

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

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On Monday afternoon the R. A. and R. L. gave a skating party at Williams' lake. They had their own band, a bonfire, excellent tea, cake, and accompaniments—a perfect day—also, several unexpected and amusing degrees of warmth in the air which did much to spoil the success of the party. The frost had been very steady for the past four days that a thaw was the last thing anticipated; and to do the hosts and guests justice, was taken as little notice of as possible. There was more than half an inch of water on the ice, but not enough to stop the dancing, for which Halifax is famous. The R. A. band has improved tremendously and really played very well, keeping capital time, and the weather was perfection; especially for the chaperones who sat about, or strolled up and down and drank tea, as though any amount of frost out, goes without saying, although there was too much water on the ice for the usual hockey; but there were also a great number of ladies, who seemed to care in the least for wet feet, but danced indefatigably. I saw Mrs. and Miss Clarkston, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Geoffrey Morrow, Mrs. Ryan, Mr. John Ryan, Major and Mrs. Maycock, Miss West, Mrs. Readey, the Misses Kenny, Colonel and the Misses Goldie, Dr. and Mrs. Fowler, Miss Naele, Miss Doull, Mr. W. Thomson and a whole host of other people, with course a large contingent of Leicestershire regiment men and of the R. A. and H. G., who were the hosts, and who, by the way, all seem to give the first skating party of the season. It was a pity that the previous Saturday had not been fixed for this particular one, as it was really the perfection of a winter day.

It is always odd to notice how little is done in Halifax of pure figure skating. If a man does not care for dancing or cannot manage it, he invariably plays hockey; and we see during a winter some very pretty play. The quickness of some of the younger men in particular, is something marvelous. The soft weather of this week has, of course, damped the zeal of skating people, who seem to have transferred their energies to shopping, an occupation which one is more or less fated in the week before Christmas.

Among the arrivals this week and last, are Captain Wright, R.N., who has been in Halifax now for three winters, and is one of the most enthusiastic of open air skaters, and Colonel Saunders, who has come to take the place of Colonel Noyes in garrison. Colonel Noyes, however, with his family, will not leave here till the spring; he is a very old inhabitant, and has been in the city since here, and his departure will create a blank at the Halifax club, the Quoit club and the various other institutions in which he has always been most popular.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Tupper were among the passengers on the *Palmyra* on Tuesday evening. They were sorry to say, only birds of passage, Mrs. Tupper making but a flying visit to Chief Justice and Mrs. Macdonald, and then accompanying her husband to Ottawa.

This is par excellence "the children's hour" in the whole year, and their parties have already set in most prominently with Christmas trees and games of Christmas trees. On Tuesday Major Waldron, whose wife is spending Christmas in England with her mother, had the bravery to give a delightful children's party, quite alone and unaided. The amusement of the evening was a magic lantern, always a wonderfully successful thing where children are concerned, and as many of the younger ones had never seen one before the enthusiasm was tremendous. Of course some of the older ones had the means and knowledge to know it was done, which distinguishes the youth of this generation, but the whole affair went off most brilliantly. Major Waldron is to be congratulated on its success; there are few men who are capable of a children's party.

Tuesday evening was taken up for the general public with a concert at the Church of England institute, and for the friends of Mr. Trowbridge, R.N., with a dinner at the Halifax club, given to him as a farewell on his approaching marriage. The dinner was a very beautiful one, and as many of the younger ones had never seen one before the enthusiasm was tremendous. Of course some of the older ones had the means and knowledge to know it was done, which distinguishes the youth of this generation, but the whole affair went off most brilliantly. Major Waldron is to be congratulated on its success; there are few men who are capable of a children's party.

The concert at the Church of England Institute went off most creditably, in spite of the disappointment sustained by the audience at the last moment when they learned that Mr. Henry would be unable to play. Mrs. and Miss Clarkston sang very pleasingly, and Miss Paygan's playing was much appreciated. To many people of non-musical tastes Mr. King's readings were the attraction. It is not often that a prophet is appreciated in his own country, but Mr. King's cleverness and versatility is beyond caviling.

I hear of a concert to take place in January, of which Mr. Dean is the principal and originator. This very able musician who has been in the city for some time, and will, I understand, play for us in the manner of his former recitals. I hear that his appointment as choir master of St. Luke's is shortly to be confirmed.

Circles have been issued regarding the private afternoons at the rink, and all anxiety on that score is at an end. Mr. J. E. Kenny, Col. Clarke, Capt. Maccock, Capt. Trotman, and Mr. Marsh, R. A., are the committee of management, to whom subscriptions are to be sent, and they promise us two afternoons, a morning and an evening, each for the usual moderate sum, with the addition of a small fee, meant to cover the expenses of the band in the evening. Tea and cake are of course included, as they constitute one of the many excellent reasons for the popularity of the afternoons. Indeed the rink pretty well amounts to the same thing as far as social qualities are concerned, as would the ladies club I see proposed in a contemporary.

