



TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The drama, Bleak House, is difficult to analyze; while the plot hinges for its story upon the embarrassing position and troubles of Lady Dedlock, the hero of the play is beyond question the lawyer Tulkinghorn, and the action of the piece moves with him throughout.

As a play it is completed at the murder of Tulkinghorn. That is the natural catastrophe; the action does not pass on to any one; what follows is still the passive story of Lady Dedlock, as a story only. If it can be ranked as action it is only so far as her death from voluntary flight can be looked upon as a suicide.

The most remarkable thing about the play is that while the action, the moving force, rests upon Tulkinghorn, no adequate human motive is disclosed to account for his conduct. It is impossible from the stage version to imagine his object in seeking to get Lady Dedlock in his power, unless it be to torture her like a moth upon a corking pin.

It is wholly incompatible with a lawyer of learning and eminent connections, associating with and advising aristocrats. The motive alleged by him that he is protecting his client's interest is manifestly false and contrary to his deeds.

With regard to the highly conscientious and meritorious impersonations which have recently been given at the Opera house it is more difficult to express any positive opinion beyond that which was patent to every one; that it was extremely pleasing. The characters are susceptible of being looked at in different lights and different gradations of light and shade and it is as possible for the critic's point of view to be the least satisfactory and correct as for the player.

Hortense as played by Jane Coombs is a brilliant piece of acting, true to nature in its details and very dramatic; it would not be easy for the most captious to suggest the alteration of a single tone or gesture.

The shorter races were more interesting, and seemed to have elicited more interest than the other contests, though I must say that a bicycle race is always a pleasure to watch; not so much so, perhaps, when the turns are many and it is difficult to pass each other as was the case in the rink, but still it is a contest entirely different from the others, and that I suppose is the reason that one becomes so interested.

The high jumping was good but not as good as it might have been. The competitors seemed overstrained or tired and their usual snap seemed absent. I am very glad that the sports turned out as well financially. This is the greatest encouragement the boys could have. There is no encouragement so great as to see one's efforts appreciated by his friends.

Mr. Ernest McMichael is again in the city, and his many friends, musical and otherwise, are glad to have him among them once more. Mr. Thos. Hall has returned from New York and the music union resumed practice under his direction on Tuesday evening.

The Oratorio concerts will take place on the 18th and 19th, and the final rehearsal will be held on the evening of the 17th, when Mrs. Humphrey Allen and Mr. Parker will be present. Honorary members will, of course, be admitted on presentation of their tickets.

Next Thursday evening there will be a Thanksgiving service in St. John's church. A harvest anthem by Stainer will be sung and setting of the canticles, by Klvington Hattersly will also be given. Two concerts will be given in connection with the lecture course under the auspices of the young men's association of Trinity church.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

The Beaver sports last Friday evening in the St. Andrew's rink proved as successful as the most enthusiastic sportsman could have desired. It must have been most encouraging to the boys to see their exhibitions so well patronized, and I am sure the spectators felt fully satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

I was a little disappointed in the foot races, especially in the mile. When there is a handicap of 40 or 60 yards on the scratch man, and even then the latter hasn't to exert himself, there is but little interest in such an event. I cannot understand, though, why Baxter tries to outrun himself when there is no occasion for it.

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The Oratorio Society, the Minstrels, and all the other practices of one kind and another, the musical people are fairly busy. What they will do when it comes time to think of Christmas music, and that time is not very far off, I hardly like to say. I must congratulate the Y. M. C. A. orchestra on its remarkably good concert, which was given on Tuesday evening in their parlors, on Charlotte street.

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ST. STEPHEN AND CALAIS.

Progress is for sale in St. Stephen at the book stores of C. H. Smith & Co., and G. S. Wall and H. M. Webber.

Nov. 4.—Mr. J. D. Chipman and Mr. Julius Whitlock have returned from St. John, where they went to attend the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Masonry.

Mr. Morley keeps about the same, but very little if any improvement can be noticed in his condition. Much sympathy is felt for him and Mrs. Morley among our musical people.

The programme for the concert on Wednesday evening, 18th inst., of the Oratorio Society, will probably be as follows: Overture to the Daughter of Jairo, (arranged for harmonium and piano) Miss Goddard and Mr. A. F. M. Custance; recitative and air, "The Soft Southern Breeze," (from Barby's Rehearsal), Mr. Geo. J. Parker; solo, by Miss Alice G. Hea; Aria from Gounod's Queen of Sheba, Mrs. F. Humphrey-Allen; duet for two pianos, Miss Goddard and Mr. James S. Ford; air, "I Dreamt I Saw New York," Schubert, Mr. Geo. J. Parker; air, "Frühlingslied," Mendelssohn, Mrs. Allen; solo by Mr. G. S. Mayes; duet, by Cowen, Mrs. Allen and Mr. Parker; concluding with the Hymn of Praise, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Perley, and Mr. Parker, and chorus.

Messrs. C. Flood & Sons have kindly promised the use of one of the celebrated Ronsch pianos for the duet by Miss Goddard and Mr. Ford.

Thursday, 19th, "Hear My Prayer" and "Jephtha" will be given.

Miss Mina Downes has returned from Boston, where she has had a most delightful visit, being the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Ferdinand Emerson, Hotel Udney.

Mr. A. W. Struthers of Toronto, gave a fine stereoscopic entertainment in the Knight Memorial Methodist church on Thursday evening. A choice musical programme was also enjoyed.

