

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[FOR ADDITIONAL SOCIETY NEWS SEE FIFTH AND EIGHTH PAGES.]

IRIS TALKS ABOUT HALIFAX.

Progress is for sale in Halifax at the following places: KNOWLES' BOOK STORE, 24 George street; C. C. MORTON & CO., 111 Hollis street; CLIFFORD SMITH, 111 Hollis street; ANDREW HIND, 111 Hollis street; HATTIE & MYRA, 111 Hollis street; CONNOLLY'S BOOK STORE, 111 Hollis street; BUCKLEY'S DRUG STORE, Spring Garden road; POWERS' DRUG STORE, 107 Göttingen street; G. J. KIRBY, 111 Brunswick street; J. W. DOLEY, 217 Brunswick street; P. J. GRIPPIN, 25 Barrington street; M. A. QUINN, 145 Pleasant street; A. F. MESSERVEY, 145 Pleasant street; H. SILVER, 145 Pleasant street; CANADA NEWS CO., Dartmouth; KNIGHT & CO., Railway point; Gravelly street.

Dec. 2.—During the past fortnight, and up to Saturday last the weather was delightfully fine and warm. Our Indian summer, I expect. The Ladies Rifle association, taking advantage of the propitious weather did some good practice. It is remarkable to note what progress some of the ladies are making, many of them bidding fair to become excellent shots, if we may judge by the steady and accurate firing with which the rifle is shouldered and cocked, while the aim is taken with a precision and calculation which might do credit to marksmen of long experience. Invariably the association find one of their greatest champions when prudish persons declare it unfeminine, holding forth, that surely society provides sufficient amusement without this bad being added to the list. Then I argue that I consider it quite a necessary accomplishment to every lady to understand how to handle firearms. As to the being unfeminine, does not history hold up to us as heroes, calling upon us to venerate and honor them, the prettily woman who in the absence of lord and master, buckled on their swords in time of danger and were able to defend the castle 'gainst an attack of the enemy. In these days, quite so much is expected of us, but certainly every woman ought to have sufficient familiarity with firearms that when Jack or Tom comes in a corner of the room she may not go off into violent hysterics. As the score stands at present, Miss Morrow and Mr. Norman first on the list. Mrs. F. Jones and Mr. Norman Lee come next.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew celebrated the festival of ecstasies in a very delightful way by a large "at home" at Mason's hall. Hitherto the brotherhood have given a dinner on this day, so that the "at home" was a new departure, the mingling of both sexes making the evening more pleasant than on former occasions, which phase, remember, is saying a great deal. Mrs. Archibald, wife of Sheriff Archibald, and Mrs. McKay received the guests. The hall was beautifully decorated with flags and bunting, the prettily shaded lights throwing a soft glow over the whole. During the course of the evening Scotch ballads and readings were rendered by several of the guests. Mr. Crawford sang "The Standard on the Braces O' Mar." Miss Homer's "O, Thou art the Lad o' my Heart, Willie," was much enjoyed. At the close of the music, supper was announced, and when all had done full justice to the goodly viands, the younger portion of the guests organized an impromptu dance, which was thoroughly enjoyed until the carriages were announced.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Shaw left last week for California via Boston. They intend wintering in California. Mr. Shaw's falling health demanding a milder climate during the severe months of winter. Mrs. Samuel Brookfield gave at her residence on Inglis street, on Friday last, a very pleasant and party which passed off most successfully, being thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Among the guests were Miss Chipman, Miss Macgregor, Miss Weir, Miss Stubbing, Miss Story, Miss Romans, Miss Stayner, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Chipman, Mr. Cornish, Mr. Hartley.

