THE BALL SEASON.

Brilliant Programmes of this City and Brooklyn.

Some of the Features of the Leading Festivities of the Winter—Political, Charitable and Social Balls—What It Costs to Get Up an Entertainment at the Academy—Facts Useful to Those Who "Trip the Light Fantastic Too."

The ball season has again returned, and already the "busy hum of preparation" for its festivities may be noted on every hand. Previous seasons have been fittingly called "brilliant," but it is believed that the balls of the season will surpass those of the past in amount of enjoyment and affordance. The sister cities of New-York and Brooklyn vie with each other as to which will be most richly represented, and no pains will be spared by either of the rivals to beat off the palm of superiority. In order that our readers may know of all the good things in store for lovers of the dance, we have prepared the following detailed programme of the Winter's entertainment:

Of course the leading balls of the season will take place at the Academy of Music, on Fourteenth-street. The Academy always do. The number is comparatively few, however, and very select, the cost being too great for individual resources. It is a rare occurrence that an individual attempts, singly, to set up a ball at that establishment, the only instance in memory being the Connolly Reception, the expense of which was borne by Biirth O'Briar. The ball committees who endeavor to secure the building are generally referred to Rullman, who, with supreme indifference to whether they engage the house or not, after assuring himself of the character of the parties or association wishing to hire, informs them that $1,100 is the price for one night; the proprietors reserving the right to all revenues derived from the hat rooms—the tax upon hats being fifty cents each. This right is sometimes partially waived in the cases of subscription balls, to which invitations are issued, like that of the Baxter Hop, where the "pass money" charged is one dollar, the Association dividing the profits with the Academy. The cost of a brass band and orchestra is the next considerable item, nothing less than $1,000 securing the services of a first-class company of musicians. After that comes the printing and advertising, which draws out a full thousand more, and allows of only modest tickets and orders of dancing, and last in the list is the corps of attendants, who cost not a trifle in the aggregate. Besides these named, there are several known to committees as "incidental," which might be set down at about $500, making the expense of a full-dress ball at the Academy, with but little attempt at display, about $1,600. Out of this total there is, in the majority of instances, to be deducted from $30 to $50 paid for the privilege of selling dogs, wigs, and daggers. Four thousand dollars as the pay of the fiddler to those who would dance at the Academy is, of course, an under-estimation of the expense.

Extensive alterations have been made in the bar, and the refreshment and other rooms have been thoroughly renovated. Engagements have been made for seventy balls from Nov. 22 to Feb. 28, as follows:

The charitable are:

Nov. 22—Red Menu Lodge.
Nov. 23—United Brothers, F. A. M.
Dec. 2—Washington Chapter, F. A. M.
Dec. 3—Fort Cameron, No. 78, G. A. R.
Dec. 3—Bateman Lodge, I. O. O. F.
Dec. 1—Athletic Lodge, F. A. M.
Dec. 3—Corporal's Lodge, F. A. M.
Dec. 2—Society Lodge, No. 50, H. C. M.
Dec. 3—Manhattan Commandery, E. A. M.
Dec. 3—Independence Lodge, No. 65, L. O. L.
Jan. 3—Sons of Liberty.
Jan. 5—Journeymen Tailors' F. I. B. Union.
Jan. 7—Private Cooking Club.
Jan. 8—Excellence Lodge, F. A. M.
Jan. 10—Terminus Lodge, G. F.
Feb. 5—French Cooks' Benevolent Association.
Feb. 11—D. F. O. Elks.

The social and pleasure clubs are:

Nov. 22—American Association.
Nov. 23—American Ontario.
Nov. 24—Fort Cameron.
Dec. 2—H. N. Society.
Dec. 3—Children's Matinee.
Dec. 3—Terpsichorean Social Union.
Dec. 3—Bliss's Opera Club.
Dec. 17—Children's Matinee.
Dec. 20—Young Men's Roman Catholic Association.
Dec. 21—Athenaeum.
Dec. 21—Children's Matinee.
Dec. 22—Fanshawe Club.
Dec. 27—Bellewissan Social Club.
Jan. 8—Children's Matinee.
Jan. 8—Adams Club.
Jan. 13—Children's Matinee.
Jan. 19—Hoboken Club.
Jan. 20—United Association of Heavy Men of the State of New-York.
Jan. 21—Matinee.
Jan. 21—H. R. Club.
Feb. 2—Columbia Boat Club.
Feb. 2—Columbia Ball Club.
Feb. 2—M. D.'s.
Feb. 10—S. M. D.'s.
Feb. 15—Bunyanty Club.
Feb. 17—Anns Banner Club.
Feb. 17—Humphrey Secret.
Feb. 20—Humphrey Secret.
Feb. 20—Washington Continentals.
Feb. 20—Baxter Gallo Llop.
Feb. 20—Min. Ina Ball.

