

ACTIVITY IN HALIFAX.

SOME CHANGES THAT WILL MAKE THE TOWN LOOK BRIGHTER.

How the Elections Went—Some New Men who Will Devote Their Time to the City's Interests—The Experiences of an Annapolis County Farmer.

HALIFAX, May 6.—Spring with all its splendor of sunshine and shabby house sales has set in. The inquisitive census enumerator has crawled inside his own copious statistical skin and the directory fiend once more holds undisputed sway. New shops are being opened up in every section of the town, old shops are being renovated, the painter and the paper-hanger swings his implements with progressive briskness and a new life and vigor seems to have sprung up in drowsy old Halifax. Willoughby Anderson has just completed three new shops on Barrington street at the corner of Duke and they are all tenanted. Barrington street is outstripping the older business thoroughfares in the walk of progress. Gordon & Keith, the well-known manufacturing upholsterers, have remodelled the front of their spacious warehouses, making one of the handsomest shops in the lower provinces, and greatly enhancing the beauty of the aforementioned Barrington street. It is remarkable what handsomely draped windows the two leading upholstering houses have. Gordon & Keith, since they put in their new front, have given particular care to the artistic displaying of their furniture, and A. Stephen & Sons have always made it a feature of their bright and metropolitan-like establishment. In both these establishments the window draping is done by St. John men. Henry Littler dives into the deepest confines of his inventive genius to catch new and pretty ideas for the Messrs. Stephens' window, and John McDonald, an old St. John man, keeps the public admiring Gordon & Keith's exhibition. In other walks of life, Halifax business men have been taught a thing or two by their bright St. John brothers.

Down on Granville street, just north of Progress' new office, the old Gossip property has been transmogrified into two elegant business establishments. Henry Hechler, a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war and one of the most celebrated stamp, coin, and curio collectors in America, has taken one for a tobacconist shop and museum for his valuable collections of curios. Opposite the dingy real-estate building has been remodeled into two spacious shops, with plate glass fronts and all the later-day fixings. The changes lend a brightness and a push-like look to the street that bodes well for the "go-aheadiveness" of our business men. On Sackville street Ald. Wier's new shops are an attraction. John Mahar, captain of the Literary base ball team and a thoroughly good fellow, opens a custom tailoring establishment in one of them. "Jack" is popular among the boys and ought to get lots of trade. "Shortey" Power, the irrepressible captain of the new base ball club, "the Mutuals," tells me that Mahar has the contract for making the suits for his nine heavy hitters. The uniform is to be of gray homespun with black stripes, and should look very pretty on the field. "Shortey" says he has some of the best sporting men in the province behind his club, and is confident that when the 16th of May arrives the Mutuals will be voted the best local nine that ever played ball in Halifax. The boys of the Socials are just as enthusiastic about their players and prospects, so we can look for "blood" (metaphorically speaking, I mean). Both nines have already started in to practice.

The civic elections passed off without very much unnecessary noise or bustle, due perhaps to the 1886 license act which requires the liquor shops to keep closed during the polling hours. My prophecies came pretty nearly true. John Nyroler retired from the contest in ward one at the eleventh hour, leaving the field to T.C. Allen (head of the stationery establishment which bears his name) and John McCraw, a builder. Mr. Allen won the ward by over 100 majority. In ward two the pushing little grocer Hedley Wier beat Ald. Hesselby by fourteen votes. Quite an achievement when we remember that Mr. Hesselby is one of the largest property holders in Halifax. In ward three Ex-Ald. "Neddy" O'Donnell was swamped by an adverse vote of 75, and the citizens once more have their champion "Jim" Hamilton to look after their interests. In ward four Ald. Ruggles pulled out with 44 on the wrong side. John B. Ryan, a pretty good fellow and a large dealer in beef, will keep the aldermanic arm chair warm for the next three years. In the other wards the retiring aldermen were re-elected, Ald. Foster by acclamation and Ald. Outbit by barely three votes, but then three are as good as 100 when they are on the right side. The liberals won three seats by the election, and the temperance people one. Otherwise the complexion of the city council is unchanged.

A good story is going the rounds about an old farmer from Annapolis county, who came to Halifax at the commencement of the present session of the local legislature with the hope (or as he himself said, promise) of being appointed sergeant-at-arms. Somebody or other told him he would have little or no trouble to be elected to the position, if he only canvassed hard enough. For several days before the opening he did canvass hard, and when asked what encouragement he was getting, told the enquirer he had sixteen votes sure. When the time arrived to take the vote the old sergeant-at-arms was re-elected, and our verdant friend didn't get one vote. He wasn't discouraged, however, but told everybody who attempted to console with him that he didn't want a small job like that; he had a better offer; he was going to take care of the books—he was, to use his own lan-

guage, going to be "lebrerean." He hung around the house of assembly for nearly a week waiting for the appointment, accosting every member as he went in or came out, and asking him to use his influence in his behalf. But the job didn't come, and the old man suddenly disappeared, much to the chagrin of one of the leading hotels. Like the cares that infest the day, he folded his tent like the arabs, and as silently stole away.

