In Society.

NOT for many a winter has the sleighing been so good, firm and delightful as it is now. Society people are enjoying it to the full. During the week I noticed Mrs. Melfort Boulton, who makes a very charming whip, in an exceedingly smart turnout. Miss Dryman and Mrs. Percival Greene I also remarked looking happy and handsome with plenty of lovely fur robes. Speaking of sleighing reminds me that I have heard several very funny little tales during the week of the many ludicrous contretemps which some sleighing parties have met with. On Friday night the drifts were very bad, so that there were accidents and incidents galore, none of which happily ended seriously. One company of young people, who had gone out of the city for a short distance were unable to return that night and were forced to be resigned to their fate which, however, was an extremely pleasant one, for they danced until early dawn; and the charming hostess, whose amiability was much appreciated, was obliged per force to entertain all night and I have heard that the chaperones were as bright and fresh as any of the party in the morning.

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On Wednesday last a very pretty wedding took place at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. W. T. Dingle, Oshawa, when her daughter, Miss Alice Beatrice Dingle, was married to Mr. Duncan D. Stewart of Winnipeg, the officiating clergyman being Rev. James Kines. The bride was beautifully gowned in white duchess satin, trimmed with Honiton lace, the tulle veil being held in place by a wreath of orange blossoms. The bridal bouquet was a shower of white roses and maidenhair ferns. After the ceremony a reception was held, after which the happy young couple left for a tour of the Eastern States.

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A brilliant wedding was celebrated at Trinity Church, St. John, N.B., on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. Percy Domville of Hamilton was married to Miss Minnie E. Jarvis, daughter of Mr. Wm. Jarvis, the officiating clergyman being Bishop Rugden, assisted by Venerable Archdeacon Brigstoche. After the reception Mr. and Mrs. Domville left for New York, where they will spend their honeymoon.

The at home given by the Young Bachelors' Club in the ball room of the Confederation Life building on Friday evening was a thoroughly enjoyable and very successful affair. The salle a danser is quite too pretty to make decorations a necessity, although on Friday evening the doors and arches were effectively hung with rich portieres in Oriental designs, and here and there curtained off from the main hall were tete-a-tete corners, charmingly improvised. The corridors and numerous ante-rooms made excellent sitting-out places, which with the quantities of inviting fauteuils, divans and soft rugs, were very cosy indeed. Down in the music room at the end of the corridor there was always a merry company, who, proof against the temptation of tripping a measure, however inviting, passed the evening pleasantly with chansons and scherzos. In the ball room Terpsichore held high carnival, and the merry, graceful dancers glided over the glassy surface of one of the best floors in the city. Glionna and his minstrels played in their well-known capital manner, stationed behind and effectually concealed by a miniature forest of palms and foliage plants. Among the dances was a new set of lancers entitled "Young Bachelors." Refreshments were served during the evening at a buffet. At midnight the supper room was thrown open and a very recherche repast was served by Caterer Snow. The tables were tastefully arranged and decorated with flowers and ferns, while the shaded radiance of the lamps was most effective. The last waltz was danced shortly after 2 o'clock, and soon the last guest had departed and an extremely pleasant and delightful affair was brought to a close. The gentlemen who composed the committee and who did so much to make the dance successful, were Messrs. H. J. Harris, president; J. C. Robinson, first vice-president; J. Small, second vice-president; H. E. McMullen, treasurer; W. Power, financial secretary; W.A.W. Smiley, secretary. Floor Committee, Messrs. W. A. Portcous, C. M. McMullen, R. W. T. Williamson, J. M. Murray, F.H. Campbell, J. A. McCausland. Reception Committee, Messrs. J. S. Rear, C. E. Burgess, W. W. Meyers, J. A. McGuane, W. J. Clubb, W. T. Whillans.

Among the pretty gowns, of which there were many, I noticed the following:

Mrs. Lorsh, who was charmingly gowned in white satin, with berthe and trimmings of lace.

Mrs. Pember was gowned in pale pink with trimming of velours and lace.

Miss Schafer was in pale green with sleeves of white silk and bouquet of red roses.

Miss Hozick wore a pretty costume of white china silk, with trimmings of point d'esprit lace.

Miss Mann of Orangeville was in flame-colored silk, with trimmings of chiffon.

Miss Vance wore a dainty gown of white silk, with garniture of turquoise blue velours and satin ribbons.

Miss Kate Murphy was prettily gowned in white corded silk, with trimmings of crimson velours, chiffon and pearls.

Miss Theresa Tymon wore a becoming pink gown, with trimmings of accordeon plaited chiffon and pink satin ribbons.

Miss Burgess was effectively gowned in pink silk.

Miss Kennedy of Orangeville wore a becoming costume of butterup silk and violets.

