IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Now that Lent is upon us, it is hard to find anything very startling in the musical line to write of. Mrs. John Boyd's musicale, I suppose evoked most comment last week, but it is almost old news now. Well, it was a big crush, and there must have been quite a sum realized for Lady Tilley's hospital scheme. Mrs. Boyd's house is most admirably adapted for anything of the kind, and I think she did all in her power to make the affair a success; but oh! that programme. My feelings are not to be described, when I thought of the time to be spent in those warm. * crowded rooms. . Half the amount of music would have answered just as well, for, I am quite sure, that it (the music) was not the attraction which brought the majority of the large audience. I do think that a parlor concert on, a large scale, is just about the worst thing one can find to sing at, where a lot of people seem to think that as long as they have paid their admission fee, they are entitled to take the first note of your song, piano solo, or whatever it may be, for a signal to talk, not aloud perhaps, but what is worse, in that distracting sotto voce which is enough to drive every sane thought from the performer's brain, that is, if she or he, be at all nervous. And the people, or at least a good part of them, at Mrs. Boyd's, were no exception to the rule. As for the performers they were good, bad-no! they gave their services for "sweet charity's sake," so they shall not be bad-and indifferent. Mrs. Gilchrist sang an ave maria with cello obligato, very finely. The duet "The Lord is my Shepherd" which she sang with Mr. Titus, was also very effective. Mrs. Carter and Mr. Titus sang a charming duet, "Morning Land," in which their voices blended beautifully. Mr. Titus, although suffering with a cold, gave Chenery's "Meditation" in a very sympathetic manner. Mr. Daniel sang "Love's Fine Song," "Out on the Deep," and I was especially pleased with the low (D. I think) which he introduced in the closing bar. The ef-

I am beginning to get rather wearied with the Arion Waltz (sweets will clog). and am waiting patiently for the time when the "Emergency" quartette will have their nicely, and the Treble Clef gave a pretty selection by Smart. Might I suggest to the "Clef" that a little less alto would be acceptable; it is rather prominent as the parts stand now. The same remark applies with equal force to the St. David's choir, or at least to the selection they gave, which otherwise went very well, both as regards tempo and expression. Miss Goddard substituted a Polacca Brilliante, by Carl Boehrn, for the Balladein A Flat, by Reinecke, as the action of Mrs. Boyd's piano is a little stiff for anything with the number of running passages which occur in the Ballade. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Ewing played Gottschalk's "Radiense" as a piano duet. It is a bright thing, and found favor with the audience. I not say anything of Mr. Lindsay's solo, as I have before said how well it suits him. Miss Flossie Bowden's cello solo was neatly executed. The rest of the programme contained vocal duet, "The Peir Head" (Hullah), Mrs. J. R. Armstrong and Mr. G. Ludlew Robinson; vocal duet by Newman, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Horn, piano duet by K. Bela, Misses Thorne and Allison. Mr. Mayes sang Scott-Gatty's "True Till Death" very finely indeed, and Miss Pidgeon—a young lady who gives promise of having a remarkably good soprano voice, if it is trained properly—gave "The Song that Reached my Heart." I think it is by Marziels, but am not sure. It strikes me that I have enlarged more upon a subject which is almost too old to interest any but the performers, than was at all needful, but where there is absolutely nothing of interest going on, what is one to do?

fect was really very good.

The St. James' church people are meditating a musicale and conversazione, to be held in their school house on the Friday after Easter, and some of our best talent have consented to take part. I believe the affair is to be by invitation, but have not heard all the particulars. A concert is to be given in the school room of the Presbyterian church on the corner of King street east and Carmarthen street, in the last week of this month, I think

Mr. Jas. S. Ford's anthem "Rock of Ages," proved a great success when sung at St. Johns' church last Sunday evening, and join with many others in tendering congratulations to the composer.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

St. John never was looked upon as a good show town, and since the fire of '77 it has gone backward if anything in this respect. The people have never been "educated up to it," but that they would likely to come. There is all the difference be apt pupils did somebody come along in the world between McCann's Lyceum willing to lose money with hopes of gain in the future, has been plainly shown time and again. But the show must always be of high quality. The longer a good company stays here, the more people will go to see it. This was the case with the McDowell show a year or so ago, and some years ago the Wilson Day company played in of six weeks had crowded houses every the Grand Theatre, Brooklyn. night. The company was a good one, although the prices were low, and the longer it stayed, the people got better

interested in them.

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to keep up the interest, but then we have always some of last week's performers mixed in with the new ones, and one is perfectly at home. The boys in the gallery, especially, couldn't be easy unless they had an old friend on the stage. For weeks after the show opened Queenie Hetherton was the favorite, and made the audience feel at ease, as it were, before strangers. And now the boys have settled their affections on that genial Irishman, Jim Curran. He has been here over seven weeks, and the floor is in greater danger of going through to the basement than new repertoire in singing shape. Miss ever. And both these artists are good company Hancock, Miss Young and Miss Quinton ones. In fact we have not seen Queenie they did. all sang the numbers allotted them very Hetherton's equal in her special line, since the Bijou opened, and there is only one Curran. His popularity has not been confined to St. John. Before coming here he was one of a great team, in which his partner was equally as good as himself, doing the New England circuit.

