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HALIFAX NOTES.

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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-but, alas! several unexpected and unwelcome degrees of warmth in the air which did much to spoil the success of the party. The frost had been so 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 was 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 season prevailed but December. That there were any amount of men out, goes without saying, alany amount of men 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 not to care in the least for wet feet, but danced indetatigably. I saw Mrs. and Miss Clarkson, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Geoffrey Mortow, Mrs. Ryan, Mr. John Ryan, Major and Mrs. Maycock, Miss West, Mrs. Reader, the Misses Kenny, Colonel and the Misses Goldie, Dr. and Mrs. Fowler, Miss Nagle, Miss Doull, Mr. W. Thomson and a whole host of other people, with of course a large contingent of Leicestershire regiment men and of the R. A. and H. G., who were the men and of the R. A. and H. G., who were the hosts, and who, by the way, always 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

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 especial, is something marvellous. 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 to which one is more or less fated in the week before

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 cold, inhabitant, having been twice stationed old inhabitant, having been twice stationed 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

Mr. and Mrs Willie Tupper were among the pas sengers on the *Polynesian* on Tuesday, but are, I am 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

This is par excellence "the children's hour" in the whole year, and their parties have already set in most promisingly with Christmas trees and rumors of Christmas trees. On Tuesday Major Waldron. whose wife is spending Christmas in England with her mother, had the bravery to give a delightful child'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 elder ones had the usual anxiety to know "how 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, for there are few men who are capable of a children went of the success.

Tuesday evening was taken up for the general public with a concert at the Church of England institute, and for the friends of Mr. Troubridge, R.N., with a dinner at the Halifax club, given to him as farewell on his approaching marriage and departure. The invitations are issued for his marriage to Miss Duffus on Tuesday next, and are few in number, being confined, I understand, to relations and intimate family friends. Mr. MacGowan is to be best man; Miss Stairs, the only bridesmaid will wear a very beautiful dress of gray and green velvet, made by Redfern, while the toilette of the bride is to be white brocade, with embroidery of pearls. The wedding will take place at St. Luke's cathedral at half past eleven in the morning, and will be followed by the orthodox

The concert at the Church of England Institute went off most creditably, in spite of the disappoint-ment sustained by the audience at the last moment when they learned that Mr. Henry would be unable to play. Mrs. and Miss Clarkson sang very pleasingly, and Miss Paygant'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 cavilling.

I hear of a concert to take place in January, of which Mr. Dean is the principal and originator. This very able musician will be assisted by Mrs. Hagarty, 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.

Circulars have been issued regarding the private afternoons at the rink, and all anxiety on that score is at end. Mr. J. F. Kenny, Col. Clerke, Capt. Peacock, Capt. Trotman, and Mr. Marsh, R. A., are the committee of many and mr. the committee of management, to whom subscrip the committee of management, to whom subscriptions are to be sent, and they promise us two atternoons, a morning and an evening a week, 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 conto the same thing as far as social qualities are con-cerned, 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 near 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,

Thursday evening of this week sees the formal opening to 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 pros-perity, and has already resolved to limit the number of its members, so that young as it is it will soon be extremely difficult to get into it.

The social stagnation which always sets in at this this season bids fair to be alleviated, at least, 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 Snow shoe Club, building, the commercial travellers have nothing to fear regarding the success of their function. What sensible departure such dances are, in comparison with the dinners in fashion ten years ago! The same amount of money permits the entertaining of five times the number of people, with far more enjoyment to them and to their hosts.

Mrs. Reader gave a very pleasant tea to non-skating people on Friday of last week. She is a most indefatiguable hostess, and considering the short time of her sojourn here, is wonderfully an courout with the ins and outs of society in general. Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Thomson had also teas on the same afternoon, but composed of quite a reverse element, young men and maidens, very glad of a

cup of tea after an afternoon on the ice. On Saturday last Mrs. James Esson had her annual sale of the very artistic and exquisite em-broidery and fancy work for which she is so famous.

Owing to her unfortunate illness, which necessi-

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tated 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. Esson'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 a very happy one, as applied to a cloth large enough for a luncheon table. Some of the teacloths and doilies were quite wonderful in design and execution, and the sofa cushions almost too dainty for every day use. Considering the time expended on all these pretty things, the prices asked for them were not exorbitant. Mrs. Esson is an artist in her way, and deserves not amateur but professional prices for her work.

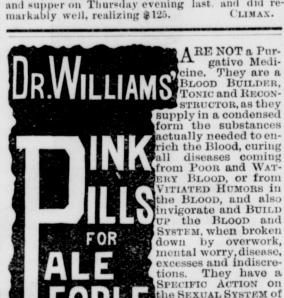
On Christmas Day Mrs. Daly will have a family dinner at Government House, augmented of course with a small outside element, among which are Col. and Mrs. Ryan, Major Waldron, Major Macdonell, Capt. Young, Bateman and Mr. Guthoven. At the R. A. and R. L. mess will be a ladies dinner, a description of 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. Francklyn has also a small dinner at Ems cote, and there are a score of small family dinners at various houses. Morris Granville.

