



TALK OF THE THEATRE.

IN LANERGAN'S LYCEUM.

II. Price Webber began a season in the Institute yesterday with his ever-popular Boston Comedy company. When Webber is in town everybody knows it. The genial manager never forgets to visit his friends, and they are found everywhere in St. John. While he is around there is almost as much fun as one gets when he sees him on the stage, for the man has yet to be found who has seen Price Webber in anything but good humor. He comes to St. John after a tour of the provinces, which, he says, has been highly successful, and although PROGRESS goes to press before the first performance it is safe to say the Institute was crowded both afternoon and evening. It such was not the case, it has been the genial manager's first experience. Edwina Grey is still at the head of the company. She is probably the best known actress that visits the provinces, and everybody knows what to expect from her. East Lynne was put on in the afternoon with the following cast:

Lady Isabel, Edwina Grey; Madame Vine, Miss Edwina Grey; Sir Francis Levison, Wilson T. Bennette; Little Willie Carlyle, Pearl Clifton; Lord Mount Severn, W. H. Bedell; Richard Hare, W. R. Noble; Mr. Dill, J. McMillan; Wilson, Eugene Powers; John Haljohn, W. F. Carter; Lady Isabel, Luella Western; Barbara Hare, Annie Hyatt; Miss Cornelia Carlyle, Susan Flood; Joyce Haljohn, Lizzie Fiske; Wilson, Janet Gordon; Susanne, Mary Davis.

The version of the drama Miss Western performed was written by an English author, and had more characters in it than the one which is always played now-a-days, and which Miss Western herself used afterwards, as it confines the action of the piece to fewer people and still preserves the merit of the story. Military dramas were always popular at the Lyceum, and Ours, written by the late F. W. Robertson, was one which Mr. Lanerган delighted in. When I saw it played, Mr. Frederick Robinson, the celebrated actor, did the leading part, and he was very good in it, although it was nothing compared to his masterly impersonation of "Farmer Allen" in the home story Dora. Mr. Robinson, however, could never be bad in any character he undertook, and he had fine support, the cast embracing the following well-known artists, who rendered Ours in a very superior manner: Hugh Chalcut, Frederick Robinson; Col. Sir Alex. Shendoy, J. B. Fuller; Lieut. Angus McAllister, H. L. Bascomb; Prince Perovsky, Shirley France; Major Samprey, S. H. Fosberg; Sergeant Jones, W. J. Wiggins; Lady Shendoy, Louisa Morse; Blanche Haye, Mrs. Lanerган; Mary Selby, Rachael Noah.

A detachment of the 15th regiment, who were in garrison in St. John assisted in the production of the piece, and the march of the troops, in the first act, accompanied by their splendid band, aroused the greatest enthusiasm. The principal music in the drama is the "Ours march," which is played at intervals all through, and to the air of which "Lieut. McAllister" tells his love for "Blanche Haye." This song was not published at the time the play was first placed on the London stage, an old North of England air being then used, more spoken than sung; but afterwards the march was introduced, and then the following lines, which are not contained in the pirated version of Mr. Robertson's drama, were sung: IF MY GLANCES. If my glances have betrayed me Ask me no more; For I will not tell thee, lady, Her whom I adore: She is young, and fair, and slender,— Eyes of deepest blue,— She is loving, sweet, and tender, Just like you. Unless my lady bid me, I'll not reveal,— Though the treasured secret kill me,— The love I feel.

This song was also sung by all the characters in the play at the end of the last act, and with the accompaniment of the full military band, the effect on the listeners was powerful. Mr. H. L. Bascomb, referred to in the above cast as playing "Lieut. McAllister," was the then juvenile man at the Boston Museum, and an excellent actor, very popular in St. John as well as Boston; he is now an inmate of the Forrest Home in Philadelphia. He was exposed to the fury of a bitter winter storm a few years ago in Connecticut, and had the misfortune to have both his legs frozen in such a manner that amputation was necessary in order to save his life, and the directors of the beautiful gift of the late Mr. Forrest to the profession never welcomed under its roof one more deserving than Mr. Bascomb. H. PRICE WEBBER.

Branching Out in Another Direction. A glance at the back of Mr. James McDade's business card give some idea of the kind of work he has been doing for the leading men of St. John. Mr. McDade has been established on Mill street for a long period, and has been constantly adding to his establishment. A short time ago he made more extensive additions than ever before. He has now a fine line of stoves and fixings, and intends to work up a business in this line that will equal that done by him in galvanized iron work. His list of customers is a large one, and includes names which are alone evidence of the kind of work he does.

A Delightful Little Girl. A pretty little girl with a basket of roses, a sweet little girl who can stand on the table without asking puzzling questions, was received at PROGRESS office this week, with the compliments of Messrs. Welsh, Hunter & Hamilton. It is one of the prettiest advertising designs of the season, and those who make the acquaintance of the little lady will consider themselves fortunate.

