



TALK OF THE THEATRE.

If I were to talk of the bills that have been spread before the public here in Boston since I last wrote you, you would require an extension to your already good sized paper, therefore I will have to pick and choose as seems best to myself.

At the Columbia, Mr. Wilkinson's Widows still delight and perplex full houses, and no change of bill will take place for a short time. This beautiful theatre has become quite a favorite resort.

I dropped into the Grand Opera house a short time ago to see a new piece by the well-known dramatic critic Nym Crinkle (A.C. Wheeler) and it was glaring instance of the fact that a dramatic critic cannot write a play. This one is named Jacob Royal of the Grand, and is supposed to be a story of the New York draft riots at the time of the war, but it might as well be a story of anything else. It is bad, woefully bad, lacks plot, incident, consistency, dialogue and in fact everything that goes towards making up a play. Its only interest to me was the presence of the St. John favorites in the cast, Miss Mary Hampton, Mr. J. H. Bunny and Mr. Lindsay Hurst. Miss Hampton is playing leading lady in this piece and doing very good work with a most unsatisfactory part, a part far and away beneath her abilities. Miss Hampton has improved very much since she was in St. John and is well and favorably known to the public and the managers. She has done some very good work indeed in several New York productions, notably in The Merchant, Money Mad, The Louisiana and Mighty Power. She is handsome, clever and attractive, and will be heard from in the near future as a prominent member of the profession. Mr. Bunny was, of course, doing the comedy, and as usual doing it well; the genial Jack has deserted the ranks of the bachelors and assumed the cares of a husband. He left the company a short time ago and is now in Portland, Oregon, where he is engaged in the stock company of that city, not only as an actor but in the more responsible and onerous position of stage director. He chooses all the plays, casts them and superintends the performance. He told me he intended to make the theatre in Portland one that would stand second to none in the country in the manner in which the plays would be put on, and as our friend is a worker he will keep his word. Mr. Hurst was also doing his part in Jack Royal very well, as he does everything he undertakes.

The Tremont theatre has just now one of the season's successes on its boards, Alabama, one of the sweetest, prettiest, most home-like pieces I have ever seen. The scene is laid on a southern plantation some years after the war, and the characters are nearly all Southerners. The plot is simple and hinges on the difficulties besetting the path of a young Northerner to win the hand of a Southern girl. The setting was perfection, and the St. John contingent that sat in front of the curtain all agree that the moonlight set in the third act was a scenic gem that has rarely been surpassed.

At the Hollis, the Kendalls have played a splendid two weeks engagement. Nobody goes to see these estimable people with the idea that they will see a great performance as neither Mr. nor Mrs. Kendall are great actors, but you are always sure of seeing a pleasing, clean cut, and artistic performance. I saw them in a pretty little modern comedy The Queen's Shilling, and in an afterpiece The Happy Pair, in which latter your correspondent has to take part shortly "for sweet charity's sake."

The Hanlon Brothers have been taking us to fairyland by the way of their spectacular piece Sumpna and the children and those of larger growth have laughed and wondered at the beautiful piece.

Manager Field of the Museum is determined to give the public variety, for last week he put in another new play The Sailor's Knot and of course as is usual with Museum pieces a hit was made and large audiences are sent away every evening delighted.

At the Boston, grand opera has charge, and Minnie Hank supported by a splendid company has been pleasing the musical people, and turning money into the treasury. They have played a splendid round of operas, and all the principals have scored successes. Two of them are new to Boston, but they have both established themselves as favorites. Madame Pasta-Tavary possesses a beautiful soprano voice, strong, flexible, and sweet; she has quite an amount of dramatic power, and her work has been very highly commended by the musical critics. M. Montaroli, the tenor, has also placed himself high in the opinion of opera goers. His voice is magnificent, being resonant, sweet and true as a lily, besides which he is a good actor, which is rather rare in tenors, or in fact in any operatic artists. The prima donna herself requires no notice; she is well enough known, and were she to confine her reputation only to her performance of Carmen that would be sufficient to place her in the first rank as singer and actress.

