

THE WHITEHOUSE SIFTINGS.

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CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

RHETORIC CLASS OF 1894.

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CHRISTMAS.

When Christmas is mentioned it brings before our minds the little scene with which we are all so familiar.

"Rolling downward through the midnight,
Comes a glorious burst of heavenly song;
'Tis a chorus full of sweetness—
And the singers are an angel throng.

Wond'ring shepherds see the glory,
Hear the word the shining ones declare;
At the manger fall in worship,
While the music fills the quiv'ring air.

Lo! the morning star has risen,
O'er a dark and ruined earth;
And from out the heavenly portals,
Is proclaimed a Saviour's birth."

If we think of Christmas as Christ day we are sure every one will have the right feeling as to how it should be spent. Many pleasures attend this festive time, but still there is a feeling of great joy throughout the world, for we know that this is the day which marks the coming of our Saviour into the world. How the little ones enjoy sending a letter to Santa Claus two or three weeks before Christmas, and hanging up their stockings by the fireplace, thinking that he will come down to fill them. The older ones, too, enjoy the exchange of presents and the hearty good cheer of Christmas time. The custom of giving slight remembrances comes from the fact that the wise men of the East brought their gifts to the place where Christ was born. In some Roman Catholic countries it is the custom to

usher in Christmas day by the celebrating of three masses—one at midnight, the second at early dawn, and the third in the morning. This dates far back to the sixth century. The day was considered in the double light of a holy commemoration and a cheerful festival, and was accordingly distinguished by devotion, by vacation from business, and by merriment. During the middle ages it was celebrated by some gay fancy spectacle of dramatic performance acted by the people dressed in singular masks and quaint costumes.

The singing of carols reminds us of the songs of old shepherds at the birth of Christ, and goes a long way back to the time when the people ceased to understand Latin. The bishops and clergy joined with the people in singing, and the songs were often made very lively by dances accompanied by the music of tambours, guitars, violins and organs. If these dances were in the night each person held in his hand a lighted wax taper.

The Protestants of Germany call Christmas the "children's festival," and on Christmas eve presents are given by means of the Christmas tree. The giving of presents is kept almost entirely within the family circle, that is, between parents and children, brothers and sisters. A large yew bough is put up in one of the parlors, lighted with tapers, and hung full with gifts, sweetmeats, apples, nuts, playthings, and ornaments. Each gift is marked with the name of the person for whom it is intended, but not with the name of the giver, and then after breakfast when the whole family is assembled, the presents are given to each one and are received with noisy glee. A more sober scene follows, for the mother now takes this occasion to say privately to the daughters, and the father to the sons, what has been observed most praiseworthy and what most faulty in their conduct for the past year. It seems almost a shame to dampen the joy of the little ones just now, when they are all so happy. In some of the smaller villages of North Germany the presents made by all the parents are sent to some one person, who, in high buskins, a white robe, a mask, and an enormous flax wig is the bugbear of children, and is known among them as "Knecht Rupert." He goes from house to house and is received by the parents with great reverence. He calls for the children, and after many questions as to their conduct, gives them each their presents.

Christmas has always been a religious, domestic, and merry-making festival in England, not only for the young, but for the old as well. The revels used to begin on Christmas eve and continue over until Candlemas (February 2nd) every day being a holiday till twelfth night (January 6th). In the houses of the nobles a "lord of misrule" or "abbot of unreason" was appointed, whose office was "to make the rarest pastimes, to delight the beholder," and whose position lasted from "All Hallow eve" (October 31st) till Candlemas day. The larder was filled with hens, turkeys, geese, ducks, beef, mutton, pork, pies, puddings, nuts, plums, sugar, and honey. The tenants were always entertained at the hall, and every art conducive to mirth was encouraged by the master. A glowing fire made of great logs, the principal of which was named the yule-log or Christmas block, which might be

burned till Candlemas eve, kept out the severe cold weather. There was an abundance of music, riddles, hot-cockles, snap-dragon jokes, laughter, forfeits and dances. The large bowls of punch never failed to please the merry makers. The favorite and first dish on Christmas day was a soused boar's head, which was borne to the principal table with great state and solemnity.

The common custom of decking the houses and churches at Christmas with evergreens is nearly altogether an English custom. The holly, ivy, rosemary, bay, laurel and mistletoe furnished the favorite trimmings.

