

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

MARY'S INTERESTING LETTER ON MANY TOPICS.

Readable Paragraphs From In and Out of Town—Woodstock Whispers and Celestial Gossip.

MY DEAR JANET: What a girl you are for news, to be sure! You demand full particulars of everything, eh? And the worst of it is that, with you, everything means such a lot. Now, I know quite a lot of girls with whom that doesn't include such an over-powering variety. Most of us, I fancy, use the word everything pretty much in the same way that we should the word everybody, meaning in reality a pretty narrow circle; so, for your benefit, I'll have to make myself tall, and look over the heads of my everybody and everything. You see I can be a philosopher, too, even though you have deserted me and retired to the obscurity of Woodentown.

I suppose that, when you speak of St. John as being your intellectual metropolis (pretty good words, those), you are not thinking of us. However, as you have evidently made up your mind to fix this distinction on St. John, I must try and agree with you, and give you a fine budget of everythingness.

First of all, of course you have heard of the new paper. You remember how you used to be forever grumbling that there was no paper here that (as you would say) dealt with things in a general sort of way. Now, Progress is going to answer all these demands of yours, and start a new era in the intellectual life (I think that is the expression) of your intellectual metropolis.

I see your beloved Mathew Arnold is dead; so you will not be able to look forward to any more of those books of his that used to give you so much pleasure, and me so much perplexity. His American friends will regret that his last piece of work should be American Civilization. It was Mathew Arnold at his worst.

I wonder if Edna Lyall's books have reached you; if not, get them at once, or at least three of them, which are all that I know of, *Donovan*, *We Two* and *As in the Golden Days*. *We Two* is, in many respects, a really high order of book, and to you I know it will be a great pleasure to read a book written by a woman, in which the men are not monstrosities and the women are natural, pleasant human beings, who, I think, would not be a terror to any of us. Erica Raeburn is a singularly sweet and graceful girl, and, as the central figure in the book, seems to soften the acerbities of the religious disputes, that in themselves are perhaps a trifle commonplace, and certainly take too much space. Luke Raeburn, atheist lecturer, is a strong, almost grand figure, a colossus of fiction, scarcely a real human type. But to appreciate the real beauties of the book, and they are many, you must read it. It is a pleasant thing to find that, while the public is so greedily for trash, it still does seem to have some considerable appetite left for books of such high spiritual value as those of Edna Lyall.

I wish you had been here to see Mrs. Scott-Siddons, who has given us several very delightful evenings' entertainment. I know you have a poor opinion of recitations, and no doubt they are necessarily incomplete, from an artistic standpoint; still, in good hands, even recitation may have, and, in her case, does have, the charm of cultivation. To me the most interesting part of the whole affair was the playing of her adopted son, Henry Waller. His touch has a rare power of sympathy, and *not* at the expense of his execution, which is simply perfect.

You will be glad to hear that some effort has been made to help poor Miss Pierce. Last Thursday week a concert was given in Berryman's hall, in her aid, with some success. As usual in such cases the audience was largely composed of people who could be least expected to afford it, although society did turn out to a certain limited extent. The programme was really unusually nice, especially the ladies' quartet, *La Carita* and a duet by Father Davenport and Mr. George Coster. It was a great treat, too, to hear Mrs. Gilchrist sing our old favorite, *The Day is Done*. The whole thing was wound up by the musical farce, *The Blind Beggar*. Mr. Mills and Mr. Glazebrook were certainly happy in their make-up if grotesque hideousness was their object. Mr. Mills as Zachariah Morgan was funny, but I cannot think that Mr. Glazebrook's low comedy acting is altogether a success.

It is rumored that something is going to be attempted to keep the poor old Institute alive. Possibly a reproduction of the old Tenynsonian tableaux of two years ago, that you figured in. I only hope that this may do something more than merely delay the downfall of the Institute which is getting to be like the Turkish empire and might just as suitably be called the "sick man."

I am afraid you think I am not much good at telling you what "pretty new things" people are wearing now, but really it is not my fault, for though the dress-makers are doing their best to persuade us that spring is here, by producing spring novelties, so far I have seen no one plucky (perhaps foolishly would be the better word) enough to wear anything of the kind, charming things they undoubtedly are. I saw

such a pretty one the other day, which I think is likely to be a favorite: it is the "housemaid" modified with full bodice caught in with a ribbon waist belt, and full semi-bishop sleeves finished off with a plain band at the wrist or tied with ribbon, while the skirt, which has no drapery of any kind, is filled in evenly at the waist. A dress of this style made in any of the soft woollen materials now so popular, looks particularly well on a tall, slight girl. I am afraid it is not well adapted to little people like you and me.