Miss Reed was in pale blue silk, with chiffon trimmings.

Miss Clarke was prettily gowned in white.

Miss M. Clarke was also in white, with cerise ribbons.

Miss Woodcock wore a lovely costume of Nile green silk, with overdress of silk gauze and green satin ribbons.

Mrs. Holden was in yellow silk, with trimmings of black silk and lace.

Miss Smith wore a dainty heliotrope gown, with berthe trimmings of pretty lace.

Miss Aikens of Orangeville was in Nile green silk, effectively trimmed with black.

Miss Judge looked very well in a pretty gown of white dotted muslin, with white satin ribbon and red roses.

Miss Palmer wore yellow silk, with trimmings of yellow chiffon.

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Mr. George Gooderham of Waveney gave a young people's dance on Friday evening, which was a very delightful affair. An orchestra played very sweetly, and the pretty girls and gay cavaliers tripped right merrily, while bright faces and happy laughter gave evidences of thorough enjoyment. Mrs. Gooderham was assisted by her daughter, Miss Violet, for whom the dance was given and who looked particularly well in a dainty white frock, with trimmings of satin ribbon and lace.

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What gives promise of being a very enjoyable affair is the smoking concert to be given by the Royal Grenadiers' Sergeants' Mess on Friday evening next.

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Cards are out for the annual at home of the Upper Canada College, which will be held on Friday evening, the 15th inst.

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Mrs. Andrew Smith of Jarvis-street gave a delightful young people's "tea" on Monday. Mrs. Smith was assisted by her daughters, Miss Phemie and Miss Jennie Smith. The buffet was presided over by the Misses Gooderham, Winnett and Palmer. Among those present were the Misses Drynan, Mrs. Moffat, Mrs. H. Walker, Mrs. S. Clark, Miss Gale, Mrs. J. J. Dixon, Miss Gooderham, Miss M. Lee, Miss E. Lee, Misses Headley, Miss Love, Mrs. Dr. Elliott, Miss Brown, Mrs. Macarthur, Misses Lee, Miss Morrison, Misses Haton, Mrs. F. Score, Mrs. Galt, Miss Treble, Miss Philps, Miss Saunders, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. McLean, Misses Taylor, Miss Long, Misses Macfarlane.

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Mrs. Dr. Chambers and Mrs. Parks were at home to a large circle of friends on Monday. Among the guests I noticed Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. C. Thompson, Miss Love, Mrs. Boyce Thompson, Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. Dr. Elliott, Mrs. J. J. Dixon, Mrs. Burnside, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. H. Garratt, Mrs. Burden, Mrs. C. Thompson, Mrs. Burnham, Mrs. Mason, Miss Treble, Miss Dixon, Miss Fraser, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Dr. Sheard.

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A most enjoyable piano and song recital was given by the pupils of Mr. Torrington in the College music hall on Friday evening, the pretty little theatre being crowded to the doors, as is invariably the case at these delightful concerts, which have become so popular. The program was of course highly classical, and contained some excellently rendered numbers. Miss Fannie Sullivan played a valse from Faust in her well-known finished manner. Moskowski's valse in E flat major was very charmingly rendered by Miss Turner, as were also the piano solos by Miss McLaughlin, Miss Mansfield and Miss Laudell. Mrs. McCann's sweet voice was heard to great advantage in Grieg's "Sogna d'Amour," and Miss Susie Herson sang Gounod's "Queen of Sheba" with much effect. Miss Annie Elliott and Miss McKay also contributed a couple of pleasingly rendered chansons.

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A pleasant luncheon party was given by Hon. Mr. Gibson and Hon. A. S. Hardy for the President and members of the Canadian Press Association at the Parliament buildings on Friday.

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Miss Stevenson of Bloor-street gave a very enjoyable progressive euchre party on Wednesday evening.

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On Thursday evening Mrs. Brayley of McCaul-street gave a most enjoyable progressive euchre party, followed by a dance. The hostess was assisted by her pretty young daughter, who looked exceedingly well in pale pink, with dainty ribbons and lace. Miss Wilkins won the ladies' first prize, which was very handsome candlestick, while Mr. Piper carried off the gentlemen's prize, a silver tie clasp, prettily chased, and with the date engraved. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Sparlings, Mr. and Mrs. Thrush, Dr. and Mrs. Notman, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Miss Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Score, Miss Score, Miss Keltie of Buffalo, Mr. and Mrs. A. Piper, Miss McGuire, Mr. and Mrs. Doherty, Miss Knell, Berlin, Miss Ida Boon, Miss Hamilton, Mr. Dick Score and Mr. Kirk Brown.

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Cards are out for a conversazione to be held at Trinity College on Tuesday evening next.

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Miss Lillie Sloan of Isabella-street gave a very enjoyable young people's dance on Friday evening.