The Park theatre still attracts crowds to see Neil Burgess in The County Fair, and I suppose will do so till the end of the season.

We are promised no end of good people and fine performances. The divine Sara, the charming Rosina Vokes, and a host of others, of some of whom I hope from time to time to give you my opinion.

PROSCENIUM.

H. Price Webber and his Boston

Comedy company are meeting with wonderful success in Halifax, according to the newspapers. This is the way the Mail puts it: "Houses jammed to suffocation have been the rule since the popular Webber opened in the lyceum under engagement to Prof. Semon for a few evenings. This is something all should feel pleased at, and the manner in which the plays have been rendered is worthy of the highest praise. The company is good, reciting their lines intelligently, acting their characters correctly, and costuming them in a very superior manner. The leading lady, Edwina Grey, is an established Halifax favorite, and is undoubtedly one of the most versatile actresses that has ever visited us. Price Webber is an always welcome comedian, and he has the happy faculty of knowing when to leave well alone, and his fun is clean and wholesome, provoking hearty laughter. Mr. Wilson Bennett is a very good actor, as are also Messrs. Croble, Bedell and Powers, and the rest of the company leave nothing to be desired."

The Hi Henry minstrels, which open Monday evening in the opera house for a three night's engagement, have an enviable reputation. It is a splendid show, full of clean, honest fun that no man need object to his wife or sister listening to. To show how strict the management is in this regard: one of the company introduced a local "gag" at a recent performance, the penalty for which was his dismissal. He travels with the show no longer.

Always Appropriate.

Some things are always useful and are appropriate for a gift at any time. Among them is that friend of the housewife a carpet sweeper. Men who have never "pushed a broom" have no idea of the comfort a carpet sweeper is in the house, the absence of dust and other advantages that might be named. Any further information and the favorite sweeper Bissels can be obtained at Skinner's carpet warehouses.

A Useful Book.

Messrs. J. & A. McMillan will shortly publish the second edition of A Word Book of English History, by Rev. J. deSoyres, M. A. It contains brief explanations of technical terms and phases found in history, and will be of much interest and assistance to those who are now giving attention to this subject.

Please a Child's Fancy.

Those who are looking for something new and, at the same time instructive, should glance at the announcement of C. & E. Burnham elsewhere—the combined blackboard and writing desk. It is cheap and handy and would delight many a studious child at this season.

Results Apparent Already.

Mr. Eager says that large orders for Phospholein are coming in already as the result of his page advertisement in last week's PROGRESS.

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 banisters) 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 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 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 in by Miller Bros. of the city, who are the particular agents. Their pianofortes are particularly fine in tone and are giving every satisfaction.

MILLER BROS., Granville street, at the recent exhibition, received three diplomas on their organ and piano exhibition.

Christmas Presents!



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HARCOURT.

[PROGRESS is for sale at Mrs. S. J. Livingston's grocery store, Harcourt.

Dec. 8.—Inspector O'Brien was at the Eureka on Thursday and Friday, and went to Bathurst by Saturday's mid-day train.

Mr. William W. Powell, of the I. C. R., Moncton, accompanied by Mrs. Powell, were at the Central on Saturday, and went down to Mols River in the afternoon.

Mr. Bliss Bailey and family left by train on Friday for Boston, where they will spend the winter.

Hon. Senator Snowball was at the Central today, en route to St. John.

Mrs. H. W. Craigie left here on Sunday morning for Halifax to take the S. S. Caspian for England. Mrs. C. will spend a few months among relatives on the other side of the water.

Mr. James O. Fish, of Newcastle, and Mr. C. E. Cole, of Moncton, were at the Eureka on Monday. Mr. J. J. MacLean, representing the Moncton Paper Mills Co., was at the Eureka this morning.

Rev. J. H. Cameron was at the Central on Friday. Mr. Alex. Walker, of Mols River, Mr. James McNair, of Galloway, and Mr. James Grierson, of Richibucto, left here by train last night. Mr. Walker going to St. John, Mr. McNair to St. John, and Mr. Grierson to Moncton.

