



There is a dearth of social gaieties just now, and the sad of the hour is the theatre. Everybody goes and the semi-weekly matinees are like social events on a large scale.

The Valentine Stock company has made a decided impression with all classes, and for some of the male members of the aggregation—well the females for an added look upon them—decidedly "sweet".

There have been one or two little dinners given for visitors, and several small theatre parties during the week. On the subject of dinners and dinner giving a well known hostess sends the following to PROGRESS and will no doubt be of interest to entertainers.

What hostess has not felt the task of seating a party of guests as a most trying one with the host to avoid anything approaching confusion or uncertainty.

The success of a dinner is often largely influenced by trifles and every hostess appreciates this fact. The method of putting the names of the guests on cards at the plates is effective, inasmuch as everyone does eventually get into the right place but it always results in a merry-go-round chase for some one.

It causes the hostess no trifling amount of annoyance to watch a gentleman who evidently thought he would be placed at the head of the table, run the whole gamut of plates before he discovers he has been placed at the foot and so on.

The names of several St. John ladies appear in the presentations at the vice regal drawing room in Ottawa last Saturday. Mrs. Jam S Stratton a well known and very popular lady was beautifully gowned in a lovely costume of white duchess satin, the bottom of the skirt flounced with white chiffon, accented with white bebes satin ribbon, tunic of white Chantilly lace, the corsage to match with sleeves of filmy lace, and exquisite clusters of pink velvet roses on the shoulders, the same flowers effectively arranged on the train. She carried a shower bouquet of pink roses, and wore diamond and pearl ornaments and veil and feathers.

Miss Elizabeth Domville looked graceful and charming in white silk and pearl ornaments. She wore a veil and feathers and carried a beautiful bouquet of white flowers.

One of the prettiest and most interesting entertainments given here for some time was that which took place in St. Andrews church on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the ladies aid society. There was a delightfully rendered farce "The Garrotter" the cast of which was as follows.

Mr. Roberts..... F. C. Macneil  
Willis Campbell..... J. T. Dunning  
Mr. Bernis..... J. Roy Thomson  
Dr. Lawton..... H. D. Forbes  
Alfred Bernis..... Dr. Macaulay  
Mrs. Roberts..... Miss Jessie G. Forbes  
Mrs. Crshaw..... Miss Fannie Rainie  
Mrs. Bernis..... Miss Hazel Rainie  
Bella..... Miss Ella Macaulay

The various parts were all well taken and the histrionic talent displayed was really remarkable.

After the farce came a programme on which the numbers were as follows: Tableau; solo, Miss McCaskey, tableau; violin solo, Mr. Bowden; tableau; selection orchestra; tableau; solo, D. Pidgeon; tableau; selection orchestra; drill and quartet e Messrs. Bogart, Morgan, McKelvie and Belding.

Mrs. J. G. Shewan received her wedding callers on Wednesday and Thursday of this week at her home on Summer street.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Belyea were in Woodstock for a short time recently.

Mr. George McLeod who has been in England for several years arrived home a few days ago to visit his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Blair Jr., arrived home this week from their wedding tour. When they left Ottawa on Saturday Mr. Blair's mother was much improved, though still in a serious condition.

Miss Ellis M. Shewan of Montreal, is the guest for a short time of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Shewan of Summer street.

Mr. Thomas Strothart who was summoned to Portland, Me., by the serious illness of his sister, has returned and reports Miss Strothart much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Goudey of Montreal, were in the city this week.

Chief Justice Tuck spent a little while in Fredericton this week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Irvine and Miss Irvine of Nelson B. C., arrived here last week on a visit to friends.

Mr. A. J. Melrose and Miss Melrose of Andover, were in the city for a day or two recently.

Mr. C. B. Robertson of Daniel & Robertson, left the beginning of the week for New York, and will sail today for England.

Miss Bessie Irvine returned last Saturday from an extended and pleasant stay in the west.

Mr. P. L. Gleeson is on a visit to his parents after a four years absence in the West Indies.

A Fredericton paper announces that the marriage of Miss Grey of that city and Mr. A. W. Macrae of St. John, will take place early next summer.

The friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Goding Jr., will sympathize deeply with them in the loss of their bright ten months old baby, Harold Carey, which occurred on Monday evening last.

Rev. E. W. Kelly, who has been supplying at the Main street Baptist church, intended going to England last week from whence he would return to his former mission work in Burma, but he was obliged to give up the idea for a short time, as he is not well enough to travel at present.

Hon. A. T. Dunn returned Tuesday from a trip to Montreal.

