

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

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HALIFAX NOTES.

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To the Leicestershire regiment is due the honor of having given most of the pleasantest and most successful rink parties we have ever had here. It was, of course, informal and non-regimental, as nothing official can be given by anyone in the Imperial service until after Sunday next. Invitations were issued accordingly by telephone, and verbally, to nearly all the subscribers to the private afternoons at the rink.

The weather was mild and the ice very wet; but it must have been much wetter for have stopped the dancing, which went on with tremendous spirit. There were what is not often seen in any rink, six sets of lancers at one time; a set of "duffers" at each end; and four sets in the middle, all composed of conspicuously good dancers.

There was the usual supply of hot tea and coffee, soup and mullied caviar, which was much in request, since every one, and ladies with long skirts in especial had very wet feet by the end of the second dance; and hot drinks were particularly acceptable.

There were two or three bad falls in the course of the evening, chiefly among the too ambitious; but luckily no ladies were among the unfortunate. Mrs. Troubridge made her first appearance on her arrival from Bermuda; and Mrs. F. Jones was also out again after her brief absence from society, which was owed to the untimely illness of her "little son." Miss Howe, who is staying with Mrs. McLeod, was heard much admiring her skating. There were a number of people looking on, as usual; walking up and down, and dancing upstairs in the gallery, to the music of the Leicestershire band, which played wonderfully well. The only fault to be found (and that a cursory one) by the whole entry, was that Mr. Clark might have supplied a little more light; there was no gas lit; and the electric lights which were turned on, were, to say the least, inadequate; they succeeded, however, in giving an air of unusual gloom to what would otherwise have been a bright and lively scene.

Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Duff, Colonel and the Misses Goldie, Colonel Hill, Major, and Mrs. Maycock, Mrs. Moran, Mrs. W. Duff, Mrs. Troubridge, Miss Deane, Mr. and Mrs. G. Clark, Miss Roberts, Miss Bingham, Mr. and Mrs. Donih, Colonel Lea, Miss Keogh, Mr. and Mrs. Cotter, Dr. and Mrs. James Morrow, Mrs. Geoffrey Morrow, Mrs. F. Jones, Miss Nagle, Miss Albro, Miss West, Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Marshall, Misses Kenny, Captain Duff, and Mrs. Alexander, Miss How, Captain Duff, Miss Anderson, the Misses Story, Mrs. and Miss Farrell, the Misses Wood, Mr. and Mrs. James Scott, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Moran, Miss Lyde, Miss Saiter, Miss Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Kenny, Mr. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. James Scott, the Misses Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Stairs Duffus, Mr. H. Wyde, Mrs. Charles Wyde, Miss Norton-Taylor, Mrs. J. F. Kenny, Mrs. Carleton Jones, Miss Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Hole, etc. There were a great number of men, who turned out in far greater proportion than in the afternoon, although many of them had no better reason than laziness to keep them away. As it was Saturday night, the band began punctually at eight, so that by twenty minutes of eleven the band gave the Queen was over, and the rink was empty.

Mrs. Charles Wyde had a small tea on Monday, for Mrs. George Coster, who with Mr. Coster's here for a short time.

Mrs. A. F. Moran has returned to Halifax after a long visit to St. John. Mrs. Reader had a large tea this week; a species of festivity which it seems a pity to anticipate before Lent torus us. Among the people at it were the Misses Kenny, Miss Keogh, Miss Deane, Mrs. Troubridge, Captain Byrne, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Troubridge, Mrs. Duffus, Captain Burnett, Mrs. Morrow, Miss Saiter, Mr. Stoddart, Mrs. F. Jones, etc. I hear a rumor of Major and Mrs. Reader's giving up their house for one nearer Wellington barracks. If it is true, the house will be much missed at the south end of the town.

There was a large dinner on Tuesday night at the R. A. and R. E. Mess, which had the double purpose of welcoming back Sir John Ross, and bidding farewell to Colonel Goldie, who will leave Halifax on the arrival of the troop, probably about the middle of next month. Major Ferguson and Mr. Whyte were of course among the guests. And I hear, by the way, that the former is intensely fond of both shooting and fishing, and will give much sport as is obtainable during his stay in Halifax. I see that he has purchased the well known pony, Hunchback, in addition to the two he took over from Major Massie.

A new whist club is talked of, to meet during Lent, though it is yet a seedling thing. Its proposed members are pretty much those of last year's poker club, but the innovation of dining at each of the various houses in turn has been suggested, which would make a more serious undertaking of it.

The concert at the Church of England institute, on Tuesday evening, was very well attended in spite of the counter attractions existing elsewhere to the more frivolous minded. And indeed the programme was really good enough to command an audience. Mrs. Botsford is new to Halifax audiences, and her song "Fiddle and I" was encored. Miss Tremaine playing the violin very prettily. Miss Morrow's "Minuet," and Mr. Phillips' song were also much appreciated by the audience; this series of little concerts is a very pleasant one, and deserves to be encouraged. Our amateur talent is most kind in giving its services to the institute. Mrs. King and Miss G. very prettily; her voice is a very small one, but extremely sweet.

