

MUSIC, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Pressure of business and engagements of various sorts prevented me last week from filling my usual column. My editors growled and the devil bothered me and I promised, but nothing came of it—all so I will humbly apologize to such of the readers of PROGRESS as trouble themselves to read through the paragraphs I manage to scribble.

I was sorry I was not able to hear the effect of the Minstrels' chorus singing, as an engagement prevented me, but I have asked every musical person I know that was present, and from one and all I get the stereotyped answer, "Capital." "One of the best circles on a stage," etc. It is to be hoped that this combination of gentlemen will hold together. With some slight alterations in management and the re-arrangement of all choruses for male voices (which is a matter that could be done at small cost) and some more good songs added to the repertoire, the minstrels in the fall could give some very enjoyable evenings to the St. John people and I think would draw money every time they performed.

Of course it is an open secret, now, that the net proceeds are to be given to the Oratorio society. This I am afraid will not amount to a very large sum, probably between \$150 and \$200. The expenses were very heavy, owing to the fact that all the properties had to be purchased. These, of course, will now be on hand in case of any future performances and would lessen the cost at least one-half.

Madame Fanny Kellogg Bachert is visiting friends in Omaha and receiving great social attention. Many receptions are given in her honor, and one especially, at Millard's, was an example of western magnificence. The Omaha Bee gives a long description of the fête. Mme. Kellogg-Bachert was costumed in white India silk, with rare old lace and diamonds, and the journal notes not only her distinction as an artist, but as a lady of exceptional charm and culture.

I clip the above from the Boston Evening Traveller of June 27 as being of some interest to those of my readers who were at the Oratorio concerts last year and remember that talented lady's fine performances.

The Folio for July, which ought to have been mentioned last week, is a capital number, the most noticeable articles being some "Critical Items" by Warren Davenport, "Piano Playing on the Petersilea system," "American Composers," "Organ Playing and Organists," by James M. Tracey. In the last are some capital remarks with regard to would-be organists and extemporary voluntaries, that some would-be musical people could lay to heart with good effect, when pressing some young organist, who has barely acquired the mechanical knowledge of the organ, to indulge in extemporizations.

Gently, gently, Mr. Rector, the volunteer choir singer has feelings, and is not a machine, nor can he be talked to like the paid chorister. It will be a great blow to a certain choir in the city if one of its leading male voices leaves it, especially after being one of its most serviceable and devoted members for so many years. I am afraid the reverend gentleman does not quite realize the fact that the rector of the parish is not quite the autocrat here, with regard to the choir, at least, that some rectors are in the old country.

Appropos of the above, I was once asked by an organist of good standing whether I knew what class of men were the most unreasonable and hard to get on with, and received the answer, musical rectors, which was rather a sweeping condemnation; but I think there was a spice of truth in it all the same.

I hear that one of the Philharmonics has left. This is a great pity, as the organization is none too strong, and can ill afford to lose a good musician. What is the matter, anyhow, A—r? Did they object to your playing with the professionals? or rather, the paid players of another combine?

The Oratorio society's concerts are the event of next week, and I do hope that the St. John people will give them a good house every performance. Press notices of Mrs. Houston West and Mr. Parker are excellent, though, unfortunately, too much reliance cannot always be placed on them. Still, in these two cases, I think the management have done well, as Mr. Parker is evidently thoroughly acquainted with his music, and is said to have a voice peculiarly adapted to the Judas Maccabaeus music. Of Signor Ronconi, I have my doubts, as before stated: not on account of his voice, but his method and faulty articulation. It is also to be hoped he will know his music thoroughly and not fail, as he did last year. The chorus is apparently well up in its work and should give a very good account, and show marked improvement on last year.

Her voice was a cross between the hum of a cyclone and the screech of a locomotive under full steam. It trembled away in cat-like cadence and rose again like the wail of a hound in distress. Again it rose in mellow tones not unlike the wild dallying over

the mouth of an empty jug. Stopping only long enough to take wind, she rose slowly to her tip toes, and, with gyrating arms and heavy chest, gave a fair imitation of that roar that foretells a Dakota blizzard. Old Jim Baker's pet panther, chained to a post back of the opera house, heard some of her high notes, and they skeered the poor beast out of a year's growth. It was the first time our town was ever visited by a genuine female callopie, and we hope she'll come again.—Custer City Chronicle.

