

# PROGRESS.

VOL. I., NO. 11.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1888.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

## EVENINGS OF ORATORIO, AND A MATINEE OF MORE POPULAR MUSIC.

Meritorious Productions of "Judas Maccabees" and "The Seasons," which were not patronized as they should have been—How the Numbers were Sung.

Orchestra, "Hungarian Rhapsodie, No. 2," Liszt  
Listemann Sextette.  
Song, "The Two Grenadiers," Schumann  
Sig. Ronconi.  
Flute Solo, "Concert," Demerssemann  
E. M. Heindl.  
Orchestra, (a) "Canzonette," Godard  
(b) "Turkish March," Beethoven  
Listemann Sextette.  
Violin Solo, "Slavonic Fantasia," Wienkstemp  
Herr Listemann.  
Song, "The Blind Girl's Song," Ponchielli  
Miss G. Bowen.  
Concerto, "Andante," Weber  
Miss Bowden and Orchestra.  
Cello Solo, "Andante," Nartini  
Herr Adolf Sailer.  
Duet, "Donizetti  
Miss G. Bowen and Sig. Ronconi.  
Overture, "Masaniello," Auber  
Listemann Sextette.

Such a feast of orchestral music has rarely been presented to a St. John audience as that given at this matinee. Not content with gratifying the hearers with their own concerted pieces, the Listemann sextette accompanied the song and duet. The only number they did not play was Herr Sailer's cello solo (a capital performance), which was accompanied by the piano, played by one of the sextette.

Herr Listemann shows what a really good musician he is, not only by his splendid playing, but also by the fact that he always seem to gather round him men of talent, who are perfectly in sympathy with himself.

The most noticeable numbers were undoubtedly No. 1, "Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 2," by Liszt, and No. 4, (b) "Turkish March," Beethoven, the first being specially fine in power and tone, and the latter being played with a beautiful expression of crescendo and diminuendo. Of Herren Listemann and Heindl, it is simply necessary to say that they have neither of them gone back in their art, but rather, if it were possible, advanced. Such fine players will always meet with an enthusiastic reception wherever they appear, and though St. John audiences may sometimes not be large, yet they will make up for the lack of numbers by the heartiness of their applause, as on Tuesday last.

Miss Bowden showed a distinct advance by her playing of the Weber Concerto, this being clearly the best performance this talented young lady has given in this city.

Miss G. Bowen (Signor Ronconi's pupil) made her debut, singing "The Blind Girl's Song," and also a duet with the signor. This young lady gives promise of a fine mezzo-soprano voice, when it has fully developed.

Signor Ronconi's fine voice appeared to advantage in Schumann's "The Two Grenadiers," and he seemed fairly at home with the German words.

Judas Maccabees.  
Steady and patient work must tell, and this was amply proven when the Oratorio society gave the most complete performance, on Tuesday evening, that it has as yet given.

Mr. Gubb never had his chorus in better control and they, the chorus, never put more light and shade in their singing or answered the controlling beat of the baton in a better manner. The parts were well balanced in tone, though the six tenors were heavily handicapped as to numbers. They answered bravely, however, throughout the evening, but it must have been a heavy tax on them to sing against such a great array of basses. Mr. Gubb has reason to be proud of the work done by the chorus and he can also feel proud of the great strides that the society has made under his able tuition and guidance. The best chorus was decidedly, "Hear us, O Lord," at the end of the first part, being given throughout with hardly a fault. The others most worthy of mention were, "We Never will Bow Down," "See the Conquering Hero Comes" and the last, "Sing unto God."

As to the soloists, the society has never presented a stronger array of talent.

Mrs. Houston-West sang all her numbers beautifully, but was specially successful in "From Mighty Kings" and "Wise Men Flatt'ring May Deceive You." This lady's charming voice may not have all the beauty and freshness of youth, but the tone is full and not impaired and her execution is very perfect in every way.

