

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The event in the musical world which has claimed our interest and attention this week has been the highly successful perforance, or, rather, series of performances, given by the amateur minstrel troupe on behalf of the St. John Athletic Association. Seldom or ever has any undertaking of the kind proved a greater success, both from an artistic and musical point of view; though the last performance of the kind given some time ago to assist the funds of the Oratorio Society was hard to beat. This time we had the pleasing novelty of the Mikado burlesque in addition to the usual minstrel business. The individual merits of the various performers have been thoroughly noticed already, but I would just say a word or two generally about the musical part of the entertainment. The choruses, both in the first part and also in the burlesque, were the result of long and careful training at the hands of one who evidently "knows his business." The chorus in entertainments of this kind are too often allowed to do just as they like, or sing, or rather shout, in happy disregard of time or tune. But Mr. J. S. Ford had managed his team right well, and is to be heartily congratulated on the result, which was a credit both to him and to them. It only shows what can be done by hard and constant practice together with the good fellowship and harmony which must have existed between the conductor and the

members of the troupe. There has been a lull for the last tew days in the concerts and other New Year entertainments. The only one I have heard of is a repetition on Tuesday of the St. Mary's church children's concert in the St. Luke's school room. I was pleased to hear that these little ones had been instrumental in raising upwards of \$50 last week, which they certainly deserved, as their entertainment was quite above the ordinary run of such things. I hope they did as well at St. Luke's.

Why do not our organists give us a chance of hearing some organ music other than the usual Sunday voluntaries? We certainly have no very fine instrument in the city, but we have some well worth hearing and capable of fine effects. What a pleasure it would be to many of us if we could have a good recital once or twice a month. I feel sure such things would be well attended and appreciated, and the audience would willingly pay a small sum for the pleasure thus enjoyed. Will not one of our enterprising organists make a move in this direction?

in this direction? may I venture to offer a suggestion to the members of the Y. M. C. A. orchestra? It is an excellent institution, and one which has my warmest sympathy and good wishes, inasmuch as it provides wholesome amusement, and at the same time good musical experience to many young men who could not otherwise enjoy such privileges. But I could ask them to be a little more careful in seeing that their instruments are all in perfect tune with each other before ments are all in perfect tune with each other before starting. I heard them play the other evening, and for so young an orchestra they played very well; but their instruments were not all exactly in time. Doubtless inexperience may be partly to blame for this; but I feel sure it would not have been so this; but I feel sure it would not have been so prominent, had the instruments themselves been quite in tune to start with.

The musical club will meet on Tuesday evening next at Miss Homer's residence, Duke street. The programme will be composed entirely of British music, vocal and instrumental.

UBIQUE.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The San Francisco Music and Drama makes a very complimentary reference to Miss May Nannary, who has been for three seasons leading lady at Moroscis. where she is a great favorite. Miss Nannary is remarkable for the great conscientiousness with which she performs her work. She has never been known to appear on the stage imperfect, or to show carelessness in her role. Her industry may be estimated from the fact that in her present engagement she is called upon to appear in fifty-two different parts a year. She is a natural, forceful and teeling actress and costumes handsomely. Her professional career has been passed in Canada and on the Pacific coast. She has spent considerable time in the North where she is much liked, and has supported Sheridan, Boucicault, and other prominent stars to their satisfaction; during the past mouth she has refused offers from McKee and Rankine, and the Sullivan-Harrison combination to play. The same paper also speaks in glowing terms of Miss Nannary's sister, Miss Geniveve, who is also winning a name for herselt. Mr. William Nannary, who is a native of the West End, has three children on the stage.

Minnie Maddern Fiske, the actress, tells a good story of Eugene Field in a recent number of the Dramatic Mirror. She says;

One night in Denver, some years ago, the writer was bidden to a certain banquet, whereat the board was graced by several charming women, and the chief representatives of the Denver press. The writer sat on the right hand of a creature who has, upon occasions, treated her so outrageously; who has over and over again been guilty of offence so shameful, so mephistophelian in its diabolical ingeniuty, that the writer cannot herself understand why it is that, notwithstanding, she still holds a very warm corner in her heart for this same wretched person. "He is very tall, and fair, and slender," and he has the most innocent and serene blue eyes in the world! But beware them! Oh, be-

The writer sat on the right hand of this person, our host, Mr. Eugene Field, and during the postprandial chatter she observed that gentleman's face take on a grave expression as he turned a kind and thoughtful gaze upon her. With a deep and almost tender seriousness, Mr. Field then arose and delivered himself of a brief moved; his voice broke once, and he wiped his eyes. Then, on behalf of the Denver ring unless they are related, or engaged.

(1) It is not customary in good society are over and they are still in the ring with all things in season—Roll Butter, Fresh Eggs moved; his voice broke once, and he wiped his eyes. Then, on behalf of the Denver press, he presented the writer with some ear-rings. They were very large. One was green and the other was yellow. They resembled the window garnitures at the chemists! Next night Mr. Field, in the excess of his enthusiasm, threw the writer a very large paper poppy from his box. It came during a quiet scene, and it had a string tied to it. Mr. Field retained one end of the string, observing which circumstance the writer did not claim it. Disdain of his offerings of jewels and flowers

The last came in the shape of large sack of peanuts, while the accompanying card conveyed the assurance of "Mr. Field's honest veneration and respect for a noble artist and a true woman."

