



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

It will not take me very long to sum up this week's musical news, for there has been so little going on in that line.

The Oratorio society had a most satisfactory rehearsal on Monday evening. The Philharmonic club was present. Some good work was done on the Elijah. The attendance of active members was very good, but after all that had been said regarding a punctual beginning at 8 o'clock, practice was not commenced until quarter of nine, and I don't think it was by fault of either the orchestra or active members of the society.

Preparations are being made for a choral service, to be held in St. John's church on Accession day. One of the musical selections to be sung is Handel's coronation anthem, "Zadock the Priest." The choir will be assisted on the occasion by outside talent from several of our city churches.

I am glad to note two additions to St. John's church choir, namely Mr. Geo. C. Coster and Mr. Smalley. Both gentlemen will sing bass I believe. Miss Idella Fowler is filling Miss Winnie Calhoun's place as organist at Leinster street baptist church for a few Sundays.

Miss Dora Armstrong, who is so well known in musical circles, is again in the city visiting Mrs. Geo. M. Armstrong.

Mr. W. L. Tins, tenor, went to Moncton on Wednesday to sing at a concert given by the Y. M. C. A.

At the wedding of Miss Katie Murray to Mr. Sessions of New York, on Wednesday evening the choir of St. John's church sang Mr. Morley's setting of "The voice that breathed o'er Eden," and a very effective wedding hymn, composed for the occasion, by the organist, Mr. Jas. S. Ford. Chants by Elvey and Joule were used for the Deus and psalm cxviii. Of course the Wedding March was a most attractive feature of the ceremony.

The Neptune Rowing club is contemplating its annual concert, which will probably be given about the end of the month. From all I hear this affair promises to be quite as well worth listening to as its predecessors.

The not-to-be-criticized director of the St. John School of Music, Miss Hitchens, has been using up quite an amount of newspaper space for the express purpose of—well either of abusing me or advertising her school, I have hardly yet decided which. If Miss Hitchens had shown in what I was wrong, apropos of my criticism of her recital, I should know just how to reply; but as she only endeavors to show her attainments by quoting a well-known musical work and showing the difference between ballad and cavatina, which question I had no intention of raising, I am rather at a loss. I simply quoted a remark that she had made before, to the effect that the singer pleased me better in ballad than in anything else, and then went on to say that however, Miss Hitchens' own name for the composition, "difficult cavatina," is, when one knows the simple meaning of the word, almost as much a misnomer as ballad, and that she had a very small song like the arietta, "to quote Jousse's Musical Catechism or Cavatina, a short air without a repeat, often inserted in recitatives for the purpose of affording an effect of relief. Bad, a sentimental song, a light poem, a lyric tale in verse. To look casually at both meanings, I should probably select the latter as being more correct to apply to the song Miss Hitchens sang last week. As for the suggestion of malice on my part. What earthly motive could I have of maligning Miss Hitchens? If I indulged in that sort of thing I simply gave my honest opinion of the recital, praised what I could with a clear conscience, and blamed what I could not praise. It did not require any "musical education" to know that Miss Hitchens sang out of tune in her selection, or to be aware of the fact that the pianist was sharp. Although what Miss Hitchens may know about my musical education is rather a puzzle to me. Before going any further, I wish to thank "Allegro" for so kindly taking up cudgels in my behalf, and at the same time, assure Miss Hitchens that I did not reply to her published letter, as her answer to "Allegro" would seem to imply.

The only thing in my last Saturday's letter that I admit was perhaps unwise on my part, was the publication of Miss Hitchens's remark to the effect that there were no competent teachers of piano playing when she first came to St. John. Unfortunately I cannot always be in two places, and in this case I had to depend on getting my information from the letters of the ladies on Miss Hitchens's own reference committee.

I understand that the chorister chief of St. Paul's is to be succeeded by Mr. Lutz, the curate, is to be choir master.

A new member of the Philharmonic club is Miss Mabel Gibbs, who plays 2nd violin.

Concert at Woodstock.

Miss Sharp's concert in aid of St. Luke's S. S. room, which was given on Thursday evening last in the opera house, was a decided success. The programme was a fine one, and there was not a poor number on it. The playing and singing were worthy of professionals, and the readings most enjoyable. The first number on the programme was a piano duet from Songs Without Words, Mendelssohn, and was that beautiful minor Presto Agitato with the ceaseless running accompaniment in the bass. It was played with perfect rhythm and expression.

The second number was Miss Gilmour's song. It was her first appearance as a concert singer, and the audience was unprepared for such perfection of singing. Her voice is a clear high soprano of great compass, and her control of it in the most difficult passages is wonderful. Miss Gilmour possesses, as well, a delightful stage manner, and there is a fortune in those liquid notes, if well cared for. The duet of Miss Sharp and Rev. J. M. Davenport were much enjoyed, their voices blending exquisitely.