The celebration of Christmas now in England has lost its noisy character, and family reunions and evergreen decorations of houses and churches are nearly all that remain of the various rough sports which used to mark the festival.

Editorial Notes.

The long talked of Fair was held Wednesday and Thursday the 5th and 6th inst., in the new Art Gallery and was a great success. It opened at one o'clock Wednesday afternoon and for both days it was kept up until ten o'clock at night. The object of this fair is to fit up picture galleries for the Mt. Allison Museum of Fine Arts. The ladies of Sackville and other towns took a great interest in it, and presented some beautiful and delicate work. The tables were loaded with handsome and costly articles. The fancy table which first attracted the eye was on the right-hand side, and as it was called the linen table and was nicely decorated it presented a very pretty appearance. The china painting also deserves mention, for it was certainly exquisitely painted and was one of the chief attractions of the fair. The Japanese and art tables also looked very pretty. Candy and ice cream were in great demand, large profits being realized thereby. Suppers and oysters were served up in good style. The band was in attendance and by giving some choice selections they made the evening much more enjoyable. The Fair realized the sum of four hundred and thirty dollars on Wednesday, and one hundred and eighty five dollars on Thursday, making a total of six hundred and fifteen dollars. The college girls were allowed to attend in the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, and nearly all of them availed themselves of the opportunity. They were also allowed to go Thursday afternoon, providing they came home in time for study hour. On the whole the ladies are much pleased with their success.

The Mission band of Mt. Allison Ladies College is composed of about forty members, meeting monthly in one of the college school-rooms. The band was started by the college girls and its object is to educate, clothe, and board a little Japanese girl. Although forty members are enrolled they do not all attend the meeting regularly. Sometimes the officers get very much discouraged, and lately for a time they thought that there were so few members present that it could not be kept up, but we know that they are over the crisis by this time. Last meeting it was quite an encouragement to find twenty members present. On Monday, the 2nd inst., the members were much pleased to receive a visit from Miss Hart, a missionary from Japan, who now lives in town, but intends going back again in the course of two years. She read them a report of how the work in Japan was progressing, and also talked to and encouraged them in their work. They aim at raising fifty dollars yearly, and for this purpose mite-boxes are distributed among the members. A missionary from Japan, Mr Balderston, lectured at Beethoven Hall about two weeks ago, and the proceeds, which amounted to about seventeen dollars, were handed over

to the Mission Band. We hope that great success in the future may attend all the members and officers of the Band in their great and noble work. And we also hope the little girl for whom all this pains is taken may become apt and brilliant scholar, and amply reward her kind friends for all the pains they have taken in her behalf.

Christmas is coming. With what a thrill of pleasure we think of this fact, and particularly those girls who are away from home, for it is so pleasant to think of spending Christmas at home. The college girls have two weeks holidays which to rest and prepare themselves for the coming school term. As it is customary to have examinations at the end of each term all the girls are preparing for them. When these examinations are over, with what delight do we look forward and plan for the two weeks of pleasure. What good times and what fun we intend having, and how we hate to think of coming back again, for these two weeks at home will be so enjoyably spent taking in everything as it were. However, the day of parting comes, and we begin to pack. It makes one very lonely to think of not seeing the faces we love for five long months. But when we are at school again these months will pass all too quickly. The second term at school is always very lively, there being plenty of concerts and receptions to while away the time, although we do not approve of going to everything. There are also a great number of girls present, and that helps in a great measure to make things more lively. It is said we are to have a few school next term, and we then hope for successful and faithful work.

The Eclectic Society was started and is now carried on by the College girls. Its name signifies a literary society, but most persons do not consider it as such. It holds its meetings every second Saturday night from eight-thirty to nine o'clock, and sometimes later. The meeting is opened with a few verses from the Bible, then the roll called, and the minutes of the last meeting are read. The programme for the evening is then commenced, and the young ladies are lightly entertained by tableaux, solos, recitations, &c., &c. It has been moved that we have a debate for next meeting, and it is hoped the members of the Society will take a deep interest in this, and will stick to their purpose of carrying out this plan. We hope that in the future earnest efforts will be made to change this Society into a literary character, so that by going to these meetings we may improve our minds and come away from it greatly benefited.

THE NEW CZAR.

BY THISTLE.