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The Misses Hedley of St. Joseph-street gave a large progressive euchre party on Saturday evening.

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The monthly hop of the Toronto Canoe Club will be held at the club house on Friday evening next. An orchestra will be in attendance, and a pleasant evening is a foregone conclusion.

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The At Home given by the members of Orient Masonic Lodge on Wednesday evening was a very brilliant affair, and was largely attended. The ballroom was charmingly decorated with bunting and shields bearing mottoes, while palms and ferns, artistically arranged, made an effective background. Refreshments were daintily served at a buffet during the evening. An orchestra played enchantingly and the graceful dancers gliding over the smooth surface of the floor tripped the light fantastic until the wee sma' hours brought a pleasant and thoroughly enjoyable dance to a close. Among the guests were: Dr. and Mrs. Cleland, Mr. and Mrs. Bloong, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Frankland, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Ross, the Misses Melbourne, Mrs. Dickinson, Mr. and the Misses Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Barber, Mr. and Miss Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Waldie, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Mitchell, Mr. and Miss Mitchell, Miss Pape, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Young, Mr. and Miss Mauthie, Miss Russell, Mr. and the Misses Allton, Mr. and Mrs. White, the Misses Struthers, Bright, Martin, E. Russell, McClelland, Gambly, and Messrs. Ross, Hill, Blong, Boyce, Saunders, Ferguson, Walker, Tolhurst, Pearson and numerous others.

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On Thursday evening the second of a series of piano recitals by the pupils of Mr. Edward Fisher was given in the Conservatory of Music Hall before a large and appreciative audience. The program contained 14 numbers, two of which, unfortunately, were obliged to be cancelled, on account of the non-arrival of the performers, and was carried out with rare efficiency and skill. Among the numbers was one of Chopin's nocturnes, which was finely executed by Miss Ina M. Hogg, who was presented with a lovely bouquet of red roses. Miss May Kirkpatrick, who was prettily gowned in white silk faille, played Grieg's Humoresken very charmingly. The jewel song from Faust was sweetly sung by Miss Dora McMurtry, who was becomingly gowned in black silk, with trimmings of violet velvet and lace. Others who took part in the program were Miss Lottie Crozier, Miss Gertrude Pink, Miss Katherine Williams, Miss Ada F. Wagstaff, Miss Anna C. Laidlaw, Miss Katie O'Donoghue, Miss Lily Dundas, Mr. Walter E. Barclay and Master Napier Duraand.

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Mrs. Plummer of Wellesley-street gave a very pleasant tea on Monday afternoon.

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Mrs. Aylesworth of Queen-street west gave an enjoyable young people's dance on Monday evening.

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Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McArthur have returned from their wedding tour and are en menage at 117 Madison-avenue, where Mrs. McArthur will receive on Fridays in February.

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Miss Carrie Smith of Sherbourne-street gave a progressive euchre party on Monday evening.

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Mr. C. H. Ritchie gave a gentlemen's luncheon party on Thursday, at which Hon. George E. Foster and Hon. John Costigan were the guests of honor.

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Mrs. Swabey of Beverley-street gave a tea on Thursday afternoon.

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Mrs. Graham Chambers and her sister, Mrs. Harry Parkes, gave one of the prettiest teas of the season on Monday evening. Among the guests were Mrs. Burnham, Mrs. McFarlane, Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. and Miss Wright, Misses Dixon, Mrs. and Misses Graham, Misses Taylor, Mrs. Elliott, Misses Carty, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Boyce Thompson, Mrs. Todhunter, Miss Mara, Mrs. and Miss Mason, Mrs. James E. Rogers, Mrs. Eddy of New York, Mrs. Garratt, Miss Massie, Mrs. Nevitt, Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. W. H. B. Lean, Mrs. Wishart, Mrs. W. H. B. Aikins, Mrs. Goulding and a number of others.

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A smart little coterie at the Octagon Club one of Tuesday evening was composed of Miss Mills, who wore a lovely gown of yellow silk, and her sister, Miss Emma Mills, effectively gowned in white satin, Mrs. Simpson, Miss Russell of Sherbourne-street, Miss Mackie in black and white striped silk, Miss Knell of Berlin, Miss Taylor and Miss Cecil Day.

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On Tuesday evening a dinner was given at McConkey's for Mr. Howard Chandler by a number of his bachelor friends. Covers were laid for 30. On Wednesday Mr. Chandler was married to Miss Jenny Massey, daughter of the late Charles Massey and granddaughter of Mr. H. A. Massey of Jarvis-street.

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Mrs. McCarthy of Beverley-street gave a dinner party on Thursday evening.