How the Brahmins Assist Their Clients to Commit Suicide. Most of the grosser forms of materialism exist among the modern Hindoos, mingled with the brighter and more excusable worship of the elements. For instance, "water-worship," a form of worship so widely spread among nations both savage and civilized, is a part of their faith. To this day, the Brahmin prays to the Ganges as the Roman offered up his petition to Father Tiber; the devout children of a believer consider his soul safe if he dies by its banks, choked, it may be, by the Ganges mud. The dead are thrown into the stream, and mothers will even offer up their children to the holy river.

No place is with the Hindoo so appropriate for prayer as the banks of "the river," which to him is what the Nile is to the Egyptian; here they bathe and offer up their vows, their prayers and their offerings of fruit, flowers, rice and sweets. Even in places where the river is of considerable breadth, garlands of flowers are suspended across it. Though all the sacred river is holy to the devout Hindoo, yet so particularly sanctifying is one spot, near the confluence of the Ganges with the Jumna, that all who bathe therein must of necessity—their souls being purified from every sinful taint—go straight to the gates of paradise. To ensure this blissful end of life, every year numbers of devotees commit suicide by drowning themselves in the river.

So systematically are things gone about that the Brahmins keep boats for the purpose of assisting their clients to perform this last holy office. The intending suicide rows into the stream, into which, after fastening to his legs jars full of stones, he throws himself. Those who cannot afford to perform the happy despatch to the land of bliss in such an expensive manner, simply walk into the stream with jars fastened in front and behind their bodies; having reached the middle of the stream, they proceed to leisurely fill the jars with water. The jars have hitherto buoyed them up, but as they get filled with water the bearer sinks into the sacred stream.

Corpses are sunk in the same manner, the devout relatives towing the body into mid-stream, after having been purified by a quantity of straw being ignited round it. What becomes of the body after being sunk no one cares; the alligator may devour it, or the hungry jackal tear it to pieces as it strands on the muddy shore—they care not; the sacred Ganges has received it, and the soul has been waited direct to Paradise.

This method of sinking the bodies is, however, only resorted to by those too poor to bear the expense of a funeral pile; the richer classes invariably burn the body, and throw the ashes into the river. At Benares, where self-immolation by drowning was once common, the police have now orders to prevent it.—The Peoples of the World.

How Society News Gets Into Papers. A man who makes a business of collecting society news for the newspapers told of a rather queer experience the other day. He called upon a certain well-known leader of the 40's, who was to give a swell coming-out tea for his daughter. She received him most graciously, but when he asked her for information about the tea, who were to be present, the flowers, the costumes, etc., she threw up her dimpled hands, and a look of horror and amazement came over her face, as she protested that not one line should be printed about the affair. She berated the young man for asking her such questions, and entered a vigorous protest against newspapers prying into the affairs of other people. She was most emphatic in her remarks and arose with a flushed face and coolly bowed the young man to the door.

The next day the society reporter received a note from a gentleman friend, an acquaintance of the lady, saying that Mrs. So-and-so had sent him information about the tea, with a request that he would have it inserted in the newspapers. This friend was too busy to copy the lady's letter, and so he sent it to the reporter that he might have the information at first hand. This letter was most minute in its details, and was in the lady's own handwriting. The gentleman who had received it had not read the postscript asking him to return the letter and let no one know the lady gave the information. The society reporter brutally returned the letter to the lady with thanks for the information, regretting that she could not have given it at first hand.

It would be interesting to know what the lady who wrote the letter and was guilty of the clumsy subterfuge had to say when her missive was returned.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

The Queen Without Money. The English queen has an income of \$5,000 a day, and yet she has had many queer little experiences of finding herself penniless in awkward situations. On one occasion she called a wayside mendicant to her carriage only to find that neither she nor the princess with her had a shilling, and this regal queen of England and empress of India was obliged to borrow some pence from the keeper of the tollgate near.

