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ST. JOHN, N. B.

Cor. King and Germain.

Between Lent and politics one has not much chance to hear of anything musical. Although it is almost time to think of our Easter music it we want it well sung, and I should be very glad if any one in authority in any of our churches would send me lists of the music they intend having sung on the festival at least a week before Easter Sunday. It would save me a good deal of trouble if they would kindly direct to "Tarbet," PROGRESS office.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Harrison's orchestra gave a concert this week, but I am very sorry that it took place too late for any notice from me.

The residents of Brookville were favored with an entertainment by the music union. The Oratorio society has been presented with two steel engravings, portraits of Beethoven and Mendelssohn, which are to be hung in the practice room, by permission of the Church of England institute directors. The donor of the pictures is Mr. Frank Hatheway, and I am sure all members of the society will join me in thanking him for his appropriate gift. A board meeting was held after the usual

St. John's church choir is doing good work on the Crucifixion, and is now rehearsing Saul's Ten Virgins also. Mr. Thos. Daniel has been visiting Boston, making preparatory arrangements for residence, I fear. We will all be sorry to lose Mr. Daniel, if he decides to make his home in the states; still, if he will be doing better for himself we can only extend to him our best wishes for his musical suc-

practice, but I have not as yet heard of any

The Rothesay Choral club, under Mr. Morley's directorship, is making preparations for singing the Macbeth music. Hitherto, I believe, the club has confined itself almost exclusively to glees and part

Mr. Jas. S. Ford will give an organ reeital in St. John's church very shortly, and fancy that he will be assisted by the TARBET.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The regular "Monday nighters" at the Bijou would probably have been at a loss to know what to do with themselves this week, if it hadn't been for the political meeting at the Institute. Mr. Gillmor, however, besides giving hard facts and food for thought, proved an excellent substitute for the Bijou comedians.

Mr. Mackay's company started out Monday morning for Fredericton, and from all accounts made a great impression on the In all cases where our guarantee is not proven correct we will refund the amount paid, and pay all celestials. Fredericton is evidently like St. John in its theatrical tastes, for those who were the greatest favorites at the Bijou achieved the same popularity at the capital. The Berwick sisters seem to have had even greater success and brought down

as appreciative as the patrons of the Boston museums, judging by the way the managers boom some of the people who have appeared at the Bijou. I see by the Boston papers that Pysche is at Pilling's World museum, where she is the leading attraction, and is advertised as the "World's greatest dancer and highest kicker; having no rival for beauty, grace and suppleness. She has a standing challenge of \$1,000 to any and all dancers and high kickers." Yet, Pysche did not make as great an impression at the Bijou as many of the present company. However, the Bijou audiences are far different from those who attend Boston's cheap theatres, and case of cholera has appeared." One night the fact that the Bijou managers can draw the company of the Odeon found themselves crowded houses speaks volumes for the quality of the show.

The last number of Fox's Illustrated Weekly has a picture of Miss Josie Wohlfurth, who is at present with the Bijou company. The illustration does not do her justice, although the title line might be unnecessary to patrons of the Bijou. The Weekly makes mention of her success, and her standing challenge for heavy-weight

The following extracts will give some idea of what E. A. McDowell and his company are doing down in Jamaica. As will be seen, there are a number of St.

John favorites still with him: At the Theatre Royal the cast on Thursday night was a strong one. Mr. Edmond Lyons made a successful hit as Eneas Posket, the Magistrate, and received round after round of applause. Throughout the piece he kept the audience in roars of laughter; this performance stamps him as a comedian of high order. Mr. Ernest Sterner as Cis Farringdon, the 14 year old boy, divided the honors with Mr. Lyons. His facial expression was excellent, and in comparison with his performance in Little Lord Fauntleroy he gave an excellent proof of his versatility. As Mrs. Posket, Miss Bessie Hunter made a decided hit and was ably supported by her sister and adviser, Miss Florence Clitherow as Charlott Verrider. Mr. Walter Granville made his first appearance that night as Captain Vale, though not a very strong part he made a good deal of the role. Mr. Ford Hight, the colonel, was ably done. Miss Fossette, the music mistress, gave a charming rendering of her small role, as also did Miss Lee Jarvis as Popham the Slavey. The remainder of the cast was creditably filled by the remainder of the company. The magistrate should, we believe,

draw a bumber house, if repeated. Mrs. McDowell has a forcible part in Marguerite, counters de Mauteon, and will be supported by the at the conclusion calling the Richard bestrength of the company. Mr. Lyons and Mr. fore the curtain. Then the farce was gone Sterner have also good opportunities in this piece. The title role of the piece, The Serf, will be played lighted audience left in time to catch the by Mr. Andrew Robson, the juvenile head of the 6.45 train. company. This will give him a grand opportunity.