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The banquet given by the Canadian Press Association on Thursday evening was a very bright affair, made brighter by the presence of several ladies who slipped in during the evening to hear the speeches. The tables were very charmingly arranged, being gay with flowers and pretty ferns, and laden with substantial viands and toothsome dainties. Among the litle feminine group were Mrs. G. W. Ross, Mrs. Goldwin Smith, Mrs. Percival Greene, Mrs. Roderick Ryan, Mrs. J. S. Willison and Mrs. Frank Yeigh.

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Mrs. Boultbee of Palmer-road gave a tea on Thursday.

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Society is looking forward with much interest to the dramatic performance to be given by the Trinity University Dramatic Club at the Academy of Music on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 15 and 16. The play chosen is Pinero's "The Magistrate," and the members of the club have been hard at work for the last two months studying their parts and endeavoring to make it the success it is sure to be. In the cast will be Mrs. Cecil Gibson and Miss Heward, who made such a bewitching Bombardini in "Nanon," when that opera was given by the Harmony Club last spring. Miss Shanly, whose histrionic ability is well known in social circles, will also, I believe, be in the cast, as well as several other prominent society belles.

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Mrs. Macdonald of Simcoe-street gave one of the many pleasant teas which were so much in evidence during the week.

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The Mermlo Club will give a dance at the residence of Mrs. Piper, 65 St. Patrick-street, on Monday evening, the 11th inst.

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Miss Maud Thompson gave a progressive euchre party on Wednesday evening.

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The Amethyst Club held their 17th at home in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday evening. It was one of the most successful events held by the club since its organization seven years ago. Prof. William Carkeek furnished the music and W. Tasker the refreshments. The hall was handsomely decorated. Letters of regret at not being able to attend were received from Hon. N. C. Wallace, M.P., Comptroller of Customs; Hon. A. S. Hardy, M.L.A., Commissioner of Crown Lands; Lieut.-Col. Denison, M.P.; Mayor Kennedy and Mr. John Brown. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. B. Alderson, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Pember, Ald. Scott, Ald. Rowe, Ald. Murray, ex-Ald. and Mrs. Booth, Capt. and Mrs. Verral, Capt. Powers President Carberry, vice-Presidents J.D. Hawthorne and F. Edmond, Secretary A. G. Merrit, Misses W. Squirrell, W. J. Smith, J. C. Taylor, R. Ewing, R. Thompson, G. H. Abercrombie, J. H. Christie, T. Nolan, G. B. Leslie, M. J. Ward, R. Holden, W. Wright, H. Goodings, C. Randall, C. Snow, F. Murchison, M. Scanlon, E. S. Bullock, G. Slidders, T. Cuff, H. W. Scott, H. R. McCleary, A. Dodgson, J. Hackett, W. J. Duncan, F. Fowler, D. McDougall, George S. Gray, W. Bodie, G. Lawrence, A. N. Ecclestone, S. Jackson, F. Kerins, E. West, F. Abercrombie, A. E. Paxton, G. W. Wrigley, W. Browning, O. Rowan and J. A. Smith; Misses Ball, Whittie, McKay, Woods, Wilson, Wallace, Kelly, Cohn, Stewart, Murphy, Brown, Thompson, Nicholson, Grant, McNamara, Joyce, Wurhom, Murphy, Gibson, Graham, Randall, Sadler (Whitby), Parnal, Matthews, Chaperon, Bulger, Ross, Arnold, Watson, Lewis, Hayward, McCaffrey, Smith, Sawyer, Gray, Charlton, Harding, Watson, Johnston, Harrison, Weldon and Smith. A very enjoyable evening was spent. The club's affairs this year are in a flourishing condition, and they will close their season the end of this month. The officers are: Hon. President, J. J. Wood; Hon. vice-presidents, ex-Ald. Booth and Verral; president, J. E. Carberry; vice-presidents, J. D. Hawthorne and Frank Edmond; secretary, A. G. Munt; treasurer, Capt. Powers; Executive Committee, A. N. Ecclestone, E. S. Bullock, W. Squirrell, G. H. Abercrombie and W. Browning.

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Gay were the crowd and handsome the costumes worn by those who attended the first masquerade party given by the Elite Club on Wednesday evening. Among the most noticeable were:

Ladies: Miss Susie Henry, flower girl; Miss L. Baldwin, winter by moonlight; Miss N. Nolan, Spanish dancing girl; Miss Alma Noble, starlight; Miss May Hawley, Marguerite; Miss Aggie Noble, typical Italian tambourine girl; Miss M. Parrott, choru sgirl; Miss Ida Hawley, Marie Tempest; Miss Katie Sloan, Spanish gypsie; Miss Dora McKerihan, Turkish girl; Miss S. Parrott, chorus girl; Miss Ella Braden, Watteau shepherdess; Miss B. Waring, night; Miss Young, Queen of Sheba; Miss L. Girtwood, sunflower; Miss A. Maclea, night; Miss Taylor, college girl; Miss Sharp, Mary Queen of Scots; Miss Pickering, fairy; Miss Armstrong, fairy; Mis sLittleton, peasant girl.