In the last issue you were given a short sketch of the late Czar of Russia, Alexander III., and on that account we thought you might be interested in his son Nicholas, who is his successor. Nicholas was born in May, 1868, being now 26 years of age. He is short and rather delicate looking. He is said to bear a marked resemblance to his cousin the Duke of York. Much of his life has been spent in travel. Some five years ago he went to England, to Denmark and to Germany, yet studying was his only pleasure, being a very literary man the amount of information that he managed to obtain, and carry back to Russia, made the old Czar uneasy. He decided that it was inhuman and ridiculous to punish the Jews. But what seemed to displease his father most was that he had become the devoted admirer and friend of the Emperor of Germany.

His betrothed, Princess Alix Victoria Helene Loui Beatrix, the daughter of the Grand Duke of Hesse, Darmstadt and Princess Alix of Great Britain, was be-

Musical Column.

THE QUESTION BOX.

Padereweske's home is now in Paris, but he was born in Poland and spent his early childhood there.

It is not known who composed "Yankee Doodle" only that it is an English composition.

Lizst added piano accompaniments to five of Paganini's Caprices. They are the most difficult music that was ever written for the violin.

Lipinski could play Bellini's Theme of the "Pirates" on the violin in one bow stroke.

Chopin most prominently represents the Romantic Age of music.

Beethoven's first music teacher is supposed to be Mozart, but it is not positively known. Beethoven met him when he was very young, and it is thought that Mozart was his first teacher.

One could hardly say who is the best pianist in the world, for there are so many different opinions, but it is thought that Rosenthal is considered the best. He is better than Rubenstein, Lizst, or any of these great musicians, that is, as far as technic is concerned. He has the most wonderful technic of anyone that was ever heard of. He is a Romanian and is thirty-two years old. It is told that when he first made his appearance he was uneducated, that is in social life, etc. Of course he would have many invitations to large dinner parties and as he became more popular as a musician he had to be polite and go to these. A little anecdote is told about him which runs thus:—One night he was at a large dinner party given by some wealthy man, and after dinner when the cigars were passed around, he helped himself to two handfuls and quietly put them in his pocket. He enjoyed his cigars for a week after that without affecting his own pocket money in the least. The readers must not take this last for the truth, for no one knows whether it is the truth or just a story.

MUSICAL NEWS.

THE NEW YORK "BUDGET."

Miss Mary Louise Clary, the popular contralto, has made two extended Western tours, singing in concerts at Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Oberlin, and other large cities. She intends coming East to sing with the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, on December 23rd, and in New York City on December 25th, after which she will again return to the West.

The New York Metropolitan Opera House is now open to the grandest opera that has been in New York for years. Some of Italy's best singers are in the company, also some from Paris. The list of operas includes, "Esclarmonde," "Thais," and "Phryne," Bemberg's "Elaine," Verdi's "Falstaff," and several others. "Faust" is still in New York, also "Guglielmo Tell." This season of operas will be one of the best New York has had for some time.

THE SUTRO SISTERS MAKE THEIR DEBUT IN THE MUSICAL WORLD.

Rose and Otilie Sutro gave an invitation recital last Thursday afternoon in Madison Square Concert Hall, with great success. The audience was a very select one, and although not very large, was very critical. The young artists, each at a grand piano, sat facing each other, and without notes, played to perfection a long and exceptionally difficult program. Their concertos were played with such

June 6th, 1873. We are glad to say that the new Czar has resolved to follow in the footsteps of his father, and has sent a circular to the Russian representatives abroad to that effect; he further states that he is determined to devote his whole strength to the welfare of his country, always keeping to the pacific, loyal and firm policy, which has hitherto so greatly added to general peace, and that Russia will maintain her friendly relations with all the powers, and will regard respectful law and order as the surest guarantee of the tranquility of the states.

The circular further says:—"At the opening of that great and glorious rule which belongs to history, our ruler's object is that simply of an ideal, strong, and happy Russia, having proper regard for her own good, without at the same time injuring anyone. To-day, at the beginning of a new reign, we avow the same principles with equal sincerity. We implore the Lord's blessing that these principles may be carried out without modification for many years, and that they may invariably be productive of blessing." It concludes with the request that its recipients read the manifesto to their respective governments.

DESCRIPTION OF MARYSVILLE.

BY "BLUE NOSE."

Situated on the Washwaak, about three miles from its mouth, is the busy little town of Marysville. It lies partly on the left bank of the river and partly on the right, and the two portions are joined by a bridge.

