

During the past week shopping has engrossed the entire attention of the ladies of St John. This interest, or perhaps enthusiasm would be a better word, will no doubt continue during the next couple of weeks, until the great feast of Easter has passed.

There is something so really fascinating in walking through the principal stores, just at this particular season that one cannot express surprise at the amount of time thus expended by ladies of leisure.

The daintiest of dress fabrics, chiffons, ribbons and laces are everywhere displayed and so attractive are some of them arranged that even the most prudent and economical June bride might be tempted into extravagance.

Of course the most important article of wearing apparel and the one over which the most thought and patience is expended is the new spring hat. To let Easter Sunday pass without appearing in a new head decoration would be to most women a very serious state of affairs.

The hats this season, promise to be as dainty and even prettier and more becoming than those of last season. A visit to the different stores cannot fail to please even the most fastidious in the demand for pretty headgear.

Next week there will be many openings. Miss Bartle announces hers for Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29. Miss Bartle has just returned from New York and will as usual carry a full stock of the latest New York and Boston styles.

There are few people in the world who are not curious about the future, and while many would have misgivings and would no doubt feel repugnance at consulting a professional fortune teller, still the amateur card reader or cup reader is much sought after, and to the one endowed with the talent of story telling, and making that story please and mystify the listener, success is sure to come and the fame of the reader rapidly spreads in the immediate locality.

But the reading of the lines of the hand, or palmistry, as the science is called, has always been looked upon as a thing of certainty and there are many firm believers in the oft used expression that "your fate lies in your hand".

Women have generally been credited with evincing more curiosity as to the future than men. But when it comes to palmistry there seems to be little difference between the representatives of both sexes.

This fact has been amply illustrated during the past week by the numbers who have called at the Clifton house in quest of Major Astral. Society ladies, men of sturdy business habits and people of almost every calling have crowded into the reception room and patiently waited their call to the private sitting room of the professor. The private interviews have as a rule suited the individual if beaming countenances and excited conversation are any indication of a pleasant frame of mind.

The evening of March 28th has been selected for the appearance of Dr. Drummond of Montreal at the Mechanic's Institute. The High School Alumni has been instrumental in bringing the learned gentleman to the city. Dr. Drummond will give several readings from his "Habitant" and other sketches of his own composition. This will be an event of much interest to persons of literary tastes and in fact it cannot fail to prove instructive and pleasant to all who attend.

The sacred cantata, "David, the Shepherd Boy," will be sung in St. David's church on next Tuesday evening. The young people of the church have been constantly practicing for a long time, and as they will have assistance from some of our local talent a smooth and pleasing performance will no doubt be given.

Mr. F. G. Spencer is at present busy procuring the necessary support to enable him to give St. John's music lovers an opportunity of hearing the great Scotch soprano, Miss Jessie MacLachlan. Miss MacLachlan supported by Mr. Tom Daniel the English basso, has been, since early in January, touring the principal American cities. Mr. Spencer has engaged the opera house for the evenings of April 15th and 16th, and there is certainly a musical treat in store for those who attend.

Mrs. J. H. Thomson left on Thursday afternoon for Clifton Springs, where she purposes remaining for a few weeks. Her daughter Miss Mariel Thomson who for the past couple of months, has been visiting friends in Upper Canada, will join her mother at Clifton Springs and at the conclusion of their visit there will return home with her.

Miss Mabel and Miss Mona Thomson, daughters of Mr. Robert Thomson accompanied by Miss M. McKean and Miss May Blair daughter of the Hon. A. G. Blair left Portland, Me., where they took passage for England. They will visit in the Old Country for some months, returning about the middle of June.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McGregor of New Glasgow spent a few days of last week in the city. While here they were guests of the Royal hotel.

Mrs. Robert Thompson has returned from Bermuda, where she enjoyed a pleasant visit of five weeks.

Miss Constance Smith daughter of Mrs. George F. Smith of Union street is still visiting in Toronto and vicinity. Miss Smith attended school in that city and is of course renewing many old friendships and making many new ones.

Miss Katherine Greaney who has been visiting in Montreal for the past two months is expected home next week.

Mrs. F. G. Spencer, Miss Bessie Wetmore and Mr. J. A. Kelly went to Fredericton on Monday and on that evening assisted at an entertainment given by some of that city's amateurs.

Mr. Douglas Sutherland accompanied by his sister Miss Beatrice Sutherland left on Monday afternoon for Toronto, where they have many friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McKay are enjoying a vacation in New York.

Mrs. George F. Baird has returned from Sydney where she has been visiting Mrs. E. Le Roi Willis. Miss Bessie Armstrong went to Boston this week where she will visit for some weeks.

