PROGRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1898



We are right in the midst of the Christmas holidays and the wister social season is in full swing, opening most auspiciously sn1 with a fair prospect that the good beginning will be continued.

Christmas day was extremely quiet, around town, and in fact quite like all the other Sundays in the year, everybody going dutifully to church once or twice during the day, and there were family reunions, but of course the more formal events sere postponed until Monday. A fad of this year siemed to be to dine at an hotel on one of the holidays, and that it was quite popular and widespread was eviderced by the number of citizens who gathered around the magnifi cently arrayed tables. Not only homeless wanderers were there, but whole family parties dined in state, and many who had guests ertertained them in that way. At the Royal the preparations for the festival were unusually elab" orate and the scene in the dining room extremely brilliant. In addition to the handsome table decorations of flowers, fruit, silver and cut glass, holly wreathed the pictures, its bright scarlet and deep velvety green adding greatly to the general effect. The menu cards were beautiful souvenirs of the occasion, in the form of a small booklet with sluminum covers, and pages rich in everything that the most expert chef could devise. There was that little air of good fellowship among the guests that Christmas always seems to engender, and persons who had never met before chatted merrily like old acquaintances. The little touch of nature that makes the whole woild kin was over all, and the seasons greetings were exchanged with sincere heartiness.

There were . ly cne or two children in the dining room but they came in for a goodly share of attention from those in their immediate vicinity; apropos the truly merry Christmas belongs alone to childhood for though we may have innumerable happy ones after we grow wise and know the truths concerning all the Christmas myths, when we cast off Fanta Clause we forfeit the merry ones. Christmas belongs to the first five or six years of childhood, and these little ones erjoy to the fullest ϵx tent the bliss of innocent, ignorant worship which we have sacrificed for the folly of wisdom. Sorrows and trials come to all of us with the serious events of li'e but none of our sorrows are halt so bi ter as the child's first awakening to the truth about Christmas. No wonder indignant protests appeared in many New York papers a few days ago b cause of the action of a primary teacher who printed in large letters ola blackboard "There is no such person as Santa Claus" together with an admonition against the folly of all such "superstitions." One little fellow of six called out in a sobchoked voice, "there is a Santa Claus teacher, I know there is." So strong was his belief in the Saint that when further questioned by the teacher he said "It there isnt any banta Clau', there isn't any God." A few days ago a little boy in this city asked his father "What did the poor little heathen fellows do for fun before there was any Christmas"-The "poor little heathen fellows" of ante-christian days have furnished us with many of our Chrismas customs, as was explained to the questioner. Why, is is the Druids we have to thank for one great feature of the Christmas celebration-the mistletoe. The grand festival of the Drui is at which Tutanes was worshipped, was celebrated on the sixth day of the moon nearest the new year. When this tacred a miversary arrived, the anciest Britons want fortn with great pomp and rejoicings to gather the parasite. When the oak tree was reached two pare whie bulls were bound to the tree, and the chief Druid, clethed is gorgeous robes of white (emblematic of parity), ascended the tree and, with a golden knife, cut the sacred plant. As it fell it was caught by enother in the folds of his white robe. The bulls, and often also human victime, were then sacrificed. The mistletce thas gathered was distributed among the people as a protection against the evils of the winter.

However interesting such subject may be to talk about the society reporter must return to modern, everyday affairs and talk of the things that are, not of those that were, and the way in which social life is whirling just now.

An ideal home for a large dance is Pembridge House the residence of Mr. and Mrs.F. Herbert Ruel The spacious parlors, large roomy halls with their handsome furnishing and unexpected cosy nooks, and the various other rooms which can be utilized upon such an occasion make it quite the best house in the city for a dance like the one given by Mr. and Mrs. Ruel on Thursday of this week.

