



TALK OF THE THEATRE.

There is so much to be said in the way of censure, that perhaps it would be well to make my remarks on the performances of the week as brief as possible.

The Corsican Brothers was put on Monday and Tuesday, After Dark was the bill for Wednesday and Thursday and last evening, and to-night the Ticket of Leave Man is the attraction.

Those who saw the Corsican Brothers were better pleased than usual. The scenic effects were better than the average, and what little the actors had to do was fairly well done.

The performance apart from this went smoothly and well. The scenic effects were particularly good, and the work of Messrs. Lyons and Ramsdell and Emery and Granville and Miss Clitherow very satisfactory.

But what shall I say of After Dark with its bulls and errors, its forgotten lines and stumbling sentences, and worst of all, its disgraceful music hall scene in which a man costumed as a woman insulted the audience by his actions, and in which a couple of street youths were brought on to do duty with the boxing gloves?

The most amusing part of the performance was unexpected. The passing railway train from which "Old Tom" had just rescued a drugged officer was manipulated so badly by the bungling stage hands that it fell over upon the rescued and rescuer. The audience was convulsed with laughter and the curtain "got a move on" for a change.

I am not pleased to write about performances in this way, but let us have the truth. This company appears to be accumulating carelessness. They are playing to small houses and have themselves to thank for the fact.

Mr. Granville has been cast in parts better suited to him this week and has done work ahead of any he has given us yet. Mr. Ramsdell is always careful and has a thorough acquaintance with his part.

To-night the Ticket of Leave Man is the bill. It is a play for the people and usually draws. Monday and Tuesday, Mary Warner, a domestic drama, new to St. John, will be put on, and Caste follows Wednesday and Thursday.

Footlights. My suggestion of last week to make a portion of the orchestra chairs half a dollar instead of 75 cents has, I am glad to report, been adopted. I believe that in the long run the departure will pay.

President Skinner has made a mistake in his vacation. What passes my understanding is, why any manager who has ever seen him on the stage should select him as a member of a company to open a new house.

Joe Murphy in Shaun Rhu is booked for Fredricton next month. Murphy always gets great houses in the celestial city. He will probably come to St. John.

Instead of "After Dark" on the programme Monday night, it should have read "In the Dark," for the incandescent failed to show up between the acts. This has occurred several times and, while it hurts nobody, it makes the house gloomy when it should be bright.

Why don't the manager advertise \$80., when the curtain does not ring up until that time? Never mind about the audience;

If the people know the performance will wait they will never be on time. Many a lady will remain at home if she knows that she will not get away from the theatre until 11.15 or 11.30.

No more cigarettes on the stage, please. It is not edifying to see a woman—even an actress—smoking them, and the stench is disagreeable. Harrison's orchestra is doing splendid work; and the people are appreciating it.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

There really is next to nothing to write this week for our musical people are either resting after the exhibition gaieties or else getting ready to astonish us with something unusually brilliant, although for my part I rather incline toward the former reason for the quietness of things in general.

Sunday being harvest festival, special music will be sung in most of our city churches, and no doubt the decorations will be worth seeing in Trinity, St. Pauls and the Mission. At the time I am writing it is impossible for me to publish any of the music that will be the work taken up.

Miss Annie Turner has returned to the Centenary church choir. The music union has commenced rehearsals, taking Tuesday for its practice night. Mr. Hall expects his chorus to do some good work during the winter months. For my part I think that it is a great pity that there should be two societies of this description in a city like St. John.

To a party of twenty guests, or less, the hostess writes personal notes, which may sent as late as the day preceding the event, though three or four days earlier assures the guest that he or she has not been taken up at the last moment to fill the place of some one who has declined.

The quality and style of stationery is quite an important item. No refined lady will use that which is either cheap or showy. The best is never too good. That which is plain, with no ornamentation, except perhaps, a monogram, without gilt edge, yet of finest texture and dainty pattern, is always to be preferred.

Who shall be invited is always a question more or less perplexing to hostesses. As a rule it is well to consider whether or not one's guests would be congenial. For a formal reception, or an "At-Home," it matters not so much how many kinds of people are brought together.

