

CITY CHIMES.

The athletes of Halifax and Dartmouth have been much interested in the tournament of the Chebucto Amateur Athletic Club, which was held in Dartmouth on Tuesday and Thursday evenings of this week. The various events were well contested, and the whole tournament was creditably managed, and has been pronounced a decided success. Practical interest in athletic sports is growing both in our own city and in the ambitious town over the water, a fact which is to be considered of not a little importance as promoting physical and, as well, mental strength in the young men of our citizenship.

I presume that everybody has smiled over the military red tape which causes the men of the garrison to don their heavy coats at a fixed date, aye, to buckle on the creopers as well; but the citizens of Halifax in view of civic red tape have no reason to smile at the action of the military authorities. Last week the carts for the removal of ashes and rubbish went their rounds as usual, but this week householders are notified that this necessary work has been discontinued for the season. If our streets were piled up with snow there might be some excuse for stopping the ashcart service, but in the name of reason can any one tell me why the ashes and garbage of last week were carried off to the dump, while those of this week are piled up in backyards, there to remain until spring-cleaning time. And then, too, what scant warning our householders are given; a brief paragraph in the dailies announces that the ashcarts are past and gone, like the last rose of summer (excuse the flowery simile.) Could not the city official, the superintendent of garbage, etc., have taken the public into his confidence a few days earlier. By so doing he might have prevented the disappointment of many householders who do not understand that the service is brought to a close irrespective of the weather or the necessities of citizens.

The Baker Opera Company continues to play to full houses at the Academy of Music, and it goes without saying that the performances given never fail to please all who witness them. This week the "Brigands" and "Three Black Cloaks" have been given, and for this evening and to-morrow afternoon and evening "Nanon" is the programme. The fact that the fifth week of the engagement of this company is now drawing to a close, and that in each week three operas have been presented, speaks volumes for the ability and management of the company. The members who take the leading parts in these operas as well as those who so ably support them in the choruses deserve much credit for the praiseworthy work they are performing, and while we occupy our comfortable orchestra chairs and critically take in the various parts of each play, I fear we are all too prone to give no thought to the long hours of study, the loss of "beauty sleep," and the untiring efforts on the part of each member of the organization which is necessary to the successful entertainment provided for a pleasure-seeking public. The orchestra merits more commendation than is generally accorded, for on these painstaking musicians rests not a little responsibility. The Baker Company deserves the patronage it has so far received, and I trust it may be continued throughout their stay in our city.

The first Orpheus Concert of the season takes place on Tuesday next, the 22nd inst., and it is said the Club is preparing a fine programme for the occasion. The subject of reserved seats versus the go-early-and-trust-to-luck plan of former years having been decided by vote of the subscribers in favor of seats being reserved, the box office at the hall will be open on Monday for the selection of seats. The number of seats to be chosen by any one person has been limited to four. I notice that a rule has been made that during the performance of each number at the Orpheus concerts the doors of the hall will be closed. This is in my opinion a wise course, as now that one may be assured a comfortable seat there is likely to be more late comers than usual, and it is decidedly unpleasant for all, but especially for those taking part in the programme, to be interrupted by opening and closing of doors, and noise consequent thereon. What a happy state of affairs it will be when some cast-iron law shall be passed forbidding conversation being carried on in the audience during the performance of each number. The first of the Orpheus series promises to be more than satisfactory, and is looked forward to with great expectations by the music lovers among us.

The concert which was to have been given under the auspices of the Royal Blues in Orpheus Hall on the evening of Thanksgiving Day, and was then postponed on account of the unpleasant weather, was set down for Tuesday of this week, but owing to the illness of Fraulein Boedinger those who had been looking forward to a pleasant evening of music were once more disappointed. The programme which had been prepared, and which will no doubt be efficiently carried out when the concert takes place, is an exceedingly good one, and it is to be hoped that the fair Fraulein will long before December 1st., the date now fixed for the entertainment, have fully recovered her usual good health.