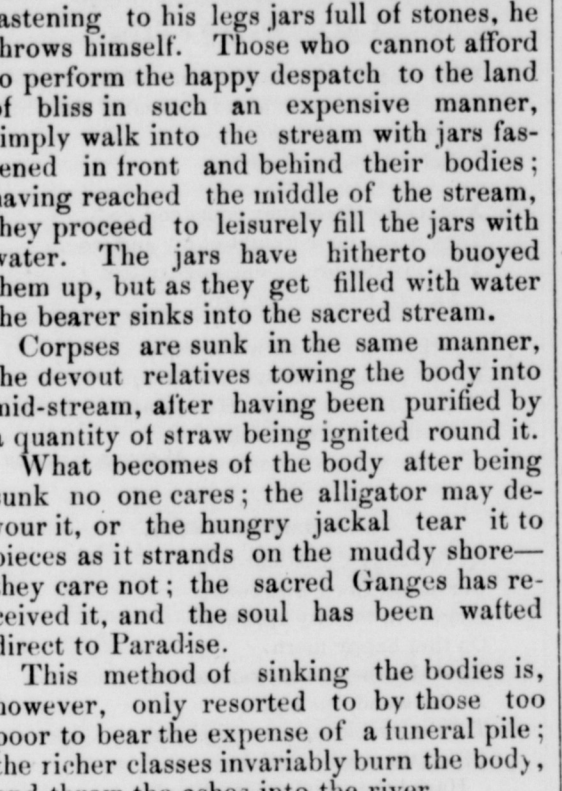
The North American Marine. The marine branch of the North American insurance company of Philadelphia has established an agency in this city and has placed it in the hands of Mr. Thomas Temple. The announcement of the company appears elsewhere and speaks for itself. Of its strength and reputation PROGRESS has no need to touch upon. They are both in favor with policy holders.

Oysters From Mr. Lester. Messrs. C. H. Lester & Co. have remembered the newspapers in an appropriate and substantial fashion this year. Oysters are good at any time, and those Mr. Lester sent PROGRESS were of the best.

Method in his Madness. Daguerre, the father of photography, paid the usual penalty of misunderstood genius. In 1838 Madame Daguerre had a consultation with one of the medical celebrities of the day concerning her husband's mental condition. After acquainting the physician with the many indications of Daguerre's mental aberration, she added with tears in her eyes, that the concluding proof of his insanity was his absolute conviction that he would succeed in nailing his own shadow to the wall or in fixing it on magical metallic plates. The physician listened with profound attention to this culminating evidence of derangement, answering that he himself had observed in Daguerre strong symptoms of madness. He closed the consultation by advising that her husband should be sent quietly, and without delay, to a lunatic asylum. Two months later the world of art and science was stirred to its centre by the exhibition of a number of pictures actually taken by the new process, and soon the "lunatic" was heralded as the father of photography.

Charity. "Can you give me two fives for a ten?" asked a Philadelphia millionaire, to whom a charity committee has applied for a contribution. "Certainly, sir," eagerly handing out two five-dollar bills. "What's this?" inquired the money king. "Why, two fives for a ten! Isn't that what you said?" "Possibly I did. Possibly I did," he said reflectively, "but I mean ten cents." Texas Siftings.

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Notice. DANIEL & BOYD—(LIMITED) having purchased the Stock and good will of the business of DANIEL & BOYD, the future business will be conducted at the old stand, Market Square, under the name and style of DANIEL & BOYD—(LIMITED). THOS. W. DANIEL, President. JOHN BOYD, Vice-President. FREDK. W. DANIEL, Managing Director. THOS. H. SOMMERVILLE, Secretary. St. John, N. B., Dec. 21, 1891.

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Victoria Skating Rink. Have You Bought Your TICKET? Tickets at the following rates may be had at Alfred Morris's Book Store, King street; Chas. K. Short's Drug Store, 51 and 52 Garden street; Robt. B. Travis' Drug Store, Orange corner, Main street; G. G. Davis' Grocery, 15 Main street; W. C. Riddiman Allan's Drug Store, King street, Carleton, and at the Secretary's office, 16 Ritchie's Building, Princess street: GENTLEMEN'S TICKETS, \$3.00 LADIES, " 2.00 CHILDREN'S, " 2.00

A Band will be in attendance on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday afternoons. STREET RAILWAY TICKETS will be furnished holders of season tickets for the Victoria Rink at reduced rates. A. W. ADAMS, ROBERT R. RITCHIE, Dec 19 41. PRESIDENT. SEC'Y.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE! ST. JOHN. Boston Comedy Company H. PRICE WEBBER, Manager. Will open for a few performances, on FRIDAY, (Christmas) Dec. 25th, 1891, The Favorite Actress, EDWINA GREY, Supported by the above popular Company. PRICES TO SUIT THE TIMES: Admission 25c.; Reserved Seats, 35c. Matinee 25c. Doors open at 7.15; Overture at 8 o'clock, evening. Matinee, doors open at 2 o'clock, commencing at 2.30. Change of Programme every Performance.

TRINITY CHURCH. THE THIRD LECTURE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION, Will be delivered in the SCHOOL HOUSE, — ON — THURSDAY, Jan'y 14th, 1892, BY REV. H. W. LITTLE. Subject: The Battle of Life; Fighting to Win. Admission 10 cts. Tickets for sale at the door, or at the stores of J. & A. McMillan, C. P. Clarke, and Geo. H. McKay.

XMAS CANTATA St. David's Junior Choir, (50 Young Voices.) "Bright Hours at Carrolville." Tuesday, Dec. 29, in St. David's S. School. Admission—Adults, 20c., Children, 10c. Tickets for sale at P. Chisholm's store Charlotte St.

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