

## CITY CHIMES.

The second concert of the Orpheus Club was given on Thursday evening of last week to a very large audience. The concert has been severely criticized by writers in the Halifax press, the orchestra receiving the major portion of the condemnation. We have heard some of the finest orchestras in Great Britain and the United States and by comparison the orchestra of the Orpheus Club is of course much overshadowed, but when we consider the circumstances that we have an orchestra in embryo, that it is under a competent instructor, that its members are enthusiastic musical devotees, and that the organism is as yet scarce out of its swaddling clothes, we have every reason to let well enough alone and look hopefully for results. The only danger of these local Associations is a proneness to self-esteem and undue self-gratulation. The best orchestra that the Orpheus can produce is not likely to attain to a high standard as compared with professionals, but in the meantime we must take what we can get and be thankful if in taking we are getting the best that the leader and club can produce. With La Grippe more than despoiling its ranks it could not be expected that the chorus work of the Orpheus was likely to reach its customary standard of perfection, but we decidedly disagree with the opinion expressed in an evening contemporary that Halifax audiences not appreciating good music, Mr. Porter was now giving them a surfeit of trash. The selections as a rule are well made, and it is quite evident to a close observer that if the conductor were more rigid in his choice the real work would not be within reach of more than one half of the members of the Club, and so a choice of very high class music, while not being appreciated by the audience, would really put the Club in water beyond its depth. Miss Madeleine Homer won golden opinions for her smooth and easy execution, and in her original numbers as well as in her encore she displayed to the full that dramatic power which is always so attractive. Mr. Huestis sang very acceptably DeLara's "Garden of Sleep," his voice having that one charm, sweetness, which more than anything else appeals to the average human ear.

The entertainment given at the Lyceum Theatre on Monday evening by Professor Semon scored a great success, the net proceeds, which were for the benefit of the wife and children of the late W. D. F. Smith, amounting to two hundred and twenty five dollars. This entertainment, which closed the season at the Lyceum, was worthy of the large patronage it received, and Zora delighted his audience with his marvellous execution of magical tricks, and the performance of the Royal Marionettes. Zora Semon's entertainments at the Lyceum this season have become very popular, and with a large fund of genuine amusement for the public combined with straightforward and able management, the Professor has gained an enviable reputation and won many warm friends who will be glad to extend their patronage to the new branch of business which the genial wonder worker is about to open. We are glad to know that Professor Semon is to give two entertainments at the Academy of Music on Feb. 4th and 5th. This will be under the auspices of the Wanderer's Athletic Association, and the proceeds will go towards defraying the expenses of the proposed trip of the cricket team next summer. Professor Semon will open the "Pepper Pot Kitchen" at the corner of Argyle and Jacob streets next month and will no doubt deal as liberally with his patrons in this line, as in others, and will make this venture, as he has made all former ventures, a success.

The Liberal Rally at the Academy of Music last Friday evening drew a large crowd, among which were several prominent Conservatives. The building was filled, standing room being scarcely available. A goodly proportion of ladies were present on this occasion, thus evincing the deep interest felt by them in the public affairs of the day. Dr. Edward Farrell and Hon. A. G. Jones, the Liberal candidates in the approaching election, were the first speakers, and were followed by Mr. William Roche, M. P. P., and Hon. W. S. Fielding. All these gentlemen gave excellent addresses, setting forth their views on the issues at stake. St. Patrick's brass band was present, and each speaker was greeted on rising with the cheering strains of "For he's a jolly good fellow." The meeting closed with "God Save the Queen" played by the band.

The "boy orator," W. A. Dunnitt, has been lecturing in our city this week on the subject of Temperance. Sunday afternoon and evening he drew large audiences, but on Monday evening the Masonic Hall was not nearly full. This, however, Mr. Dunnitt attributed not to the apathy of the temperance sentiment in Halifax, although he believes there is a great lack of interest in this subject on the part of Halifaxians, but to the remarks made at Sunday evening's lecture by the Chairman, Rev. H. F. Adams, which have created quite a sensation among our citizens. Mr. Dunnitt is a fluent speaker and holds the interest of his hearers. He also sings well, and his visit to Halifax has been much enjoyed by our many temperance advocates.

A great attraction is promised in the Band Concert which is in course of preparation, and which will take place in the Academy of Music on Thursday and Friday evenings, February 11th and 12th. Selections by the full band of the Leicestershire Regiment will form part of the programme, and with solos by some of the most popular vocalists of the city in conjunction with a display of Mrs. Jarley's wax-works, we think there can be little doubt of the Military's entertainment proving to be of an unusually interesting character. The proceeds are to be devoted to the funds of the Leicester Infirmary and Children's Hospital, which urgently requires assistance. As the good people of Halifax are ever ready to aid a deserving cause the coming entertainment will probably be liberally patronized and the good work of this Institution furthered.