THE SEASON OF SCRUB.

Man's Desolate and Hungry Condition, and the Tyrant's Sway.

We are beset on every hand by fervent appeals upon the subject of women's suffrage, and the abolition of time-worn traditions, but why does no able pen descant upon men's sufferings, and the doing away of that abomination of desolation, house-cleaning? Surely it is a "burning question." Why, oh why must life be made a burden too heavy to bear, twice in the year, and home be rendered a very Sahara of bare floors, varied here and there by an oasis of scrubbing pails and paint pots? Or, if in the average feminine mind, cleanliness be so far ahead of godliness, cannot the infliction be taken in smaller doses? In the name of suffering mankind I humbly pray for a mitigation of this evil. It is enough to drive a man deep into crime, not to mention the awful profanity that always marks this epoch.

Who invented house-cleaning anyway? Let us hope that that misguided female may spend long ages on the far Plutonian shore, vainly searching for her favorite slippers or the last magazine. 'Twere a fate all too kind! And what shall be said of the state of that once fond companion of life's joys! Who could recognize in this pre-occupied creature the sweet maiden who erstwhile lured the heart from the manly breast that throbbled alone for her? Alas! with care upon her brow, and dust marring the symmetry of her nose, she abuses the man of her choice and turns again to rend him. Beware, oh too zealous matron, that during this awful season of wretchedness and woe he do not acquire a fatal taste for the club or some other haunt of crime, that may cling unto him, even after carpets have resumed their sway, and smiles again return to the place where they belong. Let your search after much cleanliness be tempered with mercy. The inner and outer man cannot long go unaccommodated, and if meals are few and inferior in quality, then must he e'en flee where house-cleaning is not, and grub doth abound!

I received the following touching lines from a friend, and feel they should be given to the public as an awful warning. They show the low state of mind to which a woman may be reduced by once giving way to this depraved appetite!

"She yearned for occupation In her natural vocation, But to find its true location Long and vainly had she sighed; For she couldn't be athletic, Had no gift for the aesthetic, And was not the least poetic, Though she very often tried.

At all problems scientific, She was utterly terrific, For her brain was not prolific, And she wandered in distress; For the needle she'd no favor, Defiance nature never gave her, And she couldn't sew to save her, And was helpless quite in dress.

Had you seen that awful duffer Try to cook, 'twould make you suffer. Nothing heavier or tougher Ever yet was christened grub. But when springtime's smiles and showers Told of hope and budding flowers, Then she found her inmate powers, For she learned to knead and scrub.

Let the wise young man beware of that mistaken maiden, unless she mends her ways; for life would be one everlasting house-cleaning! Be warned in time by one who has been there. J. J. J.

Union Street Should Be Proud of It.

Union street is rapidly coming to the front as the home of many fine stores and attractive business places, but none received more favorable comment than the handsome new grocery which McPherson Bros. opened last week. McPherson's grocery is one of the best known in town, and its customers never have to go anywhere else for anything in the grocery line, because McPherson Bros. do not have it. The new store extends back many feet further than the old one, and is fitted up with all late improvements. Behind the large plate glass windows is a scene that the hundreds who pass along the street on Saturday night never fail to look at and admire.

The Branch a Success.

Mr. Thomas Youngclaus has found his North end branch, "The Blue Store," a much greater success than he anticipated it would be. The idea of meeting the people is a good one. There are many thousands of them in Portland, and it is only natural that they should stop and look into a store on their main street before coming all the way cityward. When they find the same goods there as can be had elsewhere, they buy. Mr. Youngclaus' Charlotte street stand is too well known to need any mention here.

May is a Busy Month.

May is a busy month with the carpet and furniture people, but when one house has both departments to look after, the rush can better be imagined than described. The motto is "Sell all day and work all night." That is what Harold Gilbert and his employees are doing now. Trade is rushing with them, and this week an extra team had to be engaged to deliver goods. His stock of furniture is really a splendid one, well worthy inspection by those looking for house furnishings.

THEY ALL GOT AN OFFICE

A MEETING CONDUCTED ON ORIGINAL LINES.

It Was Meant for a Rehearsal, But Nothing Was Rehearsed—The Moncton Dramatic Club and its Ideas of the Drama and Business.