On Wednesday evening Mrs. Stairs had a large family dinner, given principally I hear for Miss Morrow and Major Bon, who are to be married in June.

Still another of our old friends has entered into the holy state of matrimony. The marriage of Capt. Cartwright, P. W. O. Regiment, and Miss Plumer, took place at Bangalore, India, in the end of December. Captain Hadow, of the same regiment—once a very well known person in Halifax—was best man; and Miss de Sais, his cousin, bridesmaid.

Colonel Noyes, R. A., has returned from England. Mr. Bridson, R. N., is here from Bermuda. Scarcely a happy change as regards climate one would imagine; but fortunately Halifax has other attractions.

The congregation of Fort Massey church must regret extremely that the ill health of Dr. Burns compels him to resign his charge. I hear that he will sell his house and go to the south of England to reside, in hopes that the mild climate and complete rest may restore him in addition to the well known brilliancy and power of his sermons. Dr. Burns has won the respect and affection of his people by his constant visiting of the sick and needy among them. His place will be hard to fill.

I hear from a friend of Mrs. Willie Hill nee Miss Mabel Bogert, that Mr. Hill is indeed a fortunate man, as is wife is one of the prettiest of the ladies in Ottawa, which is saying a good deal. Mrs. Hill is very young, but has on a great favorite in Ottawa society as Miss Bogert's. Miss skinner St. John, is staying with Mrs. Fielding. Mr. and Mrs. Dalziel leave for England next week.

The Lilywhite minstrels of the Leicestershire regiment gave their first performance at the Academy of music on Tuesday evening. The galleries were packed of course, but the orchestra chairs were sparsely filled, although a great number of tickets had been sold. The dinner at the R. A. mess taking away a large contingent, Sir John Ross among the number; and society in general waiting until Wednesday evening to turn out in force. The performance however, was quite worth attending to. The minstrelsy, pure and simple, were perhaps the poorest part of the entertainment. The jokes were the jokes of Tommy Atkins, and rather heavy and long drawn out. The singing was good; the choruses especially being well balanced, not too loud, and in tune. The old song, "Marching through Georgia," had been furnished with new and amusing words, and was loudly encored by the audience. The topical song "The Local Bobbies" by Sergeants Ryan and Farley was delightful, and the marching which accompanied it might have caused all the "fan drills" and "grand marches" of bobbers which have ever been seen on the Academy's stage to hide their diminished heads. It was really beautifully done, every movement so true and accurate, and the figures introduced in one or two cases being quite new. The exit of the marching bobbies was delicious; each man seized his neighbor and

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and hauled him off the stage with most life-like scuffling. Mr. Hughes, the band master, to whom great credit is due for the excellence of the entertainment, played a solo on the slide trombone (which is, by the way, a particularly hard instrument to play well), and was encored. He had the benefit of an unexceptional accompanist, as Mr. Porter played for him. As an encore Mr. Hughes gave "In Old Madrid."

Where did the Leicestershire regiment ever pick up so expert an acrobat as Skippo? His performance was really wonderful, and his crowning feat of standing again on a chair placed on the ordinary kitchen table, turning a summersault backwards through the air and landing on his feet was worthy of a far more ambitious company. Blunt's high kicking was also very good, and his expression of grave contempt for his more agile companion very funny.

The harp too was very well acted. There were more wit and originality and far less horse play than in the general run of such things; and Bob, the servant of the proprietor of the travelling circus, who had been packing and was forced to replace his names for the hastily dressed figures were delightful, and his jokes very funny. The "Marquess of Lorne," the "Marquess of O'Connell," and the "Baptist Parson" brought down the house; and the latter, unfortunately, served to point a moral in the songs as well as the wags.

As a whole, the performance was capital, and the first nervousness of the performers and the coldness of the audience had worn off, the applause and laughter was unintermitted. On Wednesday night there was a much larger audience in the reserved seats, as there were several parties and suppers.

I have not heard for what the proceeds are intended, but certainly the Lily White Minstrels deserved what they made. Perhaps we shall see them again during their stay in Nova Scotia. The stage, by the way, was very well arranged in the minstrel show. The men were in the regular black and white, relieved by scarlet jackets, and the women in a graduated pyramid which was flanked by palms and flowers, and relieved by the glitter of the instruments and the brilliancy of their costumes. Mr. Ward McAllister has it. The costumes of the end men were very fine, especially the enormous handkerchiefs which made such a feature in the patriotic ballet.

Yet another of the dramatic club has been pursued by scuffling. Mr. Fuller who takes one of the principal parts in the comedy performance of school, is staying at the Queen hotel on account of the illness of his little sister, which is very serious, and to hear is very slight. MORRIS GRANVILLE.