PUGWASH.

[Progress is for sale in Pugwash at Mrs. John nstone's millinery store.

DEC. 23 .- I can safely say "that this is the winter of our discontent." It is very dull indeed; it generally is so here at this season of the year. We make our honey in summer, and then shut our selves up and enjoy it in winter.

The baptists have just reopened their church after undergoing a thorough remodelling, and they have good reason to be proud of their improve-The presbyterian ladies held their Christmas tree and supper on Thursday evening last, and did re



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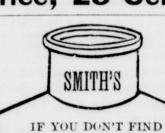
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AMHERST.

[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 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'Incoutro," Arditi, by Miss Gates, was beautifully rendered; the "Mariners," as was also, a vocal trio, by Mrs. Tupper, Miss Gates, and Mr. Barnaby. I regret time will not permit 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 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 the programme. When Miss Gates made her first appearance, in the vocal duett, "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. Among the many strangers I noticed in the audience were Miss Thomson, Miss Hillson, and Mr. Hamilten, Moncton; Prof. and Mrs. Mack, Sackville; Sheriff and Mrs. McQueen; Mr. Joseph McQueen, M. P. P., and Mrs. McQueen, Point de Bute; Miss Bliss, Westmorland. Bliss, Westmorland.

We would be very indignant if we were accused of disloyalty or discourtesy; but I think it crops out very prominently at every entertainment. The moment the first notes of "God Save the Queen" are struck there is a general stampede. Mr. Sidney Steele, finding his health failing, left on the 12th inst. for a trip as far as Jamaica, where he will remain for some weeks, if he finds the cli-

he will remain for some weeks, if he finds the climate beneficial.

Mr. Percy Kuider, of Dorchester, accompanied by Mrs. Kuider, was over on Wednesday last to attend his sister's marriage. Miss Kinder made a very charming bride, and was becomingly gowned in white cashmere and China silk. She was given away by her brother. Her presents were handsome. I append a list this week, being unable to obtain a complete one for last week.

Senator Dickey, silver cake basket.

Mrs. Dickey, fruit dish.

Dr. D. C. and Miss Allan, piano lamp.

Mrs. Barnably, gold-lined fruit spoon.

Dr. C. and Mrs. Bliss, berry dish.

Mr. W. G. and Mrs. Pipes, \$10.

Mr. Percy and Miss Kuider, bronze clock.

Miss Kate Campbell (the bride's niece), velvet and satin cushion.

and satin cushion.
Mr. George Campbell (Winnipeg), silver fish

Mr. George Campbell (Winnipeg), silver fish slice and fork.

Mr. W. W. Casey, silver ice pitcher.

Mr. Neil and Miss Campbell, parlor lamp.

Mr. James Logan, the groom's father, \$30.

Miss Maude Read, Sackville, silver pickle dish.

Miss Helen Miles, silver salt cellar.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Curry, one dozen silver knives.

Messrs. C. S. McLeod and W. M. Chesley, gold lined 5 o'clock tea sett.

Miss Pride, plush saddle bags.

Mr. C. E. Casey, gold lined jelly spoon.

Miss Ethel Main, fancy tea pot.

Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Lawson, silver candlesticks.

Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Ralston, glass water sett and tray.

Mr. J. M. Lusby, gold lined sugar bowl.
Mr. J. R. Gilrov, Springhill, fruit dish in hammered brass stand.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Davis, silver card receiver. Mr. and Mrs. Max Sterne, pair vases. Mr. A. W. Foster, silver and glass fruit dish. Miss White Sussex, silver napkin ring. Dr. C. A. McQueen, silver pepper and salt shak-

Miss Edna Moffatt, silver and pearl pickle fork. Miss Helen Purdy, Five-o'clock cream pitcher and Miss Edith Wilbur, Dorehester, pair of silver

ogs. Miss Doakin, picture drape. Miss C. P Hunter, Springhill, handsome vinegar met. Mr. W. J. Hamilton, fancy china teapot. Mrs. W. J. Hamilton, sett brush and comb. Mr. J. K. Howard, wicker chair.

Mr. J. K. Howard, wicker chair.

Amherst still sustains its reputation as a marriageable town. Another of these happy events came off on Tuesday at 5 p.m., at the residence of Dr. R. Mitchell, when his eldest daughter, Miss Jennie, and Mr. William Fillmore were made one, Rev. Dr. McGregor officiating. Only a few of the immediate friends of the family were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Fillmore left by the C. P. R. at 7 o'clock for a trip to St. John and other places.

