

CITY CHIMES.

It has been announced that Halifaxians were, in the near future, to have the pleasure of hearing again the sweet voiced singer who in days gone by charmed all music lovers of our city. I now have from a reliable source the information that the many citizens who had been looking forward to the coming visit of Mrs. Blackmore, nee Miss Louise Laine, are to be deprived of the pleasure they had anticipated, and that for the present season at least all arrangements for the concert in which Mrs. Blackmore was to take part are off. Judging from the many expressions of pleasure when the musical public was made aware that negotiations were being made for the reappearance of the favorite singer in Halifax, regret will be generally felt at the indefinite postponement of Mrs. Blackmore's visit.

This evening and to-morrow evening the Academy of Music stage will be occupied by the Lilywhite Minstrels in connection with the Leicestershire Band, and probably the hall will be well filled by appreciative audiences on both occasions. The entertainments are to be under distinguished patronage. The full band of the regiment will take part in the programme, which is an excellent one, and the performances promise to be thoroughly enjoyable.

The boys who have this winter been spending their leisure hours in the gymnasium of the Y. M. C. A. of this city, and thus combining enjoyment and profit, have greatly increased in number. The class is now so large that the instructor has found it necessary to divide it, and will devote four afternoons each week instead of two as formerly to the work of this branch, if suitable arrangements can be made. Boys who are studying and boys who are working, in fact all boys, need physical training, and cannot fail to reap in the future the benefits of the work they are doing in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium. The other classes are well attended. To-morrow afternoon the boys are to enjoy a sleigh drive around the city if the weather permits and the snow remains, and will, no doubt, have a jolly time.

The carnival has been postponed until the 30th inst.

Some time ago it was announced that a Calico Ball was to be held in Halifax, the proceeds of which would be divided between the Church Hospital, the Halifax Infirmary, and a Military Hospital in England. Now, while the society belles of our city might hail with delight the opportunity of dancing for sweet charity's sake, they would hardly appreciate the limiting of the gorgeousness of their apparel to plain calico, though the oft quoted saying that "beauty unadorned is most adorned" remains undisputed. Hence the later announcements are of a "fancy dress ball" in arranging costumes for which both ladies and gentlemen may exercise their own judgment. The affair comes off on Wednesday of next week in the Masonic Hall, and is to be under the patronage of General Sir John Ross, G. C. B., His Honor the Lieut Governor, the Attorney General, Justice Weatherbe, Justice Townshend and Colonel Ryan and officers of the Royal Artillery. The band of the Leicestershire regiment will furnish the music, and any dancer who has ever tripped to the perfect music of this military band will appreciate the arrangement made with it for the coming festive occasion. There are a few people who sadly shake their heads or make sarcastic comments that it is thought necessary to indulge in the "sinful and worldly amusements" that charitable organizations may be supplied with funds, but happily these well meaning citizens are in the minority. The charity ball promises to be a success, and I, for one, sincerely hope it will be. The tickets are not high priced, \$1.75 for gentlemen and \$1.25 for ladies, and as the ladies who have them for sale are all well known among the "400" of our city, the sales will no doubt be very satisfactory.

Gentle old-fashioned winter weather is this week being experienced in Halifax, and I think I am safe in adding is very acceptable. We are apt to shiver and grumble, wish it were June etc., but after all, as it isn't June, but midwinter, I think the majority of those who enjoy good health prefer the present clear frosty air to mild, enervating, unseasonable weather. The sleighing is good, the toboggan slides in excellent order, the rink in its full glory, and the youths and merry maidens of the city have been taking full advantage of the opportunities offered for sport.

Another tobogganing accident! Oh how the croakers will ring in their never falling I told-you-so. The hill known as Collins' has offered most tempting facilities for the enjoyment of this fascinating but dangerous sport, and it was a merry party that gathered for a couple of hours' amusement on Tuesday evening. The accident by which a popular young lady had her leg broken in two places was the old story of a fence and a toboggan with its precious load colliding. The sympathy of many friends will go out to the unfortunate sufferer of Tuesday evening's mishap, who will probably be confined to the house for some weeks to come. The old fashioned "double runner" is looked upon with scorn by the young people of the day, who in their enthusiasm for the toboggan, forget the days when comfortably seated with a jolly crowd of companions on a long board connecting two sleds, the height of enjoyment in the coasting season was reached. The good old coasters are now left to the small boys and girls, and the grown-ups prefer the later invention of toboggans, but all the same, taken all in all, the old style was in almost every respect the better. The spice which danger adds to the fun is not worth the risk of broken limbs, but so long as one experiences is not a warning to others, and each believes that he or she is sure to escape all injury, it is wasting time to set forth the folly of deliberately running into danger.

The Semi Centennial celebration of Mount Allison College takes place in the Academy of Music on Tuesday evening next. R. C. Weldon, Esq., Ph. D., M. P., is to occupy the chair for the evening, and addresses are to be given by Rev. A. Carman D. D., D. Allison, Esq., L. L. D., Benjamin Russell Esq., M. A., Q. C., and Rev. D. M. Johnson, M. A. The graduates and friends of Mount Allison will no doubt enjoy a pleasant evening, and the interest in the welfare of the institution be deepened.