Mrs. Reader, wife of Major Reader, 16th Leicestershire regiment, gave a large five o'clock tea on Thursday last. The day was delightfully fine and balmy so that Mrs. Reader's drawing room was crowded to overflowing by her friends. Among the many present were: Col. and Mrs. Mansell, Dr. McDowell, the Misses Kenny, Mrs. and Miss Fraser, Mrs. Tobin, Col. and Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Marsh, Miss Slayter, Mrs. and Miss Unice, Miss Dashiell, Mrs. and Miss Jackson, Mrs. and Miss Goldie, Col. Stewart, Captain and Mrs. Mullins, Justice and Mrs. Graham, Miss Morrow, Mrs. F. Jones, Major McDonald, Captain Elliot, Miss Stairs, Miss Thompson.

One of the most successful little events of its kind which has taken place for some time, was Mrs. Kingsmill's fancy sale for a charitable object, which was gotten up and conducted by that lady at her residence, Smith street. The fair was largely patronized by Mrs. Kingsmill's friends, and in consequence it was most successful and a considerable sum realized. A very interesting ceremony takes place this afternoon in St. Matthew's Church, but I must content myself with giving you the names of the happy pair, who are about to embark on the sea of matrimony—Miss Jennie Taylor and Mr. Thomas Payne. The future bride, I hear, has already received numerous costly and handsome presents.

Mrs. Col. Mansell gave a small dinner party on Wednesday evening, which was intended as a farewell to a few of her intimate friends. Col. and Mrs. Mansell leave in a few days for their residence in Halifax, one of society's greatest favorites, her absence will create a void not easily filled.

General Sir John Ross is going home on a six months leave of absence, Miss Colman niece of the General who has been visiting at Bellevue returns to England at the same time. Colonel Goldie takes command of the 10th regiment in the absence of Mr. Geoffrey Morrow's accident will not prove so serious as it was at first feared. The last accounts from the sick room are very encouraging. The accident has thrown rather a damper on the meet.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Kaye who have been visiting Pueblo, Colorado, are spending a few weeks in their native city. Mrs. Mansell's farewell "Tea" on Saturday last, was largely attended by Society who mustered en masse.

Captain Mullins, R.A. and Mrs. Mullins leave for England on Monday next. They are spending a few days previous to their departure with Justice and Mrs. Graham, South Park Street. Mrs. Mullins has become, during her short residence in Halifax, one of society's greatest favorites, her absence will create a void not easily filled.

Halifax Notes. The air is absolutely charged with farewells this week. To find out what is in the air in a small garrison town one has but to be on the point of leaving it for good. In three or four years people become attached to a place in a way, even though they dislike it, which some in the home town, contingent of next week have the unkindness to say they do. Sir John Ross, of course, only goes for a short time, in spite of the fact that he has been current during the past week that his departure is final; but Major and Mrs. Mansell, Capt. Jenkins, Capt. and Mrs. Mullins, with last, very far from home, Surgeon-Col. MacDowell, are taking leave of Halifax for good. That Col. and Mrs. Goldie, with the Misses Goldie, are also leaving, is a fact, which is happily only an old wife's tale; the Tyne, which is expected next week to receive the men coming from British Columbia, will set sail without them, notwithstanding "the best authority" has been very definite as to their movements.

On Saturday last Mrs. Mansell had cards out for a farewell tea and rouser party, but toward three o'clock the rain descended in torrents. The people who braved the weather and drove out to the Oaks, however, had their reward, as the rooms had been cleared with lightning-like rapidity and the rouser party metamorphosed into a dance. Women, of course, are always more or less able to dance in their everyday shoes; but the weather and mud proof boots of some of the men must have played havoc with Mrs. Mansell's polished floor. It was a most important entertainment, however, and Mrs. James Thomson, whose good nature is a by-word at such impromptu functions, played indefatigably for the dancers. There were no very startling toilettes owing to the wet day; the rooms looked exceedingly bright and cheery; well furnished of course they are not, but a few flowers and plenty of rose-colored light are wonderfully effective on a dark November day.

On Monday night Sir John Ross gave a large dinner at Bellevue at which the guests were somewhat cursorily assorted. And on Tuesday and Thursday the Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Daly and Major and Mrs. Reader gave dinners as farewells to Surgeon Colonel MacDowell, who should in good sooth be a well fed man when he leaves Halifax.

