

## Society Notes.

There will be a fair chance now of getting something to read occasionally in the daily papers,—now that the elections are all over. For the last few weeks everything has been crowded out to make room for politics; even the Saturday night gossip has taken a back seat. Poor old Doesticks was crowded out altogether last Saturday, but Lady Jane rose to the occasion with a brighter column than usual. Her remarks on the "Barn Door" dance are about the best that have yet appeared on this engrossing—but not very Lenten—topic: and her concluding paragraph is full of good-will to all men: at the same time we should be sorry to own that we have displayed "real downright venom and bad feeling" to anyone, though for editors to "dwell together in peace and unity" is rather a large order. There is much common sense in what Lady Jane says, all the same; our new contemporary is in such an entirely different line to ourselves that he may find a sufficiently large public quite outside that which we cater for.

We welcome the *Echo's* new society correspondent, *Ino*; the more the merrier!—and perhaps from such a number of councillors Halifax will at length learn wisdom. *Ino* should be a little more careful, however;—it is far better not to make an announcement at all than to make it wrong, and especially careful enquires should be made before publishing the death of one who has many intimate friends here.

Our remarks on the bringing up of children have given rise to much comment, and will very likely give rise to more in future. So far, funnily enough, no one seems to have drawn any distinction between male and female children. We are ready to grant that our mothers are fairly proficient in the art of bringing up their daughters to secure husbands from the garrison and navy; so much so, that Halifax has for many years been considered one of the best "marrying stations" by both services. The point at issue is the bringing up of boys: it is nothing less than a phenomenon that there are many gentlemen under the age of 14, but between 14 and 21 hardly any, and those for the most part to be found in the old-fashioned, quiet-living families that provide some sort of home-life for their boys as well as their girls. The greater part of those who are just beginning to call themselves "men" are about as ignorant, illiterate, and bad-mannered as any set of young cubs on the face of the earth. What strikes a visitor from the old country most forcibly is the fact that fathers do not seem to take any responsibility whatever, but just let their boys run wild like weeds in a field, spending what they please, smoking, drinking, playing billiards, gambling, and swaggering in public places, till they become a nuisance and an eyesore to respectable members of society. Many of them are sent away to good schools for a few years, where they cut a great figure, till their parents vote them too expensive, and bring them home to loaf.

This is not a pleasant picture, and their is, happily, another side to it. There are a few youngsters here whom it is a real pleasure to meet, and who are, and always will be, a credit to the names they bear. All honour to them, and to the parents who reared them!

We have been asked our opinion on a rather knotty question,—whether officers in the garrison have any right to take an active part in Canadian politics. We refrained from making any remark on the subject till the elections should be over, but now, that it is all settled, we do not hesitate to say that, in the first place, we think it would be far better if officers were not allowed to vote at all: but that, if they are allowed to vote, it is only natural for them to express their opinions pretty freely, when there is any question of secession from the old flag. At the same time, it is impossible for a sojourner here to thoroughly understand the very intricate, and very corrupt, politics of the colony, and we cannot help thinking that officers in Her Majesty's Service would do better to either not vote at all, or record their votes in silence.

No doubt, there will be many indignant protests against the expression "corrupt," as applied to Canadian politics. It is simply meant to mean that the amount of "bribery and corruption" that goes on in this country about election times is phenomenal to an Englishman, though it is nothing to what goes on in the States.

Now a word to the Wanderers—Do you mean to have a really good season's Cricket, or are you going on in the old hum-drum style, as heretofore? Are local matches to be the Alpha and Omega of your efforts to induce the Halifax public to take a real interest in the game? It lies with you; the citizens of Halifax have, when they saw you were really exerting yourselves in anything, done even more than you could have expected of them,—otherwise, how would you have stood to-day? Not in the same position you are in now, with a ground of which a town of the same size in England—(the home of Cricket)—might well be proud! No, we think not:—it has been the support given you by your fellow-townsmen that has provided you with such a ground, and therefore it behoves you, both as a body and individually, to do your utmost to make the public of Halifax proud of you— You may think that this is early to talk of cricket, but it will give you all the more time for correspondence with regard to your fixtures— There are plenty of towns in the States who would be glad to send a Team here during the summer, if approached early enough, and you would not only have the pleasure of making new friends, by their coming, but you would also be advertising our city. And now, to come to the main point: Why not have the International match played in Halifax? We can hear many *pooh-poohs* at this bold suggestion, but nevertheless the facts remain in favor of this proposition.

- 1st.—That Halifax has about the best ground in Canada.
- 2nd.—That the match has never yet been played here.
- 3rd.—That members of this club have at times journeyed to Toronto, and elsewhere to render their services.
- 4th.—That Halifax is as nearly accessible for the Americans as any Canadian town that might otherwise be chosen.
- 5th.—That without doubt, should it be entertained at all, the public of Halifax would come forward and give our visitors a hearty welcome.
- 6th.—That we are egotistical enough to think that Halifax could provide three or four, good enough to be on the Canadian Team.

We now leave it in the hands of the Wanderers, but, at the same time would urge them, if they think this worth considering, to be up and doing while yet there is time.

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