



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The old saying that "accidents will happen in the best regulated families" is constantly being verified in some way or another, and unfortunately that excellently well-regulated family, the Oratorio Society, has proved no exception to the rule, there having been, last Monday night, a decided difference of opinion between conductor and chorus, which led to an abrupt termination of the rehearsal. In a case of this kind it is very difficult to lay down the law as to who is right and who is wrong; but as a general principle I have no hesitation in saying that members of a society of this kind must submit to the authority of the conductor. Membership is purely voluntary, but those who join the society must make up their minds to act under the person duly appointed as conductor. I hope that this little misunderstanding will soon be a thing of the past, and that the same confidence and unanimity of feeling will be preserved in future between the members and conductor, which have always, with such happy results, characterized the working of the Oratorio Society.

At St. John's church last Sunday I was delighted with the rendering of a quartette, "Blessed are they," composed by Mr. J. S. Ford, and excellently sung by the quartette of the St. John's church choir. Mr. Ford's compositions are all good, and possess decided originality, while their internal structure is always of the most pleasing, though strictly correct, harmony. In these days, laws of harmony and counterpoint are too frequently sacrificed either to ignorance or to a morbid craving for novelty, in defiance of all musical law and order; so that it is refreshing to come across compositions which combine really good "legal" harmony with pleasing and popular melody.

Mr. W. Starr is making quite a name for himself in St. John as a rising tenor soloist. Those who heard him at the last minstrel performance will remember what a sweet and rich voice he has; and one of the greatest charms of his singing is that he always pronounces his words distinctly, so that one can understand what he is singing about.

On Sunday last he sang "Jerusalem" in St. Paul's church with very good effect; and he is now rehearsing the plaintiff's part in "Trial by Jury" to be produced in May by the minstrel club. Mr. Starr is also going to sing two solos with orchestral accompaniment at the Philharmonic club's concert in May.

Next week there will be many musical attractions, the chief of which are the "gift opera" at the Opera house, and the sacred concert in the Queen Square Methodist church on Monday evening, where the chief attractions will be songs of Mrs. Harrison of Sackville, and Mr. Mayes, the latter of whom will sing his favorite, "It is enough," from the Edith.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

There have been two theatrical companies at the Opera house this week, both playing return engagements and playing to very good houses. The Josie Mills company put on *Held by the Enemy* and *Sister King*, several of the new members of the company appearing in the latter piece for the first time here, and giving a much better performance.

The Hettie Bernard Chase company played *The Little Coquette* Thursday and Friday to fair houses.

Next week the Grand Gilt opera season begins, and something good is promised. The Sargent Aborn company come direct from New York, where they have been preparing for a season on the road. The costumes are said to be all new and very handsome, and they will bring some special scenery and their own orchestra. The *Three Black Cloaks* will be given Monday evening and Tuesday *The Mascot*. Gilt opera tickets will be good for one week only including the Saturday matinee.

HITS FROM "BUTLER'S JOURNAL."

The Editor Sees a Circus.

In one of the houses at which I called I stopped for some length of time to take a rest. The gentleman of the house and the two eldest sons were out getting wood, but Wood would not go with them and there being no school he idled away all the forenoon. His mother told him he would catch it when his father got home with the next load of wood, but Wood said he would risk it. Presently his father came in with the load of wood and calling Wood out he determined to have a settlement with him right there and then. His arguments and expostulations proved of no avail, and it would have done any lover of music good to see the way in which he would "Gambol" around his father, and dance and sing to the accompaniment of a carriage whip.

Eddy Goes Courting.

I was heartily welcome as usual, but the boy Eddie Foster was not much company for as soon as he got his supper he posted off to R. D. Wilmot's to wait on the servant girl, taking advantage of the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot, and did not get back till 11 o'clock. Ah, well! when the cat's away the mice can play, and boys will be boys.

Just as Well to Let Them Know It.

D—B—Mouth of Keswick: Be sure when you order your paper discontinued to pay up all arrears, and not beat the editor out of six months subscription as you have done. You may not have intentionally defrauded us, but it has had the same effect.

Experience Teaches.

The wife of a gentleman down river having subscribed for the *Journal* without paying in advance, the husband let it run ten months and then ordered it stopped disclaiming all responsibility in the affair. We will look out for such "lads" in future.

"The Rangers" Fate.

