

MUSICAL & THEATRICAL

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

There has not been a great deal going on this week in a musical way outside the opera, which has been well patronized.

Some good work on the cantata *Christ and His Soldiers* was done by the Oratorio Society on Monday evening, and no doubt the work will be fully appreciated when it is sung in Trinity church. I believe that the Philharmonic Club will again assist with the accompaniments and that Mr. A. F. M. Custance will preside at the piano.

The special music which will be sung at the service in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Trinity church on the afternoon of Christmas day is as follows: *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, Morley, in F; *Antem, Sing and Rejoice*, Barnby; *Te Deum*, Hopkins, in G; *Amen*, Stainer. For some doubt the good reason, Mr. Strand has abandoned the idea of having his anthem, which was to have been written for the occasion, sung.

Last week Mr. A. F. M. Custance, assisted by the Mission choir and members of the Philharmonic Club gave a most enjoyable little concert in the lecture room of the Church of England Institute, in aid of the choir fund of the Mission church. The choir sang several glees, among them Pearsall's *O Who Will Over the Downs*, Morley's *My Own Canadian Home*, and *Good Night* by Scott Gately, the latter an extremely taking plantation song. Miss Bessie Swann gave two solos, a dainty Gavotte by Bonheur, entitled *Old and New*, and the ever-popular *Love's Old Sweet Song*, by Malloy. Master Fred Hornby's lovely contralto showed to its best advantage in Morley's beautiful song *Children Aleep*. Mr. Gullion sang *The Yeoman's Wedding Song*, Poniatowski, and Mr. Porter gave Ardit's *Sierrip-Cap*. Two pretty quartettes were sung, and the orchestra performed an attractive suite of dances by St. George. Miss Flossie Bowden's cello *Romance* was well received. Mr. Wilson gave Weber's *Polka Brillante* as a piano solo. Mr. Custance's comic songs were irresistible, and in every case he was obliged to respond to encore. Following *Polka* he sang something about someone with an unpronounceable name, and after *Phil the Flute*, *The Three Little Girls* and *Yn Such a Disagreeable Man*, from *The Princess Ida*.

On Thursday evening a concert was held in connection with the Church of England Institute, the choruses were *Risult's In His Hour of Softened Splendour*, and Barnaby's *Good Night Beloved*. Miss Clara Quinton and Miss Idella Fowler were among the soloists. The head master of the Davenport school has issued invitations for a conversation to be given on the 17th of this month. The mistress has changed one of her practice nights from Saturday to Thursday. They are making great progress and *Fly Little Children*, *Susan Brown* and *Deanna* are *Prank's Yellow Bird* are the principal tunes whistled by the fortunate ones who are in the circle. A farcical parody on *The Mikado* will comprise the second part of the programme but although I should like to very much, I am not at liberty to give the cast as yet. On Friday evening a musical programme was given in connection with the sale in St. John's Sunday school. Miss Marion Ogden violinist was among the performers. TARNET.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

We have had a week of opera—of pleasant, captivating comic opera with all its happy accessories. Good houses and satisfied audiences were the rule with no exception. Mr. Grau must have studied his Canadian route with much care, and paid particular attention to the likes and dislikes of his prospective patrons. This is very noticeable to those who have seen the same operas in other cities with people less prudish—does that express it?—than we in these sea girt towns. We are fearfully afraid in St. John of what is termed in common parlance, "a leg show" and local managers have so imbibed the fear that the infection rapidly spreads to the visiting companies. They do not know how far to go and, in some cases, they stop short of the best things in their performance. And yet it is always well to err on the safe side and not repeat the experience of the "New York Stock Co."

Mr. Grau's company has found much favor in this critical town, not on account of anything particularly brilliant, for among them there is no Adelaide Randall, nor yet a Bebe Vining, but for a strong and evenly balanced combination, for the perfect and persistent attention paid to detail, for the catchiness of the performances, their vim, dash and spirit, for the beautiful and attractive costuming, and all the little things that please the people and bring them again and again.