One of the great attractions of the bazaar in aid of St. Catherine's Mission which is to be opened on Dec. 8th will be a noveltie written by the Rector of Luke's. This is a new departure for Mr. King, and deserves the support it will undoubtedly receive. He is not the first man in orders who has written a novel; but the novelist who can turn his hand to a sermon has yet to be discovered: pace Mr. Short-house, who is after all first a parson. Every one has been very pleased to welcome Capt. Duffus to his native town, to which, except for one flying visit, he has been for many years a stranger. He has an excellent appointment in this garrison, and as far as may be certain in these days of constant change, a long one. Another Halifax man, and one a good deal more widely known, is Capt. Stairs, from whom his people have heard twice in the past three weeks, which news may be the last for a long time. He

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and his party had reached the shore of Lake Tanganyika after a march of 90 days, part of which was across an arid and sandy desert. So far his adventures are public property, after this probably all despatches will be sent to the Belgian authorities, who may possibly give them to the world, but more probably keep them jealously to themselves. Capt. Sauter was a well known and good looking sportsman, which looks as if he were acclimatized to Africa by his former expedition. Mr. John Boyd, late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and known here chiefly as the father-in-law of Miss Laura Crear, now the wife of his eldest son, has been knighted. It was pretty well understood that he was to receive a baronetcy, but the ways of providence and the queen are inscrutable, and knighthood is the honor conferred. Mrs. Boyd has lost much admirer. Is it the air of Picton, or the good old stock the settler, which causes it to be famous for its pretty women? During the season of the Grand Opera company here, we entertained an angel unaware; which means, in other words, the advantage of a few paragraphs published with discretion would be to their houses. One of the members of the company in question introduced a little French song, *Princesse Mathalem*; the first night it was encored, the second the house was enthusiastic; but there it ended except for a little faint praise in a Saturday evening paper. Had the audience known how good Francis Gaillard was the original *Pippo* in the *Muscat*, when that piece was played in Paris with little and the title role or that he was the original *Said Pasha* in New York, they would probably have been applauding yet. Unfortunately these facts have not taken root. Of course there were a few people who appreciated M. Gaillard's most artistic method of singing, and mused that even if he were a Frenchman, someone would humbly suggest to St. John audiences to "gather their roses while they may," and have from Francis Gaillard all the French songs he will deign to give them, since he is a master in their delivery who may not return again to these provinces. Dire rumors are afloat about the prospects of the skating rink this winter. It is said to be going to be a store-room and hold auctions there, and it is let to a furniture man for a warehouse, being used for the storage of goods. One lady more sanguine, or it is to be hoped better informed, had it that Colonel Clarke for so long well known as a rink devotee, has been asked to give the rink the private subscription afternoons and evenings there. As this gentleman is at present in New York it is not possible to verify this point, but even if he fails, surely someone will be found with sufficient energy and leisure to run the private afternoon parties. Winter without the usual skating parties is surely not only a very dependable winter amusement, since we have no toboggan slide, and of late years, very little sleighing. The keenest skating people have already been out on Tuesday the cold weather which had prevailed since Sunday sent a contingent of young men to Deal's pond. The frost was not steady, however, and the usual skating parties were not held. The many diversions which ought to be in season and are not. Mr. and Mrs. Robie Unskat with their two daughters are thinking of spending the winter in Bermuda. Their departure will close another pleasant country house, and there already are too many desolate and deserted. Mr. Rigby who has been much missed in Halifax during the past year, will probably pay a long visit during the winter to Mrs. Jones, the wife of the Bishop of Newfoundland, who has taken Mr. Binneys house in Hollis St. This is good news to the many friends of both ladies. Dec. 2.—Rev. J. George and wife were in Dartmouth for a few days last week. Mr. George has been called to a church in Belleville, and is to be inducted into his new charge this week. Miss Jean Faulkner has been staying with the Misses James for the past few weeks. The concert in the school room of Christ church on Thursday was well attended, notwithstanding there being several other entertainments on the same night. The reception at the Church of England Institute would no doubt attract quite a number who would otherwise be attending the concert, as it was the room was pretty well filled and the programme a very good one. Three of our medical men took part, and the selection given by each was much appreciated. Mrs. Henry Creighton always wins applause and deserves it, too. The whole programme was as a rule well carried out, but to my mind was a trifle long for one can get so much even of a good thing, though possible on this occasion I was alone in thinking it rather "long drawn out." The proceeds go toward the building of a room for the young men's society, and I hope the sum realized was a substantial one. I believe these indefatigable people are to give another entertainment about Christmas. Mrs. Onseley, of Windsor, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. W. H. Foster. We quite feel as though she belonged to us—whether that Windsor—as she has spent so much time here since making her debut. Dr. Barker and family have removed to Halifax for the winter and taken up their abode at the Halifax Hotel. One feels sorry to have such a pleasant family take flight, even for a few months, but such a short distance; and though a winter on the other side may have its advantages, I am sure they will gladly return to their charming home when winter weather comes again. Miss Rose Fairbanks left two weeks ago to visit relatives in Chicago. Miss Nellie Dugan has also deserted Dartmouth for the present, and is staying with her brother, Mr. Wm. Dugan, in Pictou. Those who are in the habit of frequenting the railroad, preferring it to the public highway for a promenade, should take warning from the experience of two young Dartmouthians who recently had a most thrilling encounter with one of those obnoxious small animals, contact with which is far from desirable. This offensive quadruped seems to have taken possession of the Dartmouth railroad, and as he came off victor in his recent combats, I doubt not he is ready to engage in a contest with any other unwary pedestrian. The engagement I hinted at some time ago between a missionary and a Dartmouth young lady seems not to have come to anything. It appears to be a case of "I could be happy with either."

