

## THE ANTIDOTE

IS Published every Saturday in time for the evening suburban trains. Subscription ONE DOLLAR per annum, single copies FIVE CENTS. May be obtained at all the leading stationers and newsdealers in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, Hamilton, Ottawa, London, Halifax, St. Johns, Kingston, Winnipeg, Victoria, Vancouver, &c. All communications and remittances should be addressed "THE ANTIDOTE," 172 and 173 St. James Street, Montreal. We do not undertake to return unused MSS. or sketches.

### HOME GOSSIP.

All virtuous persons condemn gossip. We all know that we ought not to pry into other peoples' affairs, and that if the proper study of mankind is man, it is nevertheless not a study to be prosecuted by treating our visiting acquaintances as specimens for the moral microscope, and displaying our powers of diagnosis at the expense of the confiding caller who has talked unwarily, and gone. We know that, although we may not exactly live in a glass house, we do not want our neighbors to amuse themselves with throwing little pebbles at our windows; and our dislike to the possibility of the pastime, with ourselves for its victims, quickens our sense of its ignoble frivolity and its tendency to do mischief. We agree to class gossip as but little less degrading to its practitioners than espionage, and we ridicule it as the theme of the vulgar and the ignorant.

Perhaps we sometimes commit gossip ourselves; but when we do the lapse is accidental and it is our misfortune rather than our fault. It is difficult to distinguish absolutely, where a readiness to hear and even to tell news about private events is a healthy sympathy with our neighbors, and where it is mere intrusive 'tittle-tattle.' We should not be human if we refused to take even a moment's passing interest in the lives of our neighbors; if we stopped our ears to the tidings of Mr. This's promotion and Mr. That's bankruptcy; if we frowned down the relator of the happy engagement between Mr. Smith and Miss Brown; and severely diverted the conversation to the Fishery Question when it began to turn upon the surprises of Mrs. Jones' new drawing-room, or the despair of Bank-Clerk Robinson at being ordered to a small country branch. An amount of reticence which should withhold us, on the ground that they were no business of ours, from commenting or conjecturing on these matters, would be impossible to

any sane mortal—perhaps would not even be desirable.

It must happen at times that even orthodox haters of gossip drift unawares over 'the hazy boundry between neighborly news, and busybody rumor and researches, and become for the nonce as heathen men and gossip-mongers. But these are only passing eclipses of virtue, errors of inadvertance to which the best of us are liable, and their rather frequent occurrence does not disprove the agreement of all good people in the condemnation of gossip, and more especially of that form of it which may be described as analytical and dissectional, which explores motives and infers minute secrets. And no moral doctrine is more distinctly and frequently declared in print and on the tongue, through proverbs and through preachings, through satire, through persuasion, by novelists, by dramatists, by essayists, by clergymen, by governesses, by everybody who talks about gossip, including the gossips themselves, and not forgetting the "Antidote," than the unlawfulness of gossip and its damage to the minds of those who indulge in it.

### FASHIONABLE WEDDINGS.

Quiet weddings are steadily becoming fashionable among leading people all over the world. One reason for this being that it is impossible to invite a few friends without offending a great many, or to invite a great many without offending the balance of the "four hundred." Another reason is that many brides object to issuing wedding invitations which read "your presence is requested" but mean "your presents are requested." When no wedding invitations are issued nobody needs to give a present, unless it be one of pure friendship. The bride must treasure her wedding gifts more dearly knowing that they have been sent with hearty good will not in return for an invitation.

In any case a travelling costume is much more becoming during our cold winters than an evening gown could possibly be, while the fatigue undergone in dressing and changing gowns must try a bride's patience and endurance.

### NEW MUSIC.

We are favored by Messrs. Robert Cocks & Co., 6 New Burlington street, Regent street, London, with the following new music:

1 "A Woodland Serenade," song, composed by Angelo Mascheroni, the words by Mowbray Marras. This song was sung with great success by Madame Adelina Patti at her last concert at the Albert Hall, November 10th.

2. "Ave Maria," by the same composer. Composed expressly for Madame Adelina Patti, and dedicated to, and will be shortly introduced to the public by her.

3. "A song of Joy and Love" by David Popper, composed for and sung by Mr. Ben Davies on Madame Valleria's recent concert tour.

4. "A Voice from the Past" song by Dr. H. J. Edwards, words by Clifton Bingham, and sung by Miss Marian Mackenzie.

5 "False or True" music by Miss. Frances Alltson, words by Clifton Bingham, sung by Mrs. Florence Dyke, and Mr. Chas. Copland.

6. "Warning" by the same composer, words from the German of D'Amers, sung by, and dedicated to Mrs. Helen Trust.

7. "The Vales of Arklow" song, written and composed by Leslie Stuart, sung by Madame Belle Cole.

8. "The Old Piper" song, words by M. Ingle Ball, music by Charles E. Tinney, sung with great success by Mr. Norman Sammond on the "Valleria" tour.

9. "Admiral Tom" song, words by Clifton Bingham, music by Locksley Hastings.

10. "Three Scandinavian Songs," words by Constance Buche, music by Henri Loge.

11. "Largo," and "Quatrieme Gavotte." for Violoncello, by David Popper, played before Her Majesty at Balmoral, by command, also on the "Valleria" tour, by the composer.

12. "O Wondrous Joy" vocal duet, words by Mowbray Marras, music by Lawrence Kellie.

13. Two vocal duets composed by Mary Carmichael, entitled, "It is the Hour" (words by Byron) "Under the Thorntree" (words by E. Nesbit).

14. "Melodie Romantique" for the Violoncello, by Lee Stern, with piano accompaniment.

15. "Roumanian Dance," and "Unter den Linden," both by Gustav Renoch for the piano.

16. "The City of Night," Laurence Kellie's successful song arranged for the organ by Edwin H. Lemare, and played by him at his Recitals.

17. "Pastorale in E," for the organ by Edwin H. Lemare.

18. "British Heroes," quick march, by Arthur E. Godfrey.

19. Songs for Young Friends, (4 Nos.) written and composed by Dr. Westbrook.

We may take occasion later on to refer more particularly to the merits of the various songs and pieces.