With seven different operas in one week it would be difficult, impossible, in fact, in the space at my disposal to speak at all fully or comprehensively of each opera. The fact that we had another opera company a short time ago for an extended season naturally leads to comparisons, and the conclusion we all must arrive at is that the strength of the Grau combination—its general perfection—was the weakness of the Randall company and that the particular strength of the latter—the prima donna and the comedian—cannot be claimed by Mr. Grau's leading people.

Miss Mason I could not give an opinion so expressive, or in as few words as the small boy after he had seen *Said Pasha*: "She's little, but oh my!" Her easy, graceful manner and bewitching presence captured the house from the first night, and easily gave her the first place—a position I am inclined to think, that Miss Calhoun challenges occasionally. The very openness of the challenge though rather detracts from her chances of succeeding. Miss Mason's voice is remarkably sweet, but lacks power and sympathy. The acting of both ladies showed their ability in that direction. Miss Calhoun might, with advantage, control her features, which are sufficiently attractive in their natural repose. As it is, she gives one of the impression of overdoing her part.

Mr. Felch is an average comedian with some specialties and songs, however, that proved exceedingly popular. His make up is rather ridiculous than funny, which is perhaps a distinction without a difference. He had able assistance in the *Hussars* from Mr. Waldo.

It may not be amiss to remark that the new opera house seems to be steadily gaining in popularity. Its recovery from the serious blow dealt by the opening company may be said to be complete. I believe that first class performances well advertised will always draw good houses—but so much depends upon the advertising.

TRAVELLING IN CAPE BRETON.

A Steamer that Returned to the Wharf for a Woman's Basket.

On an evening in August last summer, two travellers had to leave Baddeck, a village most picturequely dropped down, as it appears, in one of the lake's fairest nooks. The first information gained about the steamer's hour of leaving led the travellers to think that if they were ready by ten o'clock all would be well. They were quietly taking supper when at a quarter-past seven "mine host" of the house that sheltered them remarked that half-past seven was the boat's time.

Thinking the first informant had of course been wrong, the travellers rushed to their room, threw everything into their bags, hastily paid their bill, and expected to be driven madly to the wharf. Not so; it was then admitted that though half-past seven was the steamer's nominal time, she was often as late as eight, and probably would be that night. Her course from the stopping-place above Baddeck brought her into sight from the hotel, and the travellers were urged to abandon all anxiety, as they would be notified as soon as she appeared. One of them remarked to a boy of the village: "I suppose she'll be along about nine or after." "Yes," he said, "that's her usual time."

Here was more encouragement to believe the ten o'clock man truthful after all; yet not long before nine she was really announced. It was not conceivable that the passengers and freight of so small a hamlet could keep the steamer at the wharf more than two minutes, and the travellers hastened to embark.

Safely on board, fully fifteen minutes must have passed before the hawsers were cast off and the boat puffed out into the lake. Off at last, the travellers thought with relief; for, once obliged to leave the charming spot, they wanted to be away. Not far from half a mile out, however, the boat began to display strange symptoms of returning to Baddeck. Yes, back she was going, and soon was safely tied up again to the wharf.

"What is the matter?" was asked in despair.

"Oh! a woman has left her basket." Could that truly be all? Indeed, the purser and another man were soon seen peering behind piles of wood and barrels on the dock, unlocking and searching a dark wharf-house and at last meandering up the main street of the town. When their twinkling lights returned, five or ten minutes later, lo! the two men bore a basket between them, and very little short of ten o'clock the boat was once more, this time in dead earnest, got under way. The captain was heard to remark: "Too late now for the drawbridge at Grand Narrows." A freight train was to pass, and the custom of the region demands the closing of the draw for a full hour in the neighborhood of train-time.

The old woman had her basket, but at least fifty passengers good-naturedly endured a delay of an hour and a half to procure it. Such are the comforting ways of Cape Breton people. What wonder the island is gaining popularity as a resort for summer rest?