The Young Men's Society of Christ Church, Dartmouth, are making extensive preparations for a concert to be held on Thursday evening next in Reform Club Hall, which gives every indication of success. The first appearance of the Dartmouth Orchestra, which is composed entirely of musicians from the enterprising town, is to be a feature of the evening which promises to be very attractive. As we have before remarked, it is only due courtesy that Halifaxians should patronise the entertainments given by their Dartmouth friends; and as this coming concert will certainly furnish a treat to music-lovers, it is to be sincerely hoped that it will be "taken in" by many from this side of the dividing stream.

St. Patrick's minstrels were greeted with crowded houses on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Academy of Music, and in consequence of the large number who were unable to gain admittance on Tuesday evening, the entertainment was repeated on Wednesday evening. The entire performance on each occasion reflected much credit on all taking part. The stage setting was very fine and the costumes were novel and pretty. The vocalists wore Mikado and Shakespearian costumes, and the end men struck a unique idea in reversing the regulation black dress suits by wearing white suits with black shirts. The first part of the performance consisted of comic and sentimental songs, bright and original jokes and local hits, and selections by St. Patrick's band. The choruses were especially good, and the "quadrille clog" was well danced by Messrs. Keating, Carroll, Vaughan and Myer. The mirth-provoking farce composed by Mr. Higgins, entitled "Our Country Cousin," created much fun and closed a very enjoyable programme. St. Patrick's minstrels have given good shows this season as usual, and the liberal patronage which has been extended goes to prove that their efforts have met with their due reward.

The souls that have been longing for pleasure in the form of skating were gratified last week when the Exhibition Skating Rink was re-opened, and the good ice much enjoyed by both private afternoon parties and the public generally. On Saturday afternoon the 66th Band furnished excellent music, and a large crowd of skaters took advantage of the opportunity to indulge in this favorite sport, which in former years occupied a prominent place in the winter programme of Halifax pleasure-lovers. On Monday evening as well the rink was well patronized, and those who have so long and patiently awaited the cold snap gladly availed themselves of the present opportunity to enjoy the delights of the old resort. The seasonable weather of the present week has been highly appreciated, and the merry jingle of the sleigh bells made pleasing music throughout our streets. The girls and boys have been in clover (figuratively speaking, of course) as they eagerly brought out long neglected sleds and enjoyed the first coasting of the season.

Monday last, January 25th, was the anniversary of the poet Burns' birth. The Mayflower Division, Sons of Temperance observed this occasion by holding a Burns' entertainment at the regular meeting of the Division on Tuesday evening.

The proceeds of last week's entertainments at the Lyceum Theatre for the benefit of the Charitable Societies of the city were donated as follows: To the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, \$30.00; Association for improving the condition of the Poor, \$30.00; S. P. C., \$16.90. For these liberal contributions Professor Zora Semon merits the gratitude of Halifax citizens.

There is still a great deal of sickness in the city and the monster La Grippe is still monarch of all he surveys. Scarlet fever and diphtheria are also in our midst, and it behooves us all to watch carefully lest we also fall. Mayor McPherson has been very ill with diphtheria, but we are glad to learn is recovering and no serious results are feared.

The Sunday School of St. Andrew's Church held a very successful festival in their school room last Friday evening, which was much enjoyed by a large number of scholars with their parents and friends.

The new Tabernacle Baptist Church is rapidly nearing completion and promises to be quite an addition to the churches of the city. A tea-meeting and entertainment was given on Monday evening in aid of the building fund, which was largely attended and a very pleasant evening enjoyed by all present.

The Non-Commissioned Officers of the H. G. A. are to have their annual sleigh-drive and dinner on Tuesday next. They have decided to go to Wilson's at Bedford and should the sleighing not be good will go by rail. The committee are sparing no pains to make this affair a success, and a merry time is anticipated.

The ladies and gentlemen friends of the members of the City Club enjoyed a very pleasant reception held last evening in the handsome new building of the organization. The spacious rooms were thrown open for inspection and were greatly admired by the guests. The City Club has added a valuable addition to the handsome buildings of the city, and may justly feel proud of its new quarters.

The Early Spring tries Weak Lungs, which should then be fortified by a liberal use of Putner's Emulsion—only 50 cents a bottle, at all Druggists.