Mrs. Perley sang better than she has for some time and the two duets, "Come Over Smiling Liberty" and "O Lovely Peace" were a rich treat, the two ladies' voices blending most sympathetically.

It is a long time since St. John heard a tenor in oratorio like Mr. G. W. Parker. He fairly captured the audience, from the first note he sang, by his splendidly rich toned voice, finely trained, beautifully distinct enunciation and good method; his A's being all taken with as much ease as the notes of the lowest register. All his numbers were a distinct triumph, but of course "Sound an Alarm" was his best effort, and it is seldom that the old Institute has heard

more spontaneous and hearty applause than greeted this gentleman on the conclusion of the favorite number in this oratorio.

Rev. J. M. Davenport sang all his numbers with that careful execution and finish for which he is noted and merited the hearty applause he received. He was at his best in "So Rapid Thy Course Is" and "Father of Heaven."

The great range of Signor Ronconi's powerful voice was well adapted for the allotted music, his best number being "The Lord Worketh Wonders."

Of the accompaniments, when it is said that Miss Bowden was at the piano, Mr. Morley at the organ and the Listemann sextette as orchestra, nothing more need be said. All did their parts admirably, tending to enhance the perfect success of the whole performance. There was but one thing to mar the evening's enjoyment and that was—empty seats.

The Seasons.  
The second concert, Wednesday evening, was the performance of Haydn's Seasons, parts I. and II. Taken as a whole, the work was given in an excellent manner, but was not so perfect as the *Judas Maccabees*. There was a lack of attack in the chorus, and the soloists all did their work finely, yet the music seemed scarcely to suit them so well as on the previous evening.

The best chorus was "Hark! the Deep Tremendous Voice," in the second part, which gave the singers full opportunity to show power and tone. Mr. Gubb had his chorus again well in hand, though there was not quite such a rapid response as was so apparent previously.

Mrs. West again sang her music beautifully, her best number being the recitation, "O Welcome Now," and the aria, "Oh, How Welcome to the Senses."

Mr. Parker naturally held his audience during the whole time he sang, and though he did not have the same occasion for exhibiting his magnificent vocal powers, his efforts were all triumphs, especially in "Distressful Nature Fainting Sinks."

Signor Ronconi, for whom an apology was made on account of cold and hoarseness, after singing a few bars seemed to recover his voice, and sang even better than on the previous evening.

The trios and duets all went very well and were much enjoyed.

The accompaniments left nothing to be desired, Mr. Morley making his influence at the organ much felt.

The management of the society is to be congratulated on having advanced in its annual concerts, both in soloists, chorus, orchestra and accompaniments—the performance of the *Judas Maccabees* being probably the best performance of oratorio that has ever been given in this city.

Smoke "Morton's Choice."

TO THE PUBLIC.

Let Everybody Who Loves Good Music Subscribe to the Oratorio Fund.

With much greater regret than can be or has been expressed the public has heard of the financial failure of the recent efforts of the Oratorio Society. On all sides there is a feeling that the patronage of the public should have been extended with a more generous hand. And yet it was not intentional. Everybody did what is getting to be too common, depended upon his neighbor, and the result was that the institute frequently sees larger audiences at a common comedy performance than those which attended the Oratorio's efforts on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

The deficit, it is understood, will amount to about \$300, a sum which the members of the society are bound in honor to pay, and from their own pockets. There are hundreds who would have attended had they known there was a chance of such a financial result. Can they not do something now to help meet the indebtedness? Lovers of good music would regret very much any disorganization of such a worthy society; but the facts point to the plain truth that it cannot go on getting deeper into debt and giving the public rare musical treats.

PROGRESS is willing to do its share in contributing to meet this indebtedness, and with the consent of the managing committee of the Oratorio Society, will open the list with \$10. If any citizens are willing to come forward, let them send their names to this office, stating what they will give, and the society will see that the contribution is collected.

Who will contribute?

The Shamrocks' Moonlight Excursion.

