Somebody remarked at a swell function the other day that one of the questions that have puzzled observers of social functions during the present season concerns the afternoon tea. While it is contended in one quarter that it is on the wane, the reply from another that there was never a time in the past when the number of afternoon teas was so great as this winter. Small some of them are to be sure but still numerous. This assertion is backed by statistics and its advocates have been known to rattle of a list of such entertainments put down for some particular day which would seem to put their enemies to final confusion. It is however, a question, that is not to be decided lightly. It is what W. S. Gilbert called a legal fiction—"a solemn thing"—is this afternoon tea. It is not to be lightly discussed, praised or maligned without real knowledge of the facts and then relegated to that uncertain mist to which have passed such questions as the margin of time a person is supposed to allow when asked to a dinner that is set down for an hour late enough to show that it is meant to be formal. The afternoon tea touches too many lives to permit uncertain answers. The number of teas set down for every week in this city that one is likely to hear of even in ones own experience, as well as those outside the limit of one's own personal circle, would not lead to the belief that this form of social diversion is about to become extinct; of that there is little probability, but still one hears the remark very frequently that afternoon teas are on the wane.

A jolly, chattering throng of humanity filled Victoria rink on Monday evening, to participate either as spectators or skaters in the first carnival of the season—that of the Neptune Rowing club. Galleries and promenades were well filled long before the first "band" announced the opening of the carnival and as the evening progressed the place became simply packed. Those who came late fared badly so far as securing a seat, or a good point from which to watch those on the ice, was concerned. The evening was very mild and the rink was well lighted so that everybody was thoroughly comfortable and enjoyed themselves immensely. The scene as viewed from the gallery was a very brilliant one when the four hundred or more skaters had assembled on the ice and were in the full swing of the evening's enjoyment. There was the usual number of Clowns, Soldiers, Indians, Coons, Flower girls, Peasant girls, Nurses, etc., who seemed to get a good deal of fun out of the affair even if their characters were a trifle ancient, and lacked that originality which is the while charm of a carnival; a cake walk was one of the evening's most enjoyable features and made a great deal of merriment for the onlookers between the fifth and sixth band numbers. The winners in this contest were Charles P. Robinson, J. W. Rodgers, Walter Pine and H. Deody while the prize for the best ladies costume was one by Miss Melaney who as the Duchess of Devonshire won much admiring attention The winner of the first prize for the best gentleman's costume was Mr. Odbur W. Staples, in the character of a Grecian Hero. The combination prize went to the Kentucky Cake Walkers, and a special award went to Mr. Beverly Armstrong as "Comin' thro the Rye." There were several very handsome costumes on the ice though as before remarked none were strikingly original. The English and American flags were much in evidence. Messrs. James Huey and W. N. Calder had an excellent conception of The Anglo-American Alliance, and deserve special mention.

The music was excellent and was furnished by the Victoria's own band. By his energy, and conscientious efforts to please his patrons Manager Armstrong has made the Victoria rink a favorite resort for the young people of the city, for they know that there they will receive the most courteous treatment and attention. The Neptune Rowing Club is to be congratulated on the carnivals successes as it is pleasing to know that their efforts to please were appreciated in such a whole hearted, spontaneous manner. The club is surely under the especial care of some benign spirit whose chief mission it is to see that all its prospects, social or otherwise, surpass even the most sanguine expectations.

The leading social event of the week was the Spinsters ball—or more properly speaking the bal poudre given by the "spinsters"—which took place on Tuesday evening in the assembly rooms. As was anticipated nothing was left undone that would in any way add to the eclat of the affair and the result was a function which equalled in brilliancy anything that has been given here in a long time. In some features it even went far beyond recent events for there were points of interest about it which others lacked, as it is a long time indeed since a bal poudre has been held in this city. The lovely gowns most of which were fresh and new and the whitened hair, the tiny patches of court-plaster on pretty faces lent a quaintness to the ladies appearance which was most charming. The gentlemen too were resplendent in apparel faced in bright satins, while many of them wore white wigs and knee breeches. The scene in the ball room was consequently one of decided brilliancy. The reception room was elegantly furnished and numerous cosy nooks made sitting out more popular than it usually is. Off the ball room was also a nicely arranged little alcove with numerous comfortable seats and the lights here as elsewhere throughout the rooms were crimson shaded.

The supper table was decorated in green and white, a tall palm occupying the centre of the table, while around were tall glasses of narcissi the arrangements being especially dainty and artistic. Numerous candles were used to light the table, and every edible imaginable was supplied by the hostesses of the occasion. The patrons were:

Hon. James Dever, Mr. Justice Barker, Mr. John McMillan, Mr. Sidney Smith, Mr. Robert Thomson, Dr. Holden, General Warner.

