

883.

NEWS IN SOCIETY.

Teas and Other Entertainments—The Great Fancy Tea-Party.

The feature of the week in those charming precincts of society where the air is replete with rosebuds and savory with Young Hyson has been the teas. There is something so charmingly informal about them, so chatty, so unostentatious and withal so dignified and respectable, that they go right to the heart and take completely captive the favor of the matrons of what is probably one of the greatest tea-drinking cities in the world. Although it is but little known outside, these Philadelphia teas mean very much more than appears upon the surface. Although not generally accepted as such abroad, they are quite generally meant and accepted by those who give and attend them as a protest against the extravagance, the exaggeration and even the intemperance to which, in so many instances, the fashionable life of people of great wealth in great cities is tending. They are looked upon as epitomizing in the shape of a simple, inexpensive and harmless social entertainment the important factors of conservatism, fraternity and moderation, and there are some who, while dignifying them by association with Martha Washington, believe also that they are indicative of the triumph of republican institutions. People who think balls "horrid," who claim that the hundreds of dollars spent for terrapin and such delicacies at evening entertainments might be better spent and who look upon champagne as a "delusion and a snare," such people just dote on teas, and as they are the only class of entertainment which will bring all varieties of women together, the matrons who like champagne and terrapin better than conservatism or theology are compelled to resort to them too. Some of these teas are unique in surprises that originate with the hostess—some of them very charming. Beautiful bits of china are introduced; there are sometimes separate small tables for groups, and flowers, as pretty favors or gifts to give away, are made much use of. As they do not require much effort they are frequently made occasions for the first introduction in an official social way, if it may be so termed, of a daughter. After a girl has distinguished herself pouring out tea for other and older ladies and serving a few gentlemen she may safely venture upon the more trying ordeal of a large reception.

SOME OF THE TEAS.

Among the numerous afternoon teas of the week have been Mrs. Charles Platt's on Monday, at which her daughter was presented, and that the same day by Mrs. Clipperton to the Viscountess Bury and her daughters, the Honorable Theodora and Hilda Knapp; Mrs. S. Emien Meigs and Mrs. John Newbold on Tuesday, each to present daughters; Mrs. Tiers and daughter on Wednesday; Mrs. and the Misses Hecksher and Mrs. Frank H. Getchells on Thursday, the latter for her daughter, and Mrs. Henry Whelen, Jr.'s, on Friday. Most of these were graced by the presence of young ladies just coming out, who make it a rule to attend one another's parties as far as possible and at some of them later in the evening the young people remained to dance. Sometimes a supper has followed. On Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Fraley gave a reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Howe, of Boston. Among the other prospective teas for which cards are out are Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lewis, 343 South Twelfth street, December 15, for Miss Cozart; Mr. and Mrs. Graham Spencer, 1822 Pine street, December 19; Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Bokley, Jr., 2087 Sansom street, December 20; Mrs. Washington Z. Florence and Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Meade, 2021 De Lancey Place, December 19; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Audenreid and Miss Audenreid, 1823 Walnut street, December 18; Mrs. Robert S. Sturgis and the Misses Sturgis, 1515 Walnut street, December 11; Mrs. Branton Cox, 1711 Leunst street, December 13 and December 20; Mrs. Henry Rawle and Miss Rawle, 1227 Walnut street, December 12; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Catherwood and Miss Catherwood, December 20; Mr. S. Davis Page and Miss Page, 281 south Fourth street, December 15 and December 22, and Mr. and Mrs. John T. Lewis, Jr., Tenth and Spruce streets, December 15.

ENTERTAINMENTS TO COME.

The invitations to the ball by Mrs. Coleman Fisher set for Thursday next have been recalled, in consequence of the death of a relative. Cards for days "at home," which are substantially teas, have been issued as follows: Mrs. Alex. Biddle, Thursdays in January; the Misses Wurtz, Fridays in December; Mrs. and Miss Huesley, Wednesdays in December; Mr. and Mrs. Heide Norris, Thursdays in December and January; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Sartori, Fridays in December; Mrs. S. Kingston Metcay, Fridays in December; Mr. and Mrs. Stephen O. Fuguet, Mondays in January, February and March; Mrs. Montgomery Wilcox, Tuesdays in December; Mrs. C. G. Currie, Mrs. Evan Randolph and Miss Randolph, Wednesdays in December; Mr. R. C. McMurtrie and the Misses McMurtrie, Mondays in December; Mrs. and the Misses Hecksher, Tuesdays in January; Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Lewis, Jr., Wednesdays in December; Mrs. Edward Shippen and the Misses Shippen, Fridays in December, January and February, and Mrs. Alfred Devereaux, Thursdays in January.

The great number of young ladies who will enter society this winter for the first time add very much to the interest of the season and its entertainments. Among those best known, on account of the wide circle of their acquaintance, are Miss Meigs, Miss Potts, Miss Sturgis, Miss Snowden, Miss McMurtrie, Miss Price, Miss Brier, Miss Wiltbank, Miss Donaldson, Miss Catherwood, Miss Hopkins, Miss Starr, Miss Farnam, Miss Getchel, Miss McMichael, Miss Norris, Miss Eiting, Miss Fannie Eiting and Miss Newbold. Two young ladies will be presented at afternoon teas to-day: Miss Jenks by her mother, Mrs. Story Jenks, and Miss Mary Keating by her father, Dr. John Keating. Miss Helen Allison Hanna, a daughter of Judge Hanna, is also one of the attractive buds of the season.