It was a real Christmas party and the elaborate decorations were in keeping with the season. The drawing roon mantles, the pictures, and statuary, chardeliers, the halls and staircases, were draped in greens and holly. Quantities of mistletoe were broug t into requisition, and disposed around cosy corners, sitting out rooms; in fact peeped out rom the most unexpected places, so that there was really no excuse for the young man who did not take advantage of the privilege which the mistletoe brings with it. It however afforded a great deel of amusement to the young tolk and kept every one merry.

Dancing took place in the drawing rooms, the glass like floors, and the excellent music of Harrison's orchestra stat oned in one of the bay windows with a back ground of green and scarlet, made the tripping of the fantastic a positive pleasure. Upstairs the Indian and Turkish room, with its soft divans piled high with cushions, its comfortab e easy chairs, sofily shaded lights dainty bric-a-brac, and graceful palms, was a dream of comfort and goel taste. It was utilized as a sitting out room and was a great attraction to the guests, and indeed was a powerful rival of the ball room downstairs. Th rowas no dearth of sitting out nooks for two other rooms were also uses and those who have been entertained at Mrs. Ruels lovely home know just how charming a spot the "Gibson" room is, and intensely interesting too, papered entirely as it is with pictures from Gibson's drawings. The upper hall was beautifully decorated with Christmas greens and holly and draped with the yaclt club flags and pennants.

Supper was served in the dining room and kitchen, this last important spartment being fairly tcansformed, with its gay decorations and pretty furnishings. The table was tastefully arranged with graceful bunches of holy and at the corners were large bows of scarlet ribbon. Wax candles were used wholly in lighting the dining room and all the lights through the house had crim;on shades.

Though Mrs. Ruel has entertained quite extensively since she came a bride to St. John, it was her first large dance, and the success which at tende i it must be very gratilying to the lady herself, and pleasing as well to her numerous friends. Ruel's gown was of rich white satin and ch.ft.n, with elbow sleeves and white fichu. It was copied from an ol1 picture and was exceedingly quaint and lovely. As a hostess she excels in graciousness and charm of manner, with an unusual amount of tact, and thoughtfulness No attention however small was neglected, and this comb ned with the exceptional facilities which her home affords made the dance a great success. The aff sir closed with Sir Roger De Coverley, jast previous to which the guests donned the fantastic caps which came in the Christmas crackers prese t. ed to them. At the close of this number a loving cup gaily bedecked with holly and scarlet ribbons was passed around and the guests sang Auld lang Syne. Following is the order of dances and list of guescs. The programmes were pretty little affairs in white and scarlet on the back of which was a spray of mist etce and a verse from "The Mistletoe Bough". The front cover had the family crest and the date of the dance.

This afternoon Mrs. Ruel entert ins about 125 of her lady friends at a five o'clock tea. The young peoples ball was an event of Friday evening but too late for an occount in th's issue of PROGEESS.

Mrs E S. Carier and children went to Fredericton Tuesday to spend a few days with her parents at "Linden Hall."

Mrs. C. W. Weldon who has corfined to the house for some time through severe illness is convalescent.

Mrs. J. W. Cudlip spant a part of the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Almon at Rothesay. Mr. Duncan Arnold who is studying at McGill

college Montreal, is home for the Christmas holidavs

Miss Fowler is visiting her sis er at the Victoria hospitsl, Frederict in this week.

Mr. N. H. Athoe, organist of St. Luke's church Halifax spent part of this week in St. John. This city has a wonderfully powerful and preity attraction for Mr. Athoe now, in the person of Miss El a Pa no his charming little fi soce :. The engagement is quite a recent event, and numerous good wishes are being showered upon the new y engaged pair, who have hos's of fri inds here.

