

Society Notes.

Clearly we are not so methodical as our neighbouring and rival city, St. John, or we should know all about the incomes of all our professional men, even to the poor parson who nets one hundred dollars per annum. Does anyone want to score off the proud capital of New Brunswick? If so, let him open a subscription-list for this unfortunate, who is expected to preach the gospel and visit the sick or such a pittance. Why, poor fellow, he might as well turn school-master!

After all, the incomes stated are according to the assessment, made with a view to taxation. They must therefore be taken *en quodam*, due allowance being made for the truthfulness (or otherwise) of the assessee, and the leniency of the assessor. Now suppose, for example, we put the "personal equation" (or error in judgment caused by a desire to pay small taxes) at 75% for the lawyer, and zero for the parson, and the deduction made by the assessor at zero in the one case (through fear of litigation) and 10% in the other (through human sympathy), what are the actual incomes? And, supposing the doctors reckoned in their bad debts, what *wouldn't* their incomes be? And, finally, don't St. John school-masters get any incomes;—or aren't they considered "professionals?"

"Gaseous" is really very readable, though over-fond of mystery. The tale in Saturday's *Mail* about the young man who went "pot-hunting," and started by narrowing the circle of his visiting acquaintances to 2 or 3, is the tale of an Ass. It would be a very dense young man that didn't know that the best way to secure any particular "pot" is to appear to be a general favourite with the fair sex. As though any one could win a prize in the marriage lottery by dropping all appearance of a good social position! Perhaps "Gaseous" made a mistake after all, and the real fact of the case is that the poor young man had something better to do. Perhaps, even, the unfortunate fellow had to earn his living!

We started at the beginning by defining "Society" (*not* OUR SOCIETY) as a concourse of those with little or nothing to do, and we are prepared to defend that position. A working doctor or lawyer may be a great social favourite, and welcome everywhere, but if you reckon on finding him at every afternoon tea, you will probably be disappointed. The most he can do as a rule is to just take a look in, and vanish; and often he is too tired even to do that.

Mrs. Henry and Miss Phyllis Noyes have left Cheltenham for Gibraltar, where they intend to spend the winter.

The offer of the city contractor to remove our ashes *from our yards* at the rate of 25 cents per week for each house will be jumped at by most of us. At the same time, this is not the sweeping reform we have been led to expect; many people are more anxious about the evil effects of their neighbors' accumulating rubbish-heap than of their own, and it is small consolation to have the cost of keeping your premises sweet and wholesome slightly reduced, so long as your neighbor is at liberty to store up all his refuse for five months against your boundary wall.

It is amusing to read the *naive* accounts of the accidents and narrow escapes of Halifax youths while engaged in the too popular sport of coasting down the city slopes. The general feeling seems to be, "Poor little fellows! What a narrow escape, to be sure! Why couldn't the nasty car-man pull up his team sooner?" One of these days—as sure as fate—either the poor little fellow, or the unwary foot passenger will be killed outright, and then what a fuss there'll be! The chief of police will at once give instructions to his subordinates, and the press will cry out, with one accord, "Why wasn't something done before?" What we want to know is, why the press doesn't take the initiative, and bully the lives out of the authorities till they *do* make a decided step towards removing this public nuisance.

A point of social etiquette, which seems to be little understood, or, if understood, very badly acted up to, is that to anything but a bachelor entertainment a man cannot be asked without his wife. This has been very forcibly brought under our notice during the past week, for almost every entertainment a certain number of invitations are issued to what may be called official guests, that is, to those who, from position or circumstances, may fairly consider that they have a *right* to be asked. In such cases it is sometimes supposed to be sufficient to send a card to men, and not to their wives, and we cannot give too much emphasis to the fact that it is abominably bad taste to do so—when it is a strictly bachelor affair. Far better to forget a man altogether:—"whom the cap fits," etc.

Prince George of Wales is to be raised to the Peerage as Duke of York. The associations connected with the title are certainly not very cheerful, but it is to be hoped that our popular sailor-prince will avert the omen.

It is not improbable that we shall have a still more junior race of junior subalterns in the service within a year or so. At a large conference of Headmasters, held at Oxford lately, it was strongly recommended that the maximum age of admission to Sandhurst should be reduced from 20 to 19; as the motion was carried *unanimously* and forwarded to the Civil Service Commissioners, it is highly probable that it will be acted upon.

Miss Laine's first recital is fixed for Thursday, the 22nd inst. and the Orpheus concert for the following Thursday.

The annual meeting of the R. N. S. Yacht Squadron was held last night at the Club House.

The George Munro Day Celebration at Dalhousie is the only other large event of the week. We are giving a detailed account in another place.

We are sorry to hear that the Rev. Father Ellis, of St. Mary's, will be obliged to spend the remainder of the winter in Bermuda, and hope to see him well and strong again before the spring is over.

The Red Caps' Ball at Freemason's Hall last Friday, was a great success.

The ram of Monday was useful in washing the ice and snow off the side-walks, which for the most part are now clear.

There has been skating on the North West Arm since Sunday. The ice has been perfect, and every afternoon has drawn many skaters.

The first carnival comes off at the rink on Monday the 19th. There do not, at present, seem to be many rumours about the costumes that will be worn.

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