

not heard of such torture as that yet in Montreal. It is the fashion among the followers of the favorite reader to either feel, or assume to feel, deep and even tragic interest in the poems selected. The brow is fixed, a solemnity of depth or dulness or vacuity overspreads the countenance, and this is only relieved at intervals where the reader makes a pause, and the intellectual people present exchange glances or nods of appreciation and delight. When the average reader gives the following, for instance, from Robert Browning's Master Hagues of Saxe-Gotha, no one in the audience would admit for an instant that he or she did not understand the meaning of the words, or would fail to certify that it was delightful:

"One dissertates, he is canild;  
Two must discept—has distinguished;  
Three helps the couple if ever yet man did;  
Four protests; five makes a dart at the thing wished;  
Back to one, goes the case bandied."

There are a number of people mentioned by Dickens who are given to readings and recitations and who deluged various characters of his novels, among them the immortal Mr. Pickwick. Mrs. Leo Hunter was one who read her own poems, which she had originally published in the Ladies Magazine and signed with an L and eight stars. Her ode to an expiring frog was one which used to create an immense sensation with her audiences. Two stanzas are worth quoting here:

"Can I view thee panting, lying  
On thy stomach without sighing,  
On a log,  
Expiring frog?"

When this was first repeated to Mr. Pickwick, that gentleman exclaimed with great enthusiasm: "Beautiful." "It is fine," said Mr. Leo Hunter, "it is so simple." "Very," said Mr. Pickwick. "The next verse," said Mr. Hunter, "is still more touching. Shall I read it?" "If you please," said Mr. Pickwick. "It runs thus," said the speaker more gravely:

"Say, have friends in shape of boys,  
With wild halloo and brutal noise  
Hunted thee from marshy joys,  
With a dog  
Expiring frog?"

"It is finely expressed," said Mr. Pickwick.

"All point, sir, all point," returned Mr. Leo Hunter, "and Mrs. Leo can do it justice."

There are few people, professionals or otherwise, who read well; few indeed who will not weary the patience of an audience in an hour. When all is said and done, however, the fact that our people are making efforts to familiarize themselves with the best poets is a



AN IMPRESSIONIST AT WORK.

hopeful sign and indicates that culture will not be permitted to lag behind our material progress. For while we are being bored, we are imperceptibly perhaps, but none the less positively, cultivating a better and higher taste which in the end will find delight in what we may now only tolerate.

See Missing Word Offer. this issue

Society Events, Past and Present.

"There was a sound of revelry last Monday at the St. George's Club house, Cote St. Antoine. The company numbered about 250, who danced merrily to the strains of Gruenwalds' orchestra, which played an excellent selection of dance music. The large ball-room was utilized for dancing, whilst the Octagon was furnished as a charming drawing-room for sitters out. There were many handsome dresses among the fair ones, white being predominant, and large colored sleeves quite de rigueur. Dancing men mustered in large numbers.

Tuesday evening Madame Desjardin, had a very pleasant surprise party.

Madame Amos gave a charming dance for young people on Wednesday.

Mrs. B. J. Coghlin of Sherbrooke street gave an afternoon reception at her house on Thursday. There was a large attendance. A novel feature was the tastefully arranged dining-room, with subdued lights, and six young ladies to serve refreshments. The guests were received in the upper drawing-room by the hostess and her daughter, both looked exceedingly well. The ex-Mayoress was present and looked charming in a rich gown of bronze velvet trimmed with mink fur.

The bal poudre, which is becoming an institution given by Mrs. Wolferston Thomas of Llangorae House, last evening, was a pronounced success, a great number of guests were present, and dancing was kept up with zest. The dresses worn were exceedingly handsome, and the spectacle presented in the ball-room when dancing was in progress was one of great beauty.

Next week promises to be unusually gay.

Mrs. George Drummond, of Sherbrooke street will give a large dance on Monday evening.

The M. A. A. A. are having a dance the same evening. Tuesday night, bal masque at Mrs. George Drummond's, the scene will be a brilliant one!

Mrs. Van Horne will give a dance for young people on the 8th, over two hundred invitations have been accepted.

A smart ball is expected at the Windsor Hotel on Wednesday next.

The second of the series of successful balls given by the Hunt Club takes place on Thursday the 9th.

Mrs. Albert D. Nelson will give a dancing party on February 13th. 170 invitations have been issued, a good time is expected, with so genial a host and hostess as Mr. and Mrs. Nelson. (The dance is given for their son, Mr. Warren Nelson.

The wits of hostesses are becoming more strained than ever in finding gentlemen capable of dancing to attend their parties. Ladies, nimble and graceful, are in abundance, but on the part of men the art of dancing seems to be a vanishing accomplishment.

Crinoline is gradually coming in again. She re-enters to the air of "Steel So Gently O'er Me Stealing."