Mr. George Bake Jr., came from Boston to spend the Christmas hol days with his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Blake of Spring street. Dr. Qaigley spent a short time in Newcastle late-

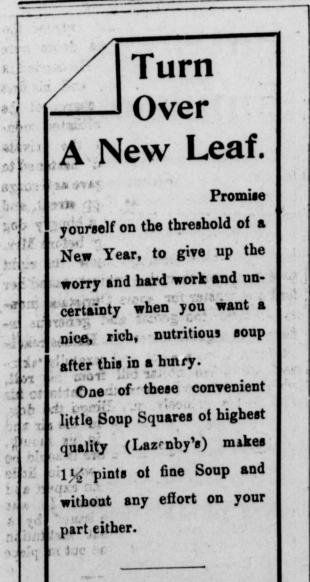
ly with his si ters the Misses Quigley. Mr. and Mrs. John Short went to Richibucto this week to pay a visit to their son Mr. W. W. Sho t. One of the interesting events of this week was he marriage of Mr. J. McMurray Reid and Jessie Maud Penler, daughter of Mr. James Pender, whi:h took place in St. David's church on Wednesday morning. Rev. Dr. Bruce performed the ceremony, and a full cho'r sang bymps appropriate to the occasion. The church was beautifully decorated with potted plants and cut flowers, and as th : wedded pair left the church Miss Godard played the wedding march. The bride who was unattende i, wore a bandsem : dark b ue tailor gown, wih a most becoming hat to match her costume After the ceremon / Mr. and Mrs. Reid left for New York sni other American civies. An unu ually large number of elegant gifs testified to the populari y of the contrac ing parties.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Borden of Halifax spent a little while in the city this week.

Word comes from Wickham of the supposed drowning of Miss Sybil Jones, well known in this city. On Tuesday Miss Jones started to skate across the river from the vicinity of Case's creek to attend a meeting on the opposite side. This is the last that was seen of the young lady, but it is thought that she was drowned in an air hole on the river. Miss Jones has several relatives in this city.

A mong the happiest of the Christmas celebrations was the one at the Boys Industrial home on Wednesday evening. Though the night was stormy and cold it did not prevent those who are interested in the institution from driving out and gladdening the hearts of the young inmates with real Christmas cheer; though excellent speeches were made by the Mayor, Magistrate Ritchie, Judge Barker, Rev Mr. Hoyt, L. P. D. Tilley and J. E. Irvine, perhaps the boys best enjoyed the numerous good things that were distributed among [them. An excellent programme was rendered during the evening and greatly enjoyed by those present among whom were : Judge and Mrs. Barker, Police Magistrate and Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. G. F. Smith and Miss Smith Lady Tilley, Misses Reynolds, Miss Lynch, David Lynch jr., Edward Ritchie, Miss Wilson, Mrs. D. Brown, Wm. Gibson, the Mayor, Mrs. Sears and Daisy |Sears, Miss Scawmell, Mrs. B. Mcaulay, Mr. and Mrs. John Bu'lock, and Miss Bullock, Miss McMillan, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Mott, E. C. Woods, and Mrs. Woods, J. E. Irvine, Mrs. Irvine and Miss Irvine, Mrs. C. N. Skinner and daughter Mrs. A. A. Stockton, L. P. D. Tilley, H. H. Pickett, James Hannay, and Rev. Mr. Hoyt and Mrs Hoyt. Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Worden gave a charming little musicale in the of the week for the entertainment of Mr. and Mrs. Brown of Boston who spent Christmas at Mr. Wordens home. The evening was delightfully spent by the guests and a recherche little supper was served. The following are a few of those present :





7. Waltz, 1. Waltz-8. Waltz. 2. Waltz. 9. Two Step. 3. Lancers. 10. Waltz. 4. Two Step. 11. Militaire 5. Waltz. 12. Waltz. 6. Polka. LADIES SUPPER EXTRA.

SUPPER ELTRAS: 1. Walts, 2. Two Step, 3. Waltz . 13. Polks, 14. Waltz 15. Two Step. SIR ROGER DE COVE LLEY. Mr. and Mrs. A. Gordon Blair, Mr. Robt. Brigstocke, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Coster, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Campbel', Mr. and Mrs. J. Chipman, Mr. Walter Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Fairweather, Mr. W. E. Foster, Misses M. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. R. Keltie Jones, Mr. and Mrs. G. West Jones.