In the evening we were joined by some of the young folks from the neighboring farm houses and Dr. Bridges, of Oromocto. The party divided, part of them going out coasting on the hill and the rest retiring to the house to spend the time in reading and conversation. Surprisingly one of the party got my old sled, "The Ranger," and the doctor seating himself on it with two or three of the young ladies, they shoved off and started on their downward trip, when, snap! bang! the old "Ranger," which had never had to bear such an accumulation of medical knowledge and concentrated beauty, like the "one-hoss shay" broke asunder, and fell into a hundred pieces, and all that could be seen was a medley admixture of legs and arms tearing madly down the hill. To accommodate my luggage, Duff let me have his sled with

which to continue the trip, although he was not a party to the destruction of the other.

The Uncertainties of "The Road."

At the next house they had the grippe, and at the next house a woman took the trouble to come clear down to the river to tell me that she didn't want anything; which was very kind of her indeed. I began to feel kind of "skeery" about finding a place to stop, and thought I would make sure of my supper at least, so I called for some and received a good "tuck out" of bread and milk, for which the lady would not accept any pay, and calling in the next house I was sufficiently impressed by the woman's kind appearance to ask for a night's lodging. I began in supplicating tones, promising all it was worth, and to behave myself properly, etc., when the good lady assured me that it was quite a common thing for them to keep travellers over night, that she never would charge them anything and that she had been instructed by her parents from a child to never turn a traveller from the door. Her husband came in shortly from one of his professional visits, greeted me warmly, and nothing would do but I must take another supper, on which account, despite the good bed I was furnished with, I did not sleep comfortably. The doctor's kindness of heart got the better of his judgment as a physician in this case.

The Editor's Tribute to the Kids.

I cannot sufficiently thank the people all along the route for their kindness and hospitality, and feel painfully conscious of my unworthiness in many respects. Especially do I remember the kids, who go for the light and joy of my heart, and who go far to reconcile me to my lonely and unfortunate condition. When they put their little arms around my neck and say: "Butler, I love you," it makes me feel that I have something to live for; nor would I exchange their true, unselfish love for all the honors and decorations that the Queen could bestow on me. Theirs is the only royalty that I bow to, and they rule my heart as kings and queens by right divine.

WHAT IS BEAUTY?

It Seems to Depend on the Country in Which the Question is Asked.

It is remarkable to learn the extraordinary ideas of female beauty which characterize different nations. The ladies of Arabia stain their fingers and toes red, their eyebrows black, and their lips blue. In Persia they paint a black streak around their eyes, and ornament their faces with representations of various figures.

The Japanese women adopt the singular method of gilding their teeth, and those of the Indians paint them red. In some parts of India the pearl of the tooth must be died black before a woman can be beautiful. The Hottentot women paint the entire body in compartments of red and black. In Greenland the women color their faces with blue and yellow, and frequently tattoo their bodies by saturating threads in soot, inserting them beneath the skin, and then drawing them through.

Hindoo families, when they wish to be particularly lovely, smear themselves with a mixture of saffron and grease, and in nearly all the islands of the Pacific and Indian oceans the women as well as the men, tattoo a great variety of figures on the face, the lips and the tongue.

In New Holland the women cut themselves with shells, and, keeping the wounds open a long time, form deep scars in the flesh, which they deem highly ornamental. Another singular mutilation is made among them, for, when in infancy, they take off the little finger of the left hand at the second joint. In ancient Persia an aquiline nose was often thought worthy of the crown, but the Sumatran mother carefully flattens the nose of her daughter. Among some of the savage tribes of Oregon, and also in Aracan, continual pressure is applied to the skull, in order to flatten it and thus give it a new beauty.

The modern Persians having a strong aversion to red hair; the Turks, on the contrary, are warm admirers of it. In China, small, round eyes are liked, and the girls are continually plucking their eyebrows, which they may be thin and long. But the great beauty of a Chinese lady is in her feet, which, in childhood, are so compressed by bandages as effectually to prevent any further increase in size. The four smaller toes are bent under the foot, to the sole of which they firmly adhere, and the poor girl not only endures much pain, but becomes a cripple for life.