ASTRA'S" TALKS WITH GIRLS.

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Astra," Progress, St. John.]

Did any of you ever have bronchitis girls? Because if you did not, I am afraid you will not be able to sympathize with me, as I would like. My vocal organs seem to have gone out, on strike, and it will be a week or more since my voice has been heard in our mansion. Geoffrey says I never was so lovely in his eyes before, and that a wife who cant speak a word is a treasure beyond all price. It is a comfort to reflect that Geoffrey is sure to catch everything that is going, so I can pay him back when he gets grippe.

It is terribly awkward to be speechless, and I assure you girls, if you knew what it feels like to hear the pup sneak stealthily into my room, secure one of my best slippers, and go flip-flapping down stairs with tho heel pounding on each step as he carries it off to chew it up at his leisure, and not be able to shout at him, terrify him into it, I know you feel sorry for me. And we have to keep that same pup indoors all the time now, because every other dog but one on our block has been poisoned, and we are atraid of losing him. Poor Jack! How furious he is about it, too; if he only knew how to set the machinery of the law in motion, wouldn't he enter an action for unlawful detention and interterence with his personal liberty?

GREENIE, Parrsboro.—You are perfectly correct the festoon has long been banished from church decorations by all strictly artistic church people, and very few clergymen would allow them in their churches. A few years ago the festoon held the place of you need not have been at all afraid of honor at church "trimmings," especially in writing too often; there is nothing I like the country districts, and I must confess better than to have the girls who write to that a triple row of festoons is a very love- me once, keep up enough interest in the ly and graceful decoration. I saw them in | column to write again. Perfectly right, a country church once, and thought them and also most courteous and friendly, you charming; but still the fact remains that | could not write them without calling first, they are not an ecclesiastical decoration, you know. So you don't like milk? There nor do they harmonize with ecclesiastical are many people who dislike it, I fancy. architecture. They are suitable for the Try a glass of hot water instead, if you ball room or the theatre, but not for the can take it. I believe it will answer church. Wreaths in straight lines, and quite as well. So you would like to be "in twisted garlands for the pillars are supposed to be the correct style for a church, with enough. I believe Cuticura soap is good shields, stars, Greek and Roman crosses, and such other devices as the decorators may think of, for altar, windows and chan- lent. The girls have done nobly this week, cel. It was not at all necessary to send about writing on only one side of their your name, but of course I will keep it in paper, and I am most grateful to them for confidence. I hope my information will be what you require, and I am very happy to

PRUDIE AND JUDY, St. John .- What funny little names, girls, and such pretty ones too! No fear of my snubbing you or thinking you silly either. (1) Are you sure you have the name quite right, and that it is not Astyanax, which sounds almost the same when pronounced quickly? If so he was "The hope of Troy," as Homer calls him, the only son of Hector and his beloved wife Andromalke. He was killed by Ulysses at the fall of Troy.

(2) You have no idea how difficult is to give a correct idea of French pronunciation in print. I think Scule pronounced quickly will come as near the proper sound as written words can. (3) No, I have read, on the best medical authority that plants inhale carbon in the day time, and exhale oxygen at night, therefore they must be the reverse of unhealthy, as they purify the atmosphere. (4) I do not know the author of the lines. (5) Tinted paper is not as fashionable as it was some years ago, but it is quite correct to use it if your wish, thick creamy paper is considered in the best form, just now. (6) Please do not insult Geoffrey by calling him "she." If you read Progress of the week before last, you must have seen an article from his pen. If I can possibly find time I will try to hunt up the author of the verses for

BRUNETTE, Moncton-Now "Brunette" I don't believe you read my column carefully or else you must have a very poor memory. I have been publishing recipes for pimples for nearly a year past, and only paused to draw a tree breath lately. A little flower of sulphur, dusted carefully on the pimples at night, and washed off in the morning is good, but no outward application is of very much use; you must take the old fashioned remedy of sulphur and cream of tartar, and use the sulphur on the pimples at the same time, I really think it will cure you. Take a heaped tablespoonful of flower of sulphur, a teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and enough molasses to make a very thick syrup; mix it thoroughly and take a dessert spoonful every morning before breakfast for three mornings; then stop it for three, and go on doing this till your complexion becomes clear, which should be in two or three weeks.

ME-Ow, St. John. - How very suggestive Me-Ow, and if you are not a pussy cat, my friend, would you mind telling me whether you are a boy or girl, because I speech; simple, direct, unpretentious, but withal so fraught with heartfelt appreciation and esteem, that the writer was moved to tears. Nor was the speaker himself unings you so kindly call down upon me. dain of his offerings of jewels and flowers did not deter the gentleman from attempting other presentations during the week.

they belong to each other than she could ever be in uncertainty, and then think of the delights of the long courtship! and ask her at once if you are a boy, or say yes; if you chance to be a girl, and have the op-portunity. I think I have seen your writing before.