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DARTMOUTH. FEB. 24.—The meeting of the fortnightly club, held in the N. P. C. hall on Tuesday night was, I think, on the whole, the most enjoyable one of the season, besides the members, all of whom were present, there was quite a large number of gentlemen from town which was a fortunate thing—as colds seemed to prevail and a good many did not dance at all. The hall was nicely arranged by the young ladies who had the entertainment in hand; the only drawback being the location of the stove which, however, was unavoidable. The Harpers played very nicely and very delicious viands were dispensed near the close of the meeting. I observed as this was on rather a larger scale than the former ones—that the rule against evening dress would be abolished for the once—but such was not the case—even gloves—which, I think, are little short of necessary for the gentlemen at any rate, were pretty generally dispensed with, though I observed one or two honorable exceptions, if the ladies wear light dresses they certainly would appreciate a partner with gloves. The next meeting of the club will be at Mr. G. Duff's, where everyone is sure of a good time.

Mr. Sandy Morrison's many friends will be glad to hear he is much improved in health and is now in the south of France.

There was a tobogganing party on Thursday composed entirely of gentlemen, which I thought was a very bit selfish and I hope if we have enough snow again this winter, they will cover this omission by asking some of the ladies to accompany them. Mrs. Henry S. Creighton and Miss McKie, took part in the entertainment at the Sailors home on Thursday last.

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Chandler Cram who lost her mother Mrs. John F. Muncey, on Sunday last. Mrs. Muncey was 88 years of age and leaves a husband just a year older. AGR & a very pleasant dinner at Beech's they returned home.

The Roman Catholics here for the last two Sun days occupied the basement of their handsome new church. I presume the main portion will soon be completed so that service can be held there. The standing order of the reason to be proud of such a building and such an exceptionally fine site.

I hear there is to be a large dance on Tuesday next, the centenary of the hostess' marriage. More of it anon.

I believe we are really to have a new postoffice, and as the ground has already been purchased near the ferry, the murrers we so often fear, since its removal from Portland street, will cease.

PROGRESS is for sale in Pictou by Jas. McLean. FEB. 24.—Last Thursday there was a jolly coasting party to the Beeches road, with supper and dance at Mrs. John Yarrow's. Thanks are due to Messrs. Fraser and Dawson who took so much trouble in making it so successful.

Mrs. George Rutherford and Mrs. Henry Poole of Stellarton, were in town on Thursday. Mrs. Frank D. Langrie was in town last week also Miss Caruchael from New Glasgow.

Miss Fergie of Westville, was visiting Mrs. Henry Ives, for a few days last week. Mr. Emerson of Halifax, was here on Thursday, staying at the Revere Hotel.

Mrs. Stewart of Halifax, and Mr. John Doull was in town on Saturday, returning to Halifax on Monday.

Mr. Charles Fergie, was here on Saturday, the guest of Mr. R. Johnston, Water street. Col. Snow returned home from Mabou, on Saturday, only for a short stay, as he left for Cape Breton, Tuesday.

Mr. Mackay, secretary for the Y. M. C. A., Moncton, spent a few days with his friends here last week.

Mrs. H. G. Ives was "at home" on Friday afternoon to a large number of invited guests. It was quite a brilliant assembly. Everything was enjoyable, tea, conversation and music. The number of guests was too large to mention them all. The same evening, Mr. Ives had an "impromptu dance" which was thoroughly pleasant.

On Friday evening there was band at the rink, and two other attractions, provided, a leap year skate, and an amateur race, which was won by Mr. Edgar Dawson.

Mrs. J. Stewart had a children's party on Friday evening, which was much enjoyed by all her little visitors.

Mrs. Laner and Mrs. Chisholm had a very large coasting party on Monday evening, about 60 being present.

BRIDGETOWN. FEB. 24. A pleasant party was given by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Beckwith last Thursday evening. All who have ever been favored with invitations to their beautiful residence know what a perfectly lovely time one has there, and Thursday evening was by no means an exception. Mrs. Beckwith served a delicious supper, and from the time the guests were ushered into the dressing-rooms until the "good-nights" were said, the evening passed off most enjoyable.

Mrs. Nelson spent a few days with friends in town last week.

Mrs. Banks, from Kingston, is visiting her sister, Mrs. A. Foster.

Mrs. Kinney, who has been paying a visit to her friend Mrs. J. W. Beckwith, returned to her home in Yarmouth last week.

Mrs. James Hill, who has been spending a short time with relatives here, has returned to Halifax, accompanied by her father, Mr. John Embley.

The Misses Taylor and Henry, who have been visiting at Lawnsdale, left for their home in Halifax on Thursday last.

Mr. W. B. Chipman, of Wolfville, spent Sunday with his sister, Mrs. Huntington.

Mr. F. R. Prat, who was called to Wolfville last week by the sudden death of his brother, arrived home on Thursday.

Mr. Fred Reed, who has been spending a short vacation with his parents, went to Halifax on Saturday.

Mr. Leckie, of Middleton, is in town.

Mr. Frank Fowler, of Wolfville, is spending a few days home with his parents.

Much regret is felt at the death of Miss Annie Curran, which occurred in St. John on Sunday last. It will be remembered that Miss Curran spent some weeks in this town last summer with her aunt, Mrs. George Russell.

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