Full and complete announcements elsewhere give the particulars of what promises to be a very enjoyable excursion. The efficient committee of the Shamrocks has chosen a night when the moon is full and will appear about 8 o'clock. The *David Weston* is a grand and thoroughly safe boat and will enable those in charge of the excursion to carry it off in first class style. The band will furnish splendid music, the concert will be an additional attraction, and the dancing programme should attract many who can enjoy all these good things and at the same time a sail upon the river.

## LOCKED IN THE SHOP.

TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS OF ST. JOHN MONEY.

No Person Responsible to the Investors for It—They Cannot Get Security, Yet They Continue to Play With the Tiger—Drive It Out of Town.

About \$20,000 of St. John money locked up in the "bucket shop!"

Twenty thousand dollars in the hands of an irresponsible party who, if he wishes, can close up shop tomorrow and leave its owners in the lurch, with nothing but worthless slips of paper to show for their "investments!"

The story of the "bucket shop," published in last week's PROGRESS, caused quite a sensation among the local dealers, who are anxious to get out of the clutches of the concern before any exposure takes place. They are not quite certain, either, whether the dealers do not come under the provisions of the new law.

But PROGRESS has been asked to state how the dealing is carried on in the "bucket shop" and will try to answer the question as best it can.

It may be stated, first, that the system has been changed recently to avoid the new law passed at the last session of the dominion house. The concern on King street has been run by

Davidson, Ledden & Black,  
Davidson & Ledden Bros.,  
Ledden Bros.,  
Correspondent of Ledden Bros.

It is under the latter name that orders are being received at the present time and the result of the change is that all deals, instead of being made by Ledden Bros., are made through them and they are in no degree responsible.

But to explain how the "investments" are made: A person who wishes to patronize the shop fills out an order requesting the "correspondent" to buy or sell at least 20 shares of a certain stock, handing in with it \$20, which margins the stock three-quarters of a point, the other quarter being the commission of the shop, viz., you pay \$5 for the privilege of investing \$20.

This order is handed to the operator and is wired to Ledden Bros' office in Boston and no further. The latter contend that they place the order upon the New York market, but as they have no New York office—though they say they have—and the firm is not a member of the stock exchange, this would have to be done through a resident broker, who would require at least 10 per cent. of the purchase money of the stock and interest on the balance. It is nonsense to say that this is done and the fact lies bare that every deal made in St. John is reported at Boston but no further.

Every deal made in St. John is known there. All the business is reported every afternoon, the cash balanced and tallied with the accounts kept at Boston, where a set of books exactly similar to that in St. John is kept. Ledden Bros. know just how close every man is running to his margin and they have the power very often, if he is reckless, to "wipe" him out.

For example, when a stock is active, and a man is carrying but a slight margin, the quotations are often held in the Boston office until the stock is down and up again. Then they are rushed into St. John so quickly that a dealer cannot act, if he would, and very often the stock sinks to his margin point or below, loses him all his money placed on it, then rises to its original figure; whereas, if the quotations came in as regularly as they are received in Boston, the dealer here would be able to margin lower or higher, as was necessary with the movements of the stock. But this shows how palpably fraudulent the whole concern is.

Ledden Bros. advertise seventeen branch offices, while the fact is that they have only four, at St. John, Bangor, Portland and Lewiston, and their reports show that the business done in St. John is equal in amount to that done in all three other places! The reason alleged for closing the Halifax branch was an advance of rent made upon their wire by the Western Union, but the real reason was that Halifax people saw through the game being played upon them, deserted the shop, and it closed for want of business. Let St. John follow her sister city's example!

The local dealers are given to understand that the concern has several operatives in the Boston office who do nothing but attend to repeating and forwarding deals from their branches to New York and send the quotations to St. John and elsewhere. It is asserted upon good authority that the concern has but one operator in its Boston office, and instead of getting its quotations direct from the New York office they get them from a "ticker," which serves scores of American offices in the same way.

