

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 and consequential upon the hurder. Looked upon in that light it is

an anti-climax and serves to weaken the legitimate catastrophe.

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. Such a motive might indeed exist in some very low types of mankind, 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. We have therefore the singular torm of a drama of which the story is independent of the active movement, and the active movement entirely devoid of motive. It is a striking illustration of the difficulty of presenting in a concentrated and dramatic form, the story which in the novel is made abundantly clear by the collateral descriptions. The novel was written as a serious satire upon the disgraceful failure of justice through bitions so well patronized, and I am sure and that it should have afforded material for a play which is pleasing, picturesque and strongly interesting in spite of its fallelements of the original story. It certainly gives rise to five characters of very distinct individuality, namely, Lady Ded-

any positive opinion beyond that which was patent to every one; that it was extremely it is as possible for the critic's point of view to be the least satisfactory and cor-

lock, Hortense, Mr. Guppy, Tulking-

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. Lady Dedlock is also a masterful impersonation but suffers from, as I imagine, too great an effort to maintain a high bred air of imperturbable repose, quite unnatural and indeed all but impossible in the circumstances in which the character is placed. Such a conception of the part deprives it of much dramatic force and color of which it is capable. Mr. Rowley's characterization of Mr. Guppy was singularly happy and seemed to have caught exactly the spirit of Dicken's original; that it was his first assumption of the role adds to its merit. Of Mr. Gossin's Tulkinghorn it is not so easy to speak; it is a strikingly picturesque performance and manifests a deep knowledge of stage craft, but it is not the Tulkinghorn of Dickens nor is it a natural portrayal. The reverse treatment to that of Lady Dedlock has been adopted; dramatic color has been introduced until it has changed the character which should be cool, cratty, cunning, imperturbable, and implacable, whereas it is vivid, excitable and even declamatory.

The Krook of Mr. Wilson Deal was in a

high degree excellent from its alternate exhibition of greed, cunning, weakness and cowardice; a quartette of bad qualities usually found together in nature.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Between 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. For an orchestra which has been in existence such a short time, they played very well indeed. Perhaps the best numbers were the "Hammo Concert Overture," the reverie, "Twilight Shadows," by Snow, and the "Hope of Alsaer" overture. The other selections did not seem to have had the same attention bestowed upon them at rehearsal. The soloists were Miss Alice Hea, Miss hearsal. The soloists were Miss Alice Hea, Miss Henderson and Mr. G. L. Titus. Miss Hea's selection was a pretty song by Edith Cooke, "Why Must we say Good-bye." For an encore she gave a bright little thing all about spring flowers, a Maiden and a Butterfly, which pleased the audience immensly. For myself I like Miss Hea better in sacred music. Miss Henderson's solo, "Changeless," by Trotere, was well received and she was obliged to respond to a hearty encore. Mr. Titus sang an exceeding pretty, and to me quite a new song by Baure, "The King and the Minstrel." He was also recalled and sang "The White Rose." I do not think that I ever heard Mr. White play as well as he did in the Fantaisie de Concert, Faust, arranged by Alard, but I was not impressed with his Andante and Rondo, which was not remarkably well played to begin with. However taking the concert from "Raise the Flag," which was not a success musically, to the Flag," which was not a success musically, to the last selection, which was. It was a good concert and I hope to hear the orchestra again in the near

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 Philharmonic club had its rehearsal on Saturday evening at Mr. W. A. Ewing's, Duke

The amateur minstrels have secured a room on Germain street and meet for practice on Tuesday and Saturday evenings. From all I can learn, the minstrels intend to "cover themselves with glory," and even eclipse their former effotts.

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. In the "Hymn of Praise" Mrs. G. H. Perley will sing the second soprano in the beautiful duet "I waited for the Lord." Mrs. Allen will sing the first treble. Many people will, I am sure, look forward with a great deal of pleasure to hearing Mr. Parker sing "Waft her Angels" on the Jephtha night. I only hope that St. John will turn out en masse for these concerts, for the society has worked hard and deserves to be well patronized. and Mr. Parker will be present. Honorary mem-

sol, ta system of teaching singing in the public schools here.

Next Thursday evening there will be a Thanks-giving service in St. John's church. A harvest an-them by Stainer will be sung and setting of the canticles, by Kilvington 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. The dates for the concerts are Thursday, 3rd of December, and Thursday, 11th of February.