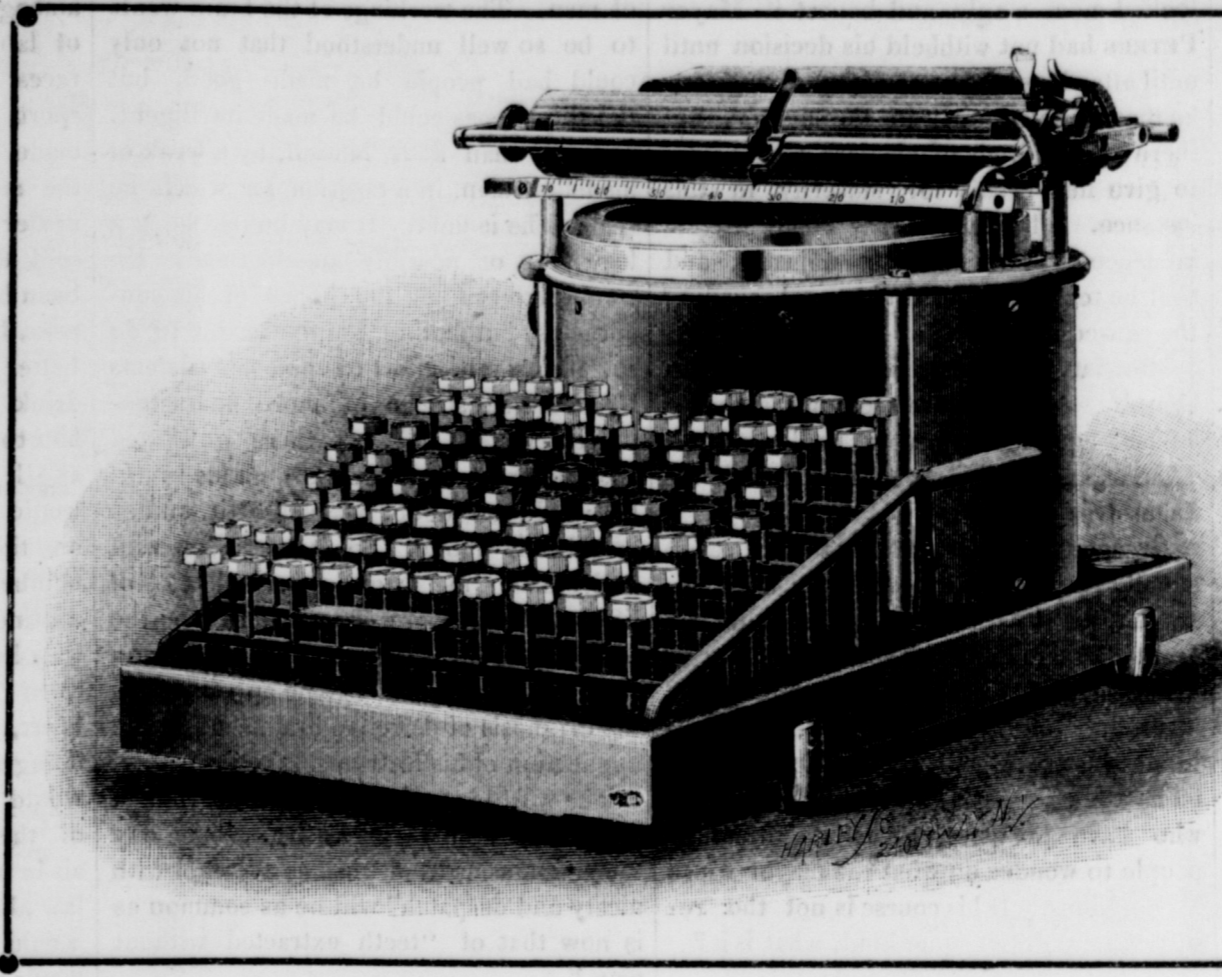
Another mark of beauty consists in having finger nails so long that casings of bamboo are necessary to preserve them from injury. An African beauty must have small eyes, thick lips, a large, flat nose and a skin beautifully black. In New Guinea the nose is perforated and a large piece of wood or bone inserted. On the northwest coast of America an incision more than two inches long is made in the lower lip and then filled with a wooden plug. In Guinea the lips are pierced with thorns, the head of the thorn being inside the mouth and the point resting on the chin. —Yankee Blade.

Where Marbles are Made.

Nearly all the marbles that rattle around and wear holes in the pockets of all little boys on earth are made in the State of Thuringia, Germany. On winter days the poor people who live in villages, gather together small square stones, place them in mills somewhat like big coffee mills, and grind them until they are as round as so many bullets. The marbles made in this way are the common china, painted china, glazed china, imitation agates and black and white ballots. These are very cheap, ranging in price according to size, from ten to sixty for five cents.

Imitation agates are made from white stone and are painted to represent the pride of the marble player's heart—the real agate. The painted china marbles are of plain white stone with lines crossing each other at right

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angles painted upon them. The ballots are little black and white marbles that look as though they would never stop rolling if once set in motion by a boy's thumb and forefinger.

