



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The performances of the Gift Opera Company have been so fully described elsewhere, that I need not make more than a few remarks about them.

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Boston, April 16.—Bostonsians boast of being musical, and certainly they have some claim for such a boast, as one can hear every kind of music, from the magnificent performances of the Handel and Hayden, to the French piano of most elaborate design and intermediate grades of hand organs in various stages of decay, hurdy gurdies, to say nothing of the ever wonderful German band.

Lent seems to have no effect on the music before the public. On Monday the New York Symphony orchestra, under Mr. Walter Damrosch, gave a splendid concert in Music Hall. The orchestral numbers on the programme were full of interest and were played with excellent taste and spirit.

Everyone is so familiar with the Messiah that it is looked forward to with special interest, and there are many new beauties that are brought to one's notice in listening to such a splendid performance as was given by the Handel and Haydn on Wednesday evening, with the assistance of Mrs. Johnstone-Bishop, soprano; Mrs. Alves, contralto; Mr. Edward Lloyd, tenor; Myron Whitney, bass, as soloists; the Boston Symphony orchestra, Mr. J. Lang, organist, as accompanist; Mr. Farran, conductor. The choruses were all rendered almost faultlessly. Perhaps "Unto us a Christ is born," is the most successful of the year.

On Good Friday evening Bach's Passion music was given, Mr. Lloyd as the Evangelist, Mr. Parker singing the tenor parts, which he has done magnificently. The work is so long there were many cuts. The audience were invited to join in the chorals.

In the churches the choirs are more than busy in the preparation of the Easter music, which promises to be as beautiful as ever, though the church music is not so good as of old.

Next week piano forte lovers are looking forward to hearing D'Albert's three piano recitals. That of Monday is to be entirely of Beethoven's compositions; the others, it is rumored, are to trace the progress in the style of music from the earlier concert to the present day.

Mr. S. B. Whitney is also directing a grand concert by the choirs of the Messiah and Advent for Tuesday evening, Easter week, at which Mr. Geo. Parker is to be one of the soloists.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Three Black Cloaks may be an excellent opera from a musical standpoint, it may have won favor and had good runs in large cities but it will never be popular in St. John. I suppose the opera season opened with it because it was new to the people, but it is a question whether old and

tried favorites are not more pleasing than new and untried—shall I say—failures?

The opera affords splendid opportunities to display every weakness of a company. The music possesses little catchiness or swing and both soloists and chorals have no chance to show what they can do.

The comedian tries hard to be funny when there is really nothing to make fun of. It would be manifestly unfair to judge the company by its first appearance in an opera of this description. It could not be called satisfactory; the work of the principals was not up to the mark, the prompter was altogether too prominent, and the chorus lacked that confidence in themselves only acquired by painstaking and frequent rehearsals.

Both the tenor Mr. Macreary and Miss Gilman created a favorable impression. Miss Calhoun received the welcome of a former acquaintance. The work of Messrs. Hitchcock and Donnelly was greatly marred by atrocious and ill-timed punning, which reminded one much of the variety stage and the music halls.

After listening to the apologetic performance of the Mascot Wednesday evening and the intrusion of all the dime museum vulgarism and slang upon the dialogue, I am thoroughly inclined to unsay any favorable mention in the preceding paragraphs. It has never been my fortune to see any opera so sadly and brutally mutilated or to listen to terms and phrases so insulting to the patrons of the house.

The serpentine dance was given for the first time Wednesday evening, but owing to the difficulties which presented themselves, it would be unfair to Miss Taylor to say anything about it.

A word or two to the management of the opera house: It is a good maxim to carry out your advertisements to the very letter. Don't even let anything be implied by you in the press that you do not propose to perform. The confidence of the people is hard to get, and when you get it, put it in pickle. I am moved to say this by the disappointment created Monday evening by the absence of the serpentine dance, as well as the lack of any explanation from the stage.

The circus has struck Boston with an alarming degree of virulence, two theatres having given up their stages to the sawdust track and the crack of the ring master's whip. The Boston is running the Country Circus, which for two acts presents rustic comedy, the third act shows the circus parade, which is the best of its kind ever given on a stage, and the fourth act gives the circus itself, a real good, old fashioned one ring show, with capable riders, first-class acrobats, and all the necessary adjuncts to the tented ring.

Neil Burgess at the Park, where, by-the-way, the County Fair was running to good business, for some reason, a reason well known though to those inside, pulled it off and put on his old play of Vin with a circus act written in, utilizing for this part of the performance his racing machine. Mr. Burgess' attempt has not met with the same success he an-

ticipated and his friends are rather surprised at his new departure.

