

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

There will be an organ recital and sacred concert in St. Barnabas Church Thursday evening, Feb. 23rd. Mr. Bridgeman, organist of St. John's Church, will give an organ recital. A quartette from St. James Church, Mr. E. White, Aloys Werner and other talent will take part.

It is reported that preparations are being made toward the rendering of Messiah at an early date. Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie will be the bass soloist, Miss Mowat, soprano, and Mrs. Helmcken, alto.

Rumor says that a professional young man and a well known young lady vocalist, both of this city, will shortly be married in San Francisco and then return home.

A pleasant surprise party was held at the residence of Mrs. Jackson, Cadboro Bay Road, last Friday evening.

Miss Lena Workman and Miss Bell Duff left for San Francisco by the steamer to-day on a two-weeks' trip.

W. H. Ellis, Miss Ellis and Miss Withrow have returned from their trip to San Francisco.

Mrs. W. H. Griffin has returned home after a short visit to her parents in Vancouver.

Mrs. Benjamin Evans, of Cadboro Bay, has been seriously ill for some time past.

Mr. J. D. Parker, of the Acme Silverplate Co., Toronto, is in the city.

THE SKATES FETCHED HIM.

A wealthy bachelor, who had successfully avoided all the various traps set for him by match-making mammas with marriageable daughters, at last met his Waterloo before a pair of skates. But let him tell his own story:

"Well, sir, a certain girl of my acquaintance, whose first name was Jennie, in some way or other became possessed of a pair of skates, and knowing that I was somewhat expert in the line of skating, she asked me if I wouldn't accompany her to the pond and learn her how to strike out for herself. We accordingly set out, and in due time arrived on the ice. Then the innocent girl ordered me down upon my knees and seating herself she quietly placed a tiny little foot in my lap and bade me put on her skates. Sir, had Venus dropped down from heaven and bade me rub her down with new rum it could not have astonished me more than when that

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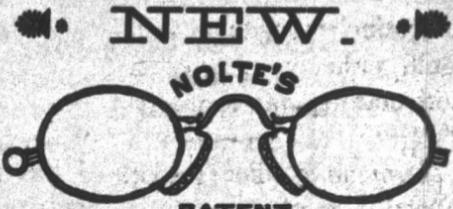
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ravishing little foot was placed in my unworthy lap. I felt very faint, but I buckled on the skates and stood up with Jennie by my side.

"Have you ever taught a woman to skate? No? Well, let me tell you. You've seen a kaleidoscope with a few bits of old colored glass, etc., in a tin tube, and turning it have seen all sorts of beautiful figures. Just imagine a kaleidoscope and in place of beads and broken glass, please substitute blue eyes, curving eyelashes, ruby lips, teeth of pearl, wavy hair, pretty feet, coquettish hat and dress and you will see what I had before me. Now, then, imagine yourself the centre of a system with all things revolving around you and a buxom, clinging girl breathing sighs upon you all the while and you have Jennie and her victim in the first skating lesson.

"Jennie and I made a start and then—oh, how can I tell it?—Jennie's trim little boots present themselves to my astonished vision, and before I have time to wonder how they came up before me I feel them pressing their blessed beauty with emphasis into the pit of my stomach. Next scene—wavy hair, coquettish bonnet and divine head comes pitching into my overcoat with such terrific force that I feel the buttons against my spine. Next—Jennie gazes up at me from between my boots, and ar.on her blessed little nose is thrust into my shirt bosom. Ah, my friends, all research and study on the mysterious subject of woman has been comparatively in vain till in this eventful year of 1893 the fashion of skating has opened new and various sources of information.

"Do you remember your first attempt at driving tandem? Do you remember how the infernal preverse beast that you have selected for a leader would insist on turning short around and staring you in the face, as if to ask what the deuce you were trying to do? Well, that's just about the way things go when you are trying to learn a woman to skate. If you don't believe it, friend, just try it once for yourself and, my word for it, you'll soon come to the conclusion that women have sundry and 'divers' ways of accomplishing their objects. Dear



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Jennie! I offered myself to her every time she turned up or came round. I was wholly hers before we left the pond."  
F. M.