Gentlemen: S. F. Ewens, George Washington; Edgar Lee, Richard III.; F. McKerihan, student; E. Berkinshaw, Spanish cavalier; W. Noble, king of the miners; C. Morris, Aunt Dinah; F. Halls, Herman; J. Baldwin, Irishman; H. Mephisto; W. Henry, Spaniard; G. Stewart, Frenchman; R. Mcerrihan, Joe Murphy; H. Mcerrihan, Faust; J. Walker, Mexican; J. Parrott, Italian Count; D. Cowling, cowboy; G. Jones, band boy; A. Best, clown; F. Ledeman, sport; E. Allen, general; H. Butchart, sport; O. Gilpin, king.

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The Rescue Club of the city held its annual dance and supper Friday evening at the Ontario House, Kingston-road. The Rescue Club is a bating organization, having its headquarters in the Esplanade. It is an exclusive affair of but 10 members, but its guests Friday night numbered some 120. A very pleasant evening was spent. There were a number of songs and speeches, and the dancing was greatly enjoyed. The hall was prettily decorated with flags and evergreen, and at the end of the room in many colored letters, on a background of white, were the words: "The Rescue Club Welcomes its Friends." The President of the club is Mr. Thomas Chapman. Mr. R. Smith is the Vice-President and Mr. James Geddes the Secretary. The club has two iceboats and a yacht, and is therefore well equipped for the sport all the year round.

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The Masonic Hall in Bolton-avenue was Wednesday night a scene of unusual brilliance and gaiety, the occasion being the annual At Home of the Orient Lodge, A.F. and A.M. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags and colored bunting, while the usually bare pillars in its centre were wreathed in evergreens. On the walls were shields, witht he Union Jack displayed upon them, and such mottoes as "Our Queen," "Our Country," "Our Craft," "Our D.D.G.M.," in their centre. The windows of the hall were draped with chenille curtains, while the rchestra was profusely ornamented with palms and flowers. About 9 o'clock the company began to arrive, among those present being: Ald. and Mrs. Bloug, Dr. G. S. and Mrs. Cleland, Misses Emma and Jessie Melbourne, Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Bright, Miss Jones, Mr. W. J. and Mrs. Chick, Ald. and Mrs. Frankland, Mr. John Jones, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Vick, Mr. Raymond Walker, Miss McClelland, Miss Perks, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lewis, Rev. W. Bates, Mr. Allston and the Misses Allston, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bates, Mr. G. H. Bailey, Mr. A. E. Walton, Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Bertha and Lena Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Gillio, Mrs. Dickinson and a great number of others.

There were many lovely gowns worn by the ladies present. Mrs. Cleland was tastefully gowned in white satin with yellow sleeves, Mrs. Jones of Parkdale wore black silk with jet ornaments, her daughters were the eldest in black satin with pale blue trimmings, and the youngest in cream crepon. Miss Clara Bright's dress was of cream cashmere, as was also that worn by Mrs. Gillis. Miss Melbourne's dress of white silk, trimmed with Point D'Alencon lace and violets, was greatly admired, as was also the charming costume of pink velours, trimmed with smilax and maidenhair ferns, worn by her sister, Miss Jessie. Mrs. Blong was in black silk, and there were many more striking costumes.

Glionna's band furnished the music, and Tasker was the caterer, which duty he performed admirably.

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Here is a charming bit of poetry entitled "The Woman View," by Clare Beatrice St. George, which I clipped from a paper recently:

Aye dearer than your laurels twined,
Or pride of station, power and birth,
Love sits within the breast enshrined
The dearest gift of earth!
What are the gems the words of praise,
The haughty blood of vanished kings,
The envied power, the gilded bays!
Love something dearer brings.

Better to be mere woman, loved
And loving, than a mighty queen
By no soft, tender whisper moved
From her calm state serene;
Better to know a child's soft hand
With rose-leaf palm against your own,
Than stand fame-crowned, within the land,
A conqueror—but alone.

And all the pride of haughty blood
Were worthless as a broken spell
Lacking that crown of womanhood—
A heart that loves you well.
Seek your ways and live to prove
How honors fade and pleasures fall
Without the master touch of love,
Whose power exceeds them all.

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I have just thought of a few hints which might be called "Theatre Dont's for Women." Here they are:

Don't walk in fifteen minutes after the curtain has gone up.

Don't on any account wear a large hat. A small one is much more suitable, or better still remove your hat so that the people behind you will be given an opportunity of seeing the stage and of admiring your pretty coiffure.