The scenery is very pretty. There is a tiny strip of land, called Pleasant Point, jutting out into the river. On this point are situated many cottages surrounded by groves of trees. These houses, clustered together in the woods, remind us of stories we have heard of fairy land, they look so peaceful and contented that you would think that they were blissfully unconscious of the strifes and turmoils of the busy world outside.

The chief sources of industry are its mills, which afford employment, not only to people in Marysville, but also people from other places, so that its population is constantly increasing, and before long Marysville will be one of our most flourishing towns. Of these mills the most important are the Gibson Cotton Mills, which are the finest in the Dominion. They extend over a large area on the right bank of the river, and are built of brick. As the visitor enters the front door the first room you come to is the weavers' room, then there are numerous halls and passages on this floor. On the second floor there is a large room where the factory employees are doing work of different kinds connected with the making of the cotton. There are a number of houses built for the use of the factory men and their families. These rows of houses, some of which are brick and others prettily painted, present a very picturesque appearance. The saw mills and grist mills also give employment to a large number of people in the summer.

The portion of the town on the left bank is composed largely of the dwelling houses of those who are book keepers, clerks, mechanics, etc.

The Methodist church is a magnificent building, built by Mr. Gibson, and of course owned him. There are several other very nice buildings, the principal are—station house, dry goods and grocery store, rink, and post office.

Marysville is quite a railway centre, trains running every hour. An omnibus runs from Fredericton to Marysville four times a day, and it is always crowded with passengers.

wonderful precision and unison that the "Herald" named them Eng and Chang the Siamese Twins of the piano. The program was an excellent one—Mozart's C Minor fugue was very clearly delivered. The slow movement from Brahms's F Minor Quintet, Opus 34 arranged for two pianos, was the most musical hit of the afternoon. Selections from Liszt, Chopin and others were rendered in that same charming style. They are sure to win large audiences everywhere, for they not only possess great musical ability, but they are both sweet, modest young ladies, and have a very winning manner.

EUROPEAN NOTES.

Sir George Grove has resigned his position as Director of the Royal College of Music in London. Every one regrets to lose Sir George for he was a great favorite, and was a splendid director.

The Emperor's "Song to Egit" will, for the first time, be produced publicly in Berlin on the 28th of this month at a charity matinee in the Royal Opera House. More than 50,000 copies of the song are already ordered by Messrs. Bote and Bock, and Mr. Bock says that a large portion of that number is ordered from the United States.

ST CECILIA.

THE ICE BOATS.

BY TRINIE.

The early settlers along the eastern shore of Prince Edward Island, around what is now known as Cape Traverse, were originally from Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick.

In summer communication was kept up between the people of the Island and Cape Tormentine by means of boats crossing and recrossing, bringing news, and sometimes the friends would cross for a visit; but in winter all communication was shut off by the ice which forms in the straits, and is driven about by the tide, making it impossible for ordinary boats to cross, and in this way the people of the island had to pass the long winter months without word from their friends on the mainland.

The Indians, living on the island, having used all the ash wood on their side, knowing there was plenty across the water, and being in great need of it, resolved to venture across the straits, although it was winter. They took their canoes, rowing them through the water, and carrying them over the ice. They would only cross occasionally, but when they did, the people of the island would send messages to their friends. The government hired an Indian to take the first mail that ever crossed from Cape Tormentine in winter, in his canoe.

After a time the bravest of the white men crossed with the Indians, and out of this arose the means they now have for crossing Northumberland Straits. These are the celebrated Ice Boats.

These boats resemble a common row boat with runners, built for water as well as ice. Straps are attached to the boats and these are fastened around the men who draw them. These boats were, at first, used only for carrying the mails; but a number of people cross by that route now.

On leaving the train at Cape Tormentine, the passengers have to drive about two miles on the ice, where the boats are waiting. They go about five miles in the boats drawing them over the ice, and on coming to water they get in their boats and row until they come to ice again.

As a usual thing the passengers help to draw them; as they have to pay a large amount to have their luggage drawn over and extra for themselves if they do not work their passage. This is on account of it being hard work, especially if there is much luggage. A great many would

rather help, as it keeps them warm, and they like the experience.

Some consider this a very dangerous way of crossing the Straits; but very few accidents have happened of late years, and a larger number seem to be taking advantage of this route every year. A few ladies have crossed the last year, or two.

