

CITY CHIMES.

Winter seems to have come back to its normal condition, after three months of mild and semi-mild weather. The past week would fit on with that cold—very cold—snap we experienced in November last. A few sleighs are to be seen scraping over the scarcely covered ground, but the bells do not make the merry sound that they did a few weeks ago when the going was simply perfect. A little more snow would be appreciated by all who have time, means and inclination for sleighing.

The fire that destroyed the residence of Mrs. Sawyer on Sunday last was the cause of hastening a happy event in the lives of two young people. Dr. Grier, who was to have waited until after Easter for his bride, was made happy for life on Tuesday morning, when Miss Sophie Sawyer bestowed on him her hand and heart in St. Luke's Cathedral. The affair was very hastily arranged but many of the friends of the young people were present at the ceremony and afterwards accompanied them to the railway station where they left for St. John. Miss Sawyer was one of our most popular city belles and many are the good wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the newly wedded pair.

With the exception of the great event of the week—the Bohemian Girl at the Academy—there has been nothing of importance going on. The rink as usual keeps things from being utterly stagnant, and the "at home" afternoons of different ladies, always makes something pleasant to go to. Many people quarrel at these fixed days, when something unforeseen happens, week after week, on the particular day his or her particular friend is "at home"; but all agree that it is nice to know that there is a day when one may sell sure, on going to a house, of finding the hostess there, presiding over a cosy tea-table, and always with a bright welcome ready.

The death of Mrs. Noyes, last week, cast a gloom over the large circle of her many friends. An invalid for months past, her death was cruelly sudden and unexpected, as often happens in such a case, and the sympathy felt for her family is deep and universal.

The absence of the officers of the R. A. at the rink last week was in consequence of this sad affair, and the postponement of a ball, which was to have come off to-night, given by the Colonel and Officers of the Duke of Wellington's Regt. is due to the same cause.

We say "well done Orpheus Club," for no small undertaking is it to put Balfe's pretty, bright opera, "The Bohemian Girl," upon the stage in such a manner as it has been produced at the Academy this week. From a musical point of view the soloists did remarkably well. Miss Laine deserves a cordial word for her charming rendition of "Come with the Gipsy bride," into which she throws a surprising degree of vivacity. Her rendering of "I dreamed that I dwelt in marble halls" was finished but decidedly cold, and it was not until the opera was half over that Arline appeared at her best, and won encomiums one very hand. Miss Schaefer, as the Gipsy Queen, did splendid work and gave evidence of her ability to perform a much more important role. Mr. Gillis as Thaddeus was good, yes, very good, and well earned the *encore* he received for his rendering of "When other lips and other hearts." We have never heard Mr. Boak, who took the part of Count Arnheim, sing so effectively, and while we could have wished that in "A heart bowed down" he had given evidence of the fact, we can sincerely compliment him upon his success in the role of the Count. Of the other soloists little need be said, but we could have wished that Devilshoof's vocalization had been a little less wooden, not to say harsh. The choruses were decidedly well rendered, in fact few professional soloists in large musical centres have had better support than that given by the elect of the Orpheus Club in the Bohemian Girl. To say that the rendition was faultless, would be extravagant misrepresentation, but it certainly reflected great credit upon the Conductor, Mr. Porter, who, by the way deserves special thanks for having given us the treat of listening to such excellent orchestral work as that done at the opera by the talented German contingent, and their well selected associates. It would perhaps be too much to expect that the acting and singing of an amateur operatic troupe should be on a level. In the Bohemian Girl, tho' there was no short coming of a nature to impress the audience disagreeably, the want of practice on the boards certainly was apparent. Miss Laine's dialogue was by no means on a par with her singing, and her far from ungraceful gestures would be improved by overcoming the habit of keeping her elbows too frequently at right angles. Miss Schaefer developed considerable spirit. Mr. Boak, tho' a gentlemanly enough Count, was certainly deficient in animation. Mr. Gillis, though quiet, was, on the whole, very good. Mr. Macdonald was by no means bad, and to Mr. King Pooley was due all the fun there is to be got out of the opera.

Notes other than Musical at the Opera.—A gentleman lost his collar stud and was much distressed in consequence. A lady was unfortunate enough to lose one of her earrings, and when last seen the "expression of her features was more thoughtful than before." Gentlemen who sit on the rail of the gallery should be careful, as if they should lose their balance we might have to record a tragedy. Count Arnheim's boots matched the wainscoting of the room, but the effect was not good on the whole, and a more elaborate costume would have looked in keeping with his rank. Some of the dresses worn by ladies in the audience were much admired, especially the light ones. Black, though always in good taste, is rather overdone in Halifax, and the people in the galleries enjoy seeing a gay variety of toilets in the dress circle. Some very pretty opera cloaks were also noticed, there being quite a diversity of color in these. Altogether the audiences were fashionable and brilliant. It would be a good thing if people could make up their minds to be in time for the beginning of these performances, as entering late is very annoying.

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