



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Whether there is any improvement in the state of matters musical this week, is a question that admits of a good deal of doubt.

Monday evening the attendance at the Oratorio society's rehearsal was fairly good, and those who were there had a thorough drilling in the Etjah.

St. Jude's church has, I presume, lost its organist, as Miss Minnie Coy, who filled that post, was married last Tuesday evening to Mr. W. L. Harding.

On Tuesday evening I attended the sixth public recital of the school music in a manner as expected, but it was a mere trifle.

The first number on the programme was omitted, for some good reason, I presume, but one of Miss Hitchens's pupils sang "The Cuckoo," by Abt. I hardly like to say very much about any of these young students, for the reason that so soon as I do, Miss Hitchens brings the information that the pupil has only been studying for a few months, and that in consequence my remarks are unjust.

Miss Hitchens's solo, "Chant Horn," was unfortunately omitted. Miss Whitman, I presume, playing in the key of E-flat, and the concert was shared by Miss Hitchens flat.

With proper training, however, we may make a very good vocalist. Three wee maidens performed a piano trio by Diabelli, in a manner which captured the hearts of the audience, especially before her fancy taken by the little lady who played the treble.

The other trio, overture from Il Barbiere, was very poorly executed, and it put one in mind of the public school "school music piece," so utterly expressionless and colorless was it.

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Mr. Jas. S. Ford has returned from Houlton, Me., where he spent a most enjoyable visit. I believe he will be glad to have the opportunity of performing his song "Pretty Little Maiden Mine."

Master Fred Blair is again at his post in St. Andrews church, after having made a short visit to his home in Chatham.

The Canadian Musician speaks very favorably of the Philharmonic concert given there a short time ago in Toronto.

"Eve," a mystery in three parts—as it is styled, was completely anticipated in anticipation and by the music, which preceded its performance.

Mr. Charles Sanly, the famous English baritone, Mr. H. L. Clarke, Mrs. Church and Mr. Bird. Mr. Torrington was conductor.

There is something new in piano in appearance, which contains two violins, two violas and two violoncellos, and manipulated by a key board.

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out Oriental draperies, and is her own "cook and bottle-washer." She fences off one corner of her studio, or study, with a screen, and consecrates it to the inner woman.

Co-operative house-keeping is also largely practiced amongst girl bachelors. Three or four put their narrow incomes into a common purse.

The girl bachelors sometimes find difficulty in securing convenient quarters, and they are clamoring for an apartment house into which they can swarm all by themselves.

It is to have a restaurant in the basement, and a steam elevator, and is in every respect to be a duplicate of the bachelor apartment houses, which it is claimed have done more than anything else toward making celibates of the young men in large cities.

Mr. Waldorf Astor, son of the late John Jacob Astor, who must not be confounded with his uncle, Mr. Astor, has not set his foot on his "native heath" for over a year, and it is reported he has gone into voluntary exile, and intends to spend the rest of his days in London, where he has taken the Lansdowne house, at a rental of \$25,000, and marry his sons and daughters into the English nobility.

Mr. Astor's quarrel with his country is said to have its roots in society's refusal to recognize him as "Mr. Astor." He is a richer man than his uncle, and the descendant of an elder son, and he keenly feels his failure to secure the honor.

Kate Claxton, who will be remembered in St. John and Halifax for her successful season some years ago in the Two Orphans, will probably revisit those cities this summer.

Charles L. Davis, the actor, otherwise known as "Alvin Joslin," was sitting recently on the porch of a hotel in Texas, when a man from Detroit stepped in front of him and looked over his head in search of an acquaintance, whom he supposed was in the hotel lobby.

Soberly marching to Davis's table the seven men took the vacant seats, and the Detroit man entertained the alleged actor with: "Ah, I see you admire our diamonds. This one," pointing to the fruit dish, "cost me \$300,000. These," indicating the prisms, "cost \$250,000 each, and we have three carloads like them at the depot waiting to be side-tracked."

Elsewhere in this issue we republish an article from the Hamilton Times relating to the wonderful cure of a gentleman in that city, who had been pronounced by physicians incurable, and who had been paid the \$1,000 total disability insurance granted members of the Royal Templars.

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SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

There have been many indications of a revival of the interest in base ball within the last week or so. Three well organized amateur teams have been hard at work, both at practice and in planning a programme for the summer.

This year the league will have the field all to itself. Former amateur leagues have been in disadvantages that only the most determined effort on the part of those interested could overcome.

Fine weather and a few good games would have a wonderful effect on the attendance. The weather was so uncertain last Saturday, that with the interest at such a low ebb, it was a wonder that there were any spectators present.

The Shamrock team is playing better every day, and I am told that a great deal of interest is being taken in it. Morris, who has charge of the nine, seems to have profited by his experience in the professional team, and the amateurs are getting the benefit of it.

There are a number of new players in the Y. M. C. A. nine, but they are in good company and should know the game pretty well in a month or so. Frank White knows a good deal about base ball, and with Keams and a few others to help him, will probably make the Y. M. C. A. colts as lively amateurs as one wants to see.

There is one thing, however, that strikes me as being necessary to good work, and at the same time keep the public interested. The clubs should select the best playing nines they can get, give the men positions that they can do the best work in and keep them there, instead of changing players about the field as is too frequently done.

