

## CITY CHIMES.

Such overwhelming success but rarely rewards the efforts of theatrical companies playing in Halifax as that which has crowned the Baker Opera Company during the present season. That the Company merits the crowded and enthusiastic audiences which they have had throughout the four weeks they have performed at the Academy, no one can deny, and their excellent presentations of popular operas have been a source of much pleasure to pleasure-seeking Halifaxians. "The Black Hussar" was given on Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week and was well carried through. An especially attractive feature was the introduction of the Leicestershire band, the members appearing in the uniforms of the Black Hussars. Mr. Armand took the part of Herbert, the Captain of the Hussars, in a most creditable manner. His acting is excellent and his fine tenor voice never fails to charm his auditors. Mr. A. E. Arnold as Walderman was perhaps a little stiff, but withal gave an acceptable impersonation. The comedians Wolff and Wooley were very good, the inimitable Wooley as Piskow delighting his audience with his clever acting and witty remarks. Miss Maude Dickeson and Miss Irene Murphy as Minna and Rosetta, Hackenback's daughters, were very charming and took well their parts. Their voices are unmistakably sweet and well cultivated, but are not as strong as might be desired in their solos. Miss Josie Intropidi as Barbara was a typical housekeeper. The chorus in the "Black Hussar" was very pleasing, though not doing as good work as it has given us in some previous plays. "Oivette" was on on Wednesday and last evenings, and was given at a matinee yesterday. This evening and to-morrow "Princess To To" is on the programme, and will probably draw large houses, as this is the first time it has been given in this city. Managers Baker and Clarke are to be congratulated on the success with which their praiseworthy work has met. The programme for next week is as follows: On Monday and Tuesday evenings "The Brigands" will be played; "Three Black Cloaks" is on for Wednesday and Thursday, and on Friday and Saturday evenings and at the matinee on Saturday "Nanon" will be given. The last two will be new to many Halifaxians, and will no doubt be well worth hearing.

It is possible that even in Halifax there are a few unhappy individuals who feel they have nothing to be grateful for, but assuredly not any of our citizens whose dwellings are supplied with water from the high service entertained any such feelings on Sunday last, when on arising from their downy couches they discovered that the water was "on." It passes a joke when for three days not a drop of the sparkling fluid that is so essential to us passes through the water pipes that supply one's house, but such an occurrence serves to make us appreciate more fully our abundant water supply. The story of how the scraper got stuck while cleaning one of the pipes on Thursday last is now ancient history. To the services of our city engineer and foreman Morrison of the water department, who were unceasing and indefatigable in their efforts to locate the lost scraper, is due much credit, and they had the heartfelt gratitude of a large number of households on Sunday morning when the water once more began to flow, muddy though it was. It soon cleared, however, and in a few hours all was as though the refractory scraper had not chosen to remain in the main pipe for three days.

St. Patrick's juvenile minstrels gave a performance last evening in St. Patrick's Hall which will be repeated this evening. The programme includes several late songs, and those who attend will no doubt find much amusement.

The next entertainment of the Church of England Institute's winter course will be a concert to take place on the 24th inst.

When THE CRITIC appears this week our day of national thanksgiving will be past, and all grateful Canadians will have unitedly rendered thanks to the Giver of all the countless blessings which we as a nation and as individuals enjoy. As our staff for the day dropped the regular work I cannot give any account whatever of the amusements provided for the public. The concert last evening in Orpheus Hall gave every promise of being a success, and I have no doubt was quite as enjoyable as had been anticipated. This entertainment with the performance at the Academy were the principal attractions last evening.

"Umbrellas, shutters, mackintoshes, rain!  
Above, an inky monotone of grey;  
Below, street puddles, ring'd with raindrops play;  
Such is the prospect from my patter'd pane."

and has been for some time past. November is treating us very badly and we have had little pleasant weather since the dark month came in. In many parts of the province the first snow of the season has made its appearance, but a brief flurry on Sunday last is the only glimpse of the beautiful that we in Halifax have had.