"We may live without poetry, music and art,
We may live without conscience, and live without heart,
We may live without friends, we may live without books,
But civilized man cannot live without cooks."

So said the poet Meredith, and I am strongly of the opinion that civilized man has by experience proved the truth of at least the last line above quoted. In the advance in educational lines Halifax is keeping well abreast of the times, and our educational institutions are subjects of pride to every patriotic citizen. Our young men and women are taking advantage of the many opportunities afforded them to gratify their ambitions, and to attain high educational standards, and should be encouraged in their every effort in this line; but the fact stands boldly out that "civilized man cannot live without cooks." The servant girl question has been discussed in all its pros and cons, until it has become a subject for the jokewriter, and yet the problem of how to have well cooked meals has not been solved. This difficulty does not always lie wholly with the servants, for though the mistress may be able to detect the slightest defect in the food cooked for her table, yet if she know not how to instruct her cook to remedy the defects, she must necessarily be wholly at the mercy of her servants, who, alas, as every house keeper in Halifax knows only too well, are in almost every case very far from perfection. A really good cook can at any time in Halifax command high wages and find a good home, as it is apparent that to both mistresses and servants of Halifax, the proposed establishment of a cooking school in our city is a matter of interest. Plans have been made to open the school on February first, with a teacher from South Kensington, London, who is now at the school of cooking in Montreal. The price for a ticket for the course of twelve lessons has been fixed at six dollars, and the tickets can be obtained at Mrs. J. W. Longley's, South St. I understand that it has been decided that unless the first fifty tickets are sold this week, and the money deposited in the bank, the school at Montreal will be telegraphed not to send the teacher, as the promoters of the school do not feel inclined to take the responsibility upon their shoulders of meeting the necessary expenses. I feel sure if the young women of Halifax think of this matter seriously, and if the mothers carefully consider the advantages their daughters would derive from such a practical course of instruction, the demand for membership tickets will far exceed the highest anticipations of the ladies who have interested themselves in the establishment of the school. In my opinion it would be a state of affairs much to be deplored if the women of Halifax do not manifest sufficient interest in the movement to firmly establish the Halifax School of Cooking.

The second concert of the Orpheus Club, which took place at the Orpheus Hall on Tuesday evening last, attracted a large, but not an altogether appreciative, audience. The truth is that many persons who attend these concerts frankly acknowledge that much of the music is beyond their comprehension, but then you know it is a nice place to go and see one's friends. It is the fashionable thing to do, and as the music is educative I am glad that it is so. In listening to the Orpheus Club with the Ladies' Auxiliary one cannot fail to be struck with the individuality of the conductor as reflected in the rendition of the choruses. Unimpassioned, well-balanced and painstaking himself he impresses these qualities upon the club and the results are very marked. The choruses are unquestionably carefully rendered, and the voices are well-balanced, but they sometimes lack the musical fervor which is commonly known as "soul." Without this quality they can be admired, but they never can inspire an audience with any deeper feeling than admiration. "Night" was capitally rendered and so for that matter was the now celebrated "Cavalleria Rusticana;" but the poor rendition of the "Lady of Shalott" made one desire to have the partnership between Tennyson and Bédard dissolved. Miss Homer's selections were unattractive, and for my own part I wish the lady would be less ambitious and would give us something that would better display her unquestionable dramatic talent. Fraulein Griziosa Unbekant, alias Miss Beatrice Whidden, performed an exquisite little violin solo, the rendition of which stamped her as one of Nova Scotia's most promising musicians. The orchestra, under the leadership of Herr Klingensfeld, did some grand work, and both the club and the leader deserve great credit for the improvement which is so manifest. Judging by the applause the orchestral rendering of Strauss' Blue Danube Waltzes was much appreciated. The time was perfect, at least so everybody said, and everybody knew, because the orchestra kept precisely the same time as the audience. A little more heat in the hall and a little more musical enthusiasm among the performers would make these Orpheus concerts exceedingly enjoyable to your truthful but friendly critic.

CHIRS.

LUCK IN SEEDS.

"I didn't have very good luck with my seeds last year," a farmer was heard to say. This gives rise to the question. How many poor crops can be attributed to luck in the selection of seeds? Buying seed is an important factor in farming and should receive the careful judgment and consideration of the farmer. It is almost always impossible to distinguish the good from the bad in seeds by sight, and the only infallible guide for the planter is the reliability of the seedman. D. M. Ferry & Co., of Windsor, Ont., have for many years been the leading seed house of this country, and their reliability is unquestioned. They issue a book annually which contains a complete digest of the very latest gardening knowledge by the best authorities. The 1893 edition is handsomely illustrated and contains information about the selection and planting of seeds which will prove of the greatest value to everyone planting a garden or farm. It is mailed free to anyone making application to the firm's address.