I hear that Mr. and Mrs. John Miller wish to let their house furnished for six months. Mrs. Miller goes almost immediately to her home in New York to spend Christmas with her family, and Mr. Miller will follow her in time to accompany her to England early in February. Mrs. Miller is a cousin of the Vanderbilts, who give this week a large tea in honor of the debut of her sister, Miss Shepherd, in New York.

Thursday evening of this week sees the formal opening of members of the new building of the City club. Their really very handsome club house is a great addition to Barrington street, having the advantage also of being flanked by such good looking edifices as St. Mary's hall and the Church of England institute. This club is steadily growing in popularity, and has already received the limit of the number of its members, so that young as it is it will soon be extremely difficult to get in.

The social stagnation which always sets in at this season bids fair to be alleviated, at least in next week. On Monday there is the dance to be given at the Masonic hall by the Commercial Travellers' Association, which is to be a very brilliant affair; a large number of invitations have been sent to the most influential people in the town; the three chaperones are both well known and charming, so that even with the brilliant example before them, set by the Red Cap, Chief Justice, Mrs. Hagar, and will, I understand, play for us in the manner of his former recitals. I hear that his appointment as choir master of St. Luke's is shortly to be confirmed.

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On Saturday last Mrs. James Eason had her annual sale of the very artistic and exquisite needlework and fancy work for which she is so famous. Owing to her unfortunate illness, which necessitated her leaving her rooms at the Halifax hotel and going to the church hospital for what is to be hoped will only be a short time, the sale was held at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Northrup. The delicacy and exquisite finish of Mrs. Eason's work is something beyond description, one large table cloth in particular being most beautifully embroidered in white and yellow, a new departure and a very happy one, as applied to a cloth large enough for a luncheon table. Some of the tea-cloths and doilies were quite wonderful in design and execution, and the sofa cushions almost too delicate for every day use. Considering the time expended on all these pretty things, the prices asked for them were not exorbitant. Mrs. Eason is an artist in her way, and deserves not amateur but professional prices for her work.

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On Christmas Day Mrs. Daly will have a family dinner at Government House, augmented of course with a small outside element, among which are Col. and Mrs. Ryan, Major Waldron, Major Macdonald, Capt. Young, Bateman and Mr. GARDNER, and the description of entertainment peculiar to the day. Among the ladies asked are Mrs. Maycock, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Molony, Mrs. Norman-Lee and two others whose names at this moment escape me. Mrs. Franklyn has also a small dinner at Government House, and there are a score of small family dinners at various houses.

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HALIFAX, N. S.,
July 31st, 1891.
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AMHERST.
[PROGRESS is for sale at Amherst, by George Douglas, at the Western Union Telegraph office.]
Dec. 22—Monday evening gave us one of the most artistic entertainments that we have ever had the pleasure of attending in this town, it being the occasion of a musical recital, of voice and piano, by Mr. Barnaby, assisted by a few of his pupils. The hall of the Y. M. C. A. was filled with an especially invited audience. Every piece was a gem, and rendered as such. Mr. Barnaby, although suffering from throat trouble, was in excellent voice. The dignity, touch, and execution of Mr. George Munro's playing is not often excelled. The sweet voice, and quiet manner of Miss Ceilon Wilson, make her a general favorite. Her song, "Waiting," was very beautiful. The solo, "L'Incontro," Ardi, by Miss Gates, was beautifully rendered; the "Mariners," as was also, a vocal trio, by Mrs. Tupper, Mrs. Gates, and Mr. Barnaby, was very pleasing. It permitted me to mention each performer. All did their part well, and reflect much praise on their talented teacher. I must not, however, omit to note a very pleasing incident which took place, but was not on the programme. When Miss Gates made her first appearance, in the vocal duet, "A Golden Day," with Mr. Barnaby, she was presented with a magnificent bouquet by Dr. C. A. McQueen, which she received, and acknowledged very gracefully. Another beautiful incident was the presentation of a magnificent bouquet to Mr. Barnaby, which she received, and acknowledged very gracefully. Another beautiful incident was the presentation of a magnificent bouquet to Mr. Barnaby, which she received, and acknowledged very gracefully. Another beautiful incident was the presentation of a magnificent bouquet to Mr. Barnaby, which she received, and acknowledged very gracefully. Another beautiful incident was the presentation of a magnificent bouquet to Mr. Barnaby, which she received, and acknowledged very gracefully.

Winter Curtains and Portiers,
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EIDER DOWN QUILTS,
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Lamb's Wool Quilts, rich coverings;
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Home Made from Home Grown Wool.
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The Mutual Life OF NEW YORK,
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It requires NO Boiling.
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It is a delicious Drink.
It is guaranteed Absolutely PURE.
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