

AT THE OLD LYCEUM. THE "MARBLE HEART" A GREAT FAVORITE.

Price Webber Gives an Amusing Incident in Which the Property Man had a Part—A German Who Didn't Say Anything—Boucault in St. John.

The recent performance of the drama of the Marble Heart in St. John brings up recollections of the time when the piece was a great favorite at the old Lyceum, and I well remember how finely it was given and what a great furor it created.

This was in the realistic drama London by Night, and Mr. Augustin Daly, some twenty-two years afterwards incorporated the same effect in the popular play Under the Gaslight.

The cast of the Marble Heart at Lanergan's St. John Theatre, when I first saw it was, nearly as I can recollect as follows:

- Phidias.....Claude Hamilton
Gorgias.....J. W. Lanergan
Diogenes.....N. T. Davenport
Alcibades.....M. W. Fiske
Strabon.....H. R. Lampee
Lais.....Mrs. Lanergan
Aspasia.....Mary Sherlock
Phryne.....Clara Seabrook
Thea.....Mrs. Claude Hamilton
Drama.
Raphael Duchette.....Claude Hamilton
Ferdinand Viologe.....N. T. Davenport
Mons Vendouze.....M. W. Fiske
Viscount Chateau Margaux.....H. R. Lampee
Lori Merton.....W. H. Danvers
Frederick de Courcy.....J. S. DeBony
John.....H. R. Lampee
Madame Duchette.....Louisa Morse
Marco.....Mrs. Lanergan
Clementine.....Mary Sherlock
Feodora.....Madeline Hardy
Nimetta.....Clara Seabrook
Marie.....Mrs. Claude Hamilton

All the above performers I have accounted for in previous notices of the Lyceum, except Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hamilton, who were English artists, and excellent ones, too, and who were playing a star engagement with Mr. Lanergan, and I think the above drama was their first night's performance.

I remember a very funny incident in connection with the Marble Heart, when I was playing in the piece some years ago. The property man had been sent to borrow a few small statues and sculptor's tools to be used in the performance, and had met some friends with whom he had a jollification, and saw "things through a glass darkly." The time arrived for the curtain to go up, but no property man or properties had been seen, and we had to commence the piece. Just as "Gorgias" comes to carry away the sculptured beauties, and "Phidias" steps before them to prevent him, we were horrified to see our property man walk on the stage with an uncertain and wavy gait, dressed in his every-day clothes, having a small bust of some celebrated statesman under each arm.

I think I saw it stated in your columns a while ago, that the late Dion Boucault never played in St. John. I am under the impression that when I first came to your city I saw a programme on file in the printing establishment of G. W. Day (who I used to work for) containing the announcement of the appearance of Mr. Boucault at a benefit performance for his wife, known as Agnes Robertson, and I am pretty sure that the pieces produced on that occasion were the "Life of an Actress," with Mr. Boucault as "Grimaldi," and the comedy of the Irish Diamond in which the talented actor appeared as "Ignatius Mulrooney." Miss Robertson playing "Violet" in the first named piece, and "Anly Blake" in the last, assisted by Mr. Lanergan, George Becks, James Taylor, Annie Hyatt and Louisa Morse.

Curious mistakes are made sometimes on the stage. I remember once when we were playing the drama of the French Spy, that the actor who was doing the part of "Captain Didier" made a funny mistake. He should have said: "Excellent! why, colonel, you have a warm pangyrist here."

"Excellent! why, colonel, you have a warm pianist here."

The piano player in the orchestra happened to be a German, and to the intense amusement of all, he shouted: "Dot vos a meestake. I said nodings!"

In my next I will refer to some of Mr. J. B. Buckstone's dramas, and who were in the cast, when Mr. Lanergan placed them on the boards.

H. PRICE WEBBER.

A Pretty Little Table. A very pretty table is now being shown by Mr. C. E. Reynolds, Charlotte street. It bids fair to become quite popular judging by the number sold already.

