

LETTERS FROM THE FLEET.

No. I.

CHIPS FROM THE WOODEN WALLS.

Many were the regrets on board H. M. ships as they sailed out of Halifax Harbor; for though the fast approaching winter made life on board very unpleasant, yet the kindly hospitality received on shore made up for that. The older members were heard to regret the roaring fires and comfortable rooms of the Halifax Club, and though the younger ones were not exactly heard lamenting their fate, their saddened faces bore witness that the fire of some fair one's eyes was the flame they longed for—not to be compensated for by even the warm sun and blue waters of Bermuda. A few days, however, and—though a decided anxiety was shown as to the date when the Halifax mail was due—our sorrowful ones had cheered up a good deal, much of which was doubtless owing to the gaieties they were regaled with, for, as in the days of Shakespeare, so now—

"Men were deceivers ever.

One foot on sea and one on shore,
Faithful to one thing never."

Lay that to your heart, daughters of Chebucto.

Soon after our arrival the 17th Leicestershire regiment gave a ball, and an uncommonly nice dance it was. The room and floor were good, the supper well arranged and plentiful, the music tuneful and exhilarating. Everyone turned up in great force; the ladies looked their best, the men made their prettiest speeches and all went as smoothly as a sleigh. It was said that a young American lady, the daughter of a leading New York banker, bore away the palm, and certainly the Guards, who ought to be good judges, were assiduous in their attention to her. Much comment was raised by the style of dancing followed by these officers—something between the nature of a whirlwind and a tee-totum. Woe betide the wretched couple who encountered them, for they were sure to come off second best. Those who had lately been in London, and wished to have it known that they moved in the best society, said, when they were asked if they did not think this method of dancing extraordinary, "Oh, dear, no! I never thought of noticing it; it is what I am so accustomed to see!" Others who had not been in London lately, but revered all that H. M. Foot Guards did, expressed no adverse opinion, while those who suffered from them complained of wretched dancing and bad form. Another dancer who excited much attention was a foreign officer—one from a Dutch man-of-war then in port. He twirled and pirouetted, twisted and slid, reversed and dashed off at odd angles, so that one never knew where to look for him. He was the most energetic man in the ball room and as his collar grew limper, his movements grew quicker, till he seemed to the more languid Bermudian's a very impersonation of the spirit of dancing. It was said that the end of him was that he was so exhausted he had to be carried back most of the way, and was put to bed on the billiard table of the club, but this is not quite reliable. All the gay young sparks of the fleet were there, headed by Prince George of Wales. Jo the Bryd-zoon and his poet laureate were seen talking together, though nothing has as yet appeared to let us know if their conversation bore on any new poem. On the whole it was a most successful entertainment.

Another ball was given to the fleet by the citizens of Hamilton, on New Year's Night, at the Princess's Hotel. The company was nearly the same as at the previous one, except that there were

some additions who are not generally seen at other dances. The floor was very good—the dancing went on in the new ball-room of the hotel—so good that there were a great number of tumbles, the opportunities for flirtation were excellent as there were the long corridors of the hotel for those who wished to use them, and the supper was not only good but was served by a body of "lady-helps," freshly arrived from the States. It has been a great matter of regret that the Dutch officers who have been paying Bermuda a visit in the man-of-war *Johann Wilhelm Friso*, have been unable, as a body, on account of the death of their late king, to accept any of all this hospitality. One or two of them have been out, but as private guests only, not in uniform. They are a good lot of fellows and evidently appreciate English ways, for they play lawn tennis and talk our language well.

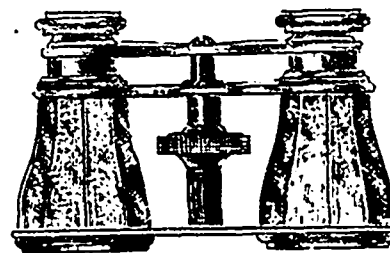
Mrs. Watson has given her customary fortnightly "at homes," and has been no luckier in her weather than usual. One day it was so bad that the guests were reduced to skipping to amuse themselves—Colonel Eaton of the Guards, acting Governor of the Islands, distinguishing himself by his agility in this pastime. The Governor proper, Genl. Newdegate has also given two afternoons which were well attended and much enjoyed. It has been noticed that the "thrush" seems as common a complaint at Bermuda as it was at Halifax, for whatever Prince George was doing, dancing or playing lawn tennis, he was perpetually the cynosure of the eye of those who think that royalty was only made to be stared at.

Another small dance was given by a lady at Boaz Island, and was signalled by the engagement of the first lieutenant of the Emerald being completed and announced there. The charming young lady is already closely connected with his ship, so that it will be unnecessary to point out more closely who she is.

There have been one or two smoking concerts and one "ladies" concert—if it is permitted to so distinguish it. The smoking ones were given on board the Flag-ship, when those of her officers who are gifted with histrionic and cantatorial powers distinguished themselves as usual. Dr. Thomas sang a good topical song, Mr. Macarthy a ballad in his most charming style, Mr. Stopford and "Bill" Stevens brought down the house in a screaming farce. On board the *Comus*, Mr. Fenton quite took "the cake" for make up and acting in a comic song. The "ladies" concert was given in aid of the "Serpent" relief fund. All the naval talent was well represented, an addition being made by the appearance of the flag lieutenant who played the guitar, to the admiration of all. The

(Concluded on page 16.)

THEATRE-GOERS, PATRONS OF OPERAS AND CONCERTS
KNOW HOW UNSATISFACTORY IS A POOR OPERA GLASS.



Those bearing the inscription
LEMAIRE FR., Paris,
are absolutely perfect and are being shown in good assortment by

J. CORNELIUS,
Jeweller, - - 99 Cranville St.

The Greatest and Best of all Tonics and Appetizers.

PRICE 50 Cents.

MYLIUS'
IRON and QUININE
TONIC.

ACADIA DRUG STORE, SOUTH END PHARMACY,
HATTIE & MYLIUS,