The Y. M. C. A. will bring the Fisk Jubilee Singers here in the near future, sometime about the latter part of this month, I think.

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 Oratoria Society, will probably be as follows: Overture to the Daughter probably be as follows: Overture to the Daughter of Jairus, (arranged for harmonium and piano) Miss Goddard and Mr. A. F. M. Custance; recitative and air, "The Soft Southern Breeze," (from Barnby's Rebekah), Mr. Geo. J. Parker; solo, by Miss Alice G. Hea; Aria from Gounod's Queen of Sheba, Mrs. F. Humphrey-Allen; duett for two pianos, Miss Goddard and Mr. James S. Ford; air, "I Greet Thee Now," Schubert, Mr. Geo. J. Parker; air, "Fruhlingsleid," Mendelssohn, Mrs. Allen; solo by Mr. G. S. Mayes; duett, by Cowen, Mrs. Allen and Mr. Parker; concluding with the Hymn of Praise, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Perley, and Mr. Parker, and chorus. Parker, and chorus.

Messrs. C. Flood & Sons have kindly promised

the use of two of the celebrated Ronisch pianos for the duett by Miss Goddard and Mr. Ford.
Thursday, 19th, "Hear My Prayer" and "Jeptha" will be given.

TARBET.

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 also for a beautiful quilt. The fair is given in aid of a new church, and we hope it will be a great success encouraging to the boys to see their exhithe dilatory judiciary system of that day, the spectators felt fully satisfied with the ing short of the canons of dramatic con- took somewhat from the interest of some struction, is a proof of the strong dramatic of the events, but taken as a whole, they were very good.

I was a little disappointed in the foot races, especially in the mile. When there is a handicap of 40 or 60 With regard to the highly conscientious vards on the scratch man, and and meritorious impersonations which have even then the latter hasn't to exert recently been given at the Opera himself, there is but little interest in such house it is more difficult to express an event. I cannot understand, though, why Baxter tries to outrun himself when there is no occasion for it. On Friday of being looked at in different lights and different gradations of light and shade and it is as possible for the critical and to give his competitors such a light and to give his competitors. that he entirely unfitted himself for anything else during the evening. Baxter is a good runner, but he will find it very poor policy if he works on the principle he worked on Friday evening. If he had had a trainer there would have been a strong condemnation of such an exhibition.

> 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 contestants in the running broad jump are at a great disadvantage jumping from the hard boards and lighting on very soft earth. For this reason I consider Vincents exhibit as fine as he has yet made. He is certainly a wonderful jumper and considering everything it puzzles me how he gets over the ground that he does. His style is not that of a great jumper. He has the spring and strength and if he ever gets the knack of carrying himself through the air in better form he ought to add much to his already fine record. However, even now he exceeds by far any athlete in the province in that particular sport.
>
> The high jumping was good but not as

> good as it might have been. The competitors seemed overtrained 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. I must congratulate the Beavers on their fine exhibit in Manchester, Robertson & Allison's windows and I have come to the conclusion that that display accomplished more for the success of the sports than anything else. I have heard nothing but complimentary remarks made of the exhibition there displayed and it was most creditable.

Crowded Every Evening.

The old institute had an experience this week that it has not had for some time. It was crowded every evening with audiences that seemed thoroughly delighted with the show. Zera Semon is one of the best magicians that visits St. John, and is a good ventriloquist. He is a whole show in himself, but on every visit has new attractions that add greatly to the interest of the entertainment. This year his special feature is Nelton, a juggler whose perform ance is something out of the ordinary, and created a good deal of tavorable comment. Another new teature is Master Semon, who made his bow to a St. John audience Monday evening, and became a favorite instantly. The stage setting for the mar-ionettes was much better than formerly, and this part of the performance was as amusing as ever. The most interesting part to hundreds in the audience came last, when the presents were distributed. There was no drawing about it, simply a distribution of useful and fancy articles, some of them expensive, to holders of tickets with numbers on them.

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. Capt. Geo. Goodwin, of the ship Sterling, and

wife, are visiting Mr. John Grafton, Main street. They have just returned from a long voyage to the Pacific coast.

Hon. A. G. Blair and Messrs. F. P. Thompson and Turner Whitehead, ot Fredericton, visited St.