What would some of our sensitive singers in this city of St. John say if they were treated by the critics in the above elegant and expressive language? I am afraid that a big brother with a big stick would be enquiring tenderly after the musical critic if articles of this description were written here.

Friend Bristowe of Fredericton was in St. John this week and looked well and healthy. He told me that the bishop was going to bring him a lot of new anthems for the cathedral and that he was well satisfied with his choir just now.

The bands up in Fredericton at the firemen's celebration on Monday last, were very good. The Houlton band played some selections on Monday evening that were far above the average, the instruments being nicely balanced and the time and tone excellent.

FELIX.

WE NEED ANOTHER ONE.

There Should Be a Steamboat Inspector for New Brunswick.

Since the appointment of Mr. Stevens, of Halifax, as chief inspector of steamboats, superseding Mr. W. M. Smith of this city, who has been superannuated, great dissatisfaction has existed among owners of steamboats, and business men generally. The disadvantages arising from the absence of the chief inspector from this province are quite apparent, since the attempt of any one man to fill the position for three provinces must necessarily fail. Instance the case of the tug Dirigo, a few months ago, where several vessels being in danger at Minas Basin and she being sent for to hasten to the scene, Mr. Stevens grew wrath at the departure, and threatened to have the captain's certificate cancelled for proceeding without waiting for an examination of the tug's boiler; though the fact was that the delay would have been fatal to the vessels. In case accidents happen to any New Brunswick steamboats they have to send to Halifax for the chief inspector before proceeding with work, and of course business men suffer from the existing state of affairs.

While Minister Foster represented King's county he promised to do what he could to have an inspector appointed for the province of New Brunswick. The members from St. John and the North Shore also signified their intention to work for the interests of the province, and the name of Mr. Waring, a properly certified engineer, who has passed the highest examination as chief engineer, was mentioned as the gentleman to fill the place vacated by Mr. W. M. Smith. Whomever is appointed, however, there is no question that some action should be taken.

A Training School for Nurses.

A committee of the General Public Hospital commission, with Mr. William Maher as chairman, is perfecting arrangements for establishing a school for training nurses in connection with the hospital. It is the intention of the commission to take respectable, intelligent women and let them work in the hospital during the day, together with the regular paid nurses. Lectures on hospital work will be delivered to the nurses by members of the medical staff and by this and having practical experience in dressing wounds and taking care of patients it is expected that a good staff of competent nurses will be trained. The commission also intend giving diplomas to nurses who have become proficient in their business during their stay at the hospital. Applications are constantly being made for trained nurses to take care of patients in private houses and the commission hope that when the school is established they will be able to furnish nurses when applications are received. A number of applications has already been received from women who wish to enter the school.

Our Firemen and McKee's Beer.

It was warm in Fredericton Monday, and the St. John firemen present appeared to feel the heat. Some of the ecclesiastics feared they would be overcome in the procession, shaded as they were by spacious barouches. But our representatives knew how to care for themselves. They kept themselves cool and their boots clean in the best carriages the city livery afforded. They kept their reputation, too, and did not defame that of Scott at Fredericton, for, fearful of the delay in returning to their hostilities, they placed a dozen of McKee's beer in the back of their conveyances. When they returned, the bottles were there—the beer was gone.

Coming Back for a Vacation.

Rev. W. J. Swaffield, late of Fairville, having completed his course at the Newton Theological institution, has taken charge of the First Mariners' Baptist church, Boston, which has a membership of about 400. He will spend a short vacation in Albert county, in August.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

I am indebted to one of our most energetic and successful business men for a suggestion which will go far to make the new opera house financially successful. It is that, on evenings when the place is not otherwise occupied, it should be taken in turn by the city bands, which should give concerts, charging a nominal sum for admission. There are hundreds of persons in these cities who would be glad of an opportunity to spend two or three evenings a week in listening to good instrumental music, and these people would still more gladly pay 10 cents for a seat. The receipts of these musical evenings, divided between the band and the opera house management, would amount to a very considerable sum in the course of a year.

Constructed according to the admirable plans which have been secured, the opera house would be well adapted to a number of uses. St. John won't stand more than one or two nights of theatricals a week, but what with lectures, public meetings and band and other concerts, there is no reason why the place should not be occupied 300 nights in the year.