> Hayden and Hetherton are at present performing in Austin and Stone's museum in Boston, and James Irvine, who did the trapeze and balancing act at the Bijou some weeks ago, is the leading attraction at that famous museum, and has his name in very much larger type in the Boston papers than was accorded to bim while in

Charles Blatt and Miss Wehlfurth have proved a wonderful attraction, as was shown Monday evening when the former broke a large Liverpool borse shoe with enough iron in it for half a dozen. It was amusing to hear the comments made while the perspiration was dropping off of the strong man in beads. Some thought the fellow who brought such a horseshoe should "be hanged," and others didn't see why Mr. Blatt should kill himself wrestling with such a monster. One man who sat near me expressed an opinion of St. John people that was not very complimentary and wound up with: "Well, I suppose Blatt's travelled all over the world and had to come to St. Jonn to find people scouring the country for a brute of a horseshoe that he couldn't break." We're very sceptical,

Since the Bijou opened we have seen some first class variety performers, and time and again I have run across their names in the American papers. I have always felt interested in their whereabouts and doings, and no doubt many of the hundreds who now attend the Bijou feel the same. So I will endeavor to keep the run of show people and let you see whether other people think so much or as little of

I hear that McCann, who was the originator of the Lyceum, would like to come down here again this season, but is not and the Bijou, and everybody is satisfied. When last heard from, McCann was in Worcester, Mass. Some time ago I saw an article on "Christmas on the Road," with his signature to it, in the Harrisburg

Nick Hughes, who was another one of the Institute to slim audiences the first the first, would also like to come down week of the engagement, and at the end | He is at present filling an engagement at

It will no doubt be a great disappointment to many of the boys to hear that the Bijou will not be open every night acquainted with the actors, and became hereafter. It has been very convenient,

Another instance of this is the Bijou, on Charlotte street. As the performance in this case is variety, changes are necessary the purest, safest, and most economical.—Advt.

To the question, Which is your favorite poem? In there may be a great variety of answers; but when asked, Which is your favorite blood purifier? there can be but one reply—Ayer's Sarsaparilla, because it is the purest, safest, and most economical.—Advt.

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when we had spare time of an evening, to drop in and see the show. But the crowd is too capricious. If every night was like Monday, the managers would be happy, but unfortunately all the men and boys in town seem to have set aside Monday evening for the Bijou, and the result has been standing room only on that night. Tuesday night the attendance drops off, and comes up again about Thursday for the rest of the week.

Messrs. Mackay and Blatt have been making arrangements to form a New Brunswick circuit and take the show on the road every other week. While the show is away the Bijou will be closed. The greatest difficulty in forming the circuit was to secure halls in the different towns, but arrangements have been made to show in Fredericton, Woodstock, Calais, St. Stephen and St. Andrews, and the company will start on the road Monday. They will return to the Bijou Saturday. By offering the performers long engagements, the managers hope to keep down the expenses considerably As it is now, they can only guarantee a stay of one week, and two weeks "if good," and as the actors have to pay their own travelling expenses, it requires big money to get them to come

Morton, Reno and Mack, the contortionists, are at the Bijou Theatre, Philadel-

An amusing incident occurred at the second performance of Hands Across the Sea, which a good many in the audience enjoyed. The intelligent "super" got in his fine work. In one of the acts the hero had the pleasure of knocking three or four "supers," dressed like French soldies, flat on the ground, but in the next act they came near having their revenge. It was in the scene where Robert Stillwood is arrested. One of the company caught hold of him, and so did several "supers." It was only intended that he should be placed in the back ground, but they didn't see it that way, and when Stillwood began to wrestle with them, probably thought he was acting his part to perfection and exerted all their energies to hustle him off the stage. Finally another one of the company told them to let him alone; and

This is the way the Clipper chronicles the arrival of one of Lytell's company in

John Sutherland returned to this city Feb. 8, from Halifax, N.S., where he had been playing in the Stone Lytell Co. He does not seem very well pleased with his experience.

It's the same old story with change of characters. SPARKLER.

He Was Satisfied.

They were talking politics. Anybody could see that. And they both held different views. There was no doubt about it. It was plain to people a block away. "Give as free trade with the United States," said one, with the wave of the hand. "Everything would be cheaper. We could live on half the money, and be prepared for taxation. Why, look at the clothes you have on, you could save money on them."

"No, I couldn't possibly. I wouldn't want to pay less for clothing than I did for this suit. It wouldn't be safe. And would you want a better cut or make? No, sir. I can get clothing as cheap as I want to buy it, at Wm. J. Fraser's Royal clothing

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