The gentlemen's Debating club of Calais, of which Mr. E. B. Harvey is president, have extremely excitedly of late. The first two discussions being: "Resolved that the people of Calais did wrong by voting to aid the Maine Shore Line railroad," and "Resolved that prohibition in Calais is a failure."

A dance was given in Grand Army hall, Calais, on Friday evening last, which was enjoyed by about forty or more of the youth and maidens.

Nov. 4.—Mrs. MacFarlane and Master Roy left on Monday for Montreal, en route for Los Angeles, California, where they will spend the winter. Her mother, Mrs. Belyea, will accompany them as far as Winnipeg.

Miss Hattie Scott, who has been spending some days in town, returned on Monday to her home in St. John. She was accompanied by Miss Hanson.

MUSQUASH.

Nov. 4.—Mr. and Mrs. March and Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson, of Boston, spent last week at Lock Alva club house.

Mr. Cobb and son, of Boston, are at present up at the Club house.

Mr. W. B. Wallace and Mr. C. A. Clark were here shooting a few days last week.

Mr. McClure seized the opportunity of the Young monument presentation on King square to make an excellent cabinet photograph of the scene. Of course they are fore sale.

Mr. S. E. Webber, former teacher of the C. H. S., is attending the Harvard medical school.

Mr. Archibald Boyd another of our enterprising and ambitious young men is attending Boston university where he is studying law, and has already gained a scholarship.

Mr. John Macdonald has returned from a trip through the provinces.

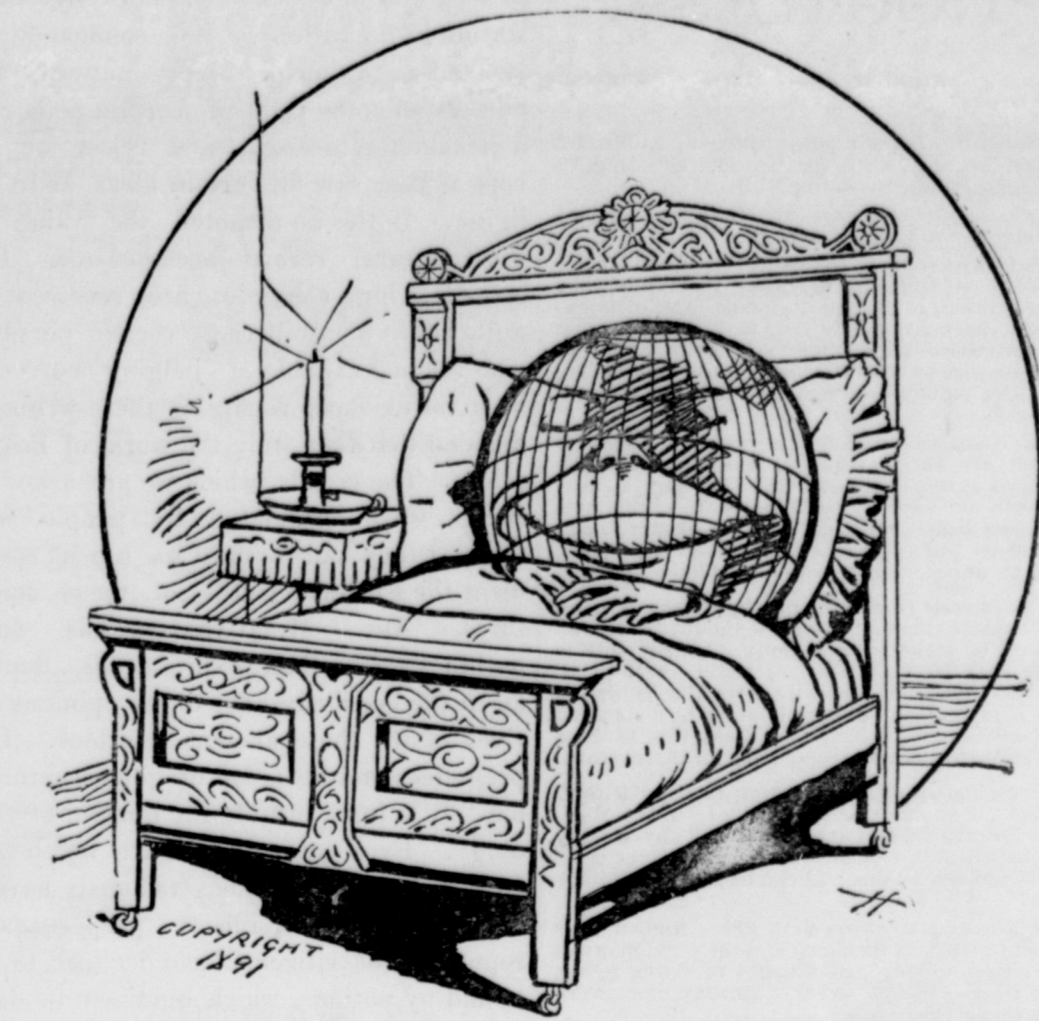
A very enthusiastic meeting of the St. Stephen curling club was held recently, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: J. D. Chipman, president; Henry Graham, vice-president; Rev. Mr. Sloggett, chaplain; J. E. Ganoung, secretary; W. W. Young, treasurer; W. F. Todd and G. W. Ganoung, representative members; C. W. Young, Robert Stevenson, Jas. McKenzie and C. E. Gilmore, managing committee.

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Tickets on sale at Murphy's Music Store. Orchestra Chairs, - - - 75 cents. Dress Circle, - - - 50 " Balcony, - - - 35, 50 and 75 " Gallery, - - - 25 "