'Tis done! the trophy's won and the Wanderers wear the laurel. The match played last Saturday afternoon between the Garrison football team and the Wanderers decided the championship, and the trophy which has been the subject of so much warfare, wordy and muscular, belongs to the conquering Wanderers. The game last week was one of the most exciting of the season, and notwithstanding the unpleasantness of the weather there was a very large gathering of spectators, who watched with intense eagerness each movement of the players. The Wanderers put up a stronger team than on the previous Saturday, and the Garrison had a full array of good men. The first half ended without a score on either side, but after the

intermission the warriors met with vigor renewed and a firm determination gleamed from every eye.

"And chance and craft and strength in single fights,  
And over and anon with host to host  
Shocks,"

and the battle waged fast and furious. The only score made was the try gained by the Wanderers, but 'twas victory and 'twas nobly earned. Of the football matches which formed one of the attractions for yesterday I regret I cannot speak, but the inexorable laws of a weekly newspaper order otherwise.

Now that the beauties of summer and early autumn are over, the only really dreary season of the year is with us. There is little going on, and everything in Nature speaks of decay and gloom. There is nothing new to say in regard to the falling of the leaves; poets have sung of it until fall poetry is fully as abundant as the famed rhymes of gentle spring. If, as our late poet laureate sang, "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love," quite as surely in the autumn the poet's fancy turns to sentimental rhymes of dying Nature. Much of this poetry, so called, is not worth reading once, very little merits a second reading, but occasionally one comes across a few stanzas that are worth remembering or at least preserving for a future perusal. Among such I would class the following word picture, which may prove a welcome addition to some one's scrap book:—

## AUTUMN SILHOUETTES.

Clear cut, against a sky of tawny gold,  
A spreading maple all its leaves unfold;  
Across the background, in the brilliant light  
A night-owl screams, and flies into the night.

A thatched-roof farm-house stands against the sky,  
While near a church spire sends its point on high;  
A rambling cottage gives the scene a grace,  
And lends its outline to the picture's face.

Across the hill's crest, rising sharp and strong,  
A tardy milk-maid passes slow along;  
While from the shade, with rapid eager stride,  
The farm boy comes, and pauses by her side.

Many Halifaxians will note with pleasure the announcement that we are to be again favored with a visit from Mr. O'Brien, who last year held an auction sale of his fine collection of oriental rugs, carpets and embroideries in Masonic Hall. Many householders then secured some wonderful bargains, as the articles purchased have proved. Mr. O'Brien's present collection, it is said, includes a splendid collection of benares, brassware, as well as other valuable Turkish goods, and his sale next Wednesday and Thursday will doubtless attract a large company of buyers.

A very interesting as well as instructive paper was read by Dr. Almon at the opening meeting of the Nova Scotia Historical Society for the season, which was held on Tuesday evening. The paper consisted of a journal kept by Rev. Dr. Mather Byles, jr., during a visit to London in 1784. Dr. Byles was Chaplain to the Garrison in Halifax, and was at one time assistant to Rev. Mr. Breynton, Rector of St. Paul's Church. Much information as to the early New England colonists was contained in Dr. Almon's paper. It is strange the fascination which anything connecting our own history with that of a century ago possesses for us, but to many the days that are gone, filled as they were with the joys and sorrows of our ancestors, are full of never-failing interest. The Historical Society brings to light much curious and valuable information that has long been buried from sight, and a successful season for 1892-3 is heartily to be desired.

And now the church social begins to be known once more in the land, and in a few weeks we will have the usual harvest of bazaars. Already not a few sewing circles, mission bands, etc., are busy plying the needle and calling on their friends for assistance. A very successful social was given on Monday evening in the North Baptist Church as a reception to the new pastor, Rev. D. G. McDonald, and family, who have lately come to this city from Stratford, Ontario. On Tuesday evening the young people of this church had a festival in the Schoolroom. On Wednesday evening a very successful social entertainment was held at the Church of the Redeemer, at which a large number of the congregation and their friends were present. These gatherings are very pleasant, and although they are oftentimes spoken of rather slightly as "tea-worries," etc., yet they are undoubtedly productive of good results in affording opportunities for social intercourse.

CHIPS.

## CAMBRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL.

30 Salter Street, Halifax, N. S.

Term Commences September 2nd.

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Applications for next term should be made at once as there are but few vacancies.