Mr. John M. C. Hannay and family left here on last Thursday evening for Stockton, California. Miss Stevenson, of Mols River, went by the same train to Los Angeles, Cal.

Mrs. Edward Walker, of Bass River, returned on Saturday morning from Cornwall, Ont., where she has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Hodges.

Mrs. William G. Millar left by this afternoon's train on a visit to New Jersey. Mr. Henry Wilson boarded this afternoon's train for Boston, to consult some of the leading physicians in that city.

Mr. Harry Fillmore, of the I. C. R., spent Sunday at Mortimore Arms, the guest of the Misses Graham.

Mr. Harry Wilson returned from Eel River station on Saturday morning and went to Col Branch station, where he is now acting agent.

Mr. James R. Ayer, of Sackville, was in town today.

Mr. William Lawson returned from Richibucto on Thursday, and will probably remain here this winter.

Mr. John W. Miller, of Millerton, was at the Central today on his return from Moncton.

Mr. John O'Neil, of the Central, went to Moncton by this afternoon's train.

Mr. John Stevenson, Jr., of Richibucto, is learning telegraphy and being instructed in the duties of a station agent here by Mr. Isaac B. Humphrey.

Mr. K. F. Burns, M. P., registered at the Eureka on Friday en route to St. John.

Miss Moore, one of the oldest employees of the I. C. R., was at the Eureka yesterday going north to witness a ceremony in which his son Fred takes a prominent part.

Miss Neene Black, of Richibucto, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Dr. Keith.

Mr. W. W. McLellan was at the Eureka this evening.

CAMPBELLTON.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Campbellton at the store of A. E. Alexander, wholesale and retail dealer in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hardware, school books, stationery, furniture, carriages and machinery.

Dec. 8.—Mrs. E. B. Price entertained a number of her young friends to a soiree, last Wednesday evening. All sorts of amusements were participated in, but the feature of the evening was dancing. The party which lasted till two hours, was a very enjoyable one. Among the ladies present were: Miss Maud Johnson, Miss Bertie Stewart, Misses Minnie and Lizzie Henderson, Miss Moore, Miss Bessie McKenzie, Miss McBeath, Miss Effie Johnson.

Mrs. Harry Gorham and family left here last night for the west where she will join her husband.

Mrs. John Giroux and Mrs. J. B. Hayes, of Charlo, were the guests of Mrs. McIntyre, yesterday.

Miss Clara Allingham left by this morning's train for Moncton, where she has numerous friends.

Messrs. Geo. A. Rudolph Maria, and S. McKeen, of Moncton, are in town today.

Mr. Sammie Burns, of the G. N. W. telegraph office here, is visiting his relatives and friends in Norton and Moncton. His duties while away, are well filled by Mr. Theo. DeWitt, of Moncton, whose courtesy and kindness delights Sam.

Two of our popular young men, Messrs. George McKenzie and H. Wathen, finding it difficult to while away an idle hour or two in our (at this season of the year) quiet town, planned a visit to an old friend of theirs, Mr. Alex. Smith, who at present resides near Metapedia. Their hope of passing a pleasant afternoon listening to the entertaining stories of their host was, however, doomed to end in disappointment. After walking from the station they found that their friend had left home and secured his door by a padlock. Our friends waited long enough to miss their return train, and after an agreeable wait at the station for the night express they returned home sadder, but wiser, proving to their own satisfaction the truth of Burns' couplet, "The best laid schemes of mice and men, gang aft a-gley."

Mrs. S. Lauchlan, New Mills, is in town under the doctor's care, but I am glad to say, is fast improving.

Hon. J. C. Barberie, of Dalhousie, was in town yesterday.

ST. ANDREWS.

Dec. 7.—The gentlemen's whist club met last at Mr. Durell Grimmer's and enjoyed a very pleasant evening as everyone who does who spends it in that house.

SUSSEX.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Sussex by R. D. Boal and S. H. White & Co.]