PRETTY LIPS, Sheffield .- I wonder it you did not write to me before under a different name, because your writing looks familiar? Oh, yes, I really am "just lovely." At least I sometimes manage to make people who don't know me think so for a time, which is almost the same. What a funny girl you are; you first speak of the other girls who write "as if beaux were the only thing in the world worth talking about," and then you forthwith begin at once on that most interesting topic yourself. Not that I blame you in the least, far from it, because I think it a most delightful subject. (1) Quite possi-ble, almost anything is with the little blind god. Never under any circumstances write to a person you are not very well acquainted with; if you write to anyone you do not know you will be making a terrible mistake, if, as I imagine, it is one of the opposite sex, you refer to. No girl can be too careful about her correspondence. You did not ask many questions at all, and I have just patted the pup for you. Many thanks for the love. I think I prefer fair people.

DIDO-The pup and Geoffrey are both

well, I am glad to say, especially the pup. My dear child it does not take much cleverness to answer the questions you girls ask me, you know one has to pick up a little wisdom as they go through the world, almost whether they will or not, and it is better to use ones farthing dip for the benefit of other people than to keep it down in the cellar where only the spiders and the rats benefit by it. (1) I that is the name, and I know that all the restoration. kinds of painting are very thoroughly taught at Mount Allison academy, Sackville. (2) I should very much prefer playing the violin, which is truly the "king of instruments." (3) Seventeen is very young, or seems so the stairs now, but I suppose it is largely a matter of his arms. taste, you know our grandmothers married at sixteen, and thought nothing of it. (4) I am sorry I cannot tell you the meaning attached to the two stones, but I will look it up when I have time. Domino, W. M. -How will that do? There was no need of any excuse, I was only teasing you, and for all skin troubles, but I should recommend vaseline cold cream which is excel-

MARION ERLE, St. John-Many thanks for your kind, sensible, and appreciative letter, which I will answer next week as I am hurried this week and have more letters than space to answer them, besides I want to hunt up the line of poetry for you, and that will take a little time.

LILLIAN, St. John-And so you were pleased with your answers? Well I am very glad. Christmas has passed to be sure, but still the New Year's wishes you so kindly offer me will do for Christmas also. I have had so many kind wishes from the girls that I should have a very happy time for the coming year. Now for your questions. I think the art of conversation is very easily learned, and after you conquer the first shyness and succeed in forgetting yourself, it is no trouble at all. It may sound odd, but if you have some friend whom you know very well, or a sister, it is an excellent idea to practice the art of conversation with her. "Go calling" as the children do, and exert yourself to the very utmost to keep up a bright and interesting conversation. You and your friend can take turns at being visitor and hostess, and you will be surprised what an assistance you will find it. (2) It is not a matter of opinion at all, but a matter of fact, that only the eldest daughter should be called "Miss Smith." No matter how old the others are, they are only Miss Mary Smith, or Miss Edith Smith, as the case may be. (3) Write and thank your friend for his gift as soon as possible, instead of waiting to see him. Peacock gobelin blue plush lined with palest pink, or primrose satin, is very pretty for a photograph case, so is ruby plush lined with either of these colors. Thank you. Santa Claus was very good to me this year, and I hope he remembered you substantially.

LOCHINVAR, St. John.—Yes, I really think you are quite a shrewd fellow Lochinvar. We have been having rather a lively time in this column since you wrote a poet's soul, in many ways my friend! Those few lines about guiding souls to Christ as the star that guided the wise men, were really poetical. I did not make very many resolutions this year, so they will be all the easier to keep. I am sure we should be very good friends if we were acquainted. Thank you tor your kind wishes, and good night, for it is night now, and through the window of my sanctum one great star is shining, but alas' it is not. ASTRA.

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Enemies to Music.

The liturgy of the Church of England and the cathedral service were abolished in 1643; the church-books were destroyed, the organs taken down, and the organists and singers belonging to the churches turned of their places. Nothing was allowed in the churches but the psalmody of Boy's Heavy Rubbers the Presbyterians; and, as the gloomy fansort of light and profane music as a pastime or amusment, the art, for a time, may be said to have been banished from the land.

Cromwell himself, however, was fond of music, and frequently indulged himself in hearing it. When the organ at Magdalen college, Oxford, was taken down, he ordered it to be conveyed to Hampton court, where it was placed in the great gallery; and one of his favorite amusehave heard the Owens Art School, of St. ments was hearing it played upon. It John, very highly spoken of. I think was carried back to its original place after

Man's Trust in Man.

A young man residing at a Cass avenue boarding house came in 6 o'clock p. m. just in time to meet a man at the head of the stairs with a pile of men's clothing in

"Hello!" he exclaimed, "what are you doing with all those clothes? "Taking them to the renovating establishment around the corner, sir," responded

the carrier promptly and politely. "You're just the man I'm looking for," said the boarder; "take this coat of mine along," and he removed his coat and gave it to the man with his card.

That was two weeks ago and the young man wants to know now where that renovating shop is .- Detroit Free Press.



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