Miss Gwendoline Main has returned to her home in Amherst after spending several weeks very pleasantly in this city. While here she was the guest of her brother, Mr. Harold Main of the Halifax Bank.

Mr. Graham, collector of customs at St. Stephen and Mrs. Graham were in town for a few days during the week.

The social held in the school room of the Queens Square Methodist church on Thursday evening was a pleasant little affair. Corporal Coombs, who was a member of the Sunday school, was the guest of honor. The very enjoyable evening was taken up with a musical programme and interesting conversation.

Miss Edith Little of this city, is in Halifax, paying a visit to Mrs. C. C. Blackadar.

Mr. Andrew K. Dysart left Thursday morning for Boston where he intends studying law at the Boston University and later at Harvard.

Miss Nellie Campbell of the north end leaves by boat on Monday morning for Boston, where she will make an extended visit to friends and relatives.

Miss Nellie Kane, formerly of this city but now of Halifax is spending a few days here. She is staying with friends in the north end.

Miss E. A. Warrell is recovering from her recent severe illness.

Mrs. E. H. Dunhan received quite a surprise on Thursday evening, when the (twenty five) members of Sunday school class in connection with the Main street baptist church, called at her residence on Adelaide street to congratulate her on her birthday and present her with a handsome silver cocoa pitcher. After the presentation a very pleasant evening was spent, during which a dainty repast was served and the happy gathering broke up at quite a late hour.

ST. STEPHEN AND CALAIS.

[Progress is for sale in St. Stephen at the book store of O. S. Wall, T. E. Atcheson and J. Vroom & Co., in Calais at O. P. Treat's.]

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Hart and children of St. George were here during the week.

Mrs. John F. Grants friends will be pleased to hear that she is recovering from her very serious illness.

Hon. George and Mrs. Curran have gone to Augusta, Me.

The bachelor members of the St. Croix whist club, entertained the club in a royal manner on Thursday evening last. The entertainment took the form of a dance at the Windsor Hotel. The members were delighted with their evening and say that it was the pleasiest event of the season.

Bruce Belmont of Princeton was in Calais this week for a brief stay.

The pleasant dance given by the Trio club in the G. A. R. hall on Tuesday evening was well attended. Collector and Mrs. Graham went to St. John this week for a short visit.

Miss Lilia Maxwell of Milltown is here paying a visit to her aunt, Mrs. Herbert Beck.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stoop leave this week for Boston where they intend residing.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm Murray are congratulated on the birth of a son.

Ernest Graham has been quite ill for several days with pneumonia.

Stephen Payne of St. John was in Calais recently the guest of Mrs. V. A. Waterbury.

Miss Cassie McElbannon and Miss Mand Kirk entertained a number of friends at a drive to the lumber camp of Councillor W. S. Stevens on Saturday evening last.

Mrs. I. W. Leeman and Mrs. McDermott are attending the great millinery openings in New York and Boston.

Gertrude, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Peabody of Princeton was seriously ill, and grave doubts are felt in regard to her recovery.

Miss Jessie Wall entertained the Harmony club one evening last week.

Mrs. F. Roberison has been quite ill this week at her home Trinity rectory.

Miss Winnifred Todd has been quite ill with a severe cold since her return from St. John.

Rev. R. L. Sloggett and Mrs. Sloggett of Houlton

and their young son expect to spend the coming summer in England.

Mrs. E. Mill of Demonts hotel has been visiting friends in Calais.

Miss Emma Bonness has returned from an extended visit with her brother, Fred Bonness, in Minneapolis.

Dr. Blair is still confined to his residence and unable to visit his patients.

Mrs. C. G. McCally was recently a guest of Mrs. C. F. Todd in Milltown.

Mrs. A. D. McPaul of Machias was in town last week for a brief visit.

General Murray is now convalescent and able to see his friends.

Mrs. Thomas I. Byrne gave a tea on Saturday for the pleasure of her grandmother, Mrs. W. T. Rose, it being the occasion of Mrs. Rose's eighty-fourth birthday.

Miss Blanche Kellier of St. John is staying here with friends.

MONCTON.

PROGRESS is for sale in Moncton at Hattie Tweedie's Bookstore and M. B. Jones Bookstore.

MAR. 10.—Miss Wood, daughter of Senator Wood of Sackville is visiting at the home of Dr. Ferguson.

Mrs. H. Gordon Perry of Fiesel street is entertaining her sister, Mrs. E. A. Redding of Yarmouth.

Miss Logan of Charlottetown is in town staying at the Brunswick.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Donald left here on Thursday last for Montserrat, where Mr. Donald has accepted a position as engineer.

