

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

This has been a delightful week for amusement seekers. First in their affections has been the opera company, which appeared Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the comic opera of Erminie in the St. Andrew's rink.

I will not attempt to speak of the wonderful charm, sweetness and power of Adelaide Randall's voice, but I wish to add my tribute of praise to the thousands that have been expressed this week.

The audience that gathered in the cosy Andrews the opening evening was very large, fashionable and, best of all, pleased beyond a shadow of a doubt. A word about the improvised theatre. We all remember McDowell and the Lansdowne; well the St. Andrews has all the good qualities of the Lansdowne and none of its bad ones. The acoustic properties of the building seem to have been improved, the scenery is very attractive and the bare open space at the sides of the main body of the house, which were so unattractive in the Lansdowne, have all disappeared-their place has been filled by the century booths which certainly answer an admirable purpose. I might say just here that fashionable St. John have a much kinder feeling toward the rink now, for in the last year or two it has been the scene of some of the ladies most successful and brilliant efforts.

But Erminie with Erminie and its princess and thieves-were they not delightful and laughable? Laughable, did I sayside splitting rather. The best prescription that I know of for a fit of the blues.

There is much acting in Erminie, and a deal of dialogue-none too much, however, when it is carried on by such genuine artists as the "Baron," the "Princess" and the "Marquis" proved themselves. For the benefit of those who have not seen or heard the opera, the story may be told briefly. The affianced of Erminie, who, by the way, is very much in love with another young man, is waylaid by the accomplished Paris street thieves, who rob him of his credentials and elude the pursuit of officers, who are looking for them as escaped prisoners, by assuming the titles of "Marquis" and "Baron," and representing that they have been waylaid and robbed-hence their destitute and deplorable condition. The "Marquis" presents the stolen credentials, is acknowledged by the father of the affianced bride, Erminie, and when the man he has robbed appears on the scene, has him arrested for waylaying him and his friend, the "Baron." The "Baron" cannot adapt himself to his refined surroundings and rid himself of his inclination to appropriate anything and everything of value. His inimitiable make up and abject cowardice when anyone happens to mention words such as "governor," "term," and "guard," with which he has only had a prison acquaintance, form the most amusing feature of the performance. His courtship of the princess, and the events that follow, leading to a happy termination of Erminie's difficulty, afford all of them splendid opportunities to captivate the audience.

There have been larger opera troupes in this city with better orchestras, but none have given the people greater pleasure or satisfaction than the Bijou. The new scenery and the handsome costumes were decidedly attractive features. In the second and third acts the costumes were very elegant and brilliant, yet blended most harmoniously. It is a satisfaction to state that the opera has been very generously patronized.

As much cannot be said for the Institute company, which, though including some good actors, has played under unpopular management to indifferent business. There were not 200 people in the house Tuesday evening, the second night of the muchpuffed play, My Partner.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Things are looking, or beginning to look, a little of ghter in our musical world, with the opera, more of that later, and the other attractions that we have had and those that we are looking forward to.

What a pity it was that the Redpath concert company, which visited us last week, was not patronized more liberally. It was really an awfully good show in its way. Mr. Francis Gilder is an extremely good pianist, as far as execution goes, and made a favorable impression in his own compositions and in the lighter selections on the programme; his technique is excellent, but I liked him least in Mendelssohn's Rondo Cappreccioso-he played it with too little expression. Miss Edith Christie, the violinist, is worthy of very warm praise. Her selections were all remarkably fine. For those who like that sort of thing, no doubt Miss Chamberlain's whistling solos were pleasing, but I cannot say that I cared very much for it. I should say that it needed a very charming woman to make any thing like that attractive, but the majority of the audience were delighted, so I say no more.

I was very pleased to learn the authorities of St. John's church had so kindly granted its use to the Oratorio society for a repetition of Stainer's

Daughter of Jairus, on Thursday, July 9th, at 8.15 p. m. I hear the other selections, two organ solos. "Be thou Faithful unto Death" (St. Paul), by Rev. J. M. Davenport, and the duet from Lobegesang, by Mrs. Carter and Mr. Davenport, who will also in conjunction with Mr. G. S. Mayes take the solos in the Daughter of Jairus. The oratorio and philharmonic societies are working hard to give the work in good style, the practice last Monday night being especially well attended. A very wise step has been taken this time by reducing the price of the tickets to 25 cents, and another innovation has been adopted of issuing a family ticket, to admit five persons, for

taken this time by reducing the price of the tickets to 25 cents, and another innovation has been adopted of issuing a family ticket, to admit five persons, for \$1. Certainly the price asked should keep none away. Any surplus, after paying expenses, will be devoted to charity. Elijah and also The Lay of the Bell are to be postponed until the fall.