THE OLD COVERED BRIDGE.

BY ALICE.

In the quaint old College town of Sackville, at the foot of one of its main streets, stands a time-worn and battered bridge.

The scene of many a joyous sport, is lovingly remembered by some of Sackville's oldest students. Divided into two parts, this bridge is unequalled for a race and every half holiday or fine Saturday finds a crowd of jolly school boys bound for the old bridge.

Numberless names have been recorded from one end to the other. Some have risen very high and are among the most honored and respected in our country. Samuel A. Chesley, after graduating with high honors from Sackville, went to Dalhousie and there spent a number of years studying law. He is still practising law in Lunenburg but is also a judge of probate. His daughter is now a student of Mt. Allison and bids fair to be as successful in her studies as was her father.

Benjamin Russell also graduated with honors from Mt. Allison and has since become a professor of law at Dalhousie. Richard C. Weldon graduated, from Mt. Allison, 1870, and is now Dean of the law faculty at Dalhousie. 1875

Henry C. Powell graduated 1870 and has since become one of the rising lawyers of the day, as well as an M. P. P. Josiah Wood, who was one of Mt. Allison's first graduates, is now one of Sackville's wealthiest citizens, and is also a member of Parliament.

Alfred D. Smith, Sidney W. Hunton, W. Morley Tweedie and Albert B. Tait, now professors of Mount Allison College, graduated with high honors from this institution.

Last, but by no means least, is our esteemed and honored principal, Dr. Borden. Although he may now frown on the girls as they make vain attempts to carve their names deep in the wood, yet I dare say, it recalls to his mind many the time he has carved his name, and many the Saturday he has spent with a crowd of jolly boys down by the old bridge.

Others, some of whom showed great powers and talent while at school, have since gone down to dishonored and untimely graves.

The boys of this generation are carving their names, as of old—their future remains to be seen—but we hope when they have attained manhood's years, they will do much honor to the names recorded on the old covered bridge.

LOCAL EVENTS.

BY PEGGIE.

This will be the last issue of "The Whitehouse Siftings," until after the Christmas holidays, on account of the examinations and the breaking up of the school term. It however, will be continued next term and we hope that the readers will find an improvement by the end of the second term.

Mr. Frank Harrison, of Sackville, intends entering the law firm of Powell and Bennett. He will take charge of the office in Moncton, which will be known by the name of Powell and Harrison, and the Sackville one by Powell and Bennett.

The anniversary meeting of the Missionary Society was

held in the Methodist Church Sunday night. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Lathern, Dr. Borden, and others.

Wolfville, Dec. 4th.—Miss Graves, Principal of Acadia Seminary, has tendered her resignation, to take effect at the end of this term instead of in June. Frauline Margarete Tuck, director of Music, and Miss Harding, teacher of Painting, have sent theirs in also.

Mr. Ford is comfortably settled in his new store, and everything looks very attractive.

The Fair, which is being held in the new Art building, has been very successful. We understand that the first day's proceeds amount to \$400.00. The building was beautifully decorated, and the display of fancy articles showed that the ladies had spent no little time in making such an assortment. The refreshment, candy, and tea tables were deserving of the patronage they received.

The Mt. Allison foot-ball team has lost the trophy. The match game between the St. John and Mt. Allison teams was played in Moncton on Dec. 1st. It was an interesting game and many people from neighboring towns were in Moncton to witness it.

The last union meeting of the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. was held in Memorial Hall, on the closing Sunday of the term. The Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. lead the meeting and great interest was taken by all. The Chairman of the Senate was present and addressed the meeting with his usual earnestness. The Association is doing good work and a great interest is taken in the half hour of singing, for which the young men collect, on Sunday evenings, directly after tea, in the Y. M. C. A. parlors.

FOREIGN NEWS.

An American has lately invented a tricycle on which to go across the ocean. It is moved along by paddles worked by the feet. He got half way across the ocean, and it began to get rough and the paddles were harder to work. He was afraid that his strength would give out, so he called to a passing vessel and it took him in. He thinks he can improve it and make it work more easily.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5th. Commander Beallington is seriously ill.

The Czar of Russia and Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt were married at St. Petersburg on Nov. 26.

Earthquake shocks have been felt in Catania and other parts of Sicily.

Princess Bismark died Nov. 27.