The ladies committee was composed of the following young ladies:

Miss Dever, Miss Marjorie Holden, Miss Mabel Thomson, Miss Keator, Miss McMillan, Miss Charlotte Smith, Miss Warner.

The pretty little dance programme on the cover of which was the picture of a very attractive and fascinating "spinster" with the date of the ball, contained the following order of dances, for which Harrison furnished music, the three supper dances coming between numbers 12 and 13.

1. valse; 2. valse; 3. lancers; 4 two step; 5. valse; 6. militaire; 7. valse; 8. polka; 9. Valse; 10. two step; 11. valse; 12. galop; 13. polka; 14. valse; 15. two step; 16. valse.

Among the guests were:

Mr. and Mrs. James Jack.
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jack.
Mr. and Mrs. M. McKay,
Dr. and Mrs. McLaren,
Mr. and Mrs. Puddington,
Mr. and Mrs. S. Skinner,
Mr. and Mrs. M. S. L. Richey,
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Robertson,
Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Sayre,
Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Sturdee,
Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Sturdee,
Mr. and Mrs. Timmerman,
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Robinson,
Mr. and Mrs. H. Kinnear,
Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright,
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Truman,
Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Lee,
Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Clinch,
Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Robinson,
Mr. and Mrs. F. Harding,
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Thompson,
Mr. and O. H. Sharp,
Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris Robinson,
Mr and Mrs. Alex Wilson,
Mr. and Mrs. George Carvill,
Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Thomas,
Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Patterson,
Mr. and Mrs. H. Holloway,
Mr. and Mrs. W. Hazen,
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Coster.
Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Coster,
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Campbell,
Mr. and Mrs. W. Green,
Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Grant,
Dr. and Mrs. Holden,
Chief Justice and Mrs. Tuck,
Justice and Mrs. Barker,
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson,
General and Mrs. Warner,
Mr. and Mrs. John McMillan,
Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Harrison,
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Chipman,
Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Jones,
Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Jones,

| | |
|---|---|
| Mrs. Sessions, | Mrs. Keator, |
| Miss Wainwright, | Miss Randolph, Fton., |
| Miss Thorne, | Miss Powys, Fton., |
| Mrs. L. R. Harrison, | Miss Burpee, Bangor, |
| Miss Armstrong, | Miss Adams, |
| Miss L. Adams. | Miss Burpee, |
| Misses Domville, | Miss Dever, |
| Miss Gilbert, | Miss Harrison, |
| Misses Holden, | Miss Markham, |
| Miss Hall, | Miss Caverhill Jones, |
| Miss A. Jones, | Miss Jarvis, |
| Misses Jarvis, | Miss Keator, |
| Miss McMillan, | Miss McAvity, |
| Miss R. McAvity, | Miss Outram, |
| Miss McDonald, | Miss E. Robinson, |
| Miss H. Robertson, | Misses Skinner, |
| Miss C. Schofield, | Miss F. Schofield, |
| Misses Sidney Smith, | Miss Tuck, |
| Misses Thompson, | Miss Vroom, |
| Miss Hegan, | Miss Warner, |
| Miss Stead, | Miss Troop, |
| Miss Carr, | Misses Nicholson, |
| Misses Walker, | Miss McKean, |
| Miss L. Parks, | Misses Fairweather, |
| Miss Seely, | Misses Hamilton, |
| Miss Dick, | Miss Taylor, |
| Miss King, | Miss Sharpe, |
| Mr. Albutt, | Mr. A. W. Adams, |
| Mr. B. Armstrong, | Mr. H. Allison, |
| Mr. E. Allison. | Mr. C. M. Botswick, jr. |
| Mr. A. G. Blair, | Mr. T. B. Blair, |
| Mr. C. N. Clarke, | Mr. P. A. Clarke, |
| Mr. H Clarke, | Mr. P. Clinch, |
| Mr. C. E. Burpee, | Mr. F. W. Daniel, |
| Mr. C. deBury, | Mr. L. DeBury, |
| Mr. M. B. Edwards, | Mr, F. H. Hartt, |
| Mr. J. T. Hartt, | Mr. G. Hamilton, |
| Mr. Percy Hall, | Mr. Harry Hall, |
| Mr. Fred Jones, | Mr. S. A. Jones, |
| Mr. E. F. Jones, | Mr. J. G. Keator, |
| Mr. Fred Keator, | Mr. F. A. Kinnear, |
| Mr. R. McLeod, | Mr. R. Markham, |
| Mr. A. McMillan, | Mr. A. Parks, |
| Mr W. Parks, | Mr. J. Parks, |
| Mr. W. E. Foster, | Mr. F. Foster, |
| Mr. S. L. Fairweather, | Mr. P. Fairweather, |
| Mr. H. H. Fairweather, | Mr. C. Freeman, |
| Mr. R. Frith, | Mr. R. N. Frith, |
| Mr. F. Fraser, | Rev. D. Fraser, |
| Mr. R. H. Grierson, | Mr. J. G. Harrison, |
| Mr. W. Harrison, | Mr. B. Harrison, |
| Mr. H. H. Hansard, | Mr. W. F. Purdy, |
| Mr. J. Purdy, | Mr. J. Purdy, jr. |
| Mr. J. D. Paterson, | Mr. A. Partridge, |
| Mr. G. G. Ruel, | Mr. J. M. Robinson, jr. |
| Mr. H. Robinson, | Mr. John I. Robinson, |
| Mr. Guy Robinson, | Mr H. H. Robinson, |
| Mr. Sidney Smith, | Mr. W. H. Redmond, |
| Dr. Skinner, | Mr. B. S. Smith, |
| Mr. Percy Thomson, | Mr. Roy Thompson, |
| Mr. L. P. D. Tilley, | Mr. E. H. Turnbull, |
| Mr. W. H. Thorne, | Mr. A. T. Thorne, |
| Mr. C. McL. Troop, | Mr. H. Vroom, |
| Mr. J. Ward Wetmore, | Dr. T. Dyson Walker, |
| Mr. Geo. P. Shannon, | Mr. E. G. Spinney, |
| Mr. R. R. Ritchie, | Mr. E. D. N. Sears, |
| Mr. C. McDonald, | Mr. C. S. Hannington, |
| Mr. H. H. Goddard, | Mr. S. L. Emmerson, |
| Mr. J. N. Scovil, | Mr. J. N. Thomas, |
| Mr. H. F. Patterson, | Mr. H. Holloway. |
| Mr. W. Hazen, | Mr A. Nagle, F'ton. |
| Mr. C. G. Burpee, | Mr. W. S. Grant, Hfx., |
| Mr. H. H. McAvity, | Mr. J. H. Kaye, F'ton., |
| Mr. Hibbard, | Mr. J. Mowatt, |
| Mr. Basil Stead, | Mr. J. Wright, |
| Mr. J. Sutherland, | Mr. Douglas, |
| Mr Percy Douglas, | Mr. L. Campbell, |
| Mr. A. Dick, | Mr. D. McLaren, |
| Mr. H. Dunn, | Mr. G. Jarvis. |