Don't rush past those who are already seated without a word of apology for the momentary inconvenience.

Don't throw yourself into your seat. Unnecessary noise should be avoided and other people's nerves considered.

Don't take half an hour to get properly settled and then begin an animated conversation with your friends when those around you are patiently endeavoring to hear what is being said upon the stage.

Don't go in evening dress if you have serious doubts as to the nature of the play. What could be more ridiculous or incongruous than a decollete gown at a variety performance!

Don't talk in too loud a tone. Your private affairs are of no moment to people within ten yards of you.

Don't keep continually turning in your seat. Unless you are a society reporter you needn't twist your neck trying to see who is occupying the seventh seat of the tenth row behind you.

Don't take this advice too seriously, and follow it only as your fancy dictates.

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Mr. and Mrs. George Crawford of Church-street gave a delightful musicale on Wednesday evening. Among those present were: Com. and Mrs. Law, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mrs. and Miss Sherwood, Mrs. Rutherford, the Misses Rutherford, Mrs. G. Bolton, Miss Armour, Mr. and Mrs. Barwick, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Duggan, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Rutherford, Mrs. and Misses Elmsleys, Mr. and Mrs. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. C. Pipon, Mr. Harry Nelles, Mr. B. Spratt and many others.

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Mrs. James Plummer gave an enjoyable At Home for her daughter last Monday. Miss Plummer was prettily gowned in yellow and was assisted in looking after her guests by Miss Lash and Miss Macdonald. Among those present were: The Messrs. Mockridge, Miss Mockridge, Miss W. Rae, Miss Rae, Miss Ross, The Misses Crombie, Wragge and Brough, Miss Kirkpatrick, Miss Temple, Mr. W. A. Smith, the Misses Smith, Mr. and Miss Hoskins, Mr. Fred Burritt, Miss Burritt, Miss Grice, the Misses Macdonald, Miss Paton, Miss Bunting, Miss Macdougall, Miss Gosling, the Messrs. Jones, Buchan, Moss and Beatty.

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The Octagon Club held another enjoyable dance in the Art Gallery on Tuesday evening. The Art Gallery is a charming place for an affair of the kind, no decorations being necessary to make it prettier than it is. Glionna's orchestra played excellent dance music and light refreshments were daintily served at a buffet during the evening. The floor was in splendid condition, a fact which was much appreciated and favorably commented upon by the guests, of whom there were about two hundred. By midnight the last dance had been gayly and lightly tripped and a pleasant evening was brought to a close. Among the pretty gowns I noticed Mrs. May in black and pink striped satin with trimmings of Spanish lace; Miss May looking very pretty in rose pink silk with chiffon trimming; Mrs. Dixon looked charming as usual in a very becoming gown; Miss Florrie Smyth was prettily gowned in pale pink silk crepon with pink satin ribbons; Miss Dubois wore a dainty pink silk waist and dark skirt; Miss Augustine Dubois was in black and white; Miss Taggart wore a costume of flame color crepon trimmed with chiffon; Miss Sinclair wore an effective gown of brown velours with trimming of Irish point. Another lovely toilet which was worn by a pretty young girl was of white silk faille with trimmings of white chiffon.

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The next dance on the tapis which is being looked forward to with much pleasant anticipation by the younger members of society is the Osgoode At Home, which will be held on Friday evening next, and which promises to be a very enjoyable affair. The patronesses are: Mesdames Allen, B. Aylesworth, Walter Barwick, J. K. Kerr, Z. A. Lash, D'Alton McCarthy, Charles Moss, Frank Mackelcan, B. B. Osler, Christopher Robinson, C. H. Ritchie, W. R. Riddell, G. T. Shepley and G. H. Watson.

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Mrs. McGuire of St. Patrick-street was At Home to a large number of friends on Friday afternoon of last week. The rooms were prettily decorated with roses, palms and ferns, the over mantels being banked with flowers. An orchestra played very sweetly in the reception hall during the afternoon. Mrs. McGuire was richly gowned in black satin trimmed with lace and pink velours. She was assisted in receiving by her daughters. Mrs. Notman wore a lovely costume of white satin trimmed with Honiton lace, Miss McGuire being in pale pink crepon with pink satin ribbons. A bevy of pretty girls in pink and white gowns preside at the charmingly arranged buffet, which was laden with dainty and appetizing trifles. The decorations were mostly in pink and white, the soft glow of the fairy lights and lamps being very effective. Among the guests I remarked Mrs. T. W. Dyas, Mrs. Maclean, Mrs. and Miss Brayley, Mrs. A. Piper, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. and Miss Abbott, Mrs. Arthur Dinnis, Mrs. Richard Dinnis, Mrs. Doherty and about one hundred others.