Mr. Francis Mackay and Miss Orlo Gifford both of this city were united in marriage on Tuesday evening at the baptist parsonage, the Rev. R. S. Crisp officiating. Both are well known and popular in the city and are receiving the best wishes of their hosts of friends.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Jarvis of Truro were in the city during the early part of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. R. McDonald have been called on to mourn the loss of their infant son, whose death occurred on Sunday after a short illness.

The St. Bernard's Amateur Dramatic club presented a pleasing little drama at the opera house on Monday evening. It was well patronized and quite a sum realized for a very good object; that of assisting the poor. Many of our best local singers assisted and added materially to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. James Morrison were quite seriously injured in a runaway accident here last week. They are both recovering now, however.

Miss Nellie Gallagher has returned from Memramook where she spent a week the guest of her friend, Miss Laura McMann.

Mrs. Thos. Milton left yesterday for Halifax to see her son, Robert Cameron, before he leaves for South Africa.

Mrs. Geo. C. Peters is confined to her home through illness.

Mr. A. W. Cruise of Sydney, C. B. is in the city spending a few days.

CHATHAM.

MARCH 20.—Miss Bertie Johnson has returned from Boston.

Dr. Ellison veterinary surgeon is in town this week on a professional visit, and is staying at the River View.

Mr. James Vanstone and his mother went to Gibson last Monday to attend the funeral of Mrs. David Vanstone who died Sunday morning last.

Masonic hall was filled from entrance to stage, last Monday evening to witness the drama, The Rebel of '93, which was successfully presented by members of the R. C. T. A. society. The society orchestra played between the acts and was a pleasing feature of the entertainment. The boys prepared themselves without the assistance of an instructor, and deserve credit for taking their parts so well.

AMHERST.

MARCH 20.—Mrs. McLavish of Truro is visiting her son, N. McLavish, of the Academy staff, and Mrs. McLavish, Spring street.

Miss McGregor, who has been spending a month with her sister, Mrs. John McKeen, Crescent avenue, has returned to her home in New Glasgow.

Mr. C. A. Beck of Houlton, Maine, is visiting his sister, Mrs. T. G. Tupper, Crescent avenue.

Mr. W. W. Moore, son of the late Judge Wetmore of Fredericton was in town last week the guest of his sister, Mrs. Widder, Rupert street.

Mrs. William Moore and children left on Tuesday en route for California to join her husband, who has purchased a business near San Francisco, where they will in future reside. Mrs. Moore was accompanied by her sister, Miss Myra Chapman.

Mrs. Morton, wife of the Rev. Dr. Morton of Truro spent Sunday in town, a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith, Havelock street.

Miss Beatrice Fuller has returned from Truro where she has been for some weeks.

Rev. Dr. Black and Mrs. Black of the city, arrived in town on Saturday night on their return from Boston.

Neal B. Steele returned last week from a trip to some of the Canadian and American cities. Mrs. Steele who accompanied him will remain in Boston two weeks longer.

Mrs. Heartz wife of Rev. Dr. Heartz of Halifax is visiting her daughter Mrs. Neil T. Campbell, Church street.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Chapman of Dorchester spent Sunday in town, guests of the former's brother, Mr. D. T. M. Chapman, Church street.

Miss Gwendoline Maine has returned from a month's visit to her brother, Mr. Harold Main at St. John.

PARRSBORO.

[Progress is for sale at the Parrsboro Book store.]

MAR. 20.—On Sunday week the funeral of Mr. Frank Cooke took place from his father's residence and was largely attended. About two months ago Mr. Cooke returned home from the United States ill of consumption, and failed rapidly until his death.

Parrsboro hockey team met and defeated the Amherst team in the rink at Springhill on Monday evening. An excursion train left here for Springhill at 6:30 p.m. and a large number went up to see the match.

A St. Patrick's social was held at Mr. James Day's on Tuesday evening. Appropriate readings and recitations, with music and refreshments made a pleasant evening. Funds obtained were for the benefit of St. James' church.

Mrs. Charles Huggins of Halifax, is paying a visit to her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Tucker's household is increased by the arrival of a little daughter.

Miss Laura Hall and Miss Minnie Cove have been the guests of Mrs. Hayes for a few days.

The schools, which have all been closed on account of the epidemic of scarletina, were re-opened on Monday. Owing to there being a case at the rectory, Rev. Chas. Cummings of Port Greville took the service in St. George's church on Sunday.

Mr. J. G. McCurdy's friends were glad to see him in town last week.

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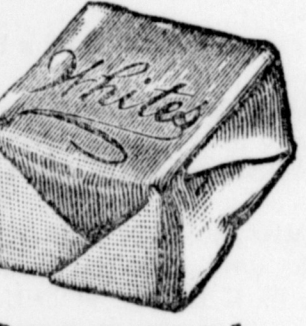

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