Mr F. P. Johnstone.

Mrs. H. L. Sturdee, wore a handsome white silk tulle, trimmed with chiffon, lace and violets.

Mrs. Walter H. Trueman, a handsome pale blue satin trimmed with chiffon and pearls.

Mrs. Fred Harding spangled net over red silk, gold and diamond ornaments.

Mrs (Judge) Barker, black lace over fawn silk, jet trimmings and natural flowers.

Mrs. McDonald, flowered silk muslin, trimmed with dark green ribbon and velvet.

Mrs. C. Holden, black lace over satin, purple flowers.

Mrs. Thomson and Mrs. McMillan both wore handsome black gowns with lace and jet trimmings.

Mrs. Sayre, yellow satin the bodice of which was trimmed with blue velvet and lace.

Mrs. Geo. West Jones a pale satin heavily spangled with sequins and trimmed with lace.

Mrs. Harrison Kinnear, pale blue silk and chiffon.

Mrs. A. Jack, black satin, chiffon and flowers.

Mrs. James Dever, black velvet trimmed with white satin and black lace.

Mrs. Malcolm MacKay, wore a lovely pink silk that was most becoming.

Mrs. W. W. White, handsome white brocade satin with crimson velvet trimmings.

Mrs. Green, pale blue muslin with lace and ribbon trimmings.

Mrs. Currey, (Halifax) grey silk with turquoise velvet.

Mrs. H. Puddington, pink silk with lace and pearl trimmings.

Mrs. J. F. Robertson, striped pink and white silk with lace and ribbon trimmings.

Mrs. Sherwood Skinner, white satin, lace and chiffon.

Mrs. Roy Campbell, pale blue silk trimmed with chiffon.

Mrs D. C. Clinch, pale pink silk, heliotrope velvet trimmings and diamonds.

Mrs. L. R. Harrison, turquoise satin, with black lace overdress; the front of the bodice was of shirred turquoise chiffon, and was very dainty and becoming. Diamond ornaments were worn.

Mrs. Charles Coster, white chiffon over white silk and pearl ornaments.

Mrs. F. Herbert J. Ruel white satin, beautifully trimmed with chiffon; diamonds.

Mrs. George Coster, black net over silk, white chiffon and canary velvet trimmings, and diamonds.

Mrs. Lawson, black brocade silk, the bodice draped with duchesse lace.

Miss Ethel Jarvis, white silk, lace, chiffon and crimson roses.

Miss Jarvis, pink silk trimmed with lace and pearls.

Miss Matthews, figured silk, with pale blue velvet and chiffon.

Miss Betts, heliotrope satin with white trimmings and corsage bouquet of violets.

