



MUSICAL CIRCLES.

There is nothing whatever going on in a musical line in St. John at present, not even band concerts on the square. The musical people are either all out of town or have lost all their musical inclinations for the summer at least.

The following extract which I cut from an American paper will be of interest to young musicians, to whom fame and honor seem a long way off:

The composer Gounod, like many another genius, was compelled to wait and work for success. But his case was a peculiar one, for his talents were recognized early, and he was not in need of money.

After hearing him play for the first time, Anatole expressed enthusiastic admiration. It was at the rooms of the Escudier brothers, publishers of music, and as the two were alone for the moment Gounod said: "Ah, you have heard what the Messieurs Escudier say of my works."

He turned away and began playing "Mon Habit," saying, "This would suit your voice and that of your brother. It did suit the voices of the Lionnets beautifully, and Anatole, full of enthusiasm over the composition, hastened to Hengel the publisher, and asked him to take it."

"It is exquisite," said the publisher, "but it would not sell."

After considerable urging, however, he said, "If you intend to sing the piece at your concert and will popularize it in that way, I will give M. Gounod a hundred francs for it."

Gounod was delighted with the news, and with the hundred francs, the first money he had received for his work. Years later he said to Anatole Lionnet:

"How well I remember that hundred francs. I left Hengel, went home overjoyed, and threw five of the beautiful gold pieces into mamma's apron."

"It was charming and touching," adds Lionnet, "to hear that man of genius, then sixty-eight years old, use that word 'mamma' as sweetly and as simply as a child."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Indoor amusements of any kind are almost out of the question this fine weather, and it is doubtful whether anything in the theatrical line would receive the patronage it deserves. However, we are all looking forward to the opening of the new opera house next month, and when the big event comes off I hope to have something real newsy to write about every week, for the management is in hands that will not fail to procure attractions strong enough to draw audiences that the old Institute could not accommodate.

Even in the summer season anything about the great dramatist cannot fail to be of interest to lovers of the stage, and this is the only excuse I offer for printing the following:

Shakespeare, it is well known, was passing about the time that Hamlet was written through a period of deep gloom and bitter disappointment. He had just lost his only son, whose name (Hamnet) he took, slightly altered, for the play. He had achieved the highest theatrical success he was ever destined to achieve, and was already weary of the career that had brought him such reward. He had come to be attacked with violence by some of his contemporaries, whose jealous virulence had spoken of him as an "upstart crow" decked in borrowed plumage, and in other slighting ways.

The tennis tournament attracted considerable attention this week, and lovers of that game had good reason for taking such a deep interest, as the playing was of a very excellent class. There is no doubt whatever that the tournament in the line of scientific work far exceeded any former exhibition of tennis given in this city. Both the Halifax and St. John representatives played most brilliantly, and though there was some of the work that could be justly criticized, yet taking it as a whole, many individual plays would have been creditable to professionals. Special mention should be made of the finals in the ladies doubles, played Wednesday afternoon, when Miss MacLaren and Miss M. Smith defeated Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Reader. The ladies certainly added much to their already high reputation of being exceptionally fine tennis players.

Just as interesting was the match the same afternoon between Messrs. Clark and Turnbull, and Messrs. Alexander and Ryan, and the St. John representatives are to be congratulated on vanquishing such formidable opponents. Mr. Alexander is a very strong player, and his work called forth much favorable comment.

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Sterne. The material was ready to his hand, and as his manner was, he took the first suitable kind that came. Out of the rude Scandinavian tragedy he would make a great philosophical burlesque. In that work the pent-up bitterness of his heart found vent, and in ridiculing through the familiar vehicle of dramatic composition the weaknesses and struggles of ideal creatures, he sought for himself relief from real pain.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

I went over to the Shamrock grounds last Saturday, to see the Y. M. C. A.'s and Socials in a league game, but saw instead a game between the Y. M. C. A.'s and a picked-up team, which had many brilliant features in it that were totally unexpected, and rather surprised the spectators. The Lansdownes, alias Socials, are no more, and with their disappearance a great many people have lost their good opinion of Capt. Stewart. There is some expense even in connection with a game of amateur ball, and at present it does not take much to make it fall on the members of the clubs. The Y. M. C. A.'s will have to foot all the bills of the Saturday game, and it is all on account of Stewart. It was well known that there was little possibility of getting the Lansdownes together for a game, but arrangements were made to organize a team under the name of Socials, and the game was advertised. Connolly was to have a certain number of players on hand and Stewart the rest of the nine, but the latter did not show up, nor did any of his men.

Even with the few who find it worth their while to attend the league games it is hard to raise any enthusiasm over the most brilliant plays. In Saturday's game, however, Fitzpatrick, who pitched for the "picked up" nine, did a piece of work that brought forth general applause. The Y. M. C. A.'s were at the bat; there was a man on second, Frank White was on third, and one man out. With things at this stage, Fitzpatrick struck out two men in succession and retired the side.