Dr. and Mrs. McLaren, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Puddington, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. L. Richey, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Sayre, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. M. Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. James Jack. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jack. Miss Adams. Mr. A. W. Adams, Mr. Allbutt. Mr. Bev. Armstrong, Miss Allison. Miss Celia Armstrong, Mr. C. E. Burpee. Mr. A. Geo. Blair, Miss Louise Burpee. Miss Barpee, Mr. C. V. DeBury. Mr. Peter Clinch, Misses Domville. Mr. C. DeBury, Miss Dever. Misses DeBury, Mr. H. H. Fairweather, Mr. S. Fairweather. Mr. Percy Fairweather, Mr. C. D. Freeman. Mr. and Mrs. W. Green, Mr. H. H. Godard, Mr. W. F. T. Harrison, Mr. A. B. Harrison. Mr. J. Twining Hartt Mr. F. H. Hartt, Mr. H. H. Hansard. Mr. J. G. Harrison, Misses Hamilton. Misses Holden, Mr. F. Caverhill Jones Mr. R. F. Jones. Mr. Simeon A. Jones, Miss Jack. Mrs. J. G. Keator. Miss Allison Jones, Miss Keator, Mrs. F. Keator, Mrs. D. B. Lawson, Mr. J. L Lewis, Mr. H. McLeod, Mr. A. McMillan, Mr. A. McLeid, Misses McLaren, Miss Nicholson, Misses McMillan, Mr. A. R. Paget, Miss Outram, Mr. K. R. Ritchie, Miss Puddington, Mr. B. R. Robinson, Mr. Hal Robertson, Mr. J. M, Robinson, jr. Mr. Guy Robins n, Miss Robinson, Mr. John I. Robiason, Dr. Stewart Skinner, Miss Randolph,

Mr. Spinney,

Mr. G. B. Shannon,

Mr. Page, Mr. and Mrs. Robson, 71 Mr. and Mrs. Laechler, Miss May Fleming, Mr, Robert Seely, Miss Macaulay, Miss Nita Oulton, Miss Gunn, Miss Fowler, Mr. G. Warwick, Mr. Geo Doig, Mr. J. O. Edwards Miss Edwards, Mr. F. Burpee, Misses Laechler, Mr. J. Rainnie, Mr. F. McNeil, Mr.F. J. Gunn, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Boston, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Baird, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Young, Mr. and Mrs. L. White. Lady Tilley and Miss Howland returned from St. Stephen this week, having spent Christmas with the formers mother, Madame Chipman.

Mr. A. Lindsay,

Mr. W. G. MacFarlane some time has been on the editorial staff of the Daily Record left Thursday to enter Harvard University for a special course of study. On the afternoon of his departure Mr. Mc-Farlane was presented by members of the reportorial staff with a pearl scarf-pin and an address Mr. MacFarlane has hosts of friends here who will wish him every success in his near work.

The death of Mr. A. L. Goodwin, which occurred on Christmas eve w s a sad blow to the family and friends of the deceased gentleman. Though Mr. Goodwin had been in poor health for sometime the end was wholly unexpected and coming at a time when the world is gay with Christmas-tide. festivitles was particularly crushing. Mr. Good win leaves a widow three young sons and three sisters all of whom have the deepest smpathy of those who knew the deceased.

The funeral was held on Monday afternoon at 3 p.m. from his late residence. His remains were followed by a large concourse of people,; and interment took place at Fairville.

The barouche full of beautiful floral offerings sent by business men, relatives and friends testified silently, but with much force the esteem in which he was held. A particularly handsome piece in the form of standing cross an l crown resting on a vase came from Messra. Simmons, Amsden & Co., Boston, A large cresent star and bar with words "At Rest" from brother-in-law ; beautiful whi e pillow with "Father" in purple lettering; large anchor

Well! There are many who feel that way, but if you will take the time to consult us, we will convince you of the possibility of securing a

