



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

As all the other papers have had their little say about that much abused performance which was given by the Oratorio society last week, I think it is my turn to say something in its favor, for I think all things taken into consideration, it was a very creditable concert.

I understand that the company appears in Fredericton next Thursday evening, and will sing *Erminie*. It is unquestionably the brightest and funniest opera in the company's repertoire.

The *Grand Duchess*, Miss Randall's favorite opera, will be presented here Monday evening. The orchestration is the same as that in use at the Casino, New York, having been procured especially for this performance.

There would have been no excuse for a poor house at the first presentation in this city of the dramatization of so popular and widely read a book as *Mr. Barnes of New York*. The audience was large and disposed to be enthusiastic if the opportunities for appreciation offered.

The novel, *Mr. Barnes of New York*, is infinitely more interesting, more amusing, more exciting than the play, *Mr. Barnes of New York*. An appreciative reader would not be satisfied with the dramatization in the best hands, but, as presented by Mr. Collier and the Bradley company it was exceedingly disappointing.

On the other hand, Mr. Hudson Liston made an admirable Count Musca Danella. He was especially happy in the passionate parts of the dialogue; at one moment the unsuccessful suitor beseeching the love of his ward; at another the disappointed rival, and again the revengeful Southern nature that sacrifices everything for satisfaction.

Of Miss Grace Huntington, Marina Paoli, the sister of Antonio and ward of Danella, I hardly know what to say. There is much to praise, for rarely do we see such conscientious work. At times it is really brilliant; in the heat of indignation, in the passionate and caressing moods of love in sorrow and in anger, she is all that one could wish.

Miss Villier's evident anxiety to display as much of her draperies as possible and further imitate the ballet girl by frequent high kicking and reckless distribution of her ankles, pleased the gallery and that was all. With this exception her part, Maud Chartris, was very cleverly taken.

Mr. Flynn should always speak for the villains part. As Scraggs in *My Partner* he was a genuine success, but he will never make a lover. There is no warmth, no life, no passion in his acting, his movements are automatic, his gestures abominable and his voice flatter than the floor.

Mr. Montaine always gives careful and painstaking attention to the character he assumes. Tomasso Monaldi, the faithful but revengeful Corsican servant of Marina, finds his tragic opportunity in the closing scene, and is at his best when he implores his mistress to remember her vow and the Vendetta.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

If the public was as enthusiastic over the junior league as the players are, that institution would be a great success, but unfortunately this is not the case at present. The attendance at the games is not as large as it should be; for as the season advances the games are of more interest.

The opening league game, however, had more spectators, but one must be more impressed than ever with the contention—that the price of admission has something to do with it. When the enthusiasm is at such a low ebb as it is at present 35 cents—for everybody who does attend a ball game now-a-days sits in the grand stand—is quite a barrier, and it those who do go often happen to see a poor game their patronage is likely to be lost.

The players, as I said before, are not

wanting in enthusiasm. All the clubs think they are "in it," and none more so than the Lansdownes. They put a very good team in the field Tuesday for their first appearance, and a number of the men on the nine surprised their friends by the way they played ball.

As the season advances and the teams get into shape, the enthusiasm of the players will probably prove contagious and have an effect upon their friends that will make the days when a game are one, something to be looked forward to as they were in "days of yore."

The Barrack square is a great resort for the players who do not belong to the athletic clubs. Every evening there is a crowd of base ballists, lacrosse players and others on the green, and it is just the same at the athletic grounds.

The Friday half holiday has been somewhat of an inconvenience to the lacrosse teams, and they have had some hustling this week to get enough men together to play the Union-Beaver game. The Unions found it next to impossible to get their men together for a game Saturday, while the Beavers find that day most convenient for them.

I believe there was some excitement among the lacrosse players when a daily paper announced that the Unions intended challenging the Wanderers for a series of three games for the Nelson trophy. To anyone not knowing the facts of the case it looked as though the Unions were so sure of winning it that they were making arrangements for disposing of it afterwards.

The St. John men came out on the top in their suit with the Halifax Socials. Nothing seems to be in good form nowadays unless a telegram is produced, and in this case the defence produced a telegram which made it very uncomfortable for Mr. Esdaile. The judge did not refer to it in his judgment, however, but it went a great way to show just what that particular agreement was disregarded by Mr. Esdaile.

The managers of ball clubs must have come to the conclusion, by this time, that nothing is too trivial to appear in the written agreement. In making arrangements for the games between the Socials and St. Johns, a great deal seems to have been "understood" which was not in the agreement, and it was these very things that brought on the law suit. It seems that they were not nearly so well "understood" as they would have been if they had been put down in black and white.

A Buctouche correspondent writes, under date of July 15, as follows: The horse races in the park last Thursday attracted a large number of people from all directions, and during the afternoon the town was completely deserted. The best speed shown was by two horses from Newcastle, and judging from the close company they kept, the drivers must have had their heads together before starting.

An eleven from Trinity school will play a team from the St. John club cricketers this afternoon. JACK AND JILL.

Souvenir spoons are becoming as great a fad in St. John as they have been in American cities, and local jewellers have been enterprising enough to prepare special designs and supply the demand. One of the prettiest is that sold by Messrs. Ferguson & Page which has an etching of the Martells tower upon it. They also have coffee spoons with simply "St. John" engraved on them. Their advertised alterations of their store are indeed changes which must please the public as well as enhance the appearance of their store. There are a number of handsome show cases which take the place of the semi-counter show cases in use before. The result is a decided improvement.

Another edition of the Intercolonial guide book has been published. Apart from the gaudy cover, it is a handsome pamphlet, with many illustrations and interesting letter press. The latter is from the graceful, vigorous pen of Mr. W. K. Reynolds, who is better qualified to write such a book than any other man in the provinces, from the fact that he has spent much time on every section of the road, and has collected the facts and compiled two or three editions of the book. The tourist will welcome such a guide, which is written to interest as well as instruct.