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On Monday evening Queen City Lodge I.O.O.F. held their annual At Home in the hall at Yonge and College-streets. The ball room was charmingly decorated with bunting and flags, while palms and foliage plants were also largely used and with much effect. An orchestra played capital dance music and a very recherche supper was served at midnight. During the earlier part of the evening an excellent musical program was presented, the following artists taking part: Mrs. Jury, Miss May Flower, Miss Shipe and Messrs. Frank Wright, Crawford, O'Malley and Ziller. At the conclusion of the program dancing was indulged in and it was after 2 o'clock when the pleasant affair came to an end. Among the guests were Dr. E. E. and Mrs. King, Mr. and the Misses Williams, Rev. Mr. Wonde, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. King, Mr. and Mrs. James Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. T. Cleghorn, Mr. and Mrs. John Irwin, Dr. Bowie, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. George Mortimer, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Munro, Mr. and Mrs. William Foster, the Misses Howard, Martin, Russell and Messrs. Blackett Robinson, Chris. Robinson, Irwin, Oliver, Sinclair, Dr. Trow and many others.

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The third dance of the Octagon Club will be held in Art Gallery on Tuesday evening, Feb. 12.

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On Monday evening the employes of the Dominion Express Company held a very jolly smoking concert in the Auditorium, which was filled to the doors with a jovial company of the "boys," who wafted the blue rings of smoke upwards with delightful complacency and assiduity. During the evening an excellent concert was given, in which the following artists took part: Messrs. H. R. Burr, A. E. Ecclestone, T. H. Benson, John Young, F. G. McKay, H. C. Johnson, R. W. Cleghorn, A. G. Fraser, O.E. Foote, F. W. Hoover, J. Clarke, J. S. Gilley, W. Oakley, Bender, G. Mowat, H. C. Anderson, J. H. Seels, J. Barron, D. Barron, F. Rhodes, J. Harvey, C. M. Lloyd, F. McBride, John Blackhall, F. Drebes and W. A. Mackenzie.

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The Misses Helliwell of Brunswick-avenue gave a very enjoyable "topic" party on Monday evening, Italian Count being the topic. The affair was both interesting and amusing and proved to be a delightful manner in which to pass a pleasant evening, as the many gay young people present could testify.

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The many friends of Mrs. Percy Beatty will be sorry to hear of the serious illness of herself and young son, who are suffering from an attack of diphtheria.

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Beaver Tent No. 4, K.O.T.M., held their annual ball at Liederkranz Hall on the 25th ult. There was a large and fashionably-dressed assembly. The floor was in excellent condition, the music all that could be desired and the supper was appetizing and dainty.

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The Elite masquerade party held in Stewart's parlors, Yonge and Gloucester-streets, on Wednesday evening, was a pronounced success. The following gentlemen composed the Committee of Management: W. Noble, E. McMaster, D. Cowling, J. Parrott, F. Lederman, D. Elliott, G. McPherson, F. Baldwin and J. Walker.

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Everybody will grieve with Mrs. Harry Piper, wife of the ex-alderman, over the sad bereavement that befell her early morning, the second in a short time. Mrs. Piper returned, ten days or a fortnight ago, from a visit to her former home at Louisville, Ky., where she had been on a visit to sorrow-afflicted relatives, only to find that another brother, Mr. Sidney H. Harthill, who had been staying at her house for some time and working in her husband's office, was dangerously ill. At first there was very little hope of his recovery but daily he became weaker, and early on Friday morning he breathed his last. The remains were sent the same evening for burial at Louisville. Mrs. Piper wished to accompany them, but was prostrated too ill from sorrow and fatigue from assiduous care for Mr. Piper to think of such a thing, while he himself could not go, as he dared not leave his wife at such a juncture. The funeral to the station was very quiet and entirely of a family nature.

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The society event of the coming week will undoubtedly be the annual "At Home" of the Osgoode Hall Legal and Literary Society, to be held on Friday evening next. Every effort is being made to ensure the success of the affair, and the committee are assured that this year's venture will far excell that of any previous year. The hall is being handsomely furnished throughout, and special music is being prepared for the occasion. Dancing will be carried on in the large library, convocation hall and the law school wing, and to guard against any confusion, electric bells have been placed in psition throughout the building, so that each dance will commence simultaneously in the various halls. Among those who have already accepted the Society's invitations are: Sir Charles Hibbert and Lady Tupper, the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Kirkpatrick, the Hon. Richard and Mrs. Harcourt, the Hon. J. M. and Mrs. Gibson, and many others.

DONNA.

DEAN HOLE ON THE THEATRE.

He Regards It With Favor and Would Like to See a House Endowed For the Benefit of the Masses.