Rev. J. M. Davenport's singing, of course, was the chief attraction in the programme. His rendering of the "Lost Chord" was beyond description. I never before heard such a sympathetic, soulstirring conception of the song. As an encore he sang a beautiful song for a light tenor voice, "O Fair and Sweet and Holy." I don't know the composer, but the song is lovely. His second song was "Jerusalem," and he sang it with great expression. "The Olden Bucket," favorite of mine, and I did not enjoy it as well as his other selections. There is an joy in his voice that reminds me of Sims Reeves—the same tender, sympathetic strain which lingers long after in the memory.

Miss Ganong, as usual, sang exquisitely, and was greeted with great enthusiasm. She could not be persuaded to sing an encore. Miss Jennie Sharp sang a pretty song, and played a sweet little cradle song of Hanser's on the violin with happy effect.

Miss Bule played extremely well, and shows promise of making a fine pianist. Miss Walker played that difficult "Palacca" of Weber, transcribed by Liszt, in a faultless manner that elicited the warmest applause.

Perhaps the choicest piano solo was the "air and variations" Chopin, that Mr. Grant sang. He played beautifully and brought down the house. The readings were much enjoyed. Mrs. Moore reads well and has none of the nervousness of the amateur. "Jim Oakes" Christmas Present" was the name of her reading, and was a recital of a sad story of the mining districts of Montana.

Miss Shaw gave "A Sewing Machine" interview with Josiah Allen's Wife" with great eclat, and the audience were with her, testifying their appreciation by hearty laughter and applause. The last number was the duet, "Old Oaken Bucket." In response to an encore a repetition of the refrain was given. Every number of the programme seemed to please the audience, and there was no tedious wait between. Everything coming on promptly. The proceeds amounted to something over a hundred dollars. The piano was from Watson's and was a very fine instrument, and, strange to say, in perfect tune.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Harkins company opened at the Institute Monday evening to a fine house. Capt. Swift was played, and repeated Tuesday evening. Sealed Instructions was put on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and last evening Woman Against Woman was played. The company is an average one.

The Japs and American musical company drew good houses at the Palace this week. The rink has been handsomely

decorated with Japanese goods, and is very attractive. The ingenious Japs are having crowds of visitors, while the stage performance is in many respects superior to anything ever seen in St. John, in the same line. The Hewlettes in the Chinese laundry sketch and slack wire performance are good, while the Japanese juggler give a performance that is only seen at long intervals in this country. But by far the best part of the show is that in which Messrs. Howe, Wall and McLeod appear. It is by far the funniest performance that has been given here in a long time, while the musical part of it is of a very high order, and the bell ringing something really good.

Right here in Boston it is getting to be easy work to do the theatres, for already are the doors of four of the leading houses closed for the season; indeed, I may say five. The Hollis St., Globe, Park and Tremont are dark, and so is the Boston, while the Museum is running a summer season.

Kellar, the wonderful magician, holds forth in the Museum just now and astonishes and mystifies the large audiences that nightly assemble to see him and his clever wife. He certainly is a wonder, and his wife's exhibition of mind reading rather puts the performances of Bishop and Cumberland in the background. Next week we are promised a new farce comedy which has been having a successful run in Philadelphia. It is called Niobe, and the central idea is the somewhat hackneyed one of a statue coming to life in nineteenth century surroundings. I notice at the head of the cast a name that was once very familiar in St. John, that of W. F. Owen, and if the rest are as good as he, there will be no trouble about the run of the piece being assured.

At the Grand Opera House the younger Salvini still continues to give the plays with which he is fast becoming identified. This week he appears in a variety of characters, The Child of Naples, Don Cesar de Bazan, The Duke's Motto, and The Three Guardsmen. Next week he appears for the first time here in Monte Cristo, and very elaborate preparations are being made for its production. I have not seen this play since Charles Fechter's time, and I am rather anxious to see the ambitious young actor who will essay the part.

A magnificent audience assembled on Saturday night to bid farewell to the Daly company at the Hollis street theatre. The play was 7-20-8, and it goes without saying that it was produced as only the Daly company can produce such a piece. A few evenings before I had the pleasure of seeing this company in As You Like It, and Miss Ada Rehan's Rosalind was a gem. In looks, action, gesture, she almost realized the poet's idea of the bright sparkling girl who wanders through the forest of Arden in manly garb, but with a fluttering woman's heart beneath her doublet. Well does Miss Rehan look in her boy's dress, having a particularly attractive figure. I said just now she almost realized the idea, for to my mind it is no disparagement to Miss Rehan to say that she does not quite come up to the standard of excellence set by the late Adelaide Nilsson in this beautiful part. Alas! we have not the lovely Adelaide, but fortunately we have Ada Rehan.

The greatest show on earth is in charge of Boston town this week, and everybody, his wife and family has duly patronized the immense tent and wondered at the number of the performers and gazed open-mouthed at the gorgeous spectacle of Nero.