MILLER BROS.' EXHIBIT.

It Contained the Best Pianos and Organs and Was Admired.

At the recent exhibition, says the Halifax Mail, Miller Bros. (Granville street) occupied a large space (nearly the whole of the south end gallery), and their show presented a fine appearance. It was all enclosed by a nice neat railing (of turned bannisters) and the place raised about eight inches, while all was covered by a nice carpet, the walls and ceiling being nicely papered, and suspended from the ceiling were three electric lights, and their whole place tastefully and richly draped and some nice paintings hung. They showed fifteen fine organs and pianos. The Karn organ in church and parlor styles, some of which are very fine in both appearance and tone, ranging in price from \$75 to \$450. Also some fine Karn pianos in mahogany, walnut and rosewood finish. The Evan Bros. piano in mahogany, walnut and rosewood finish; both of those makes of pianos are becoming very popular. Prices of pianos shown ranged from \$350 to \$600. Occasionally some very sweet music could be heard from their department. They also showed in a separate booth ten of the celebrated Raymond sewing machines in different style of oak and walnut. Among them was a very fine cabinet machine, which attracted much attention, it being so simple to open and close and to operate: and when closed having the appearance of a writing desk. This machine has become of late years a general favorite with the public. This firm deserves credit for going to the trouble and expense they did in making so fine an exhibit. They received three diplomas on exhibit. Their organs and pianos. The highest award given, no prizes were offered. They have now been in business over twenty years and during that time have worked up a very large business in the lower provinces, which territory they control.

The monthly concerts at the school for the blind had been resumed. The first of these took place on Wednesday afternoon in the assembly hall of the institution. The visitors were conducted to different parts of the buildings, and were loud in their praises of the arrangement of the music rooms. Through the plate glass doors of each of these rooms a pupil could be seen practising upon one of the new Evans Bros. or Karn pianos recently put in by Miller Bros. of the city, who are the sole agents. Their pianofortes are particularly fine in tone and are giving every satisfaction.

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Japanese Doctors.

A Japanese doctor never dreams of asking a poor patient for a fee. There is a proverb among the medical fraternity of Japan. "When the twin enemies, poverty and disease, invade a home, then he who takes aught from that home, even though it be given him, is a robber." "Often," said Dr. Matsumoto, "a doctor will not only give his time and his medicines freely to the sufferer, but he will also give him money to tide over his dire necessities. Every physician has his own dispensary, and there are very few apothecary shops in the empire."

"When a rich man calls in a physician he does not expect to be presented with a bill for medical services. In fact no such thing as a doctor's bill is known in Japan, although nearly all the other modern practices are in vogue there. The doctor never asks for his fee. "The strict honesty of the people makes this unnecessary. When he is through with a patient a present is made to him of whatever sum the patient or his friends may deem to be just compensation. The doctor is supposed to smile, take the fee, bow, and thank his patron."

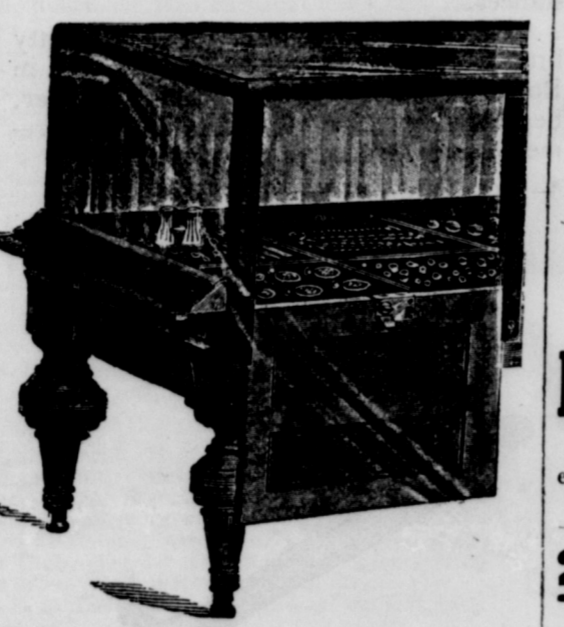
\$40.00 For a Stamp.