The mutilation of silver coins has evidently become a business in Canada. Fifteen or twenty per cent. of the coins one gets hold of have big holes punched in them. The amount of silver which can be stolen in this way is considerable and to prevent such deterioration in the value of our coinage as will aggregate a large amount, measures should be taken by the merchants and bankers to refuse the acceptance of mutilated coins. Coin punching became such a trade in the United States that business men made a concerted movement, and now a mutilated coin passes for less than even its intrinsic value. For instance, a quarter with a hole in it or with

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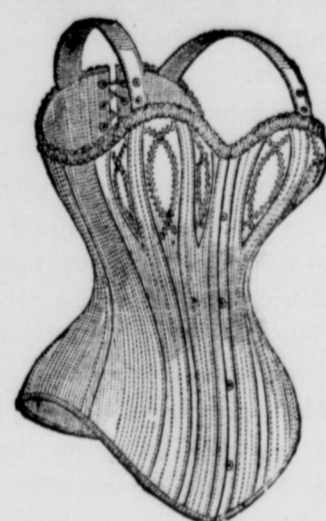
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The edge ground off is only worth twenty cents, a punched dime seven or eight cents. Some twenty years ago American silver, then flooded Canada, was removed from circulation by the general refusal of it at less than twenty per cent. discount. The business of mutilating coins might soon be stopped if a united effort were made and a similar discount insisted upon.

Stuck to His Crown.

The Marquis de Frontenac relates this story in the *New York Recorder*: The late Lord Salisbury, father of the present marquis of that ilk, was one of the lords-in-waiting of King William IV. at the time of his coronation. The weight of the emerald robe was enormous, and caused the portly and eccentric monarch to suffer terribly from the heat and fatigue. After the principal portion of the tedious ceremony was over the king retired for an hour's repose to a room within the Westminster Abbey precincts which had been temporarily fitted up as a dressing-room. On Lord Salisbury's entering rather suddenly for the purpose of informing his majesty that his accordance with time-honored custom, he was startled to find the newly crowned uncle of Queen Victoria striding up and down the room fanning himself with a huge palm leaf, and in a state of absolute disablement. Lord Salisbury—and his son the present premier vouches for the truth of the story—declared that the monarch, although divested of the remainder of his attire, had retained the crown upon his head, either through absence of mind or perhaps in consequence of an apprehension that he might when undressed be mistaken for an ordinary man.

He Made a Speech.

Lord Palmerston's good nature was proverbial—on one occasion it was put to a curious test. He had been present at an archery meeting in Hampshire, where he had distributed prizes, giving the young ladies a kindly pat on the head, but making only the most common-place observations. The reporter waited anxiously in his place until, to his horror, he saw the proceedings brought to a close without any formal speech from the premier. This was more than he could stand. He rushed from his corner to Lord Palmerston, who was passing out of the room.



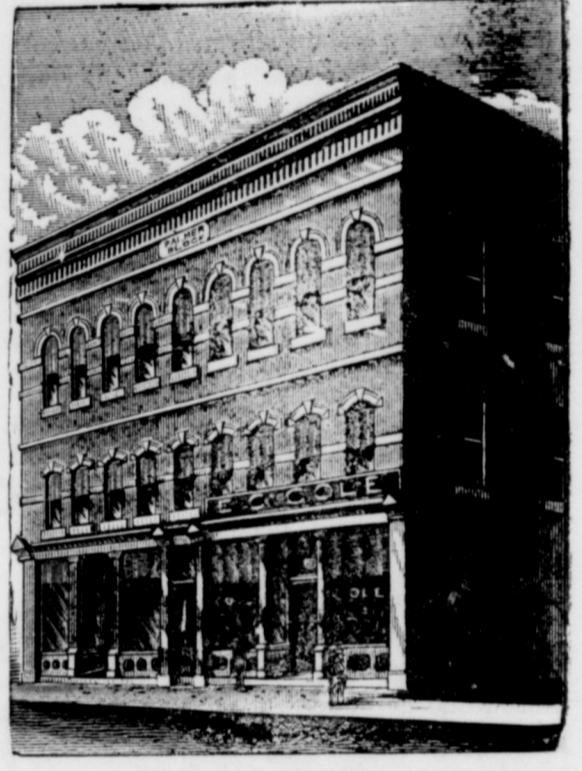
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TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The successes at St. Andrews rink this week have been *The Princess of Trebizon* and *The Mikado*. The company make a better showing in the former every time they play it, and the last two acts certainly became very popular with the people. The first part could be omitted without displeasing anybody.

The lack of rehearsal made the first act of the *Mikado* go very badly Tuesday night. The opening chorus was a complete failure and those that followed were very ragged indeed. Even Wednesday evening the same fault was apparent more especially in the movement and gestures of the chorus girls. It is not pleasant to see the "follow your leader" business too apparent thought it was very amusing to watch the chorus girls bow their faces to the ground before the *Mikado*, falling like a row of nine pins.

The leaders, Miss Randall, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Pearce, Miss Vining, and the others took their parts splendidly and captured the house completely. Miss Vining was very pleasing as Pitti Sing, always being recalled for her work. She is beyond a doubt a great acquisition to the company, bearing off the honors in *The Mikado*.

Mr. Leonard's Ko Ko was irresistibly funny. His wooing of Katsushaw is, I think, his best piece of work. His activity is remarkable, while his facial contortions and gestures would do credit to the best comedian. I have never seen a more enthusiastic recall than he, Miss Randall and Mr. Pearce received in their song, "Here's a pretty state of Things."

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