The association boys have been having things all their own way lately, and it would relieve the monotony somewhat and perhaps revive an interest in the game if they would meet a team that would make them hustle. A few games with outside clubs, now that we have a good amateur team, would be quite a treat, and the Y. M. C. A. people should make an effort to get a couple of good teams down here. Base ball is just as interesting a game as it ever was, but to get the most fun out of it we must have something at stake. The game as played in St. John at present is like playing checkers with oneself—it doesn't matter much which side wins.

The Thistles are still in the fight for the amateur championship. Up to yesterday they were tie with the Shamrocks for second place, and with Payne as a pitcher hope to carry themselves along until McGlinchey gets into condition for good work.

Just now the benefit game for Charlie Kearns seems to be occupying the attention of the players, and if all the arrangements proposed are carried out, there should be a big crowd at the St. John grounds next Friday. Kearns is one of the best players that has ever stepped on a St. John ball field. He has few superiors as a second baseman, and is always "good for a hit" when it is most needed. But there is another thing that has aroused the admiration of the public, aside from his playing, and that is the way he has always conducted himself on the field. No one ever hears a word from him; not even the umpire. He goes in to play ball and seems to think of nothing else until the game is over. I believe there is some talk of his going in to pitch in the benefit game, but this would be a mistake. Kearns' place is on second base, and that is where the public like to see him.

Frank White is getting up the team to meet the Y. M. C. A.'s, and that says something for the success of the affair. As many of the old Nationals as can be procured will be on the team, including Bell, Milligan, Holly and White; also McLean of the Monctons, Mills of the Thistles and others. They will get in some practice before the game comes off and should put up good ball.

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all now, a player must be able to handle the racket in a truly scientific manner. St. John and Moncton opened the cricket season last Saturday. It is a pity that St. John hasn't got on outside matches long before this, but now that there has been a start made, I hope that it will be kept up. Cricket is a grand game and should certainly receive every encouragement. See to it, St. John cricketers, you have an excellent team this year and have a fine opportunity to give a good account of yourselves. The playing last week shows what our boys are capable of doing.

Moncton wasn't in it from the beginning. The visitors need considerably more practice before they can hope to cope with their opponents of last week. The batting and bowling of the home team was exceedingly good, and if they keep up the same style that they exhibited on Saturday they are bound to give a good account of themselves against whatever clubs they may be matched in the future.

When the base ball public in the neighboring republic sours on a player, it evidently takes a long time to tide over the difficulty and bring about that good feeling which is desirable in all cases. This is the way an exchange sums up the present relations existing between a number of first class players in the United States and the base ball public at the present time: "Mike Kelly was the first of the Players' League stars to excite the ire of the cranks. John Ward, Buck Ewing, Ed Andrews, Tim Keefe and others, who prior to last season were accustomed to nothing but praise, have since been criticized with more or less severity, and now Andrews and Keefe are out of good jobs. This year no one stood high enough to escape the storm of recrimination that passed from one end of the base ball world to the other. The capitalists were also accused of base treachery in various instances, and altogether it would seem as though some time would elapse before the old scores are all blotted out. The work of several National League teams has been marred this season by the combination of adverse elements. The approaching and inevitable peace will not heal over these sore spots—time alone and circumstances will eradicate them."

The great Mike Kelly, "who slides," and is at present the manager-captain of the Cincinnati association club, seems to have plenty of friends who are ready and willing to furnish excuses for him when occasion requires, and when all his good qualities are taken into consideration this seems an easy thing to do. A Cincinnati paper has the following to say about the great king of the diamond: "Outside of his playing strength Mike Kelly is a valuable adjunct to any club owing to his advertising propensities. He has a wonderful acquaintance in all walks of life. He is an authority on anything pertaining to sporting or theatrical professions. On the running turf, especially in the East, he is 'Kelp' to everybody from the stable boys to the judges on the stand. Every actor, from Edwin Booth down to the worst variety ham, has a good word for the king wherever he is. He has taken an exercise spin, or put on the gloves for a little set to with every pugilist of note in America, and is a special favorite of John L. Sullivan, who has on several occasions gone out of his way hundreds of miles to see out of the king play ball. Kelly is a great hand-shaker, a fine singer, a clever mimic and one of the best story-tellers in the profession. He is all this, but he has not made a great success as manager and captain of the Cincinnati association team. There are reasons why he has not cut more of a figure in the American association race with his Killers. The team was put together on three weeks' notice, and some of the men have not conducted themselves as they should. Another thing, Kelly has not been in the best of condition. His arm has not been right all summer, and he is too fat by far to play the ball he is capable of. He is today, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, ball player in the profession, but like a good man in any other branch of athletic work he cannot do his best unless he is at his best."

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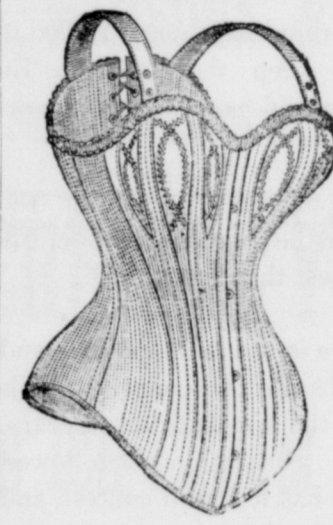


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