There are a few questions which, if answered, would give the dealers here considerable information:

What is the address of the New York office?

Where are the thirteen branch offices other than those named?

Who are Mr. Davidson and Mr. Black,

ex-members of the firm?

Who is responsible to the dealers for their margins? Mr. McKenzie, the correspondent, or Ledden Bros. If the former, to what extent is he responsible?

For a few months, stocks have been down, and most dealers, having bought them at higher prices than they are at present, have been compelled to remargin, and at least two-thirds of the money now in the control of the "bucket shop" was locked up in this way.

It is not a comforting suggestion, but what is there to prevent the "bucket shop" from being closed today and the dealers left in the lurch?

Look out for *Ersmouth St. Picnic* on July 24.

UNDER WAY AT LAST!

A Meeting of Those Interested in Building the New Opera House.

By announcement in the advertising columns of this paper, all persons interested in the plan for an opera house are requested to meet at the warehouses of President A. O. Skinner, next Thursday evening.

PROGRESS has no doubt that the response to this call will be hearty and unanimous. The business before the meeting, in the opinion of some of the gentlemen most deeply interested, is to reorganize the directorate.

There is no question that this should be done. That body ought to be composed of men who would be willing to serve as workers, rather than figureheads.

The new directors should organize at once, and take steps to complete the canvas for subscriptions. Until all the stock has been taken, they should meet twice a week. On these occasions, let them go through the directory from A to Z, and provide that every citizen shall be solicited for a subscription by that director who can best reach him.

Then a call should be made for a percentage of the stock subscribed, contracts should be let and the work of construction—on the Dockrite site, of course—should be begun immediately. Let the people see that the opera house is going forward, and they will come to the aid of the plan. A foot of bricks will go further than a mile of arguments.

If Thursday night's meeting accomplishes as much as it should, and as PROGRESS believes it will, the opera house will be open for business next winter.

It Looks Like a Job.

Many Portland people have doubtless never heard of, or if they have heard of it have overlooked, the fact that Ald. Murphy is entitled to the credit of saddling them with an unnecessary expenditure. That gentleman's little scheme was to have Mr. Jos. Sullivan appointed to superintend the building of the new retaining walls—and he succeeded. Mr. Sullivan will receive a salary of \$2 a day while the work is in progress. It is interesting to note in this connection that roadmaster Brown was understood to be perfectly able and willing to oversee the work himself as roadmaster Dunlap always did; and as he drew the plans for the wall he ought to be capable to do it.

All Records Broken.

Joseph Irvine and Douglas McCarthy are the champion newboys in town at present. The former eclipsed all previous records, last Saturday, and sold 437 copies of PROGRESS on the streets. Douglas McCarthy also jumped all past tallies and came second, with 387 copies. Two boys sold 824 copies of the paper, and the third, George Swanton, brought up the total of the prize-winners to over 1,000 copies. In addition to this, the usual throng of newboys disposed of nearly as many more copies. The street sale of PROGRESS, this week, will be nearly 2,000 copies, provided the usual increase arrives, and there is no reason to doubt it.

A Conundrum.

Why is it that the Street Railway company, which sells a round-trip ticket from Market square to the Marsh road (including transfer) for 5 cents, charges 10 cents to Fairville and 10 cents more from Fairville to the Bridge road corner? Since the fare is doubled, why not include transfer in one case as well as in the other? The answer will be, of course, that, in the latter case, the company is obliged to use "busses" instead of cars—but why should that make a difference?

A Big Coal Order.

R. P. & W. F. Starr had a great coal order to fill last week. A Spanish steamer arrived in the harbor and gave the firm an order for 450 tons Springhill coal. Some difficulty was experienced getting enough schooners and lighters to carry the coal out to her in the stream, but it was all in Tuesday, and the biggest order left in St. John for years was filled. A few days before, the same firm filled an order for 250 tons for another steamer.

