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HALIFAX NOTES.

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On Thursday afternoon of last week there was a most interesting gathering at the residence of Miss Bullock, the vice-president of the Churchwomen's Missionary Association. The occasion was the pres entation of a testimonial to Mrs. Lyde, the indefatigable Secretary of the Association, who is shortly to leave for England, and has consequently for the time being resigned her post as secretary. The testimonial took the form of a dozen sterling silver spoons, presented by the members of the committee as a slight token of the untiring zeal displayed by Mrs. Lyde in furthering the objects of the associa-

The presentation was made by the Bishop of the Diocese, who in his usual happy way alluded to Mrs. Lyde's admirable work, and in the name of the committee thanked her for all she had done. All the members of the committee were present on this happy occasion, the Misses Bullock being "At Home" for this special purpose.

On the same afternoon, Mrs. Donald Keith, Ingli street, had a very large and extremely pleasant "At Home" from 4.30 to 7. The recent Local and Mayoralty elections were discussed by some of the ladies and gentlemen present, and [do you] know several of the ladies were doing a little canvassing for the latter? the lad es are very persuasive when they set their minds to take sides. The Misses Keith were indetatigable in their endeavors to make the guests feel "At Home" and succeeded

Last week was a great bicycle week. The Ramblers' show was thoroughly patronized, even by those persons to whom a wheel is a wheel and nothing more, and the chance oi winning one doubtless increases the attendance at the show by double.

There have been no regular bicycle parties as yet, but everyone is to be met in the afternoon in the park, and there are several fresh recruits to the great army. Halitax wheelwomen dress remarkably well and are more carefully turned out this year than ever. Mrs. Troop, who rides beautifully. always looks nice, and so does Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Curren and Miss West. Miss Cady and Miss Seaton are this year's converts to the wheel, and several other ladies are taking it up most energeticelly I hear, by the way, that Mrs. Erskine has been unable to ride at all this winter on account of the accident to her ankle before leaving Halifax last

There seems to be every prospect of an exceedingly loyal year this year, owing to the Queens Diamond Jubilee the loyalty culmimating, in June. I fashions, which are to be the rage this year, are to include the revival of elastic-side boots and muslin

A delighed audience welcomed the Orpheus club operatic compan), to greet Mr. Wikel and his talented companions upon the occasion of their reappearance in "Rip Van Winkle." It is doubtful if, in the history of amateur theatricals for opera in our city, a more perfect performance has ever been given than that of Planquette's pretty opera by the Orpheus Club. And the principals and chorus may well be proud of the triumph, and of the hearty cur tain call given to Mr. Wikel at the close of the second act; for the said ovation was testimony not alone to the excellence of Mr. Wikel's acting, but also to the remarkably clever work of Capt. Hud son and his lieutenants, of Mr. Hebb, as the goblin dwarf, and the chorus singing of the villagers in the same act.

The division of the parts originally entrusted to Mrs. Haggarty has not in anyway detracted from the merits of the Club's production of the opera. Miss Lewis, as Grethen, was more than pleasing to look at and listen to. She is the fortunate possessor of a pure and exceedingly sweet voice, and the applause accompanying the boquet of flowers presented to her in the first act was most prolonged and hearty. Mrs. E lis, as Alice, proved to be a worthy successor to Miss Lewis (Grethen), and both these ladies are to be congratulated on the support given to the central figure of the opera.

And what of Rip? That Mr. Wikel was received with an outburst of applause from those who had previously seen him as the graceless vagabond whom dogs and children loved, goes without saying. His performance of Rip on Wednesdey evening was a delightful study-a finished bit of work by a talented actor. Mr. Porter and the members of the Orpheus Club Opera Company are to be again complimented on the great success of their revival

Among the arrivals of the week was Captain Semini, who has been spending the winter in England. Mrs. Moir, wife of Surgeon Capt, J. D. Moir

Colonel Briscoe, Colonel North's successor, has taken "The Oaks" for a long term. It is not been occupied for some time, but is one of the pleasant est places in the neighborhood of the Arn

There were a couple of small teaparties last week but nothing of the usual gaiety of Easter week, ex cepting as regards "Rip Van Winkle," which was well attended.

TRURO.

PROGRESSIS for sale in Truro by Mr. G. O. Ful-

ton, and D. H. Smith and Co.] APRIL. 28 .- Miss Etta Page arrived home last week from her continental trip, which' owing to the serious indisposition of her mother, has been very

much curtailed. Social events, there have been none of, within the week, excepting one very pleasant evening given by Miss Ida Schnrman at the I. C.R. Dinning room on Wednesday, dancing and cards. were the diversions. The party which was mostly made up of guests from Acadia mines [left about half past one a. m. by special train for home. Among those

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present were: Mr, and Mrs. E. Wa'sh, Dr. and Mrs. Trueman, Misses Forman, Miss Hiltz, Mrs. friend: are glad to see them in town again, Mr. and McDonald, Miss McLeod, Rev. Mr. Underwood, Mrs. Nevins, whose home is now in St. John, are Messrs. Forman, McLeod, Hiltz.