MONCTON, May 7.—The Moncton Amateur Dramatic Club held a meeting on Monday evening and not only passed an evening of much enjoyment but transacted an amount of business which would have put to the blush a special convocation of the Willing Workers with 5 o'clock tea thrown in, or a mass meeting of the W. C. T. U. called to take a vote upon the moral and intellectual inferiority of man.

If there is one thing above another, of which Moncton is justly proud—next to its water supply, the absorbent qualities of Main street mud, and the proficiency of the members of the city club at the national game of poker—it is the dramatic club; which has time and again covered itself with glory on many a hard won field; and the dramatic club in return, not to be outdone in magnanimity is exceedingly proud of itself, both individually and collectively. It may well be, for it is recruited exclusively from members of the 400, and may be said to comprise the nobility of the city. There is no mistaking a member of this distinguished association when you meet him or her on the street! Oh no! there is a cold and haughty atmosphere surrounding the members, like the vapor which hovers over the Bay of Fundy on a winter's day, a *nolite me tangere* don't-join-in-the-procession air, which never fails to stamp them, even as the repose of the *vere de vere* placed a hall mark upon the family for centuries, until they finally reposed so long, that they forgot to awake, and so became fossilized.

There seems to be a pensive and historic grace about even the most trivial acts of these favorites of fortune and of the muses, which might well arouse the envy of the beholder. Some of them can manipulate their pocket handkerchiefs, or wield the smallest of wooden toothpicks in a manner to make the angels weep, if they chance to be of the gentler sex, or die of envy if they belong to the male persuasion. Even the now celebrated canines, "Gaut" and "Jerry," who are attached to the club in the capacity of outriders on occasions of state, seem to have caught something of the air *distingue* which is one of its characteristics, and they can now decapitate a neighbor's best hen, or most cherished Thomas cat with a dignity and grace which comes only with long practice. Well, to go back to my text, the club met on Monday last. They were flushed with their recent victory at Shediac, and rather more *blase* than usual, some of them especially. The hour for meeting is fixed at 7.30, and punctually on, the tick of half-past eight most of them arrived and engaged in a smoking concert, while the ladies discussed spring fashions. At 9 o'clock an adjournment was moved, and the company retired to the residence of an absent member, who was suffering from a cold, and needed sympathy. She needed it still more ere her guests had departed, but being a brave woman, she bore the infliction with fortitude and even smiled.

After more smoking and a liberal consumption of fruit, the club went into committee, and held a business meeting with the object of adjusting some grievances which had been brought before the court. Proceedings were inaugurated by each and every member handing in their resignation, and suggesting some lady or gentleman to fill their place, after which little formality conversation became general—almost too general in fact, since everyone talked at once—and the greatest good feeling prevailed. A chairman was appointed, and what was to have been a rehearsal was at once resolved into an election, and it was without doubt the most impartial election ever held in this county. Each member in succession was appointed by ballot to fill some high and important function in connection with the business of the club. No one was forgotten; even the absent members were elected to fill high offices, and so enthusiastic was the entire meeting in showering honors upon itself and its neighbor, that it was not until the proceedings were brought to a conclusion amid great applause, that the embarrassing fact dawned upon one or two of the most practical members, that they had used up the entire club for officers and had no one left over to do the acting. In short, the manager found himself in charge of a club, closely resembling Artemus Ward's regiment which was composed exclusively of colonels, inasmuch as he was in command of a company, not one of whom occupied a position inferior to that of usher of the black rod, while many bore honors beside which the position of a field marshal of France, paled into insignificance. Brought face to face with such an unforeseen contingency, the club broke up in disorder with a promise to meet again at an early date, in order to reconstruct matters a little and straighten out the tangled threads which had appeared so unexpectedly in the bright warp of what turned out "but the baseless fabric of a dream." And if there was a lurking consciousness in the minds of some, that after three hours of hard work and hard talking, they had come out at very much the same hole they went in, and had nothing to show for their labors beyond a generous pile of skins appertaining to the luscious banand, and the seductive orange, nobody

was impolite enough to say so, and the same good feeling marked the valedictory address, which had prevailed throughout the meeting.

Meanwhile the play, which is in rehearsal has progressed rapidly in a backward direction, and the impatient public are asking each other—"What can the dramatic club be about, and when are they going to give us 'Time and the Hour'?" Please don't say that I told you what they had been about, for they might not like it.

GEORGE T. HUBBERT STRANGE.

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SHORTHAND, FRED DEVINE (Court Stenographer), will receive pupils in shorthand and typewriting, at 231 King street east; day and evening. Scovill system. may23*

BOARDING, A FEW PERMANENT or TRANSIENT Boarders can be accommodated with large and pleasant rooms, in that very centrally located house, 78 Sidney street—Mrs. McINNIS. May2, 3m.

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