Being interviewed in New York on his opinion of the drama and the theatre, the Very Rev. Dean Hole, Toronto's recent visitor, said:

"Of late years there has been a growing liberality on the part of the clergy toward the drama. They are more inclined to favor dramatic representations than they were formerly. At the same time there are so many plays presented to the public that are objectionable, sometimes even profane, that the theatregoer must exercise considerable discrimination in his election of this kind of amusement. At the large London theatres, however, it may be said that a considerable number of the clergy may generally be seen when such actors as Henry Irving and Beerbohm Tree appear in the representations."

"What about the prejudice among the clergy in England against the theatre?"

"Much of the innate prejudice on the part of some clergymen toward the stage—what, for instance, in England is termed the 'Evangelical' element—had its origin many years ago. It is due to the fact that when Christianity was established the Roman theatre was very corrupt. For this reason there grew up considerable antagonism between the church and the stage. But this feeling became so much modified in the middle ages that the church itself had dramatic representations of its own.

"The plays I most enjoy, when my work and engagements permit me to visit the theatre, are those of Shakespeare. But I have found in reading a very large number of well-known dramatic productions that have been written within the last century and a half that the ultimate teaching of those dramas has been to decry the vicious and to exalt the virtuous element."

"Do you think that art and morality have anything to do with one another—whether a play should simply picture life as it is, or should aim to inculcate a moral?"

"The object of the drama is, as Shakespeare so happily expressed it, 'to hold the mirror up to nature.' The drama is an immense power, and is able to teach morality or immorality. A play may have a good or bad influence, depending on the manner in which this power is used. The dramatist may use the gifts which have been given him wisely, or he may abuse them for the purpose of gain, or to win the applause of the evil-minded. But certainly the object of the dramatic and all art should be to teach us to love the true, the beautiful and the good, or, at the very least, we should not be led to despise them."

"Have you seen the plays of the Oscar Wilde type?"

"I have not seen any of that class of plays in which the shallowness of fashionable social life is exposed. I know Oscar Wilde, however, and I do not see how such productious as they have been described to me can work a harmful influence. All that can be said of them is that they are clever, flippant, evanescent.

"A writer in the last issue of The Westminster Review truly observes that while money is often left to charitable institutions of various kinds, it would be a good idea if the rich would sometimes leave a bequest for the purpose of founding a theatre where recreation could be furnished to the masses. This is an excellent suggestion. Give the masses good, wholesome plays. I am glad to encourage anything in this line, provided it is wholesome, that will refresh the weary and hard-working people of our day. The dramatic instinct is born in us. It crops out in children of all ages. This instinct, if properly guided, can be used to a good purpose, refreshing our jaded systems with amusement and furnishing us oftentimes a certain amount of instruction.

"The writer in the same periodical I have just referred to suggests the idea that as the theatre has improved so much of late years, it may be possible that the actor will in the future be regarded not only as an entertainer but as an educator as well. Of course, the theatre will be made more educational than it is, but it is a question whether it would be wise to have it so. People do not go to the theatre primarily to be educated, and they certainly do not want to be bored. They must take their pill in a spoonful of preserves as we used to do when we were children. The masses that have been to work all day do not care to be lectured at in the evening."

"It is needless to ask if you believe in amusement?"

"The prime necessity for wholesome amusement has long been recognized by the liberal-minded clergy of England. Many years ago Rev. A. K. H. Boyd, a clergyman of the Church of England, and a well-known writer of essays, said in one of his articles that in every town he would like to see a church at one end of it and a theatre at the other. I subscribe to that sentiment making these amusements that I would like to see a recreation ground in the middle where outdoor games and sports could be indulged in, and some better houses in each settlement for the workingman.

"It has been suggested that it might be feasible before long to have a free theatre for the masses. The writer in The Westminster Review, already referred to, says it might be a good idea to have a traveling theatre which would go from town to town exhibiting at certain times, much the same as one clergyman preaches, in rotation, at several churches in a given district. All I can say in regard to that is that we have had those traveling companies in England for many years. When I was a boy the bands of strolling players, as they were called, were very common. But I disagree with the other point the writer has made. I do not think that what we call the common people care very much for that which is gratuitous. It is curious, but they seem to think that which they can obtain very cheaply or for nothing can hardly be of the best quality. But, of course, the suggestion is well meant, and involves an experiment which some day may be tried, and which may prove to be more successful than can now be imagined."

A GIGANTIC GEYSER OF OIL.

Flowed Fourteen and a Half Million Gallons in Twenty-Four Hours.

The Kirkbridge No. 1 oil well, of which we give an illustration, is located in Madison township, Sandusky county, Ohio. The flow of oil commenced Nov. 18. The spectacle is described as one of the most magnificent ever witnessed in that part of the country. First appeared a column of water rising eight or ten feet in the air. This was followed by a black stream of mud and sand, which gradually changed into oil. Then, with a de