Although football enthusiasts are not by any means ready to drop this favorite sport for the season, yet the great interest, the wild, oftentimes unreasonable excitement of a large number of our citizens, has died out with the close of the trophy series. The concluding game between the Garrison and Dalhousie was played on Saturday last, having been postponed from Thanksgiving day, and was won by the military with a score of 4 to 0. The weather was charming, and a large crowd of people assembled to witness the fun. By the way, these lines of eager spectators are well worth watching. The excitable student lads, whose whole hearts and undivided sympathy are with their Alma Mater, and the city youths, who shout for their own and the military teams. Near by stand the grave (!) professors and ministerial

brothron, who strive even in their excitement to maintain a dignified bearing, while in their innermost hearts they surely envy the small boys present who can and do give full vent to their feelings. Here also we find the ladies in their bright and handsome street costumes lending beauty and interest to the scene. The eager school girl claps her hands as a good run is made by her own big brother, while her elder sister's eyes sparkle with joy as "some one else's brother" distinguishes himself in the fray. Altogether it is a gay scene that a looker-on may view at these football matches, and thanks are due to "the boys" for the entertainment they have afforded the admirers of the game this autumn. The game which decided the right of the Garrison to second place showed some good play. The Dalhousians' forwards were not a match for those of the Garrison, who are a strong set of players. The score was secured by a most magnificent kick from the field made by Bryce, the Garrison's Captain, which was in football parlance "a pretty bit of play." The Wanderers have three games to their credit, the Military heroes have two, while the College boys have but their magnificent victory over the Wanderers to console them for their defeat. It has been suggested that the presentation of the trophy to the conquering team be made a public occasion, an idea I think worthy of consideration, as the many hundreds who have watched with interest the games which made up the contest will no doubt be glad to congratulate, and by their presence show their desire to rejoice with the victors.

It has lately been brought to my notice that the idea of the Government to build the new drill shed on the site of the old building on Spring Garden Road may be seriously objected to on the ground that it is directly in line with Brunswick street. Should it be decided at some time, not in the dim future, but before many years, to extend this street to the southward, the magnificent edifice promised us will stand as a huge obstacle. Many thoughtful citizens have expressed opinions not in favor of building on the present site, and there is much that is worthy of consideration in their reasoning; but if that august body who has control of this matter be fully convinced that the proposed course is best, and has therefore determined that on the present situation the new drill shed shall be erected, would it not be well to note the shadows that coming events cast, and by using a little wise consideration prevent much trouble and inconvenience in the future. It is almost a sure course of events that Brunswick street will in time be extended through Spring Garden Road, and it is equally certain that when the time comes it will be a serious matter if the new drill shed stands directly in the line of the much-needed extension.

Among the harvest of stories of Christmas that is now being gathered in, and some of these stories are exceedingly good, I not long since came across the following, which I thought worth remembering for the benefit of my little friends. A little girl, who is a firm believer in the traditional Santa Claus, has a small brother, three or four years older than herself, who reads the papers, and discards with scorn the story of the old man and his reindeer and the descent of the chimney. "Poo! Dolly," he says, "there isn't any Santa Claus. Papa and mamma buy the presents at the stores." "Well, anyhow," says Dolly, "I've seen Santa Claus' picture, and how could he have his picture taken if there wasn't any Santa Claus?" This is a settler to the young man, and is surely unanswerable. The youth may still be skeptical, but the argument of Dolly may prove convincing to some little doubter at this season when the personality of old Santa is becoming a subject of deep consideration.

Thursday, the 24th inst., is the date set for the second entertainment of the winter course of the Church of England Institute. This entertainment is to be in the form of a concert with a literary and musical programme, which will, no doubt, afford much pleasure to all who attend. The entertainments of the Institute have in the past attained a high standard, and considering the extremely low price charged for a ticket for the winter course, it is certainly a wonder that the Hall of the Institute can accommodate the members and friends whose pleasure and duty it should be to advance the aims of the Institute and give the entertainment committee their hearty co-operation. However, there has been little difficulty experienced so far in this line, though the programmes prepared have often well merited a house with "no standing room."

The operas to be put on next week by the Baker Opera Co. are—"Boccaccio" Monday and Tuesday evenings; "Fra Diavolo" Wednesday and Thursday evenings; and "Fratini z" Friday and Saturday evenings and at the Matinee on Saturday afternoon.

CHIEF.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL.

30 Salter Street, Halifax, N. S.

Term Commences September 2nd.

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