You will probably be greatly surprised to learn that glass alleys are blown by glassblowers, at the town of Laucha in Thuringia, Germany. The expert workmen take a piece of plain glass and another bit of red glass, heat them red hot, blow them together, give them a twist and presto! there is a pretty alley with the red and white threads of glass twisted inside into the form of a letter S.

Large twisted glass alleys and plain glass alleys with the figure of a dog or sheep inside are made for very small boys and girls to play with. The marbles most prized by the young American of today are the real agates. These marbles are seal brown or black in color, and many of them have large round circles on them that look like eyes. They sell for five, ten and fifteen cents each, and the boy who has a real agate with a lucky eye peeping out at him from its glossy surface is the envied one among the marble players. It is said that the only marbles made in America are the common ones ("commies") that boys can buy a handful of for a penny.—N. Y. World.

AN EASY WAY OF DYING.

Falling from Height Not So Painful as is Supposed.

Most people regard death by a fall as one of the most agonizing forms of dying. In a lecture at Zurich, Professor Heim has declared (says a Berlin correspondent) that this opinion is erroneous. The first fact to be considered, according to the Professor, is that the subjective feelings in the various kinds of fall are the same. There are people who have escaped death by a hair's-breadth, and who are able to report unconsciously, and who are able to report what they felt. Professor Heim, who has occupied himself with this interesting question for many years, bases his observations on personal experience, and on a large number of cases which have occurred not only in the mountains, but also in war, in industrial establishments, and in railway accidents. The victims suffer no pain no paralyzing terror. He is perfectly aware of what is going on. The time seems long to him. In a few seconds he is able to think so much that he can report for an entire hour upon it. His thinking power is immensely increased. In almost all cases the past seems suddenly lighted up, as it by a flash of lightning. All phases of life pass before the mind's eye, nothing petty or unimportant disturbing the retrospect. Then gentle, soft tones sound in one's ears, and die away at last when unconsciousness sets in. One hears the fall of the body, but one does not feel it. It will be remembered that Mr. Whympfer, who had a severe succession of falls once in the Alps without losing his consciousness, declares emphatically that as he bounded from one rock to another he felt absolutely no pain. The same thing happens on the battle-field; the entrance of the bullet into the body is not felt, and it is not till he feels the blood flowing or a limb paralyzed that the soldier knows he is wounded. Persons who have had several limbs broken by a fall do not know which limbs are affected till they try to rise. At the moment of a fall the whole intellectual activity is increased to an extraordinary degree. There is not a trace of anxiety. One considers quickly what will happen, or may happen. This is by no means the consequence of "presence of mind," it is rather the product of necessity. A solemn composure takes possession of the victim. Death by fall is a beautiful one. Great thoughts fill the victims' souls; they fall painlessly into a great blue sky.

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OUR BRAGGING SISTERS.

A Noted American Lady Appeals to Our Girls to Cease Bragging to Men.

With all her charms, her good sense, her genuine worth, the American girl of the present generation has a habit of well, I will say "bragging," to be explicit, of which I wish she should correct herself for the sake of the American young man, and it is because the young men have confided in me that I make this appeal.

Young men and old men, too, for that matter, are much more frank and honest in their criticisms of our sex when talking with a married woman than when listening to a single girl, coquettish girl who expects them to be gallant rather than sincere. The average man is an arrant coward, so far as honesty of expression goes, when he is in the society of a charming girl. He will allow her to startle and shock him without a protest; he will smile and compliment her upon her brightness when his heart is full of displeasure and disappointment. He will have her wholly unconscious of his mental attitude, and go out and vent his indignation or grief to some dowager or man friend. Let the married lady report his criticisms to the young girl, with a desire to warn her from further offences, and ten to one the young woman will accuse her of feminine jealousy, and the young man will be himself gracefully out of the matter. Therefore, I make a general appeal to the girls, assuring them that every word I utter is true.

Biggest Land Animals that Ever Existed.

In Colorado have been found great deposits of the bones of titanosaurs, the biggest land animals that ever existed. They grew to be 65 ft. long and stood 40 ft. high when erect upon their hind legs. Instead of browsing, as did the brontosaurus and triceratops, upon the luxuriant aquatic vegetation around the lake border, they fed upon the foliage of trees on the mountain sides. Likewise did the iguanodon, several times as heavy as an elephant, which had a nipping beak like a turtle's, and also walked erect, using its huge tail for a support, and towering to the height of 40 or 50 ft.

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