Special entertainment is not required for a formal reception. Orchestral music is usually furnished. To arrive; to address the hostess and host; to be presented to new people; to pass through the rooms greeting friends and acquaintances here and there, to test the skill of the caterer, then to make one's adieux to the heaven of conventional routine at large receptions.

Musical and literary members, for the purpose of bringing out some promising young artists, are often introduced. It is always in good taste, and certainly a kindly courtesy, to thank and commend those who have contributed entertainment worthy of praise.

Smaller parties may be entertained with music and readings. The hostess is fortunate if among her invited guests there are amateurs who are willing to assist in this way. Novelty parties, such as "Color Teas," Frost, Harlequin or Pantomime parties; tableaux, which introduce pictures familiar to the company; living statuary, in color or white; guessing tableaux or amateur theatricals, though involving considerable previous preparation, carry the evening's enjoyment along with very little danger of failure.

For children's parties there is no end of pretty novelties. Among them is marches led by some older young people; familiar stories represented by calisthenic exercises; acting verbs; tableaux vivants grouped from illustrated copies of such familiar books as Alice in Wonderland, Little Lord Fauntleroy, or even Mother Goose; ring games around the favor tree, etc., are all charming diversions. In a word, the etiquette of evening parties consists in obeying that quick sense of kindness which always prompts those receiving to do all in their power for the happiness of their guests; and, for the guest to divine the time and place and how to assist their host and hostess to so direct the evening that all may spend it happily and in proper fashion.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Pullets Should be Laying. Young pullets hatched in March and April ought all to be laying this month. Later hatched ones if not laying by November, will probably if left to themselves not lay before spring when eggs are down to fifteen cents per dozen.

To New York Direct. At this time of year New York is seen at its best. The air is cool, and the city is thoroughly alive after the warm summer weather. The theatres are open, all the people are back from the country or seaside, and the great metropolis is the best place in America to spend a holiday.

And the people of St. John and the province generally have a grand chance to take advantage of it. The Winthrop leaves the New York pier in this city for New York, and has the best of accommodations, and just now is offering excursion rates that make the trip a possibility for all.

GENERAL OBSERVED.

There are no iron-clad rules with regard to party etiquette; yet there are certain usual forms observed in good society about which no one can well afford to be ignorant. These forms are not mere conventionalities. They are, like the accepted rules of a well ordered home, helps to both entertainer and guest.

When issuing printed invitations to the effect that "Mr. and Mrs. A— will receive their friends on Friday evening, December 8th, at nine: residence, 12 H avenue," the invited parties understand perfectly well that full evening dress, flowers, gloves and carriages are the proper thing. In case the invitation cannot be accepted, "regrets" must be sent; otherwise a favorable answer is understood. To such a reception no person except those named upon the envelope is expected.

Invitations to an "at-home" are usually the ordinary, engraved visiting card of the hostess, to which she adds in writing, "at home Friday evening, December 8th, from 8 to 10." These, inclosed in dainty white envelopes, are sent out at least one week in advance of the evening named. An "at home" gives unlimited liberty of dress, ranging from a street costume with bonnet and dark gloves, to full—though quiet— evening toilette. After six o'clock dress coats are the rule. The hostess receives in full toilette, assisted by ladies similarly dressed.

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SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

(CONTINUED FROM SEVENTH PAGE.)

PARRSBORO.

[Progress is for sale by A. C. Berryman, Parrsboro bookstore.] Oct. 7.—Mrs. Edgar Corbett received last week in her wedding gown of white henrietta made en train and trimmed with silver fringe. Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Looney returned from their wedding tour on Saturday.

Mr. T. W. Smith also returned from Boston on Saturday with his bride, Mrs. Smith, nee Campbell, reside in Parrsboro formerly, and her many friends are very glad to welcome her amongst them again. Mrs. Smith is wearing a gown of old rose silk and velvet.

Mr. Baddock, of the Halifax banking company, who has been making Dr. Woodward's place for a short time, took his departure on Wednesday. Miss D. Richards went to St. John on Wednesday. Miss Gavin has returned from spending a week at the exhibition in St. John.