Miss Mattie Campbell is home from Winnings Miss Mattie Campbell is home from Winnipeg Miss Mattle Campbell is nome from withinger and will spend Christmas with her brother and sister, Mr. and Miss Campbell, Church street.

Mrs. Ketchum will spend Christmas in Moncton with her sister, Mrs. Binny.

Mrs. Aithur Dickey will have a Christmas tree at her residence on Christmas eve for her children and their little friends.

peir little friends. Miss Ella Hillson is home from the Ladies' Col Miss Ena Amson's home from the Ladies College, Halifax, for the holidays.

Miss F. Rogers is home from St. John for Christmas, returning on Saturday.

Mr. Amos Seaman of Boston, who has been home making his friends in Minudie a visit, paid us a short

Hon. D. L. Hanington, of Dorchester, was in town

Duke Laurie, the little son of Judge Morse, was quite badly burned on Monday of last week, by his nothes taken fire, while playing in the nursery.

Miss McHeffey, returned from Halifax last week to remain the winter.

Beatiful music, will be a special feature of the Christmas Service in Christ Church, which is most tastefully decorated with evergreens. A temporary wood screen, spans the entrance to the chancel, covered with red, with appropriate text in gold, and silver lettering.
On St. John the Evanglist's Day, Sunday the 27th, Rev. F. Norman Lee, champlain to the forces at Halifax, with take the service in the morning, Rev. N. E. Harris going to St. Alban's Fort Lawrence. In the afternoon at three, the Rev. Norman Lee, will deliver the annual sermon before the members of Acacia Lodge A. F. & A. M. who will march in procession from Masonic Hall to the church.
On Monday evening the fratenity, with their friends will dine together at the Amberst hotel.

friends will dine together at the Amherst hotel.

Miss Alice Moore left on Monday for New York, to acquire the duties of a nurse in one of the leading hospitals in that city. Miss Moore is one of our most charming young ladies, and we can ill afford to lose her. There was a small but pleasant five o'clock at Mrs. C. E. Ratchford's on Saturday. Mr. John Pugsley, of the civil service, Ottawa, spent Sunday in town and left Monday for Cape Breton, expecting to arrive here on Saturday. Mrs. Logan received the first three days of this

There is to be the usual family dinner party at Grove Cottage, the residence of Senator and Mrs. Dickey, on Christmas evening.

BRIDGETOWN.

DEC. 22.-The Literary society was entertained last Thursday evening, by one of its members, "Miss Newcombe," a very pleasant time was spent. Rev. Mr. Cunningham, rector of St. James's church, went to La Have, last week, to assist in the opening service of their beautiful new church. Mrs. De Blois was called to Halifax last wees, by the illness of her daughter, Mrs. H. W. Freeman. Mrs. De Blois is at home again, and Mrs. Freeman's many friends here will be glad to learn she has re-

Mr. and Mrs. Walter McCormick are in town pending a few days with Mrs. McCormick's parents. spending a few days with Mrs. McCormick's parents.
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Spurr were in town last week,
the guests of Mrs. John Healy.
The entertainment given last Thursday evening
by the ladies of the Baptist church, brought out
much of the local musical talent. The programme
consisted of readings, recitations, solos, and Miss
Fanny Healy, accompanied by her sister on the
piano, played the violin. Though the night was cold
and disagreeable, the hall was crowded long before

eight o'clock.
Mr. Frank Fowler, who has been spending a few days with his parents, left for home today.

The public school closed last Friday for the holidays. Master Ernest Morse, with a few well chosen remarks, presented Mr. A.D. Brown, the principal, with a handsome gold pen and holder, the gift of his scholars, by whom he has always been beloved and respected.

Miss Cora Healy, who has been attending the ladies seminary at Wolfville, is home for the Christmas holidays.

mas holidays.

Mrs. Samuel Dennison and her son, Archie, who has been studying pharmacy in Boston, arrived ome last Saturday.

Mrs. T. D. Ruggles, jr., gave a very pleasar

card party last Tuesday evening.

Miss E. Quirk went to Wolfville last Wednesday,
where she will spend Christmas with Mrs. John-Miss Susie Young, teacher of one of the Wey-mouth schools, is home for two weeks' vacation.

A very pretty but quiet wedding took place at the residence of Mr. John Crisp, when his daughter Lizzie was united in marriage to Mr. Abner Williams, of Clarence. The bride looked charming in a cream dress with bridal veil and beautiful wreath of orange blossoms. The presents were costly and numerous. Among them was an elegant gold watch, the gift of the groom. After luncheon was served the happy couple drove to Clarence, where they will make their home in the future.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Wright entertained a few of their friends at the Methodist parsonage last Wed-

nesday evening.
Mrs. Dr. Barnaby, of Elm villa, who has been away for a few weeks, is at home again.

Mr. Reginald Miller, who has been in Boston for cme three months past, is home again.

C. C.

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