Stephen recently.

Rev. Mr. Haines and wife, of Torrington, Mass., are the guests of Mrs. E. C. Young, Main street, Mr. C. F. Todd has returned from Boston, much

mproved in health. Mrs. S. T. King, of St. John, is the guest of Mrs. Geo. G. King, Calais. The singing of the Union church quartette of Calais in the methodist church on Sunday last was much enjoyed and appreciated by their St. Stephen

Miss Gertrude Woodcock, of Chicago, accompanied by her cousin, Miss Minnie Haycock, who will spend the winter with her, has returned to her home. Miss Woodcock has made a host of friends

during the summer months, who regret her depart-

ure exceedingly.

Mrs. Ella Haycock with her family will pass the winter months at her mother's, Mrs. Benjamin Young's, Main street. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wood, who moved to Calais

recently, will reside in Miss Pike's house, Main Miss Ketchum, of St. Andrews, has been visiting friends in St. Stephen. The ladies of Trinity church, St. Stephen, had a

very successful sale and tea in their vestry last 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 scholar-ship.

Mr. John Murchie has returned from a trip

through the provinces.

A very enthusiastic meeting of the St. Stephen urling club was held recently, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: J. D. Chipman, president; Henry Graham, vice-president; Rev. Mr. Slogget, chaplain; J. E. Ganong, secretary; C. W. Young, treasurer; W. F. Todd and G. W. Ganong, representative members; C. W. Young, Robert Stevenson, Jas. McKenzie and C. F. Gibbors, managing comparities. The election C. E. Gilmore, managing committee. The election of skips was postponed until another meeting. I think the young ladies might be invited to par ticipate occasionally since they certainly can wield the broom with great dexterity and are in excellent trim for it now, having just finished the annual fall house cleaning, but I fear they will be obliged to content themselves with other amusements, such as learning the new dances, the "Providence" and ' which are, I am told, "all the rage," and

will be danced entirely, to the exclusion even of waltzing, which hardly seems possible. The ladies of the catholic church, Calais, have labored assiduously for the success of their fair, which opened Nov 1st, in St. Croix hall. A fine and elaborate display of useful and fancy articles prove the truth of that assertion. An excellent supper will be served each evening. Short entertainments each evening are added to the varied and numerous other attractions. Those taking part are among the best local talent the city affords. The contest for a parlor chair is exciting much interest,

financially.

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

musical programme was also enjoyed.

The gentlemen's Debating club of Calais, of which
Mr. E.B.Harvey is president, has been intensely exciting of late. The first two discussions being: "Resolved that the people of Calais did wrong by voting to aid the Maine Shore Line railroad," 2nd. "Resolved that prohibition in Calais is a failure." With two such lively subjects as these under discuscitement and a war of words.

Mrs. Chas. Anderson has gone to Pittsfield, Mass.,
where she was called by the sudden and serious
illness of her little daughter, who has been visiting

illness of her little daughter, who has been visiting her grand parents there.

Miss Annie King gave an exceedingly pretty "pink tea" on Friday last in honor of her guests, Miss Gertrude Woodcock, of Chicago, and Miss Phæbe Curtis, of Ogdensburg, N. Y. The three young ladies, charmingly gowned and wearing most exquisite pink roses, received their guests in the parlor, which was prettily decorated with plants and Catherine Mermet roses. In the dming room tea and chocotate were dispensed by Miss Helen Foster, who wore a pink mull gown with black lace trimmings, and Miss Alice Boardman, who wore a black lace gown with corsage bouquet of pink flowers. The tables were ornamented with pink china and dainty little sandwiches tied with pink ribbons and almonds served in tiny pink baskets with fancy

A dance was given in Grand Army hall, Calais, on Friday evening last, which was enjoyed by about forty or more of the youths and maidens. Rev. Mr. McCully and daughter have just return-

tic picture.

Mayor McCullough has just returned from a visit The death of Mrs. Sherman Boies at the early age of 26 years, which occurred at the home of mother, Mrs. Fannie Topping, on Saturday last, has cast a gloom over a large circle of friends and acquaintances to whom she was endeared. Her sweet and sunny disposition and her noble and generous qualities won for her many warm friends, by whom she will be sadly missed. Mr. Boies has the sympathy of all in his great bereavement, also Mrs. Topping, who has been called upon to mourn not only the death of a daughter but that of a son and a

little grand daughter, all in less than a year.