Miss Agnes Aikman arrived home from Boston on Thursday. Mr. James Hannay, of St. John, is spending a day or two with friends in Parrsboro. Mrs. A. E. McLeod returned from Wolfville on Wednesday, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Harris. Mrs. Babbitt and Miss Bowden went to St. John today.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Holmes have returned from the recent exhibition. Mr. J. T. Smith, of Amherst, has been in town this week. KENTVILLE. Oct. 7.—Miss Courtney, of Halifax, daughter of Bishop Courtney, is in town a guest of the Misses Brock, at the rectory.

Mrs. Stevens is here from Boston, and will spend a few weeks with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lovett at Maple Hill. Mrs. Charles Rockwell returned on Friday from Halifax. Mrs. J. F. Hanson, Mrs. Barclay Webster, and Mrs. H. W. Ryan who have been in Halifax throughout the exhibition week, returned home on Monday evening last.

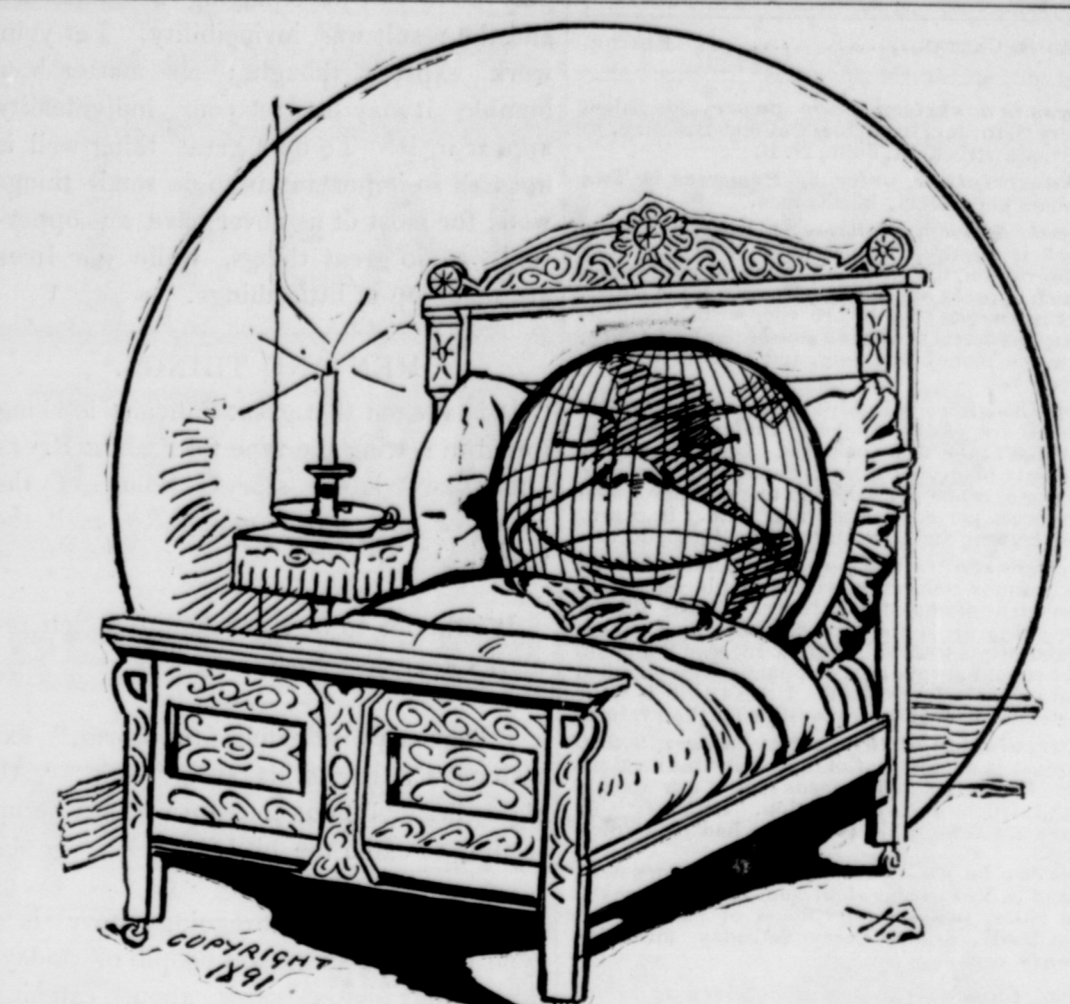
Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Calkin are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son. Mr. Fred Ryerson, of Yarmouth, is in town today. Miss Nan Lovett and Miss Wood left today for New York, where Miss Lovett will be a guest of Miss Wood's relatives. Mrs. Wood, of Canning. Miss Nellie Marsters is visiting Halifax friends. Mrs. F. C. Rand is enjoying a visit from one of her nieces from Yarmouth. Mrs. Giffin gave a small card party last night. Judge Chipman and his daughter, Miss Alice, returned last Friday night from Halifax. Pico.

