that the plan may meet with favor.

The circular issued by the Orpheus Club is before me. It asks for the continued patronage of the public and thanks its patrons for their support in the past. "Good as well as popular music" is promised, and there is no doubt will be given, but with all the attractions to music-loving citizens offered by the club for the coming season, at least a large majority of the people who usually purchase tickets for the Orpheus concerts are of the opinion that the price is decidedly too high. Probably the committee has heard this from many quarters, and has evidently decided that so long as the club can fill its hall at each entertainment the subscription will continue to be ten dollars. This is all very well, but enjoyable as the performances invariably are, unless some additional attractions are provided, such as the introduction of foreign talent, the idea remains firmly fixed in many minds that the club does not give its patrons a fair equivalent for the large subscription fee asked. It is intended to give this winter six concerts, quite enough for the club to undertake, and Mr. Porter has been commissioned to make a selection of desirable compositions to be rendered during the series. The circular says "it is hoped that in addition to such pleasing works as he may secure, the club will be able to render at one of the season's concerts a selection embracing the most striking numbers from some such new and popular success as 'Cavillieria Rusticana' by Mascagni." The question of having reserved seats without extra charge, is brought forward this year and to secure an expression of opinion from the subscribers a coupon is attached to the subscription form, upon which the subscriber is to indicate his or her preference for seats reserved or unreserved. I trust the majority may be found on the side of the former plan. Halifaxians are proud of the musical ability of their city, of which the Orpheus Club, Auxiliary, and Orchestra are composed, and the success of the organization is to be desired.

CHIPS.

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Applications for next term should be made at once as there are but few vacancies.