The "Round Table" whist club was entertained by Mrs. Wilfred Eaton on Thursday last. Miss Annie King was the fortunate lady this time, winning a beautiful china card receiver in blue and gilt. Mr. Charles Elliot Pike received as his prize gilt. Mr. Charles Elliot Pike received as his prize a handsome case containing a pack of cards and whist counters. Dr. Wood received a tiny pocket-book which contained a small copper with the inscription, "can't play worth a cent," and Miss Carrie Washburn won a fancy duster labelied "dust up your playing." After the game a fine supper was served and then dancing took place. The club will meet with Miss Nellie Smith next week, it having been postponed this week on account of the death of Mrs. Boies who was formerly a member. C. M. W.

GAGETOWN.

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

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. Rev. N. C. Hanson left by the May Queen on Monday to attend the deanery meeting at Sussex

Miss Jarvis, grand-daughter of Mr. Chas. Harding, has been spending a few days with Mrs. De-Veber, at Clairment. She returned on Friday to her home in Prince Edward Island.

Miss Blanche Tibbits has returned from Frederic-The fine weather on Thursday and Friday induced many teachers to attend the Queens county teachers institute which held its session in the grammar school here.
Mrs. Weston, of St. John, is the guest of Mrs. E.

Inspector Whelpley, Mrs. Cox and Miss Jenkins spent Thursday and Friday at Mrs. Simpson's.

Mrs. T. S. Peters returned on Wednesday from

Mrs. 1. S. Feters returned on Wednesday from
her visit to St. John.
Miss Carrie Peters went to St. John on Thursday.
Mrs. Amos Corey, left for St. John on Monday,
accompanied by Miss Annie Knox.
Miss Ella Yerxa, of Boston, spent Sunday here,
the guest of Mrs. Tibbits.
The enisconal church has lately been in the hands the guest of Mrs. Tibbits.

The episcopal church has lately been in the hands of painters. The interior has been kalsomined a deep ivory tint, with terra cotta border. The chancel has been painted a very pretty pale green. This, with the handsome reredos lately erected, adds greatly to the appearance of the church.

Mr. F. B. Ellis, of St. John, spent Sunday at Willow Hall.

Mrs. H. Hall has returned from Rothesay, where mother.
Miss Gabrielle Neales, went to St. John on Monday, by the May Queen.
Mr. John Law was also a passenger by the May

Queen on Monday.

Mrs. Hannah returned to her home in St. John on Thursday last. She was accompanied by Miss Reed. Mrs. Byron and her little daughter, Greta, who have been spending the summer with Mr. Gilbert Williams, returned on Thursday to her home in

Miss Minnie Williams is in town for a few days. Mr. John R. Dunn has returned from a trip Fredericton.
Mr. William Belyea left on Tuesday for St. John to remain a few days.

Miss Vail was the guest of Miss Tibbits during the "Institute." Dr. Bridges, of Oromocto, was in town on Saturday, the guest of Dr. Casswell.

MUSQUASH.

Nov. 4 .- Mr. and Mrs. March and Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson, of Boston, spent last week at Lock

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

Miss Hattie Knight visited in St. John last week. Mrs. G. Clowes, of Oromocto, spent last week at her old home the "Wlllows." Mrs. Chas. Hazen, of Germain street. spent last

week with the Misses Anderson. Mr. Jack Woodford visited here on Sunday last. Mrs. Bedell is spending a few days in St. John. The general public will regret to hear that we are oon to lose our popular hotel-keeper. The orangemen of Guardian lodge intend having

The orangemen of Guardian lodge intend having a ball on November 5th.

Miss Laura Knight, of Bridgetown, N. S., is here visiting her aunt, Mrs. J. E. Knight, sr.

The district lodge of the I. O. G. T. will meet at Musquash on the 18th and will be entertained by Ivanhoe lodge.

Mr. W. B. Wallace and Mr. C. A. Clark were here shooting a few days last week. here shooting a few days last week. Hallowe'en has come and gone and the small boys with their annual fun and tricks remembered it; and there are rumors that some of the "big boys" did not forget it this year also. SIVA.

An Opportunity For a Photographer. 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.



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