The political are:

Nov. 20—Richard O'Gorman Association.
Dec. 15—Cummings Association.
Jan. 9—Thomas Kaven Octora.
Jan. 10—Thomassian Balls Association.
Jan. 15—Attorney Association.
Jan. 23—N. Y. K. (Tony Hartman.)
Jan. 24—John Scott Club.
Jan. 27—Thomas E. Haller.
Feb. 6—Walter Betro Club.
Feb. 12—Irene's O'Gorman Club.

APOLO HALL.

Apollo Hall has been rechristened by G. B. Hartre, and the supper-room has been enlarged to 160 feet, and will now seat 600 persons at table. The hall is always rented with the understanding that the proprietor is to reserve to him self the right to sell supports. The fact that this hall is under the personal supervision of Geo. Futal is a sufficient guarantee of everything being of first-class character. Thirty engagements for balls have been made, extending from Nov. 31 to Dec. 31.

The charitable are:

Nov. 21—L. N. L. R. Benevolent Association.
Dec. 8—Lady Iraen Koeber (German.)
Dec. 8—Hospitals Benefit Protective Association.
Nov. 28—Brother Dresser's Union.
Nov. 30—Engineers' Protective Association.
Dec. 2—American Orthodox Hilberten.
Dec. 8—United States.
Dec. 8—Father Mathew No. 1.
Dec. 8—Brotherhood Engineers.
Dec. 8—Columbia Lodge, P. and A. M.
Dec. 8—Plate-Pratt's Union, New York.
Dec. 12—Manchester Chamber of Commerce.
Dec. 12—Woman's Benevolent Union.
Dec. 19—Monarchicon Union.
Dec. 19—Alpha Chapter, Kappa Kappa.

The Social and Pleasure Clubs are:

On the 22nd inst., a grand reception will be given by Martin's Dancing Academy. Indeed, the entertainments that have taken place under the auspices of the military in former years have been of the first order, and it is probable that those to be held during the coming Winter will furnish plenty of enjoyment to those who attend. "The Sawyer's Assembly Rooms" will be opened on the evening of December the 5th, by the patrons, students and trustees of the "Packer Institute." To those who know anything about this institution the name will be a sufficient guarantee for the good management of the reception. Several of the young ladies belonging to the Institute have expressed themselves as delighted with the arrangements for the reception. The Ancient Order of Hibernians will occupy Brooklyn Hall on the same evening. For several years past those worthy sons of the Green Isle have mingled in the "witcheries of the dance." Last year their "annual" was attended by many numbers of Irish girls. At "Sawyer's," on the 15th of the same month, the "La Favorita Association will occupy the floor and 'trip the light fantastic to."'

The Sunny Side Literary Association will hold their annual ball on the 16th at 6 o'clock, at Brooklyn Hall, and on the 20th the employees of the Union Ferry Company will show themselves at the same place. With January, however, the public will be better supplied with the Schuetzen-Schule comes first in order; it will take place at Brooklyn Hall on the 11th of the month. The schuetzen-Schule, being the Scottish residents of the City—the Caledonian Ball will take place on the 17th. What attracts the Caledonian festival is, the sons and daughters of the land of "cakes" can only be appreciated by those who visit one of their balls. Until the middle of February the attention of dancers will be almost constantly occupied by hops and private receptions. On the 15th of the latter month the Academy of Music will be re-opened, and the feet of merry dancers will trip across its ample floor under the genial auspices of the Twenty-first Regiment. This is expected to be the finest affair of the season. On the 20th of the month another will be occupied at the Elk's Club Association.