I am filled with amazement when I reflect that, until PROGRESS called their attention to it, it did not seem to have occurred to moneyed men that opera house stock would be a good investment. Everybody knows that there is no better-paying property in the city than the hall of the Mechanics' Institute; but people don't appreciate the fact that an elegant structure like that proposed would take everything away from the Institute and attract thousands of dollars' worth of new business. There's no doubt of it.

The commendation of the Saturday Review is a feature in the cap of the Daly company, now playing the Shakspearian comedies in London. That "one of the very best Shakspearian performances seen in London of late years" should be given by a party of New Yorkers is sufficiently high praise; yet beyond this the Review hazards the doubt "whether, all things considered, a more satisfactory representation of this comedy of Shakspeare's (The Taming of the Shrew) has been given since the breaking up of the mighty companies of the old patent theatres." All this will be interesting to the Anglomaniacs who delight to assert that new-world art has done unwisely to cut loose from its leading-strings.

Dion Boucault is to write a weekly critical article for the New York Herald, over his own signature. He hopes to effect a "reform in dramatic criticism." This is "very comely," as they say on the stage.—New York Clipper.

Court Councillor Ludwig Chroniek, manager of the Saxe-Meininger company, has arrived in New York from Germany to make a survey of the ground, as it were, and learn something of people and theatres in advance of the coming of the company. The Saxe Meininger company is one of the most famous theatrical troupes on the European continent, and is said to have the largest collection of properties of any company in the world. The scenery, costumes and armor are reputed to be very handsome and are made from the Duke's own ideas. Only the largest theatres in the country will be played, and the repertory will include The Maid of Orleans, Schiller's The Robbers, Mary Stuart, William Tell, Wallenstein, Twelfth Night, Julius Caesar, and The Merchant of Venice.

The legal contest between Margaret Mather and Manager Hill brings out some interesting statements from both sides. For example, testifying in his own behalf, the manager said that, at his first meeting with the actress, she told him that she was born on Oct. 21, 1860, at Tilbury, Canada. "Better make it 1862," he told her, "so as to be just 20 years old when you come out." She thereupon "made it" 1862, and the neck-and-neck race between Ananias and the advance agent began in a blaze of red fire.

Short stature and a youthful appearance work wonders on the stage, sometimes. Of course you remember the "juvenile" Pinafors companies that swept the country while that opera was all the rage? I have a friend who, as "Josephine," brought remarkable success to one of the best of these. She was sylph-like in figure, and though she had the voice of a woman, no one ventured to hint that she was anything more than a wonderfully clever child. On the bills she was eleven years old. In private life she was seventeen. After she had carried the "juvenile" company through one prosperous season, she became the prima donna of a full-grown company. The critics never noticed the sudden transformation to maturity. They never do.

Nevertheless, when they wish to hold their youth, theatrical people grow old very slowly. Corinne has only just ceased to be billed as "Little Corinne." That unfortunate adjective has led a hard life, these ten years back, and I am glad that Mrs. Jennie Kimball has ventured to give it a vacation. I am willing to wager, however, that, though she isn't little any more, it will be at least ten years before Corinne arrives at the mature age of 20—if you believe the bills. LEON.

TROUBLE IN CALVIN CHURCH.

Certificates of Membership Refused to Persons Who Wish to Withdraw.

Things were not so harmonious as could be desired at the meeting of the Presbytery of St. John, Tuesday, when the appeal of Miss Grace Murphy, Miss Alice Murphy, John Russell, Mrs. Agnes J. Russell, S. Cunningham, jr., Mrs. Cunningham, C. H. Doig and Mrs. Doig, relative to a decision of Calvin church session, came up. The affair has caused considerable talk, and the action of the presbytery in not settling the matter at their last session, has set everybody speculating as to what the real cause of the trouble is. With a view of satisfying the public PROGRESS endeavored to get both sides of the story, and from this it appears that there was considerable bitterness between the two parties.

Calvin church has been in trouble for about fifteen years. Some time ago its financial affairs were settled, but not, it is claimed, in accord with the views of the persons who signed the appeal and others, who accordingly left the church. They were induced to return again, but other differences arose and they again withdrew from the church. Some of the dissatisfied stopped contributing to the church altogether, and others cut down their subscriptions to 10 cents a week. The session looked upon this latter action as being merely for the purpose of retaining the right to vote, and would not accept the subscriptions.