The Tremont has given us the divine Sarah for a week, but unfortunately for the theatre, and indeed the same reason held good for all the show houses, the engagement fell in Holy week, consequently small houses were the rule, but despite this the great Bernhardt never played better, or with more artistic feeling and dramatic ability. Her Leah is a performance to be remembered and ranked among the great performances of the day.

At the Hollis street theatre, Mrs. Leslie Carter, she of divorce court fame, and celebrated for her gold red hair, has given us Miss Helgett, the latest New York musical success. The piece is very bright, the music catchy and sparkling, and Mrs. Carter plays very well.

An old St. John favorite, Dominic Murray, is playing the lead in Master and Man at the Grand Opera house. Mr. Murray is one of the veterans of the stage, and is a strong drawing card here.

The Columbia has just closed a very successful short season of the bright comedy, Jane, and it has been followed by the brilliant light comedy, Gloriana, which made one of the hits of the season in New York, and would not have left that city had it not been for prior arrangements to appear here which could not be changed.

The Boston Museum has put on a new play, the Councilor's Wife, which seems to have pleased the audiences. As you have heard there are quite a number of changes in the Museum company. The manager, Mr. Field, has made himself rather a laughing stock by stating he was weeding out his company, when, as a matter of fact those who left did so to better themselves, as the manager of the old shop is not given to paying high salaries.

Circumstances compelled me to go to Chelsea one evening last week and I dropped in to the theatre and saw a performance of Hands Across the Sea by the company that has had the piece since its first production three years since. The leading part is now played by a St. John lady who is rapidly coming to the front as an emotional actress, and who in all probability will go out with this company next season. The lady is known on the stage as Miss Alice Graeme and will be remembered by many friends in St. John.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

When a prize fighter takes to letter-writing, the public always looks for interesting reading, interesting inasmuch as it shows how much one man can say to another without having to step into a prize ring and back it up. Charley Mitchell is one of the best of them, and the following letter, printed in the London Sporting Life, shows that he still knows how to talk:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SPORTING LIFE.

Sir: My recent visit to America has turned out precisely what I anticipated. Notwithstanding that I have frequently advertised that I had retired from the ring, no sooner did I set foot in America than I was assailed with challenges, issued solely for advertising purposes to boom certain theatrical enterprises with which the so-called Champions of America are at present identified. It was only on great provocation that I accepted Sullivan's challenge, and the "back down" that followed is now a matter of history. However, having gone so far as to express my willingness to meet Sullivan, I'm not going to alter my resolution. My next and last fight must be either with Sullivan or his conqueror. Personally I am doubtful about the contest arranged between Sullivan and Corbett ever taking place. Anyway, if there is no fight I stand prepared any time after the date fixed for the Sullivan or Corbett business to fight Sullivan or the man who may be acknowledged America's champion. In my opinion Slavin is champion of the world, as he has always shown himself ready and willing to meet all comers in any part of the globe, and has never tried to screen himself from hostilities behind a big pile of dollars, nor been a party to any particular combination formed for an assured purpose, the nature of which I need not illustrate. Somehow I cannot help thinking that I could satisfy some of the aspirants to the American championship inside of four rounds. I am not in the business, I may as well candidly state, solely for glory, and no not want to train any longer than I can possibly help. Still, my ambition is to beat America's champion, and whoever holds that title can always have a match with me. I only want to prove to the world that America has not yet discovered anything in the pugilistic line that can either lack creation or lower my colours. Of course, I hope it may prove a mere conjecture on my part as to the Sullivan-Corbett match petering out. Personally I hope it will come off, and I repeat that it will afford me every satisfaction to meet the winner. I am prepared to deposit when called upon the sum of £1,000 to bind a match, and any communication through the Sporting Life from America's champion will receive the attention of Yours faithfully,

CHARLES MITCHELL, (English Boxing Champion).

One Day in Seven in the Country. The steamer Clifton has begun her Monday, Wednesday and Saturday trips between Indiantown and Hampton, and the advantages of the service becomes more widely known every year, this summer's travel along the Kennebecasis will be larger than usual. Capt. Earle has made the line popular, and is still in command. In summer the Kennebecasis is one of the beauty spots of the province, and people who spend six days of the week in town can enjoy a rest in the country without inconvenience, as the Clifton leaves Indiantown Saturday afternoon and gets back in good time Monday morning.

YARMOUTH.

[Progress is for sale in Yarmouth at the stores of E. I. Vickery, T. F. Knight and Harris & Horsfall.]

APRