



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

A few small concerts comprise all the musical events that have taken place during the past week. The Citizens' Band concert, and the W. C. T. U. sunflower concert, happened too late for me to notice in this issue, and I will describe them fully next week. I was unfortunately unable to attend the lecture on English church music, by Rev. L. G. Stevens, in St. Luke's church, on Thursday evening. The lecture was illustrated by the singing of several anthems of the old English composers, by the Music union.

Mr. James S. Ford paid a visit to Boston last Friday and spent a very pleasant week in the hub. Mr. G. C. Coster filled his place very acceptably at the organ last Sunday.

The Y. M. C. A. orchestra is improving rapidly under Mr. White's instruction. It contains excellent material, and if they keep together, as I hope they will, and practice faithfully, they will soon make a good showing.

The Oratorio society of Salem, Mass., is a successful one financially. At the annual meeting held recently, the treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$1,224.09. The season's profits amounted to \$242.45.

I was much disappointed with Gorton's minstrels. Their choruses were awfully out of tune, and their selections were decidedly uninteresting. Not one of the soloists seemed capable of sustaining a pure tone, and whenever a high note occurred, it was simply terrible. The singing was so poor, that it greatly marred the effect of the really good sextette accompaniment. The euphonium solo "Within a mile of Edinboro," was nicely rendered.

A very fair musical programme was given at the Lyceum Society Conversazione on Monday evening. Miss Denley sang two solos. While her voice shows the benefit of some cultivation, it is rather unsympathetic, and I thought her enunciation faulty. Mr. Mayes sang "The Death of Nelson," with considerable spirit; Miss Rising's voice is rather weak, but not unpleasant; Mr. Titus and Mr. Maggie Olive sang a duet, "O, Morning Land," very nicely. Miss Olive has a very sweet voice and sings remarkably well for one so young; Mr. Lindsay sang "The Maid of the Mill," with considerable expression, and was happy in his selection; Mr. Robinson's and Mr. Olive's solos were nicely rendered, although I have heard them both do better.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The fun loving public has had plenty of inducements held out to it recently by the promoters of the Institute shows, but whether anybody has become sore from laughter is a question. Mr. Kendall promised to do this with his *Pair of Kids*, but his audiences seemed too deeply engaged in an unsuccessful effort to find out where the pair of kids came in, to laugh, or do anything else, and when two urchins who were probably picked out of the crowd usually found in front of the Institute door were hauled in in the last act, to play the play was forgotten by the audience.

And it wasn't a great deal to forget. Kendall's base ball act, and a few more amusing incidentals by the same gentleman, where the features of the show, except the singing, which, especially in the concerted pieces, was very good. Little Miss Dunn has a pleasing way about her and was a favorite from the first, and the skirt dancing was really fine.

Gorton's minstrels were the attraction this week, and the favorable impression they created while here last summer, resulted in a crowded house. The organization is a good one, and from an instrumental standpoint is about the best that visits St. John. There have been very few changes in the company since its last visit, and that is where the difficulty lay. However much we may like to see old faces on their annual tour, an audience has a justifiable dislike to seeing the same performance over again. So what was good last year was somewhat of a chestnut this year, and the people were not so well pleased.

This reminds me of some amateur companies that are started in St. John periodically. The boys get a lot of good performers together, who have not done any acting for some time, and on the opening night are greeted with a large audience, that is pleased to death with the performance, and votes it as good as anything of the kind they had ever seen. Of course the company is delighted with its success, and cannot sow too often. And that is where the mistake is made. The next few performances spoil the good impression, for when "it's the same thing over again," it savors of the chestnut, and the people get tired of it.

A minstrel show always draws a crowd in St. John so long as it has a brass band that will stretch out the length of King street, but in the United States minstrels are becoming a thing of the past. And no wonder; if the troupes that visit St. John are as criterion. Of late years there has been nothing new whatever in the minstrel line, except an occasional joke, but that is all. This is what a Chicago newspaper has to say on the subject:

Minstrel companies are reported to have played to wretched business in the east of late, and matters have been little better in Chicago. The fact is minstrel is fast losing its popularity. Most of the better class of burnt-cork performers are abandoning the minstrel for the face comedy stage, and all the schemes of the managers to pull the public into line as of old are failures. Minstrelsy is doomed to extinction.

The managers of the Institute shows do not deserve the patronage of respectable theatre goers, after the treatment they have repeatedly submitted them to. And a dollar paid to a policeman would do away with the annoyance. I refer to

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the way the gallery gods disport themselves. Such a disorderly crowd could not be found in any other theatre in the country. They have no regard whatever, for either the actors or those down stairs, and it has got to such a point that no remark coming from that part of the house would surprise anyone. During the Kendall performances, the conduct of the gallery was disgraceful, and if something is not done in the way of improvement that part of the house will have future shows all to itself. SPARKLER.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

Practice games of base ball were the attractions at the St. John and Shamrock grounds this week. It was hustling at the last moment. Both clubs, however, have been very successful in getting teams together for the 25th, and feel confident of being able to put up good games.

There will be an array of new faces on both fields Monday. Frank White has been getting in an amount of practice with his nine, and the management are feeling good over the fine showing the new blood has made so far. Starr is improving wonderfully in practice, and all the rest of the nine are said to be making equally good progress in learning all the peculiarities of the game. A number of enthusiasts are bringing Pushor down to catch Frank White for "one day only," and he will be an attraction. It is expected that Sam Milligan will play his old position on second base, and although no member of the club seems capable of inducing him to visit the grounds for practice, he never fails to make a good showing when he does come to time. The rest of the team will probably include the Jones brothers, Shaw, Starr, Percy Thomson, and Ritchie. In fact so many of the boys seem to be playing good ball that no difficulty was experienced in choosing a nine.

When word was received this week that the M. S. C.'s could not come here for the 25th, there was a good deal of disappointment among the boys. And the managing committee had to hustle. The activity is not very great in base ball circles in Eastern Maine, and after having everything arranged it was quite a set-back to have to look after a team to take the M. S. C.'s place. However, the St. John's had determined on base ball for the holiday, and they were bound to have a game at all odds.

The Shamrocks were more fortunate in their arrangements, and what little difficulty there may have been in regard to getting a team together seems to have vanished. Joe Morris is the only one of last year's nine in the city, and he has been about as active a member as could have been left behind. He will be captain of the new team, and has been putting in some good work since the fine weather set in. The Shamrock coils are coming along finely, and the only thing in which they seem deficient is in batting. Most of them have played before in the amateur league. What the Shamrocks want badly, however, is a pitcher. There has been some difficulty in getting a man to fill the position, but it is probable that both Payne and Morris will try their hands at it Monday. The team will be made up as follows: Morris, catcher; J. Martin, 1st b; D. Connelly, 2nd b; J. Stanton, 3rd b; Donovan, s. s.; Hayes, l. f.; Tilley, c. f.; Payne, p. Quite a lot of new ones.

Just now base ball is occupying the attention of the athletic associations, and the chances are that after Monday it will have first place for "keeps." It will be the big feature of the St. John grounds this season, and if the Shamrock team shows up well, there is nothing to prevent it from getting first place in the North end.

Frank White is doing as much as anybody to keep the game to the front, and a good deal will depend upon the attitude the Y. M. C. A. people assume, now that they are in with the St. John club. Games were arranged some time ago between the Y. M. C. A.'s and the Shamrocks, and the first of the series will be played on the Shamrock grounds next Saturday.

The members of the athletic clubs are talking as much business nowadays as sport, and it is talk that is not doing a great deal toward furthering the objects of any athletic association—amusement and exercise. One club is claiming an advantage over the other in financial transactions, and there is rivalry of a kind that will do more harm than good. The way the athletes have changed about, and the large number of athletic clubs now in existence have complicated matters to an alarming degree, and it will be well on in the season before everything is straightened out satisfactorily. The Shamrocks and St. John's have the grounds and facilities that the other clubs have not, but the outside clubs can claim a remarkably large number of good athletes.

I believe Frank White intends joining the Shamrock club. Their fine track is the attraction for him, and added to this is the advantage of having a trainer on the grounds all the time. The three clubs will then have a claim on him, but it is generally understood that the Y. M. C. A.'s can claim him as their own when the athletic standing of the different clubs is being reckoned at the end of the season.

I understand that quite a number have decided to accompany the Unions to Halifax to see the lacrosse games with the Wanderers on Monday. The tickets are good until next Thursday, and it is probable that a number will stay over. The Unions are sending a good team, as the following will show: McLeod, goal; Bertsch, point; Walker, cover point; F. P. Magee, 3rd defence; O'Reilly, 2nd defence; Drury, 1st defence; J. S. Esson, centre; W. Magee, 1st home; McFarland, second home; Dr. Esson, 3rd home; W. B. Rason, outside home; Mahon, inside home.

The Wanderers will put a team in the field that will probably make the Unions hustle, if they are as well up in lacrosse as they are in other athletic sports. The majority of the Haligonians are athletes of recognized standing, and what they may lack in stick work will probably be made up in running, for some of the fittest men in the province are on the team. It is made up as follows: E. Cassito, goal; M. R. Morrow, point; J. McIntosh, cover point; W. Neal, 3rd defence; R. Wallace, 2nd defence; H. Oxley, 1st defence; F. Grierson, centre; H. McIntosh, 1st home; G. Tracey, 2nd home; L. Fuller, 3rd home; C. Stuart, outside home; W. Henry, inside home.

There is a good deal of activity among the members of the bicycle club this spring, and ideas are

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beginning to pop up for some good times during the summer. The club has now a membership of about 65, and they are as enterprising a crowd as one wants to meet. The old officer's club building on the corner of Duke and Germain streets has been rented by the bicyclists and they are fitting it up in style. It was just the kind of a place the wheelmen wanted, and they are going to make the best of it. There will be a wheel room, where members can leave their machines, and boxes for clothing, etc., while other parts of the building will be fitted up as smoking rooms and parlors, where the boys will be able to enjoy a quiet smoke or chat, after coming in from a long ride.

A number of bicyclists are talking of going out the road in the direction of Bunkers, on the 25th. One of the long rides proposed for this summer is from Grand Falls to the city. It is receiving some consideration now, and will no doubt be decided upon. The idea is to have as many members of the club as possible, take their wheels up to Grand Falls, by train or whichever way they wish, and start from there together for home.

A number of Fredericton bicycle enthusiasts are making efforts to have a meet in the capital on July 1. The trotting park people are interested in it, and it is proposed to offer prizes for a number of races. If everything is arranged satisfactorily, it is expected that about 40 wheels will leave St. John to take part. It is expected that an event of this kind would awaken an interest in bicycling in the capital. The wheel is not nearly as popular with the celestials as the canoe, and the boys see no reason why it shouldn't be. JACK AND JILL.

Sporting Talk from Halifax.

HALIFAX, May 19.—The base ball season has opened, but not auspiciously; the fine weather, which had prevailed for several weeks, had disappeared; instead, a cold drizzling rain prevailed, which led to much doubt as to there being a game, and less than 200 people were present. The Socials presented a demoralized team. Graham could not play owing to a death in his family, and Currie, who has a few curves, took his place. Grant, the second baseman, had only been married two days before, and he did not appear while Markintosh of the Wanderers, who was booked for third, was not at hand, and is not likely to play with the team.

There were some few bets on opening, but if the clubs wish to make their series a success, they will have as little betting as possible. No one objects to a small wager, but as soon as the gambling element is introduced, so will the public at once lose confidence, which they have a perfect right to do from their experience of games in the past in this city, which the gamblers had an interest.

There is a ready talk of a game between Halifax and St. John local nine. Whether it will be between picked teams, a club against club, such as the Mutuals and Shamrocks, has not yet been definitely determined. A game between those nine would be interesting, but a series should be arranged between two picked teams of Halifax and St. John to play two games in each city, and if a fifth is necessary this could be arranged for. Halifax can present a strong nine from the players now on the diamond, with White as backstop, Power, pitcher; H. Smith, Doyle and Graham on the bases; Bossy, short-stop, and Fitzgerald, O'Brien, Jolinore and Murrans in the outfield. Doyle would make a splendid catcher to change in case of necessity with White, and Graham and Power could exchange places; Davison, should he decide to play, and Downey would also be of assistance in the pitching department. St. John has a host of good players, and the series between these clubs would create great interest.

Three New Brunswick horses have been entered for the stakes at Providence, N. J., next month, and all sons and daughters of Sir Charles. King Charles has been entered in the \$1000 stake for three minute horses, and Maggie T. and Maid C. is in the 2.28 stake for a similar purpose. Horses throughout the provinces have been much exercised as to the identity of the horse Sambo, which won the three minute class at Kentville, making a record of 2.44 1/2. It was a fast record, so early in the season, and it created great wonder why a horse with so much speed should be cut loose so early in the season and not saved for the fall circuit. A gentleman who has lived in Yarmouth a number of years informs me the horse originally came from St. John about twelve years ago. He was bought by Capt. Murphy, and since then he has had almost a dozen owners. He has been driven in a hearse and in a flat wagon, but when speeded on the road there was no horse in Yarmouth that could beat him. There was no track there, however, and he was never entered in a race. He was recently bought by John Hall, the well-known Laurenceston horseman, who started him at Kentville.

Preparations are quietly going on for the horse races here June 22, which promises to be the most interesting. It is reported the riding grounds will offer purses for a trotting meeting, July 25.

Miss Kajones was doing her best to entertain the two young men. "By the way, Mr. Ferguson," she asked, "do you take any interest in politics?" "I don't take any active part in political matters, but I am strongly in favor of a third party movement," answered Mr. Ferguson, glaring at young Hankinson.—[Chicago Tribune.

An Austin man started in the livery stable business last week, and the first thing he did was to have a sign painted representing himself holding a mule by the bridle. "Is that a good likeness of me?" he asked of an admiring friend. "Yes, it is a perfect picture of you; but who is that fellow holding you by the bridle?"—Texas Siftings.

He faced his canvas (as a seer whose ken pierces the crust of this existence through) And smiled beyond on that his genius knew Ere mated with his being. Conscious then Of his high theme alone, he smiled again Straight back upon himself in many a hue, And that, and light, and shade, which slowly grew Entreated of a fair girl's face, as when First time she smiles for love's sake with no fear, So woman, witless that behind him leant A woman, with old features, dim and sere, And glaucous eyes that flash the brimning tear, And with a voice, like some sad instrument, That sighing said, "I'm dead there; love me here!" —James Whitcomb Riley.



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