In January the roll of church membership was revised by the moderator of session, and the names mentioned above were stricken off. This was five months after they left attending Calvin church. Four months after the membership roll was revised, Miss Grace Murphy, Miss Alice Murphy and Mr. and Mrs. Russell applied to Rev. Dr. McDougall for certificates of membership, as they wished to join St. David's church. Rev. Dr. McDougall claims that at that time they were not members of Calvin church, but were in attendance upon St. David's church, and had no right to a certificate of membership. Had the applications not been worded so much like a demand, but more like a request, certificates of some kind might have been granted, he says. However, no certificates of any kind were granted, and Misses Grace and Alice Murphy and Mr. and Mrs. Russell appealed to the presbytery, where, after a very heated discussion, the matter was left to Rev. Dr. McDougall and Rev. Geo. Bruce for settlement.

The case of Mr. and Mrs. Doig and Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham is identical with that of the others, up to the time of their applying for certificates, at which time, it is claimed, they were members of St. John church. It is also claimed that St. John church had no authority to accept these people as members until the sessions of the two churches had conferred in the matter. A member of St. John church, however, in conversation with a representative of PROGRESS, said that they had not been received as members of the church until after certificates of membership had been refused them by Rev. Dr. McDougall. The same gentleman asserted that the parties referred to have been rather unfairly treated by Rev. Dr. McDougall, as moderator of session. Some of those who left the church had taken an active part in its affairs, one of them being a leading trustee and superintendent of the Sunday school. Certain matters in connection with the church were conducted in a manner that these gentlemen thought improperly and accordingly said so, whereupon they were deprived of their positions, it is claimed, by the influence of Rev. Dr. McDougall. In regard to their names being taken off the roll, these gentlemen say there was no reason for doing it. There had been cases where people had not attended the church for years and their names had not been erased; and if there had been no feeling against them (the appellants) they think their names would have remained on the roll. They claim that anyone should have a right to a certificate so long as he or she had not been disciplined by the church and if they had been so disciplined the session of Calvin church should have informed the session of St. John church of the fact.

Discussion over the latter case became so spirited that the presbytery decided to let it lie over until the next meeting, when it was hoped that the feeling would be less bitter.

LOVE'S BELIEF.

Dear heart and truest, if I die Before you do, and over me The clear blossoms woo the bee, And little violets sweet as shy Peer through the grass above my face To meet your eyes when you come near, Lean down and listen; you will hear A whisper stirring in the place, And in that whisper you will know The voice you knew and loved of old, Telling the love no words have told; And as your footsteps come and go About your tasks, the whole day through, Love's message, whispered by the flowers, Will fill with gladness all the hours, For you will know I think of you. For well I know that love would thrill This frame of mine, if I were dead, And you came near my grave and said, "Dear heart, do you remember still?" And when I felt the subtle stir Of love that does not, I would make You conscious of the truth, and take The flowers for my interpreter. —Ben B. Rowford, in Travellers' Record.

ORATORIO CONCERTS

Mechanics' Institute.

JULY 10th and 11th.

Judas Maccabaeus.

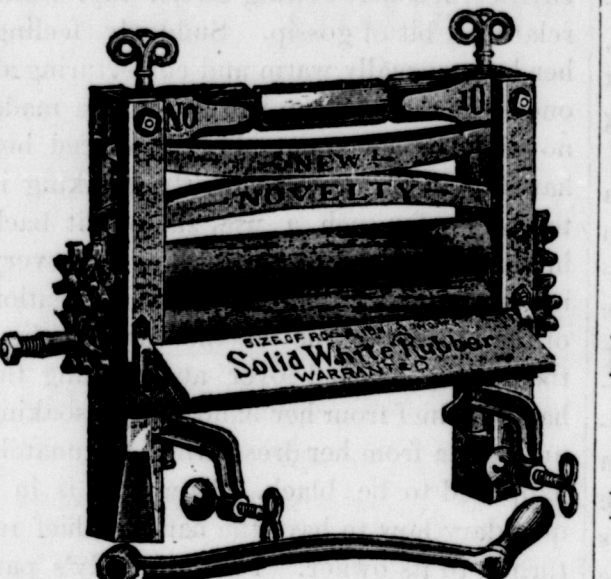
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L. O. A.

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