Mr. W. A. Mott, M. P. P. of Campbellton was in the city for a day or two this week.

Miss Alice Morgan left this week on a three weeks visit to friends in Nova Scotia.

Mr. L. B. Knight returned this week from a business trip to Montreal.

Mr. J. K. McConnell came down from Marsville for a day or two in the early part of the week.

Mr. W. E. Mullaly, left this week on a visit to Nova Scotia.

Mr. R. A. Lawlor of Chatham made a brief stay in the city this week.

Miss Nellie and Master Guy Smythe of Halifax are on a visit to cousins on the west side.

Mr. Norman Leslie was in town a few days ago to say good bye to his friends here before leaving for the Transvaal, with Lord Strathcona's mounted contingent.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Maxwell and Miss Morris, Mrs. Maxwell's sister of Nova Scotia, are spending a day or two with relatives before leaving for Florida where they will spend the next two months.

The merriest scene ever witnessed in the Victoria rink was the occasion of the R. K. Y. C. carnival on Wednesday evening when between three and four hundred skaters clad in costumes of every kind and description representing every condition of life, gyrated round and round in the whirl of fun and jollity. What a gay scene it was to be sure and what amusement the hundreds of spectators drew from it. It was a difficult task the judges had to decide upon the merits of characterization, for, though, there many of the costumes that times has rendered familiar to every one, there were many new ones which showed ingenuity and thought in their execution and make up. The ladies decidedly made the best showing and their costumes were worthy of every praise and commendation. Mrs. H. J. Andrews won the ladies prize for the third time this season on her character on Wednesday evening carrying out a bell buoy in every detail.

The combination prize was won by H. C. Cochran and Miss Marion Lelacheur as Prospero and Miranda their representation being especially well thought out and true. Miss Lillian Codner won a prize as Imperial Africa much originality being displayed in her costume. Mr. E. E. Ingraham was a representative Chief Walkemphast and as such was awarded a prize.

The great combination prize was won by Compulsory Vaccination. Five medical gentlemen of color drew a sled in which a patient, with a life preserver around his body was seated, saved from smallpox by vaccination. The doctors were: Arthur Melick, Dr. Hartley; Fred Lahey, Dr. Hillton; W. Dunlap, Dr. Smallpool; W. Hatfield, Dr. Hopewell; Robert O'Brien, Dr. Jackson, and J. McDiarmid the patient.

The judges, Mrs. Robert Thompson, Miss M. Thompson, Mrs. Robert Jardine, J. J. Robinson and G. B. Hegon, awarded their prize to Miss Annie Kipatrick as the British Empire.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Dykeman entertained a few friends very charmingly on Wednesday evening at their home on King street east. Crokinole and other games formed the chief amusement and a number of interesting questions were given on current topics which the guests were supposed to answer. Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Sipprell were the prize winners in this contest. A dainty supper was served to the guests among whom were:

Rev. Wm. Tennant, Mrs. Tennant,  
Mr. Colwell, Mrs. Colwell,  
Mr. E. M. Sipprell, Mrs. Sipprell,  
Mr. Chas. Dykeman, Mrs. Dykeman,  
Mr. James Barnes, Mrs. Barnes,  
Mr. Huestis, Mrs. Huestis,  
Mr. J. Kierstead, Mrs. Kierstead,  
Mr. John Stammers, Mrs. Stammers,  
Mr. D. Hudson, Mrs. Hudson,  
Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Jordan,  
Mrs. Reed, Miss Elliott,  
Miss Smith, Miss Greyjoy,  
Mr. Geo. Smith, Mr. Underhill,  
Mr. Guy Smith.

Last Friday evening Miss Lily Spears gave a small whist party at her home and a very pleasant evening was spent. Miss Abbott won the ladies' first prize, and the gentleman's prize went to Mr. Bradley, Miss McLaughlin and Mr. H. Regan carried off the consolation prizes. Among those present were:

Miss M. Harrison, Miss J. McLaughlin,  
Miss Josie Ritchie, Miss Abbott,  
Miss F. Cody, Mr. J. Bradley,  
Miss Pauley, Miss Elliott,  
Mr. N. Corkery, Mr. W. Fine,  
Mr. M. Coady, Mr. F. Abbott,  
Mr. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. E. Regan,  
Mr. S. Stevens.

Miss E. K. Adams of Chicago, is spending the winter with her aunt, Miss Eaton, Germain Street. During the first week in March Mr. Harry Turner of the Customs House will be married to Mrs. Price, a young widow of Petticoat, formerly Miss Richey of Petticoat.

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