

CITY CHIMES.

We have had a little sunshine this week, which has been received with truly thankful hearts; so humble have we become during the long siege of falling rain that even the smallest favors in the weather line are gratefully accepted. The social life of this city has been very much in *statu quo* for the past week, and with the exception of the opera at the Academy there has been little going on in the way of amusement. This month usually affords many delightful days for walking and driving, and now that the thirsty earth has been well satisfied with refreshing showers, we may confidently hope that we will have the remainder of October dry and pleasant.

AT THE ACADEMY.—The opera has been the attraction of the week for the pleasure seeking public, and splendid houses have ruled. The Grau Company deserves the support it has received, and doubtless will be largely patronized during the remainder of its stay in Halifax. On Monday and Tuesday "Boccaccio" was put on and excellently presented. Mrs. Cario, as Boccaccio, was very pleasing, her line face and figure at once winning the approval of the audience and her strong sweet voice delighting every musical ear. Miss Mason has already many friends among Halifax theatregoers, and this season is quite as lovely as of yore. Her "Fiametta" was excellent, the sweet, demure maiden who blossomed into a magnificently attired Princess, being one of the most charming characters of the play. Miss Bessie Fairbairn as Peranola was especially good, her acting was vivacious and expressive, and her impersonation of the lady who felt that at her age every minute counts, created much amusement. Little Miss Bernard, who is also well known on the Halifax stage, was very bright and played well the part of the cooper's coquettish spouse. The other ladies of the company are fair to see, good singers and well up in their respective parts. Messrs. T. H. Porsse and Herman Wado have fine voices, and as the Prince and the student friend of Boccaccio were very good. The three members of the company who take charge of the funny business are splendid. Stanley Felch, with his irresistibly droll expressions and quaint manner, would make a man laugh in spite of himself. I could not but think, as I laughed and applauded with the rest of the audience on Tuesday evening, of the answer given by the merchant, who, having accumulated a vast property, was still hard at work adding to his store, a though well on in years. Upon being asked by a neighbor how much wealth he supposed would satisfy a human being, after a short pause, made answer—"A little more." How often the people would have enjoyed hearing Miss Fairbairn's hunting song, witnessing the festive widows in their dance, and barking to the amusing Stanley Felch's songs it would be hard to say. Encore after encore was given. The chorus of the Grau is clear and strong, and altogether the company is sure to please. "Dorothy" was given Wednesday and last evenings and is on to-night and to-morrow afternoon. The "Bohemian Girl" will be given to-morrow night.

HALIFAX NOT TAKEN YET.—Tuesday was a busy day in military circles. At an early hour the stately *Blake*, accompanied by H. M. S. *Tartar*, steamed out of the harbor and took up position preparatory for the attack which had been planned on our well-defended city. After an inspection of the 66th P. I. F., the 63rd Rifles, the H. G. A. and the 8th King's regiments on the common, the troops were marched to the several forts which guard the city, with flags flying and bands playing merrily. At about two o'clock the war began in earnest. The *Tartar* succeeded in landing a detachment of sailors at York Redoubt, and a lively fight ensued. The boys of the 63rd and the Royal Artillery had a hard tussle here, and a very sad accident occurred taking away much of the enjoyment of the sport. A young sailor off the *Tartar*, belonging to H. M. S. *Mohawk*, while ramming home the charge in a field gun, had his right arm badly shattered and his left hand lacerated. He was brought to the city and placed in the hospital. The poor fellow suffered terribly. Meanwhile the fight went on. At York Redoubt, McNab's Island, at the head of the Arm and down the Herring Cove road the brave soldiers were kept busy repulsing the attacks of the enemy, and our volunteers covered themselves with honor. The mimic war was brisk while it lasted, but the forts defending our shores did good work, and though the attack was cleverly planned and well executed the naval troops did not succeed in capturing the station. The ships returned to their piers before dusk, and the landmen arrived in the city early in the evening after a hard but interesting day's work.

PROF. MACMECHAN'S OPENING LECTURE.—Prof. Macmechan's first lecture of the course to be given on Tuesday afternoons in the Assembly Hall of the school for the Blind, was delivered this week. The audience was small, and I understand the prospects for a large class are not very encouraging. The subject of these lectures is "The effect of the French Revolution on English Literature," and Professor Macmechan is well fitted to impart much valuable information. Perhaps however the number of Halifaxians who are interested in this subject is not large which may account for the small audience that enjoyed the opening lecture of the course this week.

FOOTBALL.—From this date forward enthusiastic footballists will have plenty of exercise in their favorite sport. The trophy series opens to-morrow afternoon, when the United Services play the Wanderers on the grounds of the latter. The Army and Navy decided to unite their teams, and hence the schedule of the series was changed. As it stands now there will be six games played. The second match comes off on Wednesday the 18th between the United Services and Dalhousie. Of course every body will turn out to-morrow to see the fun, and each other.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING.—The ladies are beginning to talk Christmas gifts, and some of them have actually got to work at the dainty and useful articles which are designed to convey loving greetings to dear ones at the glad Christmas time. I noticed in a city book store this week a copy of one of the Xmas supplements of an English illustrated magazine. These little facts are very suggestive of the approach of winter.

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PASS YOUR PAPERS ON.—There has been quite a little talk over the Lady Aberdeen Society recently organized in this city. The object of the Society, of which Mrs. Montgomery Moore is head, is to provide books and papers for the settlers in the Northwest, surely a praiseworthy idea and one to which it would be thought no objection could be offered. However the absurd view taken by one western paper has but served to call attention to the organization which will no doubt receive more widespread sympathy and aid in its charitable work than would have been the case had it not been brought so prominently before the public by the comments which called for defence by our local papers. The Society has now enlarged its scope, taking in our own province as well as the Northwest. There are a large number of homes in Nova Scotia, and I imagine there are quite a number in our city, into which a book or paper is rarely taken, and it is greatly to be hoped that the kind hearted people of Halifax who have enjoyed the contents of good books, magazines and papers will take the trouble to forward parcels of these to the Lady Aberdeen Society for judicious distribution. I am not speaking authoritatively, but I do not imagine that it is necessary that the papers so contributed be invariably of late issue, probably magazines and other periodicals published months or years ago would be very welcome to those who are compelled to forego the delights of reading on account of the lack of something to read. We are all too apt to be very selfish in this matter. In how many families are magazines and papers allowed to accumulate, and are packed away into garret closets to be unused for years, when if after having been read they were passed on to some less fortunate homes they might accomplish much good and would assuredly give inestimable pleasure. The circulation of good literature is an effectual method of educating the people, and it would be well if the motive which prompted the organization of the Lady Aberdeen Society were more generally felt by each one of us.

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