A cut of this table appears in the advertisement on page thirteen, but one should visit the store if he wishes to see all its good points—and a number of other attractive bits of furniture.

VERY SUITABLE PRESENTS.

"Astra" Makes Some Valuable and Seasonable Suggestions.

I wish very much that I had time and space for a column on Christmas presents! So many correspondents ask me about them, and so, though I cannot give a column, I will offer a few suggestions to the poor girls who are racking their brains for ideas in the way of not-too-expensive presents, especially for their gentlemen friends. Nearly every man is pleased with a gift, however trifling, which he can really put to some use; for instance I never knew a man who failed to appreciate and really use a handkerchief case, particularly the kind which is made like a book, with the two pockets inside to hold the handkerchiefs, one pocket for silk, and the other for linen ones. You know men are always losing their handkerchiefs, and chasing them around from one bureau drawer to another, so that it is a real comfort to have only one thing to chase instead of a dozen, to know that as soon as you spy a patch of bright colored plush, you have reached your Mecca, and all your handkerchiefs are directly under your hand without further search.

A lovely combination is peacock blue plush lined with pale pink silk or satin. I think it is much prettier plain than quilted. The pockets inside are of the satin, and the case itself is very like the linen covers we used to make, or get our mothers to make, for our books when we went to school. Embroider your friend's initials on one pocket, and a spray of small flowers, daisies or forget-me-nots on the other. Place a bow of ribbon on one corner of the outside, but omit the usual string, as no man on earth will take the trouble of untying them every time he opens his case, and be sure to put plenty of sachet powder between the plush and the lining.

Another trifle that a man always likes is a well perfumed sachet, to put amongst his handkerchiefs. Make it a good size; at least five inches square, and embroider or paint, initials on one side, and flowers, or ferns on the other. A necktie case is another thing easily made, but not quite so useful, because it is so much trouble to tuck the neckties smoothly in, that most men prefer tossing them in a wisp in the drawer. A photograph case of plush, lined with satin is always useful to a man, who never knows what to do with his collection of photos, and a dress shirt shield is a perfect boon to the tired soul whose spirit has grown weary of trying to keep a silk handkerchief from slipping off the shiny bosom of his dress shirt, into which he dare not stick a pin to keep it in place. The pattern is published by Butterick, and only costs ten cents. The outside is of black silk or satin, and the lining of quilted satin in pale pink, blue, or cream.

A collar and cuff box is another welcome present, but that must be bought, as I do not think it could be made at home. I know I could not make one, and I am considered very clever with my fingers, as the saying is. A pair of worked slippers is a charming Christmas gift, but a very expensive one, as no girl would think of giving a man an unmade pair, or if she did she ought not to, as no one should ever give a present which will entail expense upon the recipient, and slippers are useless until they are made up. For one's lady friends there are a hundred and one trifles such as fan bags, sachet bags, table scarfs, easel scarfs, saddle bag cushions, photograph frames, tea cloths and table mats. Dolls will always delight the hearts of little girls, and a doll's Tam o' Shanter cap, or tiny muff and storm collar, made of a bit of fur which is sure to be lying around the house somewhere, would be a joy for ever, or until they were worn out. I really don't know what one could give a little boy, unless a jack-knife, or skates, but these are only a few suggestions, you know.

How to Use the Telephone.

Some practical hints as how to use the telephone have recently been published, and some of them are well worth repeating. One man will get right up to the telephone and say what he has to say loud enough to be heard a square away. The next one stands away back and does the same thing, while a third will almost whisper into the instrument. There is only one way to talk through a telephone, and that is "Central" might be saved a world of trouble and undeserved abuse if all users would carefully learn and follow it. That way is to stand just a little back and talk in an ordinary tone, as if you were talking to a man a couple of feet away instead of one, two or more miles away over a wire. Don't yell, don't whisper; simply speak in an ordinary tone and distinctly. The words are carried by electricity, not by the force of your enunciation. The instrument is not like a deaf man, but, on the other hand, it is extremely sensitive.—Chicago News.