Miss Christine Matthews, yellow silk draped with cream lace.

Miss Bertie Hegan, white muslin over pale blue.

Miss Schofield, pink silk, with white net trimmings.

Miss Allison Jones, a pale green satin, brocaded in white.

Miss Gladys Campbell, yellow silk with yellow chiffon and ribbon trimmings.

Miss Mary Warner had on a handsome blue silk the bodice of which was trimmed with insertion and chiffon.

Miss Grace Fairweather, white embroidered muslin, lace and flowers.

Miss Outram, white silk with pale blue trimmings.

Miss Lou McAvity, pink satin, lace and ribbon trimmings.

Miss Fairweather, white muslin over pale blue brocade satin.

Miss Holden, ciel blue satin daintily trimmed.

Miss Maud Skinner, black chiffon over silk, crimson roses.

Miss Gertrude Seeley, green organdy and point lace.

Miss Gertrude Skinner, striped yellow and white silk trimmed with lace, and corsage bouquet of natural flowers.

Miss Louise Schofield, pale blue silk.

Miss McMillan, white mousseline de soie, lace and flowers.

Miss Taylor, Halifax, blue silk, velvet and pearl trimmings.

Miss Skinner, black satin lace and roses.

Miss Celia Armstrong, a pale yellow brocade, lace and violets.

Miss R. McAvity, pale blue muslin, lace and violets.

Miss Hamilton, silver gauze over black satin, pale blue trimmings.

Miss D. Nicholson, ivory satin, pale blue velvet and pearls.

Miss Ida Nicholson, black net with pale blue and chiffon trimmings.

Miss McLaren, black net over crimson satin.

Miss Tuck, black satin with lace trimmings.

Miss Bessie Adams, black silk with pink and white trimmings.

Miss Dever wore a lovely pink satin gown, with natural flowers, chiffon trimmings.

Miss Robinson, white muslin with scarlet trimmings.

Miss Walker, striped yellow satin, prune velvet trimmings and flowers.

Miss Smith, black satin with jet passementrie.

Miss Robertson, white net over silk with red trimmings.

Miss Burpee, black net over silk, with trimmings of jet and lace.

Miss Grace Dick, pale blue, with pink sash and pink bodice trimmings.

Miss Bailey, Fredericton, yellow taffeta, white lace and diamonds.

Miss Markham, mousseline de soie over blue silk, daintly trimmed with lace, chiffon and pink roses.

Miss B. Robinson, black with torquois trimmings.

Miss Maisie Domville had on an effective combination of black silk with crimson trimmings, and Miss Isabel Domville looked extremely well in pink silk with tulle sash and trimmings.

Miss Wainwright, pink silk lace and carnations.

Miss Furlong, black silk with black and pale blue tulle overdress, pink roses.

Miss Nellie Jarvis, pale green silk with lace trimmings and ostrich tips.

Mr. Simeon Jones left Wednesday for New York and will be joined shortly by Miss Jones who has almost wholly recovered from her recent illness.

Mr. Ned Sears has been confined to the house this week with an attack of the grip.

Miss Sara Duncan of Sackville is the guest of city relatives for a week or two.

Miss Ella Payne has been paying a visit to her friend Miss Ethel Waterbury of Calais.

Mrs. Stephen Thorne was called to Amherst recently by the serious illness of her mother Mrs. Richard Lowerison.

Miss Fowler visited Amherst recently as the guest of Mrs. Corey of the Terrace hotel.

The engagement is announced of Miss Addie Purdy and Mr. Flood of C. Flood & Sons., and the interested parties are receiving many congratulations.

Mr. H. M. McLean went to Montreal on a business trip the first of the week.

Dr. and Mrs. F. L Kenny of Carleton who have been spending a little while in England sailed this week from Liverpool on their way home.

Mrs. Bell is entertaining Miss Sadie Wiley and Miss Nan Thompson daughter of Hon. F. P. Thompson for a few days. The latter is Mrs. Bell's cousin.

Mrs. Harry Robertson of King street east is visiting her parents in Fredericton.

While the sleighing lasted there were several merry sleighing parties down for every evening and delightfully jolly affairs they are said to have been. In most cases they ended with a little dance at the home of one of the promoters of the drive which made an enjoyable ending to the outing.

There is a rumor in society that a marriage which was to have taken place in Scotland this month and at which a young society lady of this city was to

(CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.)


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E. G. SCOVIL, Agent Pelee Wine Co., Gagetown, July 26, 1897.

Dear Sir:—My wife had been afflicted with nervous prostration for several years, using every kind of medicine recommended, but obtaining no relief until I procured some of your Pelee Wine, which I am delighted to say, has had the desired effect. It is the greatest tonic of the age, I think too much cannot be said in its praise and no house should be without it. We have recommended it to several suffering from la grippe debility, with like good results.

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