Go to *Ersmouth St. S. S. picnic*.

## THE PRESS OF HALIFAX

AND THE MEN ENGAGED IN MOULDING OPINION

In Nova Scotia—Who They Are and Some Idea of Their Work—A Good Lot of Fellows Engaged in Newspaper Work—Halifax Papers.

HALIFAX, N. S., July 12.—Like their brethren of St. John, the Halifax journalists are a modest, unassuming lot of young men. They take great pleasure in writing the history or good work of any prominent man in the law, medicine or theology, but when one of their own number makes a hit—by a brilliant stroke gives to the public a clear view of a perplexing question, or throws out a suggestion that will become of benefit to the country—the Halifax journalist does not think it his duty to tell the public the name of the benefactor. Therefore, although he moulds the opinions of the people, the newspaper man personally is known by very few.

It will be my endeavor to give PROGRESS' readers a quiet introduction to some of the really able men who occupy positions on the Halifax press. But first let me call your attention to the fact that nearly every shining light in Acadian history was at one time or another a "newspaper man." Joseph Howe, the champion of responsible government, author, poet, statesman, served an apprenticeship at printing, rose to be editor and owner of one of the best papers we ever had, and in the midst of public duties found time to write for the *Nova Scotian*. Hon. William Annand came to Halifax from Musquodoboit to assist Howe in the newspaper business, and afterwards worked hand and hand with him in parliament and in the sanctum. Hon. W. S. Fielding, the present provincial secretary, is an old reporter and editor; Judge Weatherby, Hon. J. W. Longley, Hon. S. H. Holmes, Postmaster Blackadar, and a number of others prominent in nearly every walk of life, have graduated from the editorial office of one of the Halifax dailies.

Those who hold the reins and fight the battle of the present day, have not yet arisen to any great eminence, but they are all young men, and many have promising futures. The senior of local journalists is Mr. J. J. Stewart, of the *Herald*. Mr. Stewart is not more than 48 years of age, and besides being political editor, he is president and controlling stockholder of the leading government organ in the province. Mr. Stewart is a lawyer, at one time partner of the present deputy minister of justice. He is very little known in the city, but his opinions are the key note for Toryism throughout the country. He is an enthusiastic Nova Scotian, takes a great interest in the history and literature of our province, and is at present engaged in making a collection of books, stamps, coins, relics, etc., relating to local history. His two papers on "The History of the Press in Nova Scotia" read before the Historical society, last winter, are the only published record of that interesting portion of our history.

Mr. Henry D. Blackadar, senior member of the firm of Blackadar Bros., is the political editor of the *Recorder*. He is a son of the late Hugh Blackadar and has spent his whole life in the office of the *Recorder* and, if rumor speaks correctly, that time has not been thrown away. Mr. Blackadar is a well known local politician and there are very few who take a greater interest in civic affairs. He was for a term chairman of the school board and has had a standing invitation for a number of years past for aldermanic honors from one of the largest wards in the city. In the political department of the *Recorder* he has the assistance of Mr. Charles P. McLennan, a Dalhousie student and a young man who is making quite a name for himself in local newspaperdom.

The political editor of the *Morning Chronicle* is not officially known, but general opinion gives the attorney-general, Hon. J. W. Longley, credit for the majority of the "leaders" and we think public opinion is not very far wrong. Mr. Longley is too well known to need any sketch in this article. Suffice it to say that he is a bright, forcible writer, a conscientious thinker and one of the best speakers in the house of assembly. His championship of commercial union has made his name and opinions known throughout America.

The *Echo*—the new evening venture—claims to be independent. Its editor is not announced, either, but I think Mr. J. M. Geldert, jr., the efficient reporter of the house of assembly, writes the most of the crisp little editorial paragraphs that are one of the features of the *Echo*. Mr. Geldert is a lawyer, a stenographer, amateur photographer, musician and a first-class writer.