Bye-the-bye this revival of an old style reminds me of another, namely, of those pretty *mousseline de laine* our mothers loved so much; well, these are coming in again. I saw a lovely one the other day that would make up beautifully for one of the "housemaid" dresses.

There really seems to be a marked improvement in bonnets, this spring. I mean as regards size and height; but unfortunately hats seem to be larger than ever. Both are made nearly altogether of lace and flowers. Oh! while I think of it, as I know you revel in "doing up" your hats and bonnets, till I sometimes think you are like those Miss Bennets Miss Austen tells us of in *Pride and Prejudice* and buy head-gear for the sole purpose of pulling it to pieces and remaking it, let me tell you of the new wired ribbon used now for the bows which are still the inevitable culmination of our hats and bonnets. I don't mean the deftly twisted wire milliners insert in the loops to keep them in position, but ribbon actually edged with invisible wire that will take and retain any form you choose to give it.

I really think I ought to take back what I said about not telling you about pretty things—don't you? Now, my dear, universal girl, surely my everything has proved pretty extensive. At all events it's growing. I only hope that Woodentown will be properly grateful to me.

You shall hear from me again next week. Yours, MARY.

IN TOWN AND OUT.

(Items of news intended for this department should reach this office not later than Thursday night.)

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. DeForest have returned from their bridal tour, which included several American cities. They will live in Hampton this summer.

Mr. A. Shirley Benn, formerly of this city, where he is well known, was married Thursday in New Orleans to a southern lady.

One of the recent brilliant social events, in St. Stephen, was the china wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Murchie. Dancing was the chief amusement of the evening, but the feature of the affair was the presentation of an elegant china dinner set to the host and hostess. A sumptuous repast followed.

Mr. H. B. Jackson, of St. John, who visited Brooklyn, a few days ago, to attend the wedding of his daughter, Helen, was present instead at the funeral of her intended husband, Mr. Lefferts, who died suddenly.

While many persons will regret the retirement of Mr. J. F. Leavitt, on account of ill-health, as general passenger agent of the New Brunswick railway, they will be interested in the following from the *Boston Journal*:—

Mr. A. J. Heath, of the passenger department Fitchburg railroad, has been appointed general passenger agent of the New Brunswick railroad, with office at St. John, N. B. Mr. Heath's long service in the passenger departments of the Eastern, Boston and Maine, Boston and Lowell and Fitchburg railroads has afforded him an experience that will make him a valuable man in the new field which he enters this month, with the best wishes of many Boston friends.

The health of Mrs. Dowling wife of Rev. T. E. Dowling is such that her husband will resign his charge in St. Stephen and remain with her in South Carolina.

Misses E. Goodwin, E. McNaughton, of St. John, successfully passed the closing examination of the first year at Dalhousie.

Mrs. Arthur DeForest will receive her friends, Monday afternoon, at the residence of her father, Horsfield Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hatt, of Marysville, and Mrs. David Hatt, of Fredericton, spent a few days in town this week.

Mrs. and Miss Cook, of Moncton, arrived in the city Thursday evening.

Miss Minnie Estabrooks, of Sackville, is spending a few days with her friends in town.

Among our St. Stephen visitors this week were Mrs. H. Moore and Miss Grimmer.

Mr. Chalmers, manager of the Nova Scotia bank at Moncton, has been transferred to Charlottetown. Mr. W. E. Stewart, manager of the Pictou branch succeeds him.

Mr. W. E. Dawson and Miss Dawson, of Charlottetown, were in the city Wednesday.

Among last week's St. John arrivals in Boston were Messrs. John P. Vroom, R. Reed, Chas. D. Morrissey and Miss Rowling.

Mr. John Roy Campbell, son of Rev. Roy Campbell, of Dorchester, and Mr. Chas. O. A. McCreedy, of Moncton, have had the LL. B. degree conferred upon them at Dalhousie.

The young ladies of St. John have a higher opinion of Halifax gentlemen and vice versa than the cities have of each other. A proof of this is the announcement of the nuptials last Saturday, in this city, of Mr. Edward Fitzallen Mitchell, of Halifax, and Miss Sarah Jardine, daughter of the late

Robert Jardine, of this city. Rev. L. G. Macneill performed the ceremony and the Halifax train took the principals to Scotia's capital.