Summer is here, as the popular concerts at Music hall testify. Go where you will you will always find a crowd here, and whether the concert is led by Adamowski or Gruenberg the programme is always good and always heartily appreciated. What a pleasure it is to sit down and enjoy a concert given by the best talent in Boston. Everybody goes and sits round and enjoys himself or herself, cigars are lighted and the amber beer flows, the music rises and falls and the great audience is contented and happy.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

Last Saturday was a glorious day for outdoor sport, and if the weather has anything to do with the attendance at a baseball or lacrosse game, both the athletic grounds should have been pretty well crowded. But the weather has evidently nothing to do with it. The ball game drew by far the largest crowd, and those who went over to the Shamrocks grounds saw a very pretty game. The Y. M. C. A.'s played a great fielding game, and as a result the Shamrocks could not bat White safely. Looney pitched a good game for the Shamrocks, but his support was weak in too many particulars to make his efforts effective.

Friday the two clubs met again, and what theatrical people call a double bill was held out as an inducement to get the crowd on the move—at least that is the way some people looked at it. Others, however, seemed to be under the impression that the lacrosse enthusiasts were trying to force their favorite game upon the people who appear unwilling to pay to see it alone; but a well known member of the Shamrocks gave it as his opinion, that from the look of things at present, they would have to pay the crowd to look at a game of base ball.

Be that as it may, there is still a possibility of a revival of the interest in base ball. At the Shamrocks grounds, last Saturday afternoon, although the score was awfully one-sided, everybody seemed satisfied when leaving the ground. They had seen some very good ball playing, despite

the tale told by the score, and were ready to go over there again. And as the season wears on and the clubs get evened up a bit, the interest will increase. If the Shamrocks had played as good ball as the Y. M. C. A.'s, the game would have awakened a good deal of interest. The Shamrocks probably will put up a better game before long. Fitzpatrick, who played in the team last year, arrived in town this week, and will undoubtedly be pressed into service. He will strengthen the team greatly, as he was one of the best fielders in the provincial league.

One or two good players make a wonderful difference in the work of a new team. White and Kearns are the backbone of the Y. M. C. A.'s, and the amount of work they did in Saturday's game showed up wonderfully. Norris, too, worked hard and successfully.

Base ball and lacrosse are the possible attractions for Dominion day. The Shamrocks and Thistles will play on the former's grounds, and the Unions and Halifax Wanderers will probably meet in lacrosse on the St. Johns grounds. If the Unions do bring the Wanderers over, it will show considerable enterprise and enthusiasm over the game. It is quite certain they will not make any money, but on the contrary will lose some. They will have to pay \$50 for the use of the grounds and allow members of the A. A. club to enter free of admission. This is a pretty high price, but the St. Johns would probably clear more on a ball game on the holiday. When it is considered that nearly everybody in town who is interested in lacrosse, outside of the Unions, are members of the St. John club, it is difficult to see where the gate receipts are going to come in.

The Y. M. C. A.'s will spend the holiday at Annapolis, where they will play ball with a team from that place. I believe the Annapolis people were very anxious to get the team over and offered liberal inducements.

Jack and Jill. HALIFAX, N. S., June 10.—There was no game between the Socials and Mutuals last week, and ball talk is correspondingly scarce. The chances are there will be an improvement in the attendance the next game, owing to the closeness of the score and the small figures in the last contest, still I do not look for the increase to be tremendous, as there are many people who feel that the Mutuals could have improved their position as regards the nine did not exert themselves so much as is their wont when they are striving to do all in their power to obtain as long a lead as possible. However, it was better (if this was the case) for the figures to be small and (if the score close, as it is bound to somewhat increase the interest and attract larger patronage. Had the Mutuals not scored seven runs in the last inning of the second contest, and the score remained at 9 to 4, they would have attracted more people at the last contest.

Elsewhere in this issue we republish an article from the Hamilton Herald 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. The well known standing of the Herald is at guarantee as to the entire reliability of the statements contained in the article.

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BARGAINS FOR NEXT WEEK HAROLD GILBERT'S Carpet and Furniture Warerooms,

RECEPTION CHAIRS, in Fancy Colors. At Half-price to clear.

A FEW ODD BEDROOM SUITS, In Elm (dark finish), and Antique Oak, at cost prices.

KENSINGTON ART SQUARES, Ten per cent discount of regular prices, for next week.

Remnants in TAPESTRY and BRUSSELS CARPETS, AT COST TO CLEAR.

SCRIM AND CANVAS CURTAINS. A large assortment of these goods are offered at cost price.

HEARTH RUGS. A large assortment; all the leading makes, at reduced prices.

54 KING STREET, ST. JOHN.

No Trouble Whatever. Wash day always puts the best of men out of good humor. A tossed up house, cold dinner, and the general unpleasantness that always characterized the day, made the steam laundry an institution that has been hailed with delight by hundreds. Now washing at home is unnecessary, when one can get it done so cheaply at Ungar's, on Waterloo street. The washing is called for and delivered promptly, and there is no trouble whatever. The rough dry system has met with general favor. By this the clothes are washed and dried and delivered all ready for ironing.—Advt.