A million dollars will be raised by Ottawa and Prescott capitalists for the steam elevator at the latter place. They expect to begin work in February.

The Japanese have conquered Port Arthur.

The Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and the King of Denmark left St. Petersburg on Saturday. The Prince expects to meet Emperor William.

Reports of famine have come from Western Nebraska. Families in the drought districts are in a state of starvation.

SIDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 5.—The native rebels are displaying much activity. They have announced their intention to attack Apia.

There is expected to be war between France and Madagascar. French colonists and merchants are being murdered.

THE NEW RESIDENCE.

The new residence has just been completed and is now occupied by a great number of the students.

As the old building was unfit for occupation, being very dilapidated, and also too small for the increasing number of students, it was found necessary to erect a new building. This imposing structure is of brick, the interior being finished in hardwood, and containing oiled floors throughout the main portions. It has four stories and a basement; the latter containing the bathrooms, laundry, also seven hot air furnaces by which the building is heated. On the first flat, is the kitchen, dining-room, and other apartments which are for the use of the professors. The kitchen is very large, and fitted out very conveniently, having hot and cold water taps, also an immense range. In the dining room, which is large and beautifully finished, there are a number of tables, at each of which may be seated about eight persons.

The rooms assigned to the professors are what we may call charming. Each contains three or perhaps four windows. The mantles and grates are beautifully carved and tiled. Each professor has two rooms.

There is accommodation for about one hundred students, there being two rooms for two boys. The attic has also been finished to furnish more room if necessary.

The stairways and halls are very spacious and afford ample room for receptions, which fact will be, no doubt, pleasing to some of our readers. In fact this building may be said to be complete in every sense of the word. Much more might be said but time will not permit a further description. Let us say in conclusion, that its occupants have every reason to be proud of it, and we have already heard remarks from the students at the Ladies' College, which lead us to believe they are somewhat envious.

ONE CHRISTMAS.

If all the seasons of the year, I think winter the most enjoyable, as it is so long and affords so many amusements to both the young and old.

The favorite sport is skating, and last Christmas Eve a few of the young gentlemen got up a skating party. There were about fifty people invited. They of course lined the rink, and after skating about three hours, we were driven to the house of one of the party and had supper, after which we played games, then went to our different homes.

On Christmas night some of our friends got up a drive to Northwest Arm, which is about fifteen miles if we went by road, and only five if we crossed the harbor. As it was one of those clear, cold, frosty nights, we decided to go across the ice, for we did not know whether the road was in a good condition for driving or not, and rather than have to turn back when we got half way there we preferred to go this way.

We had a delightful time going over, but when we were going up one of the hills some part of the harness gave way, and so we had to walk about half a mile before we got to the house of a friend, while the driver went to the harness store to get the harness mended before we went home.

We spent a most enjoyable evening, playing games, etc., after which we went in to supper, and having done ample justice to the good things set before us, we bade our kind friends good night, and started for home.

In going home we were not so fortunate as when coming, for while we had been enjoying ourselves a heavy snow storm had arisen, and the track was all covered. We lost our way many times, and when we finally reached our homes it was nearly three o'clock in the morning. That was the last drive we had for nearly a month, as there were so many other things to attend.

We had several snow-shoe and coasting parties, but for my part I enjoy skating and driving much better.

CANADIAN.

MARY GREY.

Mary Grey was a happy little girl, when her father decided she might attend boarding school, at Mrs. Carrs. Fifty years ago to attend boarding school was thought a great privilege by the friends of the fortunate boy or girl.

What a time the Grey family had preparing clothes for Mary. Mother worked hard day after day making new dresses, fitting over old ones, and knitting stockings. Mr. Grey did his share of the work by going to town for materials, sister Jane, and even baby John, helped in the work.

Mary was so delighted that she went singing through the house daily, but as eventide came, there was a something she could not tell what, made her feel a choking sensation in her throat when she looked around the dear old kitchen.

At last the day came when she must prepare for school. Mrs. Grey brought down from the attic the old family trunk, and commenced packing, all the common things were put in first, and then the dresses, that had cost so much money and work.

The last night home, poor little Mary cried herself to sleep in mother's arms. Morning came, and with it vanished tears and fears. At ten o'clock the "good byes" had been said, and the child on board the train bound for boarding school.

Upon arriving at her destination she was met by a lady, who asked her, if she was the little girl going to Mrs. Carrs'. Mary replied "yes." In a few moments she was seated in a carriage, and soon arrived at "Elm Grove."

