

There has been a good deal of preaching and a good deal of practice in the matter of marriage lately; and the "Duchess" especially waxes most eloquent on the subject of the Society girl's idea of matrimony. Now the Duchess writes a good letter, and as a rule talks sensibly enough, but we think that in this instance she is somewhat beside the point. In the first place, she seems to labour under a delusion as to the nature of Halifax society, which is far from being the cold, heartless, aristocratic thing it is in the old country. Ours is essentially a middle-class society, fairly comfortable and not too exclusive, with sufficient heart left for the formation of firm friendships and even true love affairs. Most of the leaders are kind, loyal-hearted women: there is much social injustice,—bitter and cruel sometimes,—but it is chiefly on the part of the *parvenus*, who are two uncertain of their own footing to venture a kind word or deed for anyone else. This is the first and most notable feature of our society.

To return to the starting-point, probably not more than one-half of our society marriages are the result of love affairs. It is of the rest that we have to speak. There is no denying that many of our girls and some of their mammas are dazzled by gold lace and uniform, and by the social distinction that is gained in a garrison town by the possession of a military husband or son-in-law. But looking back over the last few years we cannot deny that the soldiers have chosen some of the best of our fair ones, while the accepted husbands have, as a rule, been men who are as desirable as connections as they are as ornaments. Not always, but very nearly always, this has been the case; and the picture of the pale and trembling bride of 18 forced to the altar with the worn-out old rake of 70 hardly finds its original in Halifax.

We cannot blame parents for looking after the worldly future of their daughters; and we think that true love should be forced to go to the wall unless the prospective husband can make reasonable provision for his intended, or at any rate possesses that grit and moral principle which are certain to insure future success. And on the other hand, a man of good social standing, kindly disposition, and real moral worth is a desirable husband for any girl, even though they are not desperately and wildly in love with one another; and any parent is justified in encouraging such a match.

To resume, and to conclude, there is a great deal too much talked and written about ideas and ways of thinking which can only be carried out to perfection in old and highly artificial societies, among which we do not rank, and do not want to. In the comparatively few cases where Halifax ladies have brought up their children after the tenets of this particular school, the results have been—almost invariably—a dead failure to make a marriage of any creditable kind whatever. And we would like to know that these cases were remembered, and held up as warnings to future generations of those who read of life in cheap novels and society papers, but who know not the society in which they live.

A highly successful concert, organized under the auspices of the Lyric Quartette, was given in the Church of England Institute on Tuesday evening. A large audience, attracted by the excellent programme put forth by those in charge of the arrangement, filled the lecture hall.

The concert opened with Strauss' "Greeting to Spring" by a chorus of ladies, which was fairly rendered, but which would have gone better with the addition of a few male voices. We could not help contrasting it with a rendition that was given in the same place a short time ago by a mixed chorus.

Mr. F. C. Sobeski, who received several encores, was in good voice, and sang, "When the Heart is Young," and "In Old Madrid," in his well-known style. He has rarely done better work. Together with Mrs. Lear he gave the duet, "The Fishermen," in unexceptionable style. Later he sang the quaint little songs, "Celeste," "Two Maidens," and "Boston Cats," interpreting them in a peculiarly happy vein, without which the same songs would not, perhaps,

have been so much appreciated. It is a matter of regret to the music loving public of Halifax that Mr. Sobeski is so soon to leave us. During the too short time he has been with us he has become exceedingly popular as a partner in the firm of Kelly & Co., who have by their artistic productions worked an era in photography in Halifax. As a singer, Mr. Sobeski has always been ready and willing to entertain us with his well-trained and pleasing voice, often at great personal inconvenience; and as a member of society, he has been generally popular, and has formed many warm friendships. His forthcoming departure to Montreal will leave a blank that it will be difficult for another to fill. We trust that ere he leaves us we shall have the pleasure of hearing him sing again, not once or twice, but many times.

Mrs. Clarkson gave "Fiddle and I," and received an encore, as usual, we might say, for she is always popular, and her voice never seems to fail. Mrs. Lear sang of "Cophetua and the Beggar Maid" in excellent style. Her voice has a large range, and she is particularly successful in her low notes. Mrs. Tremaine and Mrs. J. McD. Taylor both did well, the latter giving "The Children's Home," with "All in a Garden Fair" as an encore, in excellent style.

Miss Gladys Tremaine must be congratulated upon her violin obligato, and Miss Clara Tremaine deserves praise for the capable way in which she seconded the vocalists as accompanist.

The final quartette, "Estudiantina," was one of the gems of the evening.

A feature of the entertainment were the recitations of Miss M. Kathleen McGhee, a young lady at present on a visit in the city. She gave evidence of having devoted some considerable study to the art of elocution, her style, though somewhat American, being decidedly interesting and entertaining.

On the whole, we have no hesitation in pronouncing this to be one of the best concerts that have been given in the Church of England Institute for some time.

The programme is subjoined:

- Chorus of ladies' voices—Greeting to Spring Strauss
- Mrs. Lear, Mrs. Clarkson, Mrs. J. McD. Taylor, Mrs. Tremaine,
Miss Copeland, Miss Clark, Misses Bligh and Robinson.
- Song—When the Heart is Young D. Buck
F. C. Sobeski.
- Fiddler and I Goodroo
Mrs. Clarkson.
- Violin obligato, by Miss Gladys Tremaine
- Reading—Abigail's Adventure M. Kathleen Magee
- Duett—The Fishermen Gabusi
Mrs. Lear, Mr. Sobeski.
- Reading—A Story of Old Florence M. Kathleen Magee
- Song—Beggar Maid Barnby
Mrs. Percy Lear.
- Duet—O Swallow, Happy Swallow Kucken
Mrs. Clarkson and Miss Tremaine.

PART SECOND.

- Piano Solo—H. Logan.
- Song—Children's Home F. Cowen
Mrs. J. McD. Taylor.
- Three songs by { A. Celeste, }
- Arthur Macey and { B. Two Maidens, } F. C. Sobeski
- E. P. A. Newcome. { C. Boston Cats, }
- Quartette—Estudiantina Lacom
Mrs. Lear, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Blois,
Violin obligato by Gladys Tremaine.

Rev. Dr. Fowler, the new pastor of St. Matthew's Church, was given a reception last Friday by the members of his congregation. Addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Forrest, Rev. Dr. Fowler, Rev. Dyson Hague and others, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Concerts will be given in the Orpheus Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday next by the Redpath Company, who offer a very good and well varied programme. Miss Chamberlain, the whistling soloist, and Miss Edith Christie, the violinist, are the chief attractions.