Last Sunday concluded Mr. Morley's engagement at the Mission church; falling within the octave of the dedication festival. There was abundant opportunity for musical display, and it was utilized to the fullest extent. Morley's settings of the communion service, "Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis," composed for the Mission church choir were sung: also his "Te Deum" and hymn tunes, "Muriel and Davenport." Unfortunately special psalms were selected which did not give the same scope as those for the 28th day, for his wonderful powers as a Gregorian accompanist. His prelude in the evening was part of a march by his late friend, Tom Hewlitt, the melody of which is most fascinating. For his final voluntary he gave the Priests March from Athalie, played with all his old time vigor. The church was well filled, and I was also pleased to see in the choir some ex-members who came down especially to testify their respect to the organist, with whom they had been so long associated. I think it will be a considerable time before the Mission church has an organist of the talent and experience of Mr. Morley; where he will be sociated. I think it will be a considerable time before the Mission church has an organist of the talent and experience of Mr. Morley; where he will be especially missed will be in the Gregorians which he has made endurable.

TABBET. he has made endurable.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

Two games of ball was the only attraction in the way of sport to be found within the city limits Wednesday, and yet at both games there was plenty of elbow room in the grand stand. How different from last Dominion day, when the grounds were crowded, and other attractions in the city were much more numerous than they were Wednesday! Very few of the old enthusiasts were present, and the crowd was principally made up of friends of the was principally made up of friends of the players, and people who did not go out of town in the morning, and had an afternoon on their hands that they seemed at a loss how to dispose of. I don't think very many people stayed at home for the express purpose of attending the ball games.

Those who spent the afternoon in the Shamrocks' grounds, however, saw some very good, and very exciting base ball. Both clubs went in to win, and the game was anybody's up to the ninth inning. O'Neil pitched for the Thistles in both games, but in the afternoon McGlinchy the mind and die of cold and consequent Robertson & Allison. work until his arm gave out, when O'Neil rather than move 100 yards to windward to went in for a few innings and did good again went into the box. In Fair the Shamrocks have a promising pitcher. He is young, and somewhat nervous, but with a little experience, he will have few equals. Lunney pitched a very good game until the fifth inning, when the Thistles began to bat him unmercifully, and then Morris went in to pitch, and gave the Thistles a little surprise.

The game was a most exciting one, both clubs playing good lively ball and doing their utmost to win. One of the best features was the throwing of catcher Mills to all parts of the field; while Morris also did some good work of the same kind. There were several breaks, however, that that come immediately after, but the whole indicated excitement on the part of the players, and were disastrous, but they were of short duration. The game was played with a spirit and dash that aroused the grand stand to a remarkable extent, and knocked all the indifference out of the

Whether base ball will take its former place again still remains a question after Wednesday. It was a holiday, and the crowd was no larger than usual. There seems to be an idea that it is not so much the kind of ball that is played as who plays it, while others think it unfair that they should be compelled to pay as much to see amateur ball as professional. I have heard the latter argument pretty often lately, but when we consider how little consider. ation money is usually given on a holiday, there doesn't appear to be much in it. However, 35 cents is enough to pay to see a game of amateur ball, and, in St. John the financial aspect of everything is always given more or less consideration.

It is somewhat surprising to hear of outside lacrosse clubs that have never played the game to any great extent defeating or taking goals from a club like the Unions, that has been playing for a year or more. Those who know all about lacrosse can understand it readily, but to the inexperienced it seems strange. However, it simply goes to show that the boys in the lower provinces have a great deal to learn about lacrosse. As it is played down here the athlete, no matter how little knowledge of the game he may have, gets there every time. But with a player who can play lacrosse, and is not a sprinter, he would not be "in it." There is a great deal of unnecessary running done during a lacrosse game between third or fourth rate clubs. Good players can throw the ball from one to the other in such a way that at times the spectators cannot follow it, while new players are unable to do this and ininvariably throw it over the man's head and then the best runner gets it. There is considerable science in lacrosse, well played, but one has to learn it like everything else, and the enthusiasts in this city thing else, and the enthusiasts in this city the science is a preparation that no household should be without. think that when the people are as well acquainted with the game as they are with base ball that it cannot help being popular. The Wanderer-Union game in this city was largely attended and many tormer base ball enthusiasts whom I have met since say that it would not take many more such games to get them "worked up" on la-

The races at Moosepath drew a good crowd Wednesday afternoon, and they Price 50c. per bottle; Six bottles for \$2.50. were exciting enough for anything. There has been considerable comments as to the cause of the collision, but the decision of the judges seems to have met with general satisfaction.

Jack and Jill. satisfaction.

Sporting Talk from Halifax.