"Elm Grove" stood about a quarter of a mile from the road, and was approached through an avenue of elm trees, hence the name of the school. The school itself was a large two-storied building, painted white, with green shutters; the entrance was in the front, with pretty green vines climbing over the door-way, some reaching the windows above.

With trembling steps Mary followed Mrs. Brown into the house. She was taken to a room, where she was soon comfortably seated by a glowing fire. When left alone, Mary had a good cry, but, as after a storm comes sunshine, so with my little friend, she wiped her eyes and resolved not to be such a baby again. In a few minutes Mrs. Brown came in and took her out to dinner, where she was introduced to her future companions.

I will not attempt to describe all of Mary's troubles and trials the first few weeks, but before Thanksgiving she had made many friends, and began to feel herself more at home.

Thanksgiving came, and Mary went home; never had the dear old house seemed so nice before, and every person was so pleased with her.

The thanksgiving dinner was the best that had been in the house for years, the largest turkey had been saved, Mrs. Grey had exhausted her supply of receipts in the many good things with which the table was loaded. These things tasted all the better after boarding-school fare to our little friend.

The time came when she again had to bid "good-bye," and leave the happy home once more behind. Very different was her reception at school this time for the girls all rushed to meet her, and bid her welcome back again.

The three weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas passed only too quickly, and Mary was on her way home once more. As the train stopped at Wellington, she saw the dear faces of father and mother. In a few minutes the old red pung quickly carried her home, and soon she was seated by the log fire in the old kitchen, telling about the merry times she and her companions had at school, and thus we leave her, but not before wishing her "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

"LILLY."

PEOPLE I HAVE MET.

BY M. CARROLLTON.

Perhaps one of the best chances to study characters is at a railway station. In making a tour through Nova Scotia this summer we were obliged to remain for some time at Digby. People were bustling in all directions with "little box, big box, band-box, bag."

One person who arrested my attention was an old woman with a huge bonnet tied under her chin, an old shawl pinned across her shoulders, and a black dress—much the worse for wear—(reaching some distance above her boot-tops.) In one hand she carried a carpet-bag and a bird cage, in the other a basket containing a frisky kitten, beside many other bundles. She seemed to be impressed with the idea that the train was coming every minute, as she kept walking back and forth between the station and the edge of the platform, dropping first one and then another of the bundles. Her movements seemed to be particularly trying to a gentleman who sat on the other side of the room, and who was constantly dropping his newspaper and spectacles in his anxiety to see what "that" was going to do next. At length his patience gave out completely, and rising he exclaimed, "For goodness sake, madam, can't you trust to the brakeman to look after you till the train comes?" He then looked at her in such a way that the poor little woman kept her seat for at least *three minutes* when off she started again.

My attention was next attracted to a young lady, somewhat pretty, who was listlessly reading "Lorna Doone." She impressed me as having more than her share of pride, so we were rather amused when a rough looking farmer came in and seating himself by her—not noticing the way in which she drew herself up—began to ask her questions as to the arrival of the train. As she remained quiet, he turned, and looking at her in a fatherly way, said "Are ye deaf? Did ye ever try Johnson's electric ile? My ole woman she got deaf, and put some in her ear an' it done her a lot o' good." At this his fair companion arose and seated herself at the other side of the room.

She was no sooner settled than a colored woman dressed in the brightest of blue gingham entered, looked around and seating herself by the proud young lady, said "Please, miss, will ye please hold on to this here bag while I get my specks out?"

Just at that point my meditations were interrupted by the whistle of the fast approaching train, and my friends were lost to view in the crowd.

Question Department.

Who is the most popular writer of the day?

Marion Crawford is an American and supposed to be the best writer.

Can the editor tell us how to preserve seaweed?

Seaweed is put in a kind of gum and dried, then pressed. It is very often pasted on cards with light back ground. This gives a pretty effect.

What is the derivation of the name Nova Scotia?

The name Nova Scotia means New Scotland. It was called New Scotland by the people that first discovered it.

Who invented the clock?

The water clock was perhaps the first. It was used by the Greeks. Clocks were first introduced into England about 1100. They were introduced first by the Catholic clergy.

Where was Alfred Tennyson's birth place?

He was born in Somersby in England.

What is the real name of Mark Twain?

The real name of Mark Twain is Clemens.

