

arrive and retreat is cut off. The two women hide and there follows a long scene between half a dozen men, in the course of which Mr. Wilde has a good deal of bright talk. The men discuss various points of their acquaintances in a most amusing fashion and Lord Loftus is rallied by his friends for his devotion to Mrs. Erylne. He announces that he has just proposed to that lady and that she is to give him an answer on the morrow. Whereupon the young men of the party begin to chaff him and to remind him of certain questionable features about Mrs. Erylne's past that stand in need of explanation. Lord Loftus declares that Mrs. Erylne has explained all these things to him, and stands ready to explain anything else that may happen. She is evidently a woman whose forte is explanation, and Lord Loftus admits that she can explain anything.

WHERE THE FUN COMES IN.

At the end of the scene, just as the party is about to break up, Lady Windermere's fan is discovered upon a lounge, and there is an explosion. Windermere demands an explanation from Darlington as to how his wife's fan happens to be in Darlington's rooms. While Lady Windermere profits by the excitement to slip out, Mrs. Erylne appears at the rear and claims the fan. She sacrifices her own reputation in order to save that of her daughter.

THE DEVOUEMENT.

The next and last scene is at the house of the Windermeres again. Lady Windermere is all tears and repentance, and has made up her mind to confess everything to her husband. Before listening to her story he tells her that he confesses himself to have been wrong with regard to Mrs. Erylne. He had believed her to be a repentant woman, and had discovered, so he tells his wife, that such was not the case; she had been found the night before in Darlington's rooms. Then Lady Windermere defends her, and when Mrs. Erylne appears to return the fan, which she says she took by mistake the night before, there is a long scene between the three, in which the two women hide from Windermere the real facts in the case. Lord Loftus appears very much crestfallen and bows coldly to Mrs. Erylne, who, however, induces him to see her to her carriage. He returns a moment afterwards radiant and informs everyone that it is all right—she has explained everything, and they are to be married at once.

A SEQUEL PREDICTED.

So the curtain falls upon this extraordinary condition of affairs, namely, Lord Windermere ignorant of the fact that his wife had almost run away with another man, and the wife ignorant of the fact that her own mother had saved her from ruin. This is so extraordinary and impossible a situation as to send everybody home with an uncomfortable feeling that

these people were going to begin their performances all over again at the earliest possible moment. Certainly Lord Darlington might be justified in hoping for better luck next time. There are so many weaknesses about the plot of the play, even briefly outlined, as I have been able to give it here, that the audience really take no serious interest in the story as a story; it is too improbable and too far removed from real life.

THE SECRET OF THE PLAY'S SUCCESS.

What makes the success of the performance, and it certainly had a certain success, were the delightful comedy scenes and the burlesques upon society. Among the friends of the Windermeres are a dozen or more of the typical society drones who act and talk most amusingly. There is a duchess with a simple-minded daughter whom she wants to marry off; there are a lot of young men extraordinarily weak and vicious; there are fashionable women full of envy and schemes, and all these people talk with a certain show of wit.



Society Notes.

Lady Smith's "At Home" this evening is expected to be largely attended.

Mrs. Henry Archibald gave a progressive euchre party at her residence, Drummond street, Monday last.

Mrs. John C. Gault gave an "At Home" at her residence, Stanley street, on the 22nd inst.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at the St. George's Snowshoe Club, Wednesday, and was largely attended.

Miss Taylor's progressive euchre party proved a great success on Tuesday evening.

Mrs. A. W. Morris, of Drummond street, gave a very successful progressive euchre party on Thursday evening to forty guests.

Miss Crathern, of Sherbrooke street, entertained her friends Tuesday evening with a progressive euchre party. Six elegant prizes were awarded, and all graciously voted the entertainment a decided success.

Mrs. Hugh Paton, of Sherbrooke street, entertained at dinner Tuesday evening. There were covers for twelve, the guests being seated about a large round table, which had a pink-shaded lamp in the centre. About the lamp were clustered a great number of beautiful pink roses. From these flowers to each plate ran a pink ribbon. When the dinner was over the ribbon was pulled off the table, and with it came a bouquet from the centrepiece, a novel idea.

On Wednesday Mrs. Greenshields, of

Drummond street, gave a dinner. The circular table was decorated in green and white, broad ribbons of green stretching from the centrepiece of lilies of the valley to the edge of the table, and separating the covers. A beautiful receptacle of Venetian glass held the flowers in the centre, and tiny vases of delicate porcelain, distributed at intervals over the cloth, held dainty clusters of violets.

Some sixty gentlemen who take time to wander away from the cares of life and stroll in pleasant paths where toil succumbs to sentiment, and worry to humor, gathered at the St. Lawrence Hall, on the 24th inst., and there and then the Royal Military College Club enjoyed one of its merry dinners. There was not a moment of dullness, for there were too many jolly good fellows there, who do honor to that expression in its higher sense.

A brilliant gathering responded to the invitation of Miss Arnton, 842 Dorchester street, Thursday evening. But spacious as the house is its five floors were taxed to the utmost. The costumes were lovely, the music good, the supper daintily served. As a rule a dance is more enjoyable when it is not "a crush," but in this case it was the traditional exception that proved the rule, and the very density of the throng added to the enjoyment. The decorations of flowers were beautifully and most artistically arranged. Only a small number of chaperones were present, and from beginning to end dancing was kept up with spirit. Miss Arnton looked charming in a becoming gown; and was gracefully assisted in receiving by her sister, Mrs. Bell.

The Montreal Amateur Operatic Club in Gilbert and Sullivan's opera the "Gondoliers," has proved to be a pronounced success. Miss Walker and Miss Moylan, acted and sang their parts to the evident appreciation of the very large audiences, and were repeatedly encored. Attractive Miss Hollinshead's role was given with much charm, and she earned for herself a distinctive triumph. Miss Herbert also made a personal success, and was the recipient of much applause. Mr. Sturgis Jones was immense with his usual successful grasp of any character he undertakes. Mr. Cane made the audience laugh, and accomplishing this, fulfilled his mission. On the whole it was a splendid success, all acquitting themselves with distinction. Professor Couture deserves the heartiest congratulations for the thoroughly enjoyable performances which he so successfully inaugurated and conducted throughout.