

## CITY CHIMES.

The students of Dalhousie College are discussing the subject of tendering a reception to their friends this winter as in times past, but, as in these times that are past, the subject of the entertainment of their guests causes not a little diversity of opinion. As I understand it, the matter stands thusly: All, or nearly all, of the students, wish to hold the proposed "at home"; the majority favor the introduction of dancing as one form of entertainment to be provided, and here comes the rub. The President has given his permission that those who so desire may pass the hours in the delights of terpsichorean festivities, provided the students are unanimously in favor thereof. The majority declare that they will not hold the proposed reception if they cannot have their way, and the minority are equally determined not to yield their point. It may end in the friends of the Dalhousians receiving cards of invitation with the suggestive little word "dancing" holding its own, or in the cards being issued minus the little word, but so far as I can judge I think it more than probable that neither side will give in, and the whole affair will be abandoned as it was last year, when the lady students picked up the fragments of the many plans that had been formed and gave such a thoroughly enjoyable reception, though on a comparatively small scale. However, time will tell.

This evening the officers of the Halifax Garrison Artillery are to partake of a sumptuous repast at the Halifax Hotel. These social reunions have on past occasions proved very pleasant, and this evening will probably be highly enjoyed by all who are bidden to the feast.

The Red Cap Snow-Shoe Club held its annual meeting on Tuesday evening. The Club is in a flourishing condition, and numbers seventy-two in its membership. Those among its members who can recall to memory the abundance of snow with which they were favored in the winters of yore, and the delightful long tramps in which they indulged, must surely deeply regret the evident change in our climate which has caused the beloved snowshoes to be more ornamental than useful during the past few years. A sleighdrive is proposed by the Club to take place in January, providing "the beautiful" descends in sufficient quantity. Officers of the Red Cap Club for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—Captain, Frank Grierson; 2nd Captain, J. Litbgo; Sec.-Treasurer, J. S. Chisholm; Committee, R. H. Humphrey and J. E. G. Boulton.

Although there has not been very much going on this week to attract the attention of the pleasure-seekers, yet there is coming amusement to be enjoyed in anticipation, and rumors of many holiday festivities are abroad.

Manager Clarke expects to have the rink in readiness and open to skaters on Monday, the 26th inst. Of course all such plans are subject to the weather. A carnival is to be held in January.

If you are at all curious to try something new, write Percy J. A. Lear, Atlantic Cigar Manufacturing Association, 221 Barrington St., Halifax, for particulars.

Did you ever know a Christmas season when one and all did not declare that they "could not realize Christmas was so near?" Of course this year we in Halifax may be excused for our inability to feel vividly that the day is almost dawning, as our weather has so far been very mild, and we have had no snow worthy the name. In many spots in the city the grass has not yet lost its verdant hue, and wonderful stories come to us of out-door plants blooming as though it were June. All this goes to show that the climate of our fair province by the sea is slowly but surely undergoing a change, but Christmas is Christmas just the same for a' that, even though perchance our manner of celebrating it is changing. No doubt some of my readers have read Robert J. Bardette's on "Christmas when I was a boy," but for those who have not enjoyed his witty article in the Christmas number of the *Ladies' Home Journal* I copy herewith a few of his remarks, in which I feel sure many will find the echo of their own thoughts on the subject. Says Bardette: "It seems to me—and it isn't my fault that the sunset is fairer and lovelier than the sunrise—that there was something more Christmasy about Christmas when I was a boy. Its pleasures were simpler, its gifts were heartier. At least, I cannot remember to have read, save in these later years, articles in family journals and magazines bewailing the burden of toil and worry and expense in the planning and making, or purchasing of Christmas presents. 'Krismas gifts' we called them when I was a boy. It didn't and doesn't have much refinement of culture in the spelling and the sound thereof. But the people who made them didn't rush into the papers to tell how much it cost them, and how tired to death it made them, and how glad they were that it was all over for another year. But last year and the year before I read such articles in print. So did you. Wherefore it seems to me that we killed Kris Kringle a full century too soon." It is, I think, a pity that the day should in this practical age lose any of the attractiveness which has surrounded it for centuries both as a religious and social festival.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. has met and formed plans for an "at home" to be given about the middle of January. Former receptions given by the Association have invariably proved enjoyable, and there is every reason to expect that success will attend the efforts of the hosts and hostesses on the coming occasion.

Professor Semon opened at the Lyceum last evening.

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I hear that the city members of the Commercial Travellers' Association are about to issue invitations for a ball to be given on the Tuesday evening after Christmas. Those who had the good fortune to be present at the ball given in Masonic Hall by this association last year will wait in eager expectation for a "bid" to the one that is to come.

At the regular meeting of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science held on Monday evening, Dr. MacKay, Superintendent of Education, in introducing a paper by Mr. T. C. Weston on the Geology of the Cypress Hills, N. W. T., gave an interesting outline of the science of rocks. The subject of the paper was discussed by Dr. Lawson, the President and others.

The Nova Scotia Historical Society held a very interesting meeting on Tuesday evening, Senator Power presiding. Mr. Israel Longworth read a paper on the early settlement of the township of Onslow, which contained much information of value to those who are interested in the early history of our province.

The parlor concert given at the Frocker House on Tuesday evening, in aid of the Terence Bay fishermen who are now worthy subjects of charity, was in every sense of the word successful. The programme was well arranged and equally well performed, after which refreshments were served, and the very pleasant entertainment closed with the singing of the national anthem.

A large number of the friends of the School for the Blind gathered in the Assembly Hall on Monday evening, the occasion being the annual meeting of the corporation. Mr. J. C. Mackintosh presided in the absence of the President, Mr. W. C. Silver, who was unable to be present on account of ill-health. The annual report of the Board of Managers was read by Mr. George Mitchell, giving a brief outline of the history of the school from its inception. The Superintendent's report was read by Mr. C. F. Fraser. Both of these show the School to be in a very satisfactory condition, with every prospect of successful work in the future, and were unanimously adopted. Speeches were made by Lieut.-Governor Daly, His Grace Archbishop O'Brien, Principal Forrest and Premier Fielding. During the evening excellent music was furnished by the school band and choir, and all present were given a renewed interest in the good work that is being carried on in educating the blind youth of the Maritime Provinces.

Rev. Dr. Lathern lectures this evening in the school room of the Grafton Street Methodist Church, under the auspices of the Epworth League, taking for his subject "Tennyson and his poems." This lecture should be largely attended by the many admirers of the deceased Laureate.

Three young ladies of Halifax, namely, Misses Susie Stairs, Muriel Black and Jean Forrest, held a sale of fancy work and other articles yesterday afternoon at the residence of Mr. Edward Stairs, Green Street. As the funds received are to be devoted to the poor of our city I sincerely hope the most sanguine expectations of the young philanthropists were fully realized, and that the heartfelt gratitude of those whom they benefit may prove an abundant reward for the efforts put forth by these kindhearted young ladies.

Mrs. James Esson is to hold her sale of fancy work this afternoon. This sale will afford a good opportunity for the selection of handsome Christmas gifts.

"You've frozen your ears," is a common remark. Bathe in Johnson's Anodyne Lintment.

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