Which is correct, harbour or harbor?

Both are used but Webster gives harbour.

Did the author of *Evangeline* ever write under any other name than Henry W. Longfellow?

This author never wrote under any other name.

Where was Shakespeare born, and how old was he when he died?

Shakespeare was born in 1564 at Stratford, Avon. He died in 1616 at the age of fifty two years.

What is the use of a diary?

A diary is used to keep an account of each days events.

What were some of the acts which Hercules had to perform?

The fight with the Nemean lion. The fight against the Lernaean hydra. Cleansing of the stables of Augias.

Give the story of the poem "Childe Roland to the dark tower came." Who was the author?

No one has any definite idea as to what Browning, the author of this poem, meant. It seems to be a series of pictures which have been produced upon the mind of the author. We may find in this poem a picture of life, but no lesson can be learned from it.

From which of Longfellow's poems is the following taken: "Joy, temperance and repose, slam the door on the Dr.'s nose"?

This is not a part of any poem. It is only a short stanza. A number of them may be found at the back of Longfellow's poems.

Can you give a description of Burns' home?

The early home of Robert Burns was a little mud cabin in Ayrshire in Alloway, Scotland. When still a child his father moved to Mt. Oliphant, and here he spent the rest of his youth on a little lowland farm.

NOEL.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE.

For Sale.—A pony, warranted to give satisfaction. This pony will be found to be particularly useful to students about examination time, for they are then so tired that a short ride will be of the utmost benefit. This pony may also be hired at reasonably low rates. Apply at DULLMAN'S Livery Stable, White House.

For Sale.—A large number of empty preserve and pickle bottles, warranted not to let the preserves leak through even if left in a trunk for several days. Also a pair of boots which the owner has outgrown. The boots are of fine kid, and with the exception of a few broken button-holes are in excellent running order. Apply at MOVER'S STORE, Union Ave

FOUND.

Some wild animals have been heard during the past weeks at the White House, where their shrieks and howls have attracted and somewhat startled inmates of that building, who have fled in terror on different occasions to the seclusion of their own rooms. They seem to locate somewhere near the third floor.

Wanted.—A way to entertain the young men, who, at receptions, do not care to talk, are too tired to walk, and are

generally too late to secure chairs for their partners. Any suggestions of help will be gladly received at DeSpair, No. 202, White House.

Wanted.—A place to keep articles of food, wearing apparel and other conveniences where such articles will be unmolested by mice and other venomous animals during the holiday weeks. Please leave information at Hotel Mt. Agony.

Wanted.—Some enterprising boys to undertake the contract of building a rink. This would be found a very paying investment. All marked tenders received on or before Jan. 4th, 1895, by the Faculty of Mt. Allison.

Wanted.—The opinion of the teachers upon the two enterprising papers of the White House.

Wanted.—Some person well informed in the science of phrenology to give information and explanation to seniors, as to whether a hen has four feet and a mouse two, or a hen two and a mouse four. Any intelligence regarding this subject will be gladly received by a botany student who is preparing for examination. H. & M., White House.

The young ladies regret exceedingly that, owing to a misunderstanding on the part of "the friends across the way," none of those young gentlemen put in an appearance at the Fair on Wednesday evening. When on Thursday evening, however, they turned out in full force to do the honors, imagine their dismay on finding that the young ladies had spent the previous evening at that place of festivities, and on Wednesday had retired at an early hour. We were sorry to see that so many of the boys were obliged to eat their sumptuous repast in solitude, at a table ungraced by any fair friend of the White House.

Attention is called to an advertisement in another column with regard to a rink. It is to be hoped that this will be promptly responded to, that the students of Mt. Allison may have a place wherein to spend the lovely afternoons of the winter months, in a sport so healthful and delightful as skating.

The students will consider it a great favor if the professors will kindly arrange the examinations in such a way as to accommodate the friends of the young ladies. It is extremely awkward if all cannot go on the same day; and more than this, if the arrangements do not agree, it positively unfits one for the exams. It is to be hoped, therefore, that those in charge will attend to this matter.

The WHITEHOUSE SIFTINGS extends sympathies to those poor unfortunates who have been obliged to provide themselves with the "latest" an advertisement in the shape of a small pin, bearing the words "Girl wanted." We also regret that one or two of the young ladies have had to resort to this new method of capturing by a similar one "Boy wanted."