MONCTON.

PROGRESS is for sale in Moncton at the Moncton Bookstore, by W. G. Stanfield and at M. B. Jones' Bookstore].

April 28.—There is suc's an extraordinary lull in society affairs at present that the position of the society correspondent at Moncton is almost a sinecure. I dislike mentioning housec'esning in this column, because it does not seem to accord well last week. with society matters, but I am really afraid the spring upheaval is responsible for this quietude and until all the houses are swept and garnished afresh tor the summer I shall not have much of in-

terest to record. Mrs George C. Peters of Alma street entertained the skating club-by the way should it not have a new name by this time, since skating is a thing of the past! -on Wednesday evening. The list of guests was extended beyond the limits of the club, and the large party enjoyed themselves immensely. Webster elocutionist, and by the well known so Whist was the order of the early part of the evening prano singer Miss Homer of Halifax. The proand afterwards dancing. Miss Cushing and Mr.

Will Bruce were the fortunate prize winners. Mrs. T. V. Cooke gave a very enjoyable ladies' tea on Thursday afternoon, at her handsome residence on Steadman street. Following the pleas. ant custom which has cone into vogue lately a few members of the sterner sex were admitted to the charmed circle, and rather added to, than detracted from the general enjoyment. Mrs. Cooke is always a delightful hostess, and was ably assisted by her daughters, Miss Cooke, and Miss Mary Cooke.

Miss McKay, and Miss Helen Howe, of Halifax, are spending a few days in towa the guests of Dr. and Mrs J. D. Ross, of O seen street. Mis P. S. Archibald, and Miss Archibald, left

town on Wednesday, to spend a few weeks in The many friends of Vir. W. C. Brannen whose serious illness I noted last week, will be glad to hear that he is so much improved as to be consider-

ed convalescent. Mrs. Wiggins of Montreal who has been visiting her sister Mrs. Grant Hall of this city, left town last week to pay a short visit to her sister, Mrs. Herbert Temple of Halifax. Mrs. Temple's Monc ton friends will be glad to hear that Mr. Temple who has been removed to Victoria hospital is improving, and there is every prospect of his recovery. Mrs. W. H. Bartlett of Fleet street who has been spending the past few weeks visiting relatives in Amherst and Springhill, returned home on Satur-

The many friends that Mr. Austin C. Stead of the Bank of Montreal, has made during his residence in Moncton, will here with deep regret of his departure from the city, he having been transerred last week to the head office at Montreal. The transer | de force. He gets his effects by a few bold strokes was affected with that impressive suddenness which usually characterizes bank changes, and Mr. Stead had left town within twenty-four hours after receiving his notice of transfer. In spite of the short time at their disposal his fellow clerks and friends enter tained the departing banker at an oyster supper on Thursday evening, and presented him with a fare. well address, and a handsome silver mounted cane in token of the esteem in which he was held. Mr. Stead has been in Moncton for four years and was a universal favorite, both in business and society circles, and while he will be greatly missed, his promotion cannot fail to be a source of pleasure to his friends, whose good wishes will follow him to his new, and wider sphere of usefulness. Mr. Stead departed for Montreal by the C. P. R. train on Friday afternoon.

Miss Cooke returned on Saturday from a brief visit to Dorchester.

The many friends of Mrs. J. H. Nase, formely of this city but lately of Westfield, are glad to see her in town again. Mrs. Nase is accompanied by her youngest daughter Miss Louise Nase, and is visiting friends in the city.

Rev. J. M. Robinson left town yesterday to spend a few days in Halifax.

The many triends of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Summer whose little daughter has been so ill with dipthe ria, will be glad to hear that the little one is out of danger, and progressing favorably towards recovery. Mr. George B. Willett returney yesterday from a trip to New York.

I regret to say that we are soon to lose Mrs. Allston Cushing and family who have made their home Moncton since last autumn, but who intend returning to St. John shortly. Mrs. Cushing and her charming daughters will be greatly missed from Moncton society.

Mr. J. E. Almon of Halifax arrived in town on Saturday having been appointed to a junior clerk ship in the Bank of Montreal here.

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Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Nevins' many Moncton spending a few days with friends in the city.

I am glad to say that Mr. J. W. Kaye who has been so ill with pneumonia, is still improving and will soon be convaliscent.