BRIDGETOWN. Dec. 2.—Rev. W. M. Fraser, who has been in charge of the Presbyterian church in this town and Annapolis, has resigned. The cause of his resignation is attributed to throat trouble, from which he has suffered considerably since he came to this town. His farewell sermon on Sunday last, and left Monday for Halifax, where he will undergo medical treatment. Miss Fannie Rumsay has returned home from a somewhat extended visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clerk, of St. John. Miss Fannie's father, who has been visiting her friend, Miss Nellie Robinson of Annapolis, has returned home. Mr. Percy Strong, of Halifax, spent several days here last week; these frequent visits to our town certainly mean something. Mr. Haud, of Baud, Gibson & Co. was in town one day last week. Mr. E. W. Whitman, left for Ohio, last week. Mr. L. D. Shafter, one of our popular young townsmen, has gone to St. John. Mr. Hector McLean has gone on a trip to Boston. Miss Mary Fisher, who has been visiting her relatives in Boston has returned much improved in health. Miss Eliza McCormick, who has been absent for some weeks, in Boston, where she has been taking lessons in painting returned home on Wednesday last. Mr. Washington Chesley and his daughter Lizzie started to-day on a trip to Boston where they will visit relatives and friends.

PARRSBORO. [Progress is for sale at Parrsboro Bookstore.] Dec. 2.—Miss Alloway, of Springhill, is the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Townshend. Mr. Stuart Jenks left last week to spend the winter in Montreal. Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Norby gave a very nice whist party on Thursday evening. Mr. J. M. Townshend and Mr. Arthur Dickey, of Amherst, were in town last Thursday. Mr. Otto Rebeck, of St. John, is spending a few days here. Rev. Fr. Melan, of Amherst, was in Parrsboro for a day or two last week. Mr. F. York has gone to Boston to spend the winter with his wife and daughters. Dr. and Mrs. Babbitt expect to leave Parrsboro shortly to reside in another part of the province. Miss Hattie Eaton has returned from Lunenburg, where she has been spending two or three months with her brother. Mr. Fletcher, of the geological survey, and his family take their departure tomorrow. They have been staying at the Grand Central for several weeks. Mr. O'Brien, of Windsor, was in town for a few days lately. CHOCOLATE.

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