Mr. Gilmor Brown, C. E., was in town part of this week. His friends, and they are legion, were glad to see him. Mr. Brown visits New York next month, to bridge the chasm of bachelorhood.

Rev. Mr. Hancock, rector of Rothesay, is in New York. His departure was not unexpected. It is not known when he will return. Rev. Mr. Wetmore, of Clifton, is officiating in his absence. Rumor says the absent gentleman proposes to forsake bachelorhood, but—a man is never really married until he has a woman with the *trousseau*.

Mr. Edwin J. Everett, of the firm of Messrs. C. & E. Everett, will start for England in a few days, on a business trip.

Mr. Donald Keith, of Halifax, was married to Miss Randall, in Boston, a few days ago. Mr. and Mrs. Keith are expected to visit the provinces on their wedding trip.

Mr. George D. Fuchs, a member of the Moncton St. Francis Xavier society, and for some years manager of the popular Brunswick house, was dined and presented with a handsome and well-filled purse by his friends, Tuesday evening. The event was brought about by Mr. Fuchs' acceptance of the management of the Inch Arran hotel, at Dalhousie.

CELESTIAL GOSSIP.

Hon. A. F. Randolph has returned from his trip to California. Mrs. Randolph accompanied him home from Boston, where she spent the Easter holidays with her daughter, who is attending Mount Holyoke college.

Miss Jamie Roberts is in Windsor, N. S., visiting her brother and his family, Prof. Charles G. D. Roberts of Kings college.

L. B. Coleman, Esq., American consul, has gone to Washington, D. C.

The members of the W. C. T. U. celebrated the opening of their coffee house, in their building on York street, by a social gathering. The whole building was thrown open to visitors, and many were present. Solos, quartettes and old-fashioned rounds, which were given by some of the principal singers of the city, added much to the enjoyment of the evening, as did also a violin solo by Miss Bailey. Ice cream, cake and coffee were sold in the large hall up stairs and in the coffee room below. Among the distinguished visitors present were His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Tilley, Major Gordon, Col. and Mrs. Maunsel, Lady Tilley with her son and Attorney-General Blair were the first to take lunch in the new coffee house the day after the opening.

The services in the Baptist church, on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of Odd-fellowship in America, was well attended and the exercises very interesting. The pulpit stand was prettily decorated with flowers for the occasion by some of the ladies of the church. The choir was large and the music good. Several beautiful anthems were sung during the service. The principal parts were taken by Mrs. Dr. Currie, Miss Lagrin, Mr. Fred Richards, Mr. Herbert Winters and Mr. Henry Estey.

WOODSTOCK WHISPERS.

Miss Haliburton, of Parrsboro, N. S., is here visiting her brother, Mr. William Haliburton, agent of the Nova Scotia bank.

Mr. John L. Allan, who has been in delicate health lately, intends going to Washington, D. C., in a few days, for a lengthy visit. It is anticipated that the milder climate there will be favorable to his convalescence.

Mrs. W. B. Beveridge is going soon to Yarmouth to visit her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Lovitt. Mr. Beveridge, accompanied by Mrs. C. P. Connell, will go a few days later.

Mrs. F. Rankin, daughter of the late Dr. Donald, of St. John, heard, with deep regret, last week, of the very serious illness of her niece, Miss Mona Thompson, of St. John. Later news comes with the hope that she is now recovering.

James A. Greaves, Esq., of the firm of Messrs. Greaves & Shea, Houlton, makes frequent visits to Woodstock. The many friends of Mr. Greaves look forward with pleasant anticipations to the event which his visits are likely to result in.

Miss Everett, who has taught one of the advanced departments of our schools, with much ability, for two years, has resigned on account of ill-health. She is succeeded by Miss Colpitts, daughter of Rev. B. Colpitts.

One of those interesting events that are supposed to cast their reflection before is expected to take place in the Episcopal church ere long. A daughter of a clergyman will, on the occasion referred to, be led to the hymeneal altar by one of our most popular citizens.

Mr. C. McK. Hay, son of Hugh Hay, Esq., proprietor of the Glasgow house, has graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where his course has been particularly brilliant. Many of his friends here received invitations to the closing exercises. The clever young physician is deservedly popular, and should be located in Woodstock he will be a valuable acquisition to the profession and to society.

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