

CITY CHIMES.

The pianoforte recital given in the fine hall of St. Mary's Y. M. T. A. & B. Society by Mr. Frank Deane on Tuesday evening was not very well attended, but the excellent programme was highly appreciated by all present. Mr. Deane rendered each selection with a masterly touch, and well merited the applause he received.

Chalmers Hall was crowded on Tuesday evening, the occasion being an elocution recital given by Professor Connery in the interests of Mr. Thompson, the catechist who is at present in charge of Coburg Road Presbyterian Church. Professor Connery's readings were very pleasing, and the audience appeared to highly appreciate the entertainment provided. Mr. Thompson presided, and the evening passed very pleasantly.

Rev. Dr. Partridge delivered the third of his series of lectures in St. George's Church last Sunday afternoon, his subject being "The Religion of the Drama." Canon Partridge very ably pointed out that from a religious standpoint the drama has much to be commended, and does not deserve the condemnation so freely bestowed upon it by critics. He said he thought the profession of the actor should be judged upon its own merits, and not wholly by the lives of those who follow it, and that while idlers and unworthy members may be found in this as well as in every profession, the stage gives as little room for incapacity as any other that can be named. The able and broad-minded lecturer took up both sides of the question, for and against the drama, and discussed the drama from the actor's as well as the theatre-goer's standpoint, quoting Macaulay, who said, "The important object of the dramatist is the exhibition of the human character, to which fundamental law every other regulation is subordinate." Dr. Partridge held that if this were true the drama to day is no less than ever before a great instrument for the instruction and elevation of mankind. The lecture closed with two cautions, which are well worthy of repetition:—1. "Such recreations, though helpful and recreative, must not rule us, they must be held well in hand by us. And the moment there is danger of their interference with duty, they must give way. 2 All must be done with pure motive. Purity is the vision of God. From impurity all-desiring Him must flee. With these limitations enjoy, and in all cases the individual conscience can be the only guide." These Sunday afternoons with Dr. Partridge are opportunities that all thoughtful people of Halifax should endeavor to take advantage of, and these clear and unbiased discourses on live topics of the day cannot fail to elevate the current of thought and the general tone of the public mind. The theme announced for next Sunday afternoon is "Husbands and Wives," in which Dr. Partridge will discuss the subject of divorce, truly an interesting topic in these days when "the tie that binds" is so easily sundered.

The organ recital to be given this evening in Garrison church by Mrs. Hegarty, Herr Doring and Mr. Hutchins, will doubtless draw a large audience. These names need no comment, and all who really wish a feast of music will do well to take advantage of this opportunity.

We note that Halifaxians are again to be favored with a season of opera, and we are sure all lovers of good music will welcome the Grand Opera Company, which opens at the academy of music on Monday, the 19th inst. The company includes several who were here some months ago under the able management of Mr. Jules Grau. He promises us many choice selections, including the Black Hussar, Fra Diavola, The Bohemian Girl, Nauon, Said Pasha, The Queen's Lace Handkerchief and others, and a pleasant season may be anticipated. The company also has two skirt dancers, who are said to be very good.

Decidedly the game of the present day is football. One of the most interesting matches ever witnessed in the city was played on Saturday afternoon between the Garrison and Dalhousie teams, the latter winning. These teams are fairly well matched, and the play of this last game was intensely exciting, the yellow and blacks well earning their victory. One of their "half backs" was pretty badly hurt but is now recovering, and expects to be in his place to-morrow when the college boys are to play against the Wanderers. It is wonderful the enthusiasm this game arouses in the many breast, so much so that blackened eyes, bruised limbs, etc., etc. are not heeded at all, and the announcement of another match brings all to the fore ready for action. The game next week will probably draw a large gathering, as our citizens, ladies as well as gentlemen, manifest great interest, and have attended in large numbers each Saturday afternoon. The knowledge of the game is growing, and the spectators appear to enjoy it much more intelligently than formerly, when the constant question was "what are they all doing in that crowd." Now even the very young ladies and the small boys know the technical terms and their meaning. The weather favors the league and "the boys" are doing well.

If our Halifax ladies must depend on the imported ulster to protect them from the blows and snows of winter, we fear the strangers within our gates who have often remarked on the "bright well-dressed Halifax girls" will have to retract their words this season. Of all the ungraceful, uncouth garments we have ever seen, and in our day we have seen a goodly number, we think the ulster with no pretence to fitting the figure—its defects in this line covered with a large round cap with a huge hood hanging from the back of the neck, ranks first on the list. Truly these are fearfully and wonderfully made. We have heard many ladies who have been waiting for the new coats express bitter disappointment, and the city tailors must be doing a good trade in making becoming top coats for our fair ones. An ulster is

a necessary adjunct to a lady's wardrobe, and why it should be made so ugly that the most graceful woman must needs look almost ungainly, is a puzzle that we cannot solve. The jackets appear to be very becoming and comfortable, quite a little longer than those of last year, but otherwise the style has not changed. Our dry goods merchants are showing some very handsome goods, and business is flourishing. A genuine harvest has been reaped in light fabrics, chiffons, laces, etc., etc., three large balls within a few weeks being an unusual occurrence for our quiet city, and causing a flutter of excitement and a general rush for the dainty articles so necessary to the lovely costumes that we one and all gaze upon in awe and admiration. Private parties are numerous and society seems to be at no loss for amusement where with to help time pass.