The local editors are much better known than the political editors. William Dennis of the *Herald* is the "hustler" in these parts. He has a long and brilliant record as reporter on the *Herald* and *Winnipeg Times*, is an enthusiastic interviewer, agriculturist, and the father of the Maritime Press association, for it is he who deserves

the credit for formulating the scheme that gave us a flourishing society representing the journalists of the three lower provinces.

William D. F. Smith of the *Recorder* is also one of the old hands. Smith is a clever cartoonist, a racy descriptive writer and the "funny man" of the *Recorder*. Many credit him with that great parody, "The Queertown Council," but I know better. 'Twas one much younger and very little known;—but don't say I told you.

James McQuinn of the *Chronicle* handles the local department of the leading Liberal journal with good effect. McQuinn is known as "Old Reliable" and at present divides his time between the office of the *Chronicle* and a snug little farm at Shubenacadie.

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Hiram Wier, of the *Mail*, is the local authority on theatricals, and through his knowledge in this particular line of journalistic work is enabled to give the public the best dramatic criticism published. He is also said to be "Felix," a writer of society chat and gossip for the *Mail*.

James W. Power, son of Hon. M. J. Power, and sporting editor of the *Recorder*, is perhaps as well known in St. John as in Halifax. Jim is a great authority on horse and it was through his single-handed effort that Halifax now divides her horse races between running and trotting instead of all running, as it was a few years ago. Jim is an enthusiastic lover of sport, and has received many compliments from the New Brunswick papers for his admirable and accurate reports of interprovincial sporting events.

The rest of the boys all deserve particular mention, but I think I have already infringed too far. W. Bowes, of the *Chronicle*, belongs to Moncton and was at one time on a St. John daily. Jack Baxter and Harry Harvey, the marine editors of the *Chronicle* and *Herald* respectively, are two hard-working men, who succeed in using up two or three columns nearly every issue. James McGowan looks after the sporting for the *Echo*, and J. Watson Fraser for the *Mail*. William Seabrooke does court and general reporting for the *Herald* and Fred Monaghan occupies a like position on the *Chronicle*. So much for the dailies. At another time I may endeavor to tell you something about the weeklies and those who edit them.

P. A. X.

*Ersmouth St. S. S. Picnic at Watters' Landing, Tuesday July 24, will be the Best of the Season.*

Off to the Picnics.

The old people and the young people of Brussels Street Baptist church will emigrate for one day this week to Watters' landing and forget the city and enjoy the country. May Tuesday be a fine day! Everybody should go to this the prettiest and most convenient spot on the river and help each other have a good time. The announcement elsewhere gives every information and commodious, fleet boats and cheap tickets should require no other inducement to draw a grand crowd.

St. John Presbyterian church Sunday-school will hold its annual picnic, this year, on the beautiful grounds of Mr. J. D. M. Keator, at Nauwigawauk, Tuesday, the 17th. The excursion is in charge of an efficient committee, who have arranged a rare programme of sports, for which suitable prizes will be offered. A refreshment table will be under the supervision of the ladies of the church. Many other attractions will be provided, which will make this one of the best Sunday-school picnics of the season.

One Hundred and Fifteen Pupils.

Since the professors of the Berlitz school have opened their classes in New Brunswick, 115 persons have joined them and the number is increasing every week. The exhibition, Thursday in the Victoria school building, went off splendidly, and was a great boom for the Berlitz method.

Open to the Public.

That enterprising firm, Bell & Higgins, will open its factory doors every afternoon next week and allow the people to see how cigars are made and to examine the stock which makes them. Bell & Higgins advertise certain things, and the people can see for themselves if their factory is what they say it is.

Forepaugh Coming!

It is quite probable that Forepaugh's circus will show in this city this summer. Its management are arranging for the advertising boards in town and country, and that is a pretty sure indication that St. John is on the route of the great show.

Bargains in Blank Books, all kinds, at McArthur's Book Store, 80 King St.