Blown in by the Wind.

A number of very attractive calendars have been left at PROGRESS Office this week. One of the prettiest is from O. H. Warwick. It is a handy size, and the designer instantly attracts attention.

Messrs. Knowlton and Gilchrist, agents of the Phoenix Insurance Company, send out two calendars, a large one that can be seen from any part of the office, and a small desk card with the Phoenix seal in red.

The Guardian has changed its design this year, and the calendar is even more attractive than before.

Another very pretty calendar was received from Mr. A. C. Fairweather, of the Commercial Union.

To Sharpen a Razor.

A great many men who find that their razors can not be kept in order by a common leather strop buy the sort of strop used by barbers, imagining that with this the razor can be kept in perfect condition. They are generally greatly disappointed to find that their razors cut no better than before. The fault is not with the razor nor with the strop, but in their not knowing how to use a barber's strop. To sharpen a razor with a barber's strop requires not only considerable strength, but also a peculiar swing of the wrist. Unless this he learned the more you strop a razor the less it will cut.

AUNTIE'S OBSERVATIONS.

What a Bright Smile Means to the Family Circle.

From the quiet little corner I fill in life, I see a great many things that I have often thought might be of benefit to some one, and cause them to look a little more closely into their every day lives, and, perhaps endeavour to live a little more, as they would have the world believe they live. Ah, me! these hearts, these tongues of ours. How little we know each other! Sometimes I wish I might speak the words that rush to my lips, but dare not, lest those to whom they are addressed would not take them in the kindly spirit with which they are spoken. Alas! I know too well by bitter experience that "Silence is Golden," therefore I use my pen, wishing with my whole heart to add my mite, hoping it might help some one along the weary way. So many helpful words are spoken now-a-days, that it would seem to be quite impossible that any more could be said upon any subject, but so many queer things happen, that I can only come to one conclusion, either, that people do not read what is written, or that they do not read with a desire to learn and profit by that which they read.

How many times, when the little foxes were troublesome, have I sat down and read some helpful article written to mothers, and taught me that mine were not the only troubles existing, and that if I only could muster the required patience, and look out from a pair of clear glasses, I should presently laugh at that, which before, seemed to be a veritable mountain of misery. Let us take life more cheerfully; let not the little worries control us, until we are their slaves, and lose all our sweetness and love; but let us fling them to one side, laugh at them, and go on with a smiling face that will make those about us feel like smiling too; to see how it feels you know.

I am often in the company of one who is so despondent over the slightest trifle, that it is misery to live in the house with her at times. If Monday morning dawns cloudy and muggy, as in our city by the sea so often occurs, her face is quite as mournful as the day, her mouth is down at the corners, her voice sounds as if she had lost all her friends and the whole house is rendered uncomfortable by her despondency; and all because God has caused the sweet rain to fall, or from some cause or other nature has not seen fit to smile. Ah, me! how little it matters after all. I would not wish my husband out to his day's work, my little ones to school, with the recollection of the face I presented at breakfast; with the sound of that doleful voice ringing in their ears, for all the washings that were ever done on this earth! Think of how depressing an effect such things have upon even common acquaintances, and then judge how they must affect the feelings of those who love us, and look to us for help and strength. The mother must be cheerful, and no matter how homely her face, it is then sweet to those at home. A breakfast with sweet, hopeful words is more to be valued than the best of food with a doleful, disconsolate face for its accompaniment. It fits the husband for his duties; when he meets his vexatious annoyances he will, in spite of himself, think of the sweet, cheerful face he left behind him in the little home.

