



There is one thing the youth of St. John and older ones too, look forward to each year with joyous anticipations and that is the opening of the skating season. It is a pastime characteristic of Canada and in our own city it stirs up all the sociability there is in it.

Fresh from the hands of carpenters and decorators the rink of generations, the old Victoria, was thrown open on Tuesday evening to an assembly of nearly a thousand people. The clinking of the merry old turnstiles at the entrance was music to the ears of skaters and when the first "hand" peeled forth across the mirror-like sheet of ice, a general hurra went up around the happy circle of humanity.

The "Vic's Own Band", upon which Manager "Bob" Armstrong prides himself with a justifiable pride, supplied the following programme which will be seen is fully up-to-date musically and containing some of the most popular tunes of the day.

The "L.M." whist club held a meeting recently at the residence of Mr. Leonard Shaw Queen Square, and an enjoyable evening was spent in whist, music etc. A recherche supper was served. Last Thursday the club met at the residence of Mr. Guy Robinson Stanley street. A dainty supper was served in the dining room and at 12.30 the party dispersed.

Queen's Rick the society resort for skating, the battlefield of every St. John hockey match, made its bow once more on Thursday evening with a large attendance of young people and others not quite so juvenile. This rink as well as the Victoria has undergone a beautifying process pleasing to its patrons, and also a brand new order of management. Mr. A. J. Tufts son of Ald. Tufts is now the director of this rink's fortunes and his experiences in both social ice gatherings and ice sporting matters will recommend him strongly as the correct man in the proper place.

The young people's ball will take place on Friday of next week the 30th. This function has hitherto been held on New Year's eve but of course as the day comes on Saturday this year that is out of the question. Elaborate preparations still go on, and the committee in charge say the prospects for a very brilliant affair are excellent.

Lady Tilley and Miss Winifred Howland went to St. Stephen this week to spend the Christmas holidays with Lady Tilley's mother, Madame Chipman of the "Cedars".

Mrs. B. K. Jones gave a very delightful card party during the week, at which many ladies were present, and enjoyed the games immensely.

Miss Mary Inches, Miss May Harrison, Miss B. Schofield and Miss S. Robertson are home from their school at Windsor, N. S. for the holiday season. Others who arrived this week to spend Christmas at home are Mr. Fred Fisher from an upper Canadian college, Misses Nellie McAvity, Constance Smith, and M. Thompson from Toronto boarding schools, while the Fredericton contingent includes Messrs. Harry Harrison, J. Dawson, M. D. Coll, W. J. Wilson, G. C. Crawford and Chester Martin.

A musical event of which the entire city is looking forward with a great deal of pleasure is the advent of the Redpath concert company the last of January. Madame Clay is one of the names mentioned among the brilliant galaxy of artists who compose the aggregation, and the others are equally well known in the musical world. The dates for the concerts are January 30 and 31st.

Mr. P. MacMichael left Wednesday to spend Christmas with his relatives in Toronto.

Miss Hattie Steeves of Elgin is the guest of the Messes Gladys and Annie Stammers during the Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Sherwood of Hillsboro spent a few days in the city lately.

Capt. Kinney of the S. S. Prince Edward and Mrs. Kinney will spend the winter here, and have taken rooms at the Grand Union hotel.

Mr. Edmund L. Breese leading man with James O'Neill has been spending this week in St. John a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. D. Landry, Leinster street, and leaves today to rejoin his company at Washington, D. C. Mr. Breese and Miss Landry have been overwhelmed with congratulations upon the announcement of their engagement.

Chairs to be sold, Cane, Splint, Perfumed, Duval, 17 Waterloo Street.

which interesting bit of news appeared in Progress a week ago. During his short stay in the city Mr. Breese has made many friends, his bright, social nature making him a most agreeable acquaintance. In a week or two a large number of invitations will be issued for a bal masque to be held in the Institute on January 23th. The invitations will be sent out a little earlier than usual in order to give those who intend to take part ample time to prepare their costumes. The bal masque of last year was such a great success that it inspired the promoters and they will endeavor to make the forthcoming ball much more brilliant than its predecessor.

One of the pleasantest events of the latter part of last week was the party given by Mr. and Mrs. Rankin in honor of their son, Mr. Harry Rankin's eighteenth birthday.

A large number of young people were present and those who assisted the host and hostess in looking after their entertainment were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rankin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rankin, Mrs. Allan Rankin, Miss Nan Taylor, of Halifax and Mr. and Mrs. James Clarke. The supper arrangements were excellent, and the table decorations exceedingly pretty, the centre of attraction being a large birthday cake on which were traced the words "Harry's Birthday," 1880-1898.

Miss Louie Crosby of Nova Scotia was introduced to St. John society at this party and looked very pretty in a crisp white muslin gown trimmed with flowers.

Excellent music was provided by Mr. Morton Harrison violinist, and Mr. Archie Cook, pianist, for the following dances. The programmes were pretty souvereirs of the evening, 1, waltz; 2, lancers; 3, milinda; 4, waltz; 5, waltz; 6, two step; 7, waltz; 8, galop; 9, milinda; 10, two step; 11, waltz; 12, polka; 13, lancers; 14, milinda; 15, waltz; 16, galop and two or three supper dances.

