

CITY CHIMES.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.—Christmas is once more at hand, and ere THE CRITIC'S chimes again greet its readers will be numbered with the Christmases of the past. To one and all a happy Christmas day—to the little folks a day replete with joy and with fond anticipations realized; to their elders a season of glad reunions and of joy in other's rejoicings. May no shadow of past, present or future cloud the gladness of the sacred day.

GOODWILL TOWARD MEN.—While from hosts of hearts kindly wishes arise, and fond greetings are extended for the Christmas season, there are yet those among us who feel no Christmas joy and peace in their souls. Sadness goes hand in hand with rejoicing, grinding poverty walks side by side with abounding riches, dejection stalks close behind happiness, and so the world moves on.

In our city there are not a few to whom the chiming of the Christmas bells will bring no message of peace and goodwill. Homes which during the past year have been darkened by grief find the day but a retrospect of the past. Memories of happy Christmases gone by crowd in upon those whose dear ones have been taken, and the words of the loved poet—"A sorrow's crown of sorrow, Is remembering happier things,"—seem but too true in their experience. In these homes, however, there may be little ones who look with wondering eyes on the sadness of their elders. They see but the present, and it is Christmas. Let their fair day not be darkened, make an effort to wear a smile for their greeting, and throw dull care aside in making Christmas a day of delight for the children. Their dark days will come all too soon, meanwhile let their path be made as bright as love can make it.

In other households misfortune has shown its unkind face, and the heads of the family find themselves without the wherewithal to provide the necessities of life, let alone a taste of Christmas luxury. To those whose purses are well filled a silent appeal goes for help. As costly gifts were carried to the infant Saviour whose birth the Christian world is celebrating, let us seek to carry with the story of His love to men what cheer and help lies in our power to the poor whom we have always with us.

Hard times, so called bad luck, absence from home and friends and other circumstances have no doubt caused many hearts to sink in dejection instead of leaping with Christmas buoyancy. This seems inevitable, and yet out of place at this season. Doubtless we all know of some family to whom a Christmas dinner, perhaps best sent anonymously, would be far from unwelcome; or, it may be, that a simple luxury would be more acceptable to some one, old or young, who, while not lacking the necessaries of life yet finds few of its pleasures falling to his or her lot. To the lonely and friendless we, who have our comfortable homes, owe an unmistakable duty at this time. An invitation to dine at our Christmas board may seem to us a small thing, perhaps it may inconvenience us a little, but it is worth while giving if our hospitality will brighten the day for a lonely old lady or gentleman, or be highly appreciated by some young people who are far from their family circle.

The air is resounding with good wishes and compliments of the season, let them be made practical, and our good-will toward men be manifested in deeds of kindness.

DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD, ETC.—The rector of St. Luke's Cathedral asks his congregation for one hundred Christmas dinners for the poor. May his petition be answered exceeding abundantly.

THE ORPHEUS OPENING.—It has come to be an accepted fact that the concerts of the Orpheus Club are invariably good. Such a reputation in our rather critical community cannot but stand for genuine merit, and has been well earned by the musical organization of which Halifax is justly proud. Steadily from year to year the Club, with its auxiliary and orchestra, has been carrying on its work with marked progress, cultivating local talent and giving the public opportunity to enjoy high class music.

This year it was announced that four concerts would make up the season 1893-94, and with the power of the Club thus concentrated it was anticipated that even better work might be expected than that of last year, which, it will be remembered reflected much credit on the performers and gave genuine pleasure to the patrons of the Orpheus. Number one of the series which took place on Tuesday evening, if it may be taken as a sample of what is to come, quite justified the anticipations. A large and fashionable audience as usual filled Orpheus Hall. The programme opened with a part song "The Three Fishers" by the Club with Ladies' Auxiliary, which was admirably rendered. The Club and Auxiliary also had numbers six and eight, "The Parting Kiss" and "The Stars in Heaven," both of which were given with excellent effect, the parts being sung in perfect unison and the chorus full and well balanced. The Orchestra did some fine work in its first number, a "Symphony in B Minor," and also rendered in a pleasing manner number ten on the programme "Introduction 3rd Act King Manfred." The Ladies' Auxiliary is to be congratulated on its production of that exquisite melody, "The Lost Chord." The accompaniment by the orchestra added to the beauty of the number. Herr Max Weil acquitted himself most creditably, his violin solos plainly showing the master's hand. Mrs. Kennedy-Campbell's rendition of the "Ave Maria" was beautifully sung and received a hearty encore to which she responded with "Callor Herrin," completely captivating her audience. Mrs. Percy Lear's solo was sung in excellent style. Mrs. Lear was in good voice, and in the opinion of many in the audience surpassed herself on this occasion. Mr. Norbert Metzler made