WINDSOR, N. S. Oct. 7.—Mr. Wm. O'Brien sailed for England last week with his son Ned, who is going to leave at "Merchison" boys' school, Scotland. Mr. Stephen Wiggins left for England also on the day following Mr. O'Brien's departure. The professors and students of King's College are back again. The matriculation examinations for this winter began yesterday. Miss Annie Prat, of Wolfville, is visiting Mrs. Geo. Wilcox. Miss Edith Dimock is in Wolfville. Miss Lillie Allison has returned from Halifax. Mrs. I. W. Clift is visiting Mrs. Edward Dimock. Miss Davies, of Pictou, spent a day or two with Mrs. Edward Dimock last week. Mr. Ben. Scott has returned from Halifax, where he has, in common with many Windsor people, been "taking in" the exhibition. Miss Alice Lawson is in Halifax.

HILLSBORO. Oct. 8.—Quite a number took advantage of the excursion last Wednesday to go to St. John to the exhibition. Among whom were: Mr. and Mrs. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Steeves and Miss Steeves, Mr. and Mrs. H. McPeters, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Duffy, Mr. J. T. Wood, Miss Dobson and others. Miss Emma Wallace, Miss Flo Steeves, Mrs. Oman and daughter are visiting friends in Boston and New York. Miss Blight, who has been spending the summer in Hartland and St. John, is home again.

Mr. and Mrs. Blight was married last Tuesday to Miss Dickinson of Fenwick, N. S. Mrs. J. T. Steeves entertained a few of her friends to a high evening. Among the invited guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Somers, Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Carlisle, Mrs. Steeves, Mr. and Mrs. C. Steeves and the Rev. W. Camp. Mr. and Mrs. Somers entertained a few friends Friday evening at their residence, Academy street. Mrs. Keith returned from St. John Saturday. Mrs. J. A. Beary is visiting her brother, Mr. Howard Scott, in Moncton. The death of one of our promising young men, Edgar M., son of Mr. Jordan Steeves, occurred last Saturday. BLEBIRID.

HOULTON, ME. Oct. 7.—Miss Estella Newhaus gave another enjoyable musicale on Thursday evening last in Music hall, for the benefit of the charitable fund of the "Kings Daughters." The young ladies of the society performed the duty of ushers very pleasantly. Cut flowers, ferns and vines were tastefully arranged upon the stage. Miss Newhaus was assisted by a ladies quartet, Mrs. John B. Madigan, Mrs. L. O. Ludwig, Miss Madigan and Miss Wetmore. Universal sympathy is expressed for Mr. and Mrs. Lutz Waterall, in the sudden death of their infant daughter, which occurred on Saturday, the 3rd inst. Mr. and Mrs. Waterall expect to return next week to their home in Philadelphia. Rev. C. W. Cully, of Halifax, N. S., arrived on Wednesday, to assume the rectorship of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Mrs. S. Boothby, Fortland, is spending a few days in town, the guest of Mrs. H. J. Hatheway. Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Fogg, left on Monday for a short visit to Boston and New York. X.



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