Dec. 9.—To the enthusiast in winter sports the unusually mild weather so far has been rather dampening. And it certainly is provoking to have just enough snow to cover the ground but not enough for sleighing, which has been the case here several times. However the beautiful ice on the ponds compensate for the absence of snow, and during several days last week it was a treat that was enjoyed by many of the lovers of skating. Quite a party gathered at a pond in Mr. J. M. Kinnear's field on Friday evening and had a merry time.

The indoor amusements for the winter fortunately do not depend on the weather and they have already begun in earnest. On Thursday evening a very successful sociable was held at the residence of Mrs. James Ryan. It was organized by the Misses Alice Ryan and Annie Thompson and certainly reflects much credit on the fair managers. An excellent programme was well carried out. Mr. W. R. Burdette made his first appearance before a Sussex audience, especially won great applause for his recitation. The duet by Dr. and Mrs. Daly was very fine, and the solos by Dr. White admirably rendered.

The second in the series of social dances to be held in the Oddfellows hall, takes place on Thursday next, and it seems to be the favorite day for amusements, for on the same evening the members of the reformed episcopal church hold a sociable at the residence of Mr. Mrs. Robert McLean. Mr. and Mrs. Trites' for their first sociable of the season.

Mr. T. E. Arnold spent Thursday in St. John. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilson are pleased to hear that she is recovering from her serious illness.

Mr. Tom Perkins, of St. John, was in town on Friday and was the guest of Mrs. Murray Heustis.

Mrs. Arthur Daniel, of St. John, is at the Depot House with her son and daughter-in-law. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Daniel, Mr. Daniel is ill and confined to his bed and Mrs. Daniel has also been quite ill with an attack of congestion of the lungs.

Mr. J. Raymond, of Spryfield, is in town, the guest of Mrs. G. H. Raymond.

Col. E. B. Beer was in St. John on Monday.

Mrs. S. Hayward, of St. John, made a short visit to town on Friday and was the guest of her mother, Mrs. James Ryan.

Mr. C. W. Stockton is spending a few days in Eelton.

The flag is flying on Dominion building today in honor of Hon. Geo. E. Foster, minister of finance at Ottawa, who is spending a few days in town.

Mrs. Selkie, of Moncton, who has been spending a few weeks with Mrs. McLean at the Depot House, returned home on Saturday accompanied by Mrs. Dunbar.

Mr. C. B. Kinnear was in St. John on Tuesday.

The members of Trinity church are making preparations for the decorating of the church at Christmas. Yesterday evening a few met in the parish room and made a start. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings have been appointed for this work at which in the years past the good people of Trinity church have spent many jolly evenings. May the future have many more just as pleasant in store for them.

RICHIBUCTO.

Dec. 9.—We have had a lovely snow storm this week, which has made excellent sleighing. If Jack Frost would only take us in his grip and turn our river into a solid before the moonlight nights pass away, we would be able, for a short time at least, to relieve the dull monotony of existence, and enjoy ourselves.

Messrs. Geo. McLeod and Walter Lantulum, of St. John, were in town last week.

Rev. Wm. Alden, of Newcastle, preached in Chatham church Sunday evening.

Mr. James Grierson left on Monday for Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. J. T. Bell's friends regret to hear that there is no hope of his recovery.

Mr. J. D. Phinney, M. P. P., of Fredericton, is in town this week. He leaves shortly to spend the winter in the west.

Mr. Charles Cole, of Moncton, was in town last Friday.

The scholars of the different schools are preparing for a grand concert to be held just before the Christmas vacation.

Mrs. Whitman Hains, of Newcastle, spent Sunday in town.

Mr. Herbert Irving, of Buctouche, was in town on Monday, the guest of his son-in-law, Mr. John Savourel.

Mr. Morley Sellar leaves today for Boston, where he has accepted a lucrative position.

Mrs. Lizzie Irving and Mrs. J. Irving, of Buctouche, were in town a few days last week.

REGINA.

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