"Turning forever
In the rushing and rapid river of Time,"

We have come once more to cold weather, and that coming events do cast their shadows before, has been practically demonstrated in the chilly foretaste of winter that we have encountered this week. Fickle indeed the weather has been since October came in, but surely everyone made up his or her mind to "never grumble again" after the sunshine September favored us with. Monday and Tuesday were charming days, the air bracing and invigorating, but Wednesday was indeed dark and dreary. The trees are retaining their green this year later than usual, and we evidently have a delightful autumn yet ahead of us. The season for long walks is just about perfect now, and a tramp through our beautiful Park, around Point Pleasant, this fine October weather is one of the greatest attractions Halifax can offer for the young and energetic, and no lover of nature can fail to appreciate the enjoyment to be derived therefrom.

The event of the week, from a social point of view, was the dance at Government House, which, as it is such a long time since a similar event has occurred, was looked forward to with the most pleasurable anticipations by the large number of guests who accepted Mrs. Daly's invitation. The weather that prevailed on Wednesday was rather discouraging, for the rain was of the copious variety, and fell almost without intermission all day, but youthful hopes could not be dampened by anything, and preparations for the ball progressed gaily. In the evening there was, fortunately, a change for the better, and nothing worse than fog was to be encountered. At nine o'clock the carriages began to make their way to Government House, and the guests who were able to get to the ballroom betimes enjoyed a few "extras" before the regular programme was begun. Mrs. Daly, looking charming in a black costume, received in the ante-room to the drawing-room, into which the guests passed, and the pleasurable business of filing programmes was proceeded with. There must have been about five hundred people present, but so excellent were the arrangements in every part of the beautiful old house, that there was no crowding at all. Passing from the drawing-room, the guests found the buffet in the front room, and from there they proceeded to the ball-room at the north end of the house. The band of the Leicestershire Regiment furnished music for dancing, and there were seventeen dances on the programme, three of which were the much-loved *militaires*. The floor was waxed to a state of perfection that made "tripping it" a delight, and the music was all that could be desired. The ball room has recently been painted and tastefully decorated, added to which permanent attractions the various mirrors about were twined with wreaths, vines, mosses and ferns, and looked as pretty as possible. In every available nook and corner seats for two were to be found, and to judge by appearances, were very much appreciated by the (supposedly) weary dancers. Two marquees outside were carpeted, furnished, and lighted with shaded lamps, making alluring sitting out places for those who did not fear a chill. Upstairs the arrangements were no less perfect. The ladies' and gentlemen's dressing and cloak rooms were at the south end of the house, the card and smoking room was next, on the east side. The supper was laid in the Prince's room, and the suite of drawing rooms over the ball room were masterpieces of beautiful decoration, and provisions for comfort and happiness combined were made by chairs for two easily placed behind screens in every available spot. The arrangement of foliage and flowering plants, mosses, ferns and vines was most tasteful, with fairy lamps among them, shedding a soft and mellow light. The supper room was not allowed to be crowded, so that those who went in, in their turn, were able to get the desired refreshment in comfort. The waiters had a busy time of it, and the ubiquitous Street, aided by many assistants, was all attention to the need of the hour. It is unnecessary to say that the supper itself was beyond criticism—everything was of the most *recherche* description. Among so many beautiful faces and forms it would be hard to say who carried off the palm of belleship, for tastes differ, a most beneficent arrangement certainly, so that one person does not win all the admiration. Among the many lovely gowns worn, a white silk embroidered with a large jet butterfly, the wings of which extended from the front middle of the bodice to the sides, and the skirt of which was ornamented around the foot with knots of black velvet, was the most beautiful, white slippers completed the costume. Another dress, worn by a stately dame, was of black velvet and white *moire*, striped, it fitted like wax and had a long sweeping train. It was one of the most noticeable gowns worn. A gown of pale lavender, *en train* high in the neck and long sleeved, also attracted attention as being intrinsically beautiful; added to which it was worn by a strikingly graceful woman. Mrs. Daly's guests sympathized with her on the serious illness of her brother, Mr. J. F. Kenny, on whose account she felt very anxious. Not since Jubilee year has Government House been the scene of an affair like this, and the thanks of all who were fortunate enough to be present are due to the gracious hostess, who, despite her mourning, so royally entertained the society of Halifax.