Little things like these have a great deal to do with the success of the game from a grand stand point of view. In the old St. John games half the team was always more interested in the men than the team, and the announcement that the full nine would be on hand, and every man in his own position, always drew a good crowd.

Percey Thomson, who played with the St. Johns on the 25th, is going to play ball this summer, and as the A. A. club has no regular team, has thrown in his lot with the Y. M. C. A.'s. Norris, however, has decided to play with the Thistles, and it is to be hoped that he will stick to them. He is a member of the Y. M. C. A.'s, and both clubs have a warm spot in his little breast, but it will be rather unsatisfactory to them if he should want to change from one to the other.

The Thistles will be on hand with the same team that they had last year, with the exception of Driscoll and Welsh. Second, however, will be covered by O'Neil of the Franklins, and the team will be as strong as ever. The battery will be McGinchey and Mills. The Thistles have secured the Y. M. C. A. days on the Barrack square, and I understand they are making good use of them as regards practice.

The second game in the Y. M. C. A.-Shamrock series will be played this afternoon on the Shamrock grounds, and the Beaver lacrosse club will play the Union on the A. A. grounds. If the weather is fine we will have an opportunity to see what kind of a crowd lacrosse can draw if it enters the field against base ball.

The Unions want to bring the Wanderers over for a lacrosse match on July 1, and are trying to get the A. A. grounds, but the committee have some idea of having ball games on that day, and nothing has been decided upon. There is talk of a game between the Y. M. C. A.'s and the Thistles on the A. A. grounds in the near future.

Quite a number of ladies joined the A. A. club this week, and it is expected that the list will be a long one before the last application is received. Thursday has been decided upon for ladies day, and tennis will receive lots of attention from this out.

Two evenings in each week have been set aside for the different factions of the club. Monday and Thursday evenings will be devoted to lacrosse; Tuesday and Friday to base ball, and Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon to cricket.

A cricket team from the Boston and Lowell athletic club, which will include most of the

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famous Longwood cricketers, will probably visit this city on August 28, 29, and play an eleven from the A. A. club.

Base ball players are, as a rule, superstitious. Nearly all the clubs in the national league and association have mascots, or look upon the most trivial incidents when going to the grounds as good or bad omens.

Players have their individual peculiarities and methods to bring luck. Pete Browning, when coming in from the field, always steps over the third base, but never touches it.

SPORTING TALK FROM HALIFAX. HALIFAX, June 4.—"There won't be much gate receipts to divide to-day," was the ejaculation I was met with on entering the Wanderers grounds Saturday, a few minutes before the time for the third game of the Social-Mutual series to commence.

This was certainly a very small crowd; about the smallest that ever attended a game between the two leading clubs in this city, notwithstanding that it was a beautiful day and there was nothing else going on.

The first two ball games were so uninteresting that the public will not pay 25 cents admission and 10 cents to the grand stand. It is altogether too much for such games as these, but how can they expect the public to patronize them when they do not take part in these clubs.

Graham again pitched at the opening for the Socials, and was doing better than before, but in the third he was on first, when Daney threw to catch him napping, but the ball struck Graham on the side of the head, and he was compelled to quit the game.

Daney is still meeting with success; Fitzgerald who was first man on the bat, got three bases on a hit along the foul line, but Daney struck out Graham, Smith led to Daney, while Doyle struck to him, and as assisted by Fitzgerald, Daney was able to catch him napping, but the ball struck Graham on the side of the head, and he was compelled to quit the game.

There has been one very pleasing feature of the game so far—there has been no trouble with the umpires. An old timer said to me the other day: "What would you think of a veteran team playing with the Socials or Mutuals, and being brought into requisition. Ben Walsh and Jones of the old Atlantic might be got here, and Inglis, Penler, Manning, Power, and some of the older players are yet about. They would make a strong team if they could be got together, but there is much doubt of that."

There is nothing I know that would revive the interest here more than a game between Halifax and St. John. Either of the clubs should make arrangements to bring one of the St. John clubs to the city, and the games played in St. John on the queen's birthday, show that the Halifaxians would have a fighting at once with either of your teams.

Judging from the reports in the papers, the Y. M. C. A.'s and Shamrock played five innings on Saturday last, so they could call it a game. But I observe that the Y. M. C. A.'s played five innings, and the Shamrock four, and one paper states that the Shamrock therefore had no need for their half of that inning." There was, however, no game, as the rules distinctly provide that "no game" shall be declared if five innings are not completed by each side.

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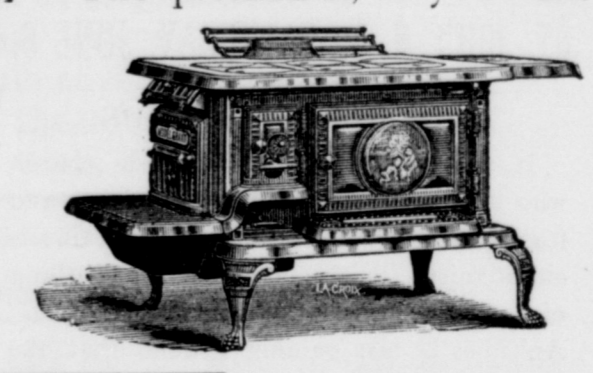
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