- Among those present were: Mr. Harry Pheasant, Mr. Sandy Fowler, Mr. Maurice Purdy, Mr. Kenneth Inches, Mr. Harold Sears, Mr. William Rodgers, Mr. Ralph Clarke, Mr. Louis Barker, Mr. Frank Robinson, Mr. Jack Furdy, Mr. Charles McDonald, Miss Emma Rankin, Miss Fainall, Miss Louise Girvan, Miss Kate Pheasant, Miss Nan McDonald, Miss Lily Adams, Miss Lou Kimball, Miss C. Gerow, Miss Olive Stone, Miss King, Miss Flossie Robertson, Miss Ella MacAuley, Mr. Fred Pheasant, Mr. Walter Harrison, Mr. Blanchard Fowler, Mr. Ned Sears, Mr. Harry Brown, Mr. A. Clarke, Mr. Douglas Seeley, Mr. Stanley Emerson, Mr. Duncan Robertson, Mr. Fred McNeill, Mr. John Kimball, Miss Zella Rankin, Miss Louie Crosby, Miss Olive Lawton, Miss Lou Harman, Miss Fanny deForrest, Miss Mollie Peters, Miss Elsie Holden, Miss Rebie McAvity, Miss Gillis, Miss Georgie Scammell, Miss Nellie Thorne, Miss Betts, Miss Hazel Ralnic, and others.

Among the pleasant small events that have recently taken place was the dance given last week by the Misses Arms ring, of Sydney street and at which the young folks present spent a very charming evening.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. J. Rael issued invitations last week for a large dance at their residence German street next Thursday evening the 29th.

Speaking of large events recalls an incident that occurred at a very swell at home given two weeks ago and illustrates the folly of inviting more people than a house will comfortably accommodate. At this particular function the crush was so great that those who go into the dining room had to stay there, and many of the guests left without the usual refreshments.

Mr. Guy Johnston has accepted a position in the C. P. R. office on King street, in which new sector of work his friends will wish him every success.

The Misses Emma McAvity and May Inches arrived this week to spend the Christmas holidays with their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Patterson left on Wednesday for Boston to spend the holiday season.

Mr. Harry Peatman spent part of last week at her home in Greenwicke.

Mr. E. G. Dunn, Jr., of Ashland, Me., is paying a visit to his father, Mr. E. G. Dunn of Lancaster.

Mr. George Moore's friends will be sorry to learn that he is seriously ill at his home on Main St.

The organ recital in St. Andrews church the beginning of the week was one of the most enjoyable events of the kind that we have had for sometime, and certainly merited a much larger attendance.

The programme was a most interesting one and thoroughly enjoyed by those present. The names on it included those of Mr. Fred H. Blair organist, who is connected with Mt. Allison university and whose numbers were played in a thoroughly finished manner, Miss Jean Bruce of Moncton, violinist, whose work was most graceful and well high faultless, and Mr. Lindsay, vocalist, who acquitted himself in an exceptionally good manner. A very enjoyable feature of the programme was the quartette rendered by Mrs. Fraser, Miss Forbes, Mr. Cochran and Mr. MacNeill.

Mr. Kenneth Halley and Mr. Wylie Manning arrived home this week from Acadia University to spend the holidays with their parents.

The following account of a marriage which took place in Los Angeles, California on Monday Dec. 12th, will be read with interest in this province where the contracting parties formerly belonged.

The bride, a Frederickton lady went west with members of her family about five years ago, and the groom, a native of Kingsclear, N. B., is a more recent exodiant.

A quiet but pretty wedding took place yesterday afternoon at two o'clock at Christ church, the contracting parties being Miss E. Marion Scarnell and Witter Davidson Clements. Rev. George Robinson officiated. The wedding march was played by Mrs. T. P. Robertson, the church was decorated with Smilax, La France and Marechal Neil roses. The bride wore a gown of fustian blue cloth. Mr. and Mrs. Clements, after spending a few days at Coronado, will make their home in West Riverside.

—Los Angeles Times.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Calhoun of Albert Mines, N. B., have taken rooms at the Clifton House for the winter.

Mr. W. K. Reynolds, editor of the N. B. Magazine, was confined to his room for a day or two last week from the effects of a cold.

Dr. T. D. Walker was called to Riverside this week to attend Mrs. McClellan the wife of the Lieut. Governor, who was quite ill for a time, but who is now much better.

Letters received from Mr. D. R. Jack recently report a very pleasant and interesting trip abroad. The last of November he was in St. Petersburg and expected to leave in a few days for Revel, and from there would leave by steamer for London.

Last Saturday evening Miss Irving's afternoon dancing class for the very young pupils closed with a charming little evening party which lasted from 7 until 10.30 o'clock. Refreshments were served, and the time passed very pleasantly. Miss Likely supplied the music for the dancers. The classes will re-open after the holidays and Miss Irvine who is very popular with her pupils will receive a warm welcome on her return from a visit to friends.