The Canada 12 pence black stamp of 1851 issue is what W. L. Hart of Halifax will pay \$40.00 for. You may not have this stamp, but may have others of value. Many old trunks, closets, etc., contain these rare stamps, and a search may well repay the trouble. United States stamps used before 1869 are also good. Some old collections bring good prices. See add in this page.



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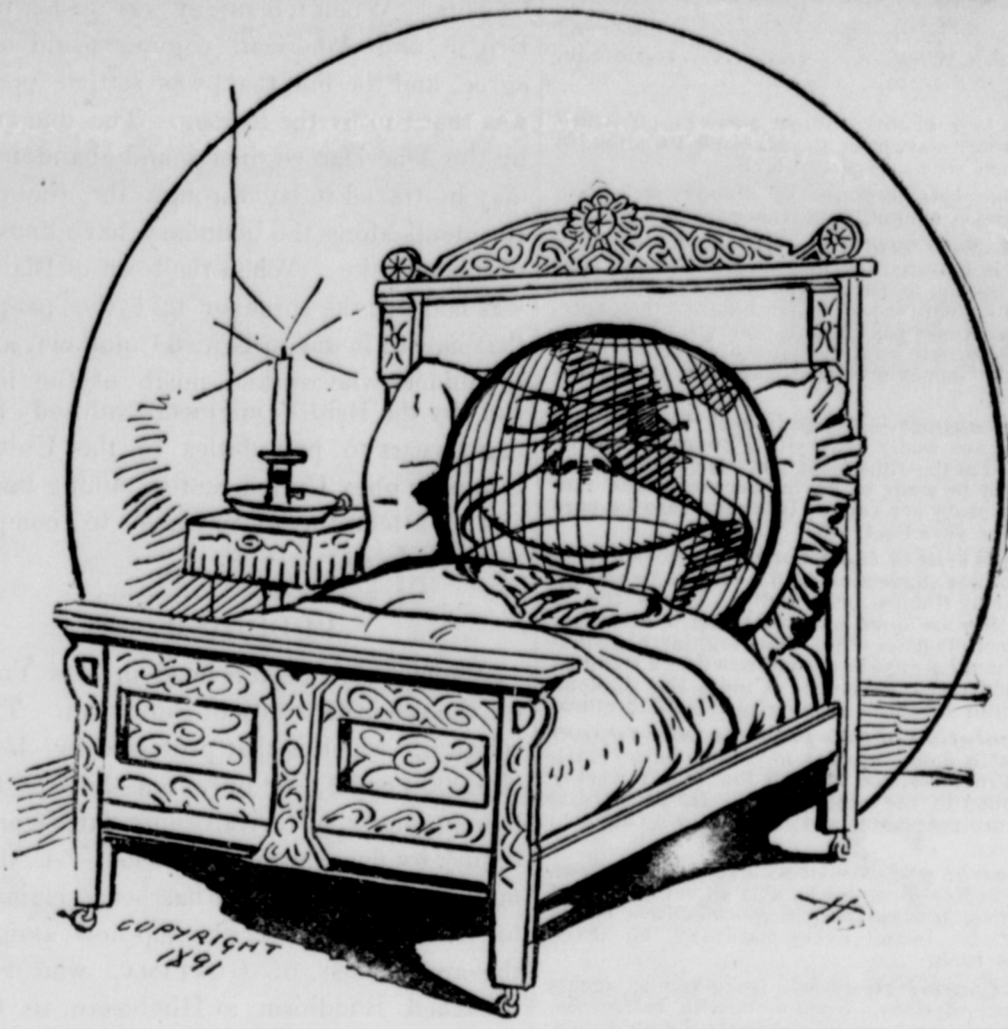
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