Mrs. J. H. Jarvis of Riviere du Loup is spending a few days in town the guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Givan of King street.

Mrs. Fred Jones of St. John who has been spending a week or two in town the guest of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Daniel of Botsford street, returned home

SACKVILLE.

[Progress is for sale in Sackville at Wm. I. Goodwin's Bookstore. In Middle Sackville by E.

(From a special correspondent.) The long awaited piano recital of Mr. John J. Wootton, director of the Mt. Allison conservatory, came off on the 23 inst. Mr. Wootton was assisted by two of the staff, Miss Chase pianist, and Miss gramme was as follows. Sonata in E Milor, Op. 90 L. van Beethoven

Mr. John J. Wootton. A Summer Night......Goring-Thomas

Miss Madeleine Homer. a. Ballade in Ab major. F. Chopin b. Berceuse c. Polonaise in Ab maj .r

Letter Scene, Act I., Scene V., Macbeth..... Miss Louise Webster. Cantabile from ' The Queen of Sheba ".....Gounod

Miss Homer. Concerto, D minor, No 4 Anton Rubinstein Mr. Wootton and Miss Florence Chase. God Save The Queen.

Mr. Wooton's programme, it will be seen, was a representative one, illustrating the classic, romantic and modern schools, and gave the public a better opportunity than they have hereto enjoyed to judge of his abilities as a pianist. The generul verdict is, that as he is the best teacher, so he is also the best player the conserva ory has ever had. His technic is certainly tremendous. How he is able to maintain it while teaching fifty hours a week and in the midst of multiferious duties is a wonder. His limitations were most apparent in his playing of Chopin. With Chopin, the fiery Pole, he is on terms of perfect understanding, but he is only distantly acquainted with the Parisian Chopin-Chopin the refined, the ethereal,-Chopin the man of the salons. In s word, he does not possess what we may call the feminine traits. He lacks grace, elegance, polish,- those qualities of which a former director of the school, Mr. Albert Mack, was such a perfect exponent. He likes to win us by a tour here and there rather than by careful elaboration of details. He revels in the massive. He will only be satisfied when with Rudyard Kipling's immortals,

Sit in a golden chair, And splash at a ten-league canvas With brushes of camels' hair.

Barring a slight lack of clearness in the development portions of the sonata and the concerto, both these works were splendidly given. Rubenstein's great work admirably displayed his massive technic, his bold touch and his strong intellectual grasp of his subject. At times he rose to great heights, carrying all before him like a flood.

Miss Chase, who played the orchestral accompaniment on a second piano, deserves great praise for the effective support which she rendered.

Miss Homer, the guest of the evening, was given a very hearty reception. So far as I know, she has never previously sung in this province, although she has been a resident of Halifax for the past four or five years, and has appeared on numerous occasions with the Orpheus Society. She studied for a long time with Mme Garcia, the famous Paris teacher, and has only been prevented from a grand opera career by ill-health. That she has all the qualities necessary for success on the stage-voice, training, temperament,-was abundantly shown by her rendering of the air from the "Queen of Sheba." She was not so happy in the popular Goring Thomas song, but saved it from the commonplace by a fine dramatic outburst at the close. Miss Homer would have left a better impression if she had dispensed with the cheap bids for the favor of "the boys" in her last encore numbers.

Miss Webster's selections from previous occas-sions have been in lighter vein, but she domonstra-ted by her reading of the scene from Macbeth that Shakespearean tragedy is not beyond her powers. Beethoven hall was well filled, a number of people from neighbouring towns being included among the audience.

J. M. L.

ANAGANCE. .

APRIL 28 .- Miss Bessie B. Parker is spending a few weeks in town with her sister Mrs. Geo. David-

Rev. A. Lucas of Sussex was in town on Thursday

the guest of Mrs McNaughton. Master Ernest Stockton the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. M. Stockton is very ill with grippe. Dr

Flemming is in attendance. Mrs. Davidson and little Miss Bessie Parker were in Petitcodiac on Saturday. Mrs. Helen Storrie of Apple Hill went to St.

sister Mrs. Robert B. Colwell. Mr. Byard McLeod spent Monday in St. John. Mr. S J King of St. John and Mr. W. W. Price

of Petitcodiac were in town today. Miss Julia McNaughton is visiting in Apohaqui

Mr. Jarvis Wilson of St. John was visiting at Mr. Howard McCully's last.

Mrs. Wm Fanning of Boston who was visiting friends at "The Willows" returned to her home on Mrs. G. H. Davidson and her little sister Miss

Bessie Parker spent part of last week in Moncton

the guests of their sister Mrs. Claude Price. MOSQU TO. Avoid alcoholic preparations for the hair; they injure it. Hall's Hair Renewer contains no alcohol; its components are

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