JUNE 30.—Half the series between the Sociais and Mutuals has been completed, and the latter have won five of the six games played. This is most creditable to that club, and much of their success is creditable to that club, and much of their success is due to the fact that they have presented almost the same nine in every game. Their opponents have done likewise in the past two games, and are now in playing form, and have every confidence of being able to defeat the Mutuals, in the majority of the games yet to be played. The great contest of June 22 has revived the interest considerable, which another good game would increase.

other good game would increase.

The time is now ripe for a game between St. John and Halifax, and there should be no difficulty in arranging a contest. Capt. Power, of the Mutuals, communicated with some friends of the Shamrocks. communicated with some friends of the Shamrocks some time ago towards arranging games, but received no definite answer. A St. John correspondent suggests that a team picked from the Y. M. C. A's and Shamrocks play a series with a Halifax nine. Capt. Power, on reading the above state ment, said: "We would like to arrange a game with St. John; we will not pick a team, but the Mutuals will play either the Y. M. C. A.'s or Shamrocks a series of games, two in each city, or will play a picked St. John nine. If a fifth game is will play a picked St. John nine. If a fifth game is necessary, this could be easily arranged for. Such contests would be interesting, but it would be more contests would be interesting, but it would be more like business if the winners of the most games in each city were to arrange a series for the championship of the maritime provinces, and only those who had played in these two nines this season be allowed to play. This would be more conducive to team work, and would give a club the honor of holding the championship instead of a picked team of players. The clubs might agree on a trophy or foul flags for the winners. Let the secretaries of the various clubs commence to work up the scheme and communicate with each other.

and communicate with each other.

St. John and Halifax base-ballists had a contest last week, but it was not on the ball field, but in a large room in which Judge Johnston of the county court was the umpire. The Haligonian had a half dozen names on their score card—Manager Esdaile, which is the strengen's pine. White Daw. Power, captain of last season's nine, White, Dawson, Fitzgerald and Smith—but all did not appear, and there were not as many on the players' bench as might be expected. Two legal gentlemen acted as might be expected. Two legal gentlemen acted as captain and vice-captain, and the St. John men had lawyers as captains for their side. There was not much playing, but a long protracted argument, in which the umpire had evidently decided he had a knotty question to settle, and wanted to hear all the testimony before deing so though at the continuous hear all the testimony before doing so, though at one time he remarked that the room was not the place to settle this dispute — they should go on the field, and the Halifax captain remarked they were willing to do so, provided the burly crier of the court was allowed to officiate as umpire. The of the court was allowed to officiate as umpire. The dispute was entirely different to that which happen in the games; this was about a game that was to be played in St. John last year, and the Socials were guaranteed \$150 to play the St. Johns, but the latter team had visited Halifax the previous week, where they presented a game to the Socials, in consequence of which they could not obtain grounds, and the Socials never received the guarantee. They now want this umpire to award them the \$150; the captains of both sides kicked vigorously; the Haligonians claim that the written guarantee is all that is to be considered, while the St. John men claim there was a mutual understanding that the guarantee is all that is to be considered, while the St. John men claim there was a mutual understanding that the guarantee is all that is to be considered in the standard or the standard o

The Foolish Sheep.

"No animal that walks on four feet is as big a fool as a sheep." says a sheep raiser. 'We have to watch them every minute and it vigilance is relaxed for an instant the entire flock is likely to practically commit suicide. In handling most animals some degree of self help or intelligence can be re-lied on to aid the owner in saving their lives, but sheep seem to set deliberately to work to kill themselves. If caught in a the wind and die of cold and exposure obtain shelter in their corral. To drive sheep against the wind is absolutely impossible. I once lost over 1,000 head because I could not drive them to a corral not 200 feet away. In the corral they are still more foolish. If a storm comes up they all move 'down wind' until stopped by the fence. Then begins the proceeding so much dreaded by sheepmen, known as 'piling.' The sheep will climb over each other's backs until they are heaped up ten feet high. Of course, all those at the bottom are smothered. Not one has sense enough to seek shelter under the lee of the fence, as a horse or a dog would do. Again, if a sheep gets into a quicksand its fate teaches nothing to those flock will follow its leader to destruction. No more exasperatingly stupid brute than a sheep walks."-New York Tribune.

He Was Paid Up to Date.

Landlady-"Strawberries appear to be quite plentitul this year." Boarder (significantly)-"Yes, I notice bushels of them in market."-Washington Star.



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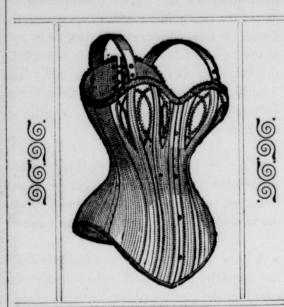
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