his debut as a soloist, and his fine base voice showed to good advantage in his selection "If I were King." Lack of time and space forbid my giving a more extended account of the first of the Orpheus concerts, or of expressing my appreciation of the same; suffice it to say that it has been universally pronounced a decided success, and the first aim of the Club, to give its patrons satisfaction, was accomplished on Tuesday evening.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT.—The Doering-Brauer Conservatory of Music announce a sacred concert to be given in St. Luke's Hall on Tuesday evening next. The programme has several very interesting numbers, which are sure to be well performed, and the entertainment promises to be one of the best attractions of the season.

Frazer's Business College entertains its students and friends this evening, preparatory to closing for the Christmas holidays.

DALHOUSIE'S CLOSING.—The students of Dalhousie, with a large number of friends, assembled at the college on Wednesday evening. After the presentation of the football league trophy by His Honor Lieut. Governor Daly, the students proceeded to carry out an interesting programme, and at 9.30 lined up for the usual march through the principal streets. The members of the football teams later on entertained a few friends at supper at Masonic Hall, where a merry time was spent. The "break-up" was one of the best on record.

The popular Wallace Hopper Dramatic Co. opens an engagement at the Lyceum on Christmas afternoon.

Last evening the principal and staff of the Halifax Commercial College held a very enjoyable At Home in Chalmers Hall.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.—"What is the matter with the Y. M. C. A. in Halifax," was asked me not long since by a young man from one of the flourishing towns of New Brunswick. I had not previously noticed that there was anything the matter with it, but the question caused me to think a little more of the subject than I had done, and I have come to the conclusion that the Association is not doing the work that it might do in Halifax, and that compared with the branches of the organization in other parts of this Province and New Brunswick it is, to say the least, not wide awake in our city.

To be sure, the reading room is largely patronised. A large, well-lighted comfortably heated and excellently appointed room, it forms a convenient place to spend a leisure hour, at the same time affording opportunity to glean the latest news from the current literature provided. So far, so good. The Association has thrown the rooms open for the benefit of the young men, and they are at all times welcome.

Sunday afternoon meetings are held, but who goes? The comparatively few young men who are interested in Bible study may be seen there regularly, but where are the boys and youths who have come from good homes in the rural districts to the city, and are quite as open for the influence of evil as good. It is a critical period in their lives, and a great responsibility rests upon the Halifax Y. M. C. A.

We hear a great deal about Halifax "bloods." Are the larger number of our city boys to be classed under this undesirable heading? No! a thousand times no! but yet why is the Y. M. C. A. not supported more ably by the young men of Halifax, when other places which exist for their especial use, although not for their edification, are never known to lack liberal patronage.

There is something wrong, and it should be at once ascertained where the trouble lies, that a remedy may be found without delay. The needs and advantages of the Association should be kept constantly before the public; neither time or trouble should be spared to make the meetings of the Association attractive, and every effort possible should certainly be put forth to enlist new members. I am quite aware that zealous workers are doing much to accomplish the aims of the Association, but more workers are needed to carry on the work with vigor.

The young men who are members must bestir themselves, and see that they are doing all that can be expected of them. Not long ago the ladies auxiliary of the association arranged an entertainment to secure funds for the furnishing of the parlor. An excellent programme was made up and was well performed, but to a small audience. Where were the young men who should be interested in everything pertaining to the Association, and for whose comfort the ladies had gone to much trouble and expense.

Let the Christian men and women who are working for the advancement of the Y. M. C. A. in Halifax, as well as all who have the good of the youths of our city at heart, think the matter over and try to solve the problem—"What is the matter with the Y. M. C. A. in Halifax." CURS.

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