On the other hand the husband and children of my doleful friend loiter by the way; they are rendered sour and cross before they go out to face life for the day. They feel that it is no use to be pleasant, that every one is cross and every hand against them. The husband is sharp with his employees, the children sulky at school, the servant goes about her work, feeling that she is to have a doleful morning; that, no matter how cheery she is, nothing can remove the cloud from the face of her mistress, in fact she does not dare to be cheery as her mistress seems to think it a sin to smile, and accuses her of "not caring if the clothes ever get a day or not. She has no interest in the work, etc., until everything gets in a muddle, and when the rest of the family return, things have gone wrong all round, and the dinner is eaten with anything but thankful hearts, and indigestion hovers threateningly near. Love is fluttering out at the window, then, for no "little god of love" will remain in such an atmosphere. Sisters be cheerful, try it and see what magic power it possesses, you will never believe the effect it will have on your faces, your homes, your servants, and all with whom you come in contact. The very beggar who comes to your door is helped on his way by a bit of your sunshine, if you have nothing more to give him give him a helpful word. No human being can place the limit upon influence. The influence of a smiling cheerful face! Who can tell what it may accomplish, what its worth may be to those thrown in contact with it.

When the summing up of all our little acts shall take place, how amazed we shall be to know that a little sympathy, a few bright words of encouragement, helped some discouraged soul into a better life; and how great is our regret, that that which cost us so little should not have been more liberally dealt out; aye, scattered everywhere and at all times. We will have some grand surprises I fancy on that day. The great things that we have flattered ourselves have been accepted by God, and placed to our credit, will, I fear, be sadly wanting, while the little, sweet kindly thoughts, words and deeds, will, to our amazement, be like diamonds glittering through the pages of our life's history, and the "drops of cold water" will be considered of such importance, that we will wonder why we never thought of life in that way, so easy it would have been to have done only those simple things. Ah! it is not so easy to be cheerful, encouraging and tender; but it frequently costs a great effort, though we are repaid a thousand fold, by the effect upon, not only ourselves, but those about us. AUNTIE MAY.

A New Restaurant.

There will be another restaurant on Prince William street, and the situation will be most advantageous for business men. Mr. J. D. Turner has leased the store in the Pugsley building, formerly occupied by the Halifax banking company, and intends to give the new establishment a reputation equal to the one on King square. And everybody knows what that means.

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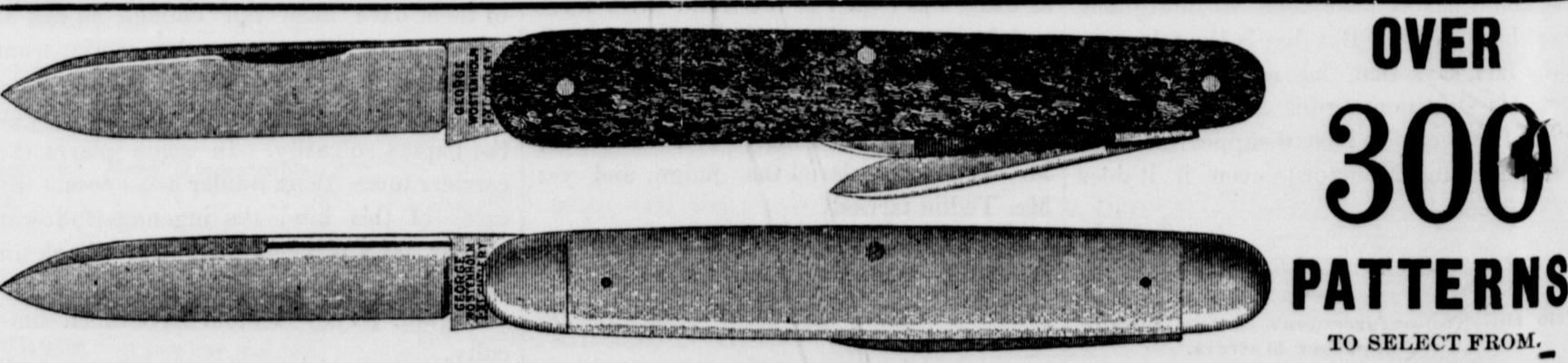
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