Among those present: at the charming little dance were. Miss Ethel Robertson, Miss Jennie Robertson, Miss Violet Simonds, Miss Frances Simonds, Miss Mabel Taylor, Miss Smith, Miss Daisy Sears, Miss Lettie McAvenny, Master McAvenny, Miss Ethel Baird, Miss Lydie Kimball, Miss Mary Harvey, Miss Olive Harvey, Miss Campbell, Miss Daphn Crosby, Miss Ina McLaren, Miss Mary McLaren, Miss Jean McDonald, Miss Nellie McDonald, Misses Climo, Miss Vera Nevins, Miss Beatrice Sutherland, and others.

On Thursday evening of this week Miss Irvine's German cotillon class was entertained with a very enjoyable little dance, the last until after the holidays. The affair was a small and early, besides the members of the dancing class there were others present, all of whom of course had a delightful time. Light refreshments were served during the evening to those who participated in the affair among whom were:

- Miss Rogers, Miss Lou Kimball, Miss Elsie Holden, Miss Winnie Barnaby, Miss Tessie Smith, Miss Molly Peters, Miss Nellie Thorne, Miss Louie Crosby, Miss Mazie Titus, Miss Emma Titus, Miss Alice Grant, Miss Gladys Campbell, Miss Daisy Fairweather, Miss Grace Dick, Miss Ethel Fanjoy, Miss May Fanjoy, Miss Minnie L'Kelly, Mr. A. W. Rodgers, Mr. Guy Johnston, Mr. Harold Sears, Mr. D. McLaughlan, Mr. Ned Sears, Mr. Sandy Fowler, Mr. W. Barker, Mr. Stanley Emerson, Mr. Guy Bostwick, Mr. C. McDonald, Mr. Harold Parvis, Mr. Charlie Likely, Mr. P. Kees, Mr. L. Campbell, Mr. J. Dick, Mr. Louis J. Street, Mr. C. Gregory, Mr. L. Vroom, Mr. Walter Harrison, Mr. Frank Magge, Mr. Andrew Frith, Mr. A. Schofield, Mr. Guy McLeod, Mr. Reg. Kerr, Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. A. Rodgers, Mr. T. A. Ison, Mr. Douglas Seely, Mr. A. Dick, Mr. Harold Robinson, Mr. Bee Sturdee, Mr. C. Likely, Miss Nellie McAvity, Miss Edith Higgins, Miss T. Robertson, Miss Marion Bolyea, Miss Mary Inches, Miss Lily Adams, Miss B. Schofield, Miss Constance Smith, Miss Amy Smith.

"The Burn's Almanac." [Compiled by Dr. John Ross.]

I. A record, this, of Robert Burns, For all who ken him well, For trusting youth, or wiser age, Who love his magic spell. His fateful muse hath yet a charm, To draw our hearts along, And every lad still thinks his lass A heroine of song.

II. T. Burns we cede the ivy crown, Although a century dead, Whose verses yet will breathe and live 'Till love from each hath fled. His men were brave—his sweethearts true, His lassies all divin'. O'er Scotland's hills a halo streamed In days of Auld lang syne.

III. "The Braes of Ayr" and "Bonnie Doon" Historic are in story, And Devon Banks and heath and glens Filled with the Poets glory. For "auld acquaintance ne'er forgit," We learn from him our duty, The love of home, the pride of race The homage rendered beauty.

IV. So Bu us shall always find a place Where souls are free of guile, Where doubt ne'er enters faithful hearts, Nor sorrow repress the smile. Where skies are pure, 'neath silencing stars, Where music, mirth and song To ardent youth still give delight, Though years have sped a wing.

V. Our mother earth remains as fair As in the fabled hours When fairies danced upon the green And eves were in the flowers. The spring still comes in native grace, The summer sun is bright, The autumn comes in wreath of gold, The winter garb is white. For all is new as it has been, While tides still ebb and flow, And present days are just as good As the e of long ago.

C. H. COLLINS. Hillsboro, O., December, 1898.

Christmas in the Olden Time.

The fire, with well-dried logs supplied, Went roaring up the chimney wide; The huge hall-table's oaken face, Scrubbed till it shone the day to grace, Born then upon its massive board No mark to part the squire and lord. Then was brought in the lustrous brawn, By old blue-coated serving-man; Then the grim boar's head frowned on high 'Treated with bays and rosemary.

Well cast the gossamer's richly dyed, Garnished with ribbons, blithely twined. There the huge sirloin reeked; hard by Plum-porridge stood, and Christmas pie; Nor failed old Scotland to produce At such high tide, her savoury goose. Then came the merry maskers in, And carols roared with olithsome din; If unmelodious was the song, It was a hearty note, and strong. White shirts supplied the masquerade, And smutted cheeks the visors made; But O! what merriment richly dight Can boast of bosoms half so light!

England was merry England when Old Christmas brought his sports again. 'Twas Christmas broad'd the mightiest ale; 'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale; A Christmas gambol oft could cheer The poor man's heart through half the year.

—Sir Walter Scott.

Of all the countries in the world Servia contains the most centenarians. In that little country, with fewer than 1,200,000 inhabitants, there are 575 persons whose age exceeds 100 years.

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