Mr. Mackay's company return to the Bijou tonight. Last Saturday evening the SPARKLER. hall was crowded.

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PLAYING TO EMPTY BENCHES.

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Some Remarkable and Unusual Cases of Small Audiences.

Chambers' Journal recalls some cases in which actors had to go through the most disagreeable experience that ever falls to their lot-playing to empty benches.

When the Louth manager came with long face to Macready as he was dressing for Virginius, and, in answer to the tragedian's inquiry if it was a bad house, replied-"Bad house, sir? There's no one!" Macready asked-"What! nobody at all?" "Not a soul, sir, except the warden's party in the boxes and one or two in the gallery and pit," responded the manager. "Are there five?" queried Macready. "Yes, sir, there are five." "Then," said the actor, "go on at once; we have no right to give ourselves airs." And in his own opinion he never played Virginius better than he did to an audience he could count

On that terrible bitter Tuesday night in January, 1881, when few who could help it cared to traverse the London streets, the combined audiences of all the theatres would not have made a decent gathering for the smallest of them. Mrs. Bancroft I am afraid that St. John people are not felt she would have liked to ask the weather-beaten few who had battled their way to the Haymarket to forego what they came to see and take tea with her on the stage. Giving more practical proof of his sympathy, Mr. Toole straightway invited his "gods" and pittites to take their ease in the stalls, and regaled them with hot spiced ale, whereupon they sang, "He's a Special prizes for Boys & Girls. They do jolly good fellow!" and a merry evening not offer impossibilities. The above will jolly good fellow!" and a merry evening was enjoyed on both sides of the foot-

It is not easy to eclipse the gaiety of the Parisians; but in 1832 they voted the play was not the thing when cholera was ravaging the city, although publicly advertised, "It has been noticed with such astonishment that the theatres are the only placesno matter how crowded--where not a single confronted by one man. This was too much, or rather too little, for their patience, and they insisted upon his taking back his money. He stood upon his rights, and insisted upon tho play being played. The law was on his side, and the actors were obliged to act; but they did their very worst until the audience hissed his hardest; then the manager handed him over to the police for disturbing the performance, and closed

A sailor who had just come into port with a full pocket, paid Stephen Kemble £30 to have a performance of "Henry IV." all to himself, with Kemble as "the old boy with the round forecastle, built like a Dutch lugger, and lurching into a Spanish galleon in a heavy sea." He chose the music to be played by way of overture. saw the play through, and gave vigorous expression to his appreciation of the Falstaff of the occasion. Mr. J. C. Foster, an American manager, taking his ease at his inn in Bucyrus, Ohio, was aroused by a stranger entering the room, playbill in hand, and accosting him with, "You play 'Richard III.' tonight. Now, I have never had an opportunity of seeing it, and, unfortunately, I must leave town this evening. How much money would induce you to play 'Richard III.' for me this after-noon?" 'Thinking his visitor was joking, Foster said he would do it for twenty-five dollars. "And how much for 'The Rough Diamond' as well?" "Ten dollars," quoth the amused manager. He did not know whether he was amused or vexed when the stranger planked down thirty-five dollars, with the remark that the performance must commence at two o'clock sharp, and took his leave. Upon telling his company the bargain he had concluded, the notion of playing Shakespeare's tragedy to one man so tickled their fancy that they at once consented. Two o'clock came, and with it the The McDowell company are advertised to appear this evening in *The Serf*, or *Love levels all*—a strong Russian drama in three acts, by Tom Taylor.

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Don't Do It Again. "Hulloa, Jack! what are you doing?

rying to sew ?" "Can't you see what I am doing? I am trying to darn my socks! and a nice time

of it I am having, too." "Well, I wouldn't use black thread if I were you, it doesn't look well, and it makes

a hard lump." "Why, what do you use? is white thread

any better?" I? Oh! I don't use anything of that

sort now, there is no necessity." "You don't mean to say you are mar-

"Oh, no! I can't afford that until I get a better salary, but I send all my things to Ungar's Steam Laundry now, and they come home all mended and fixed just as well as mother herself could do it. It is a specialty of theirs now, and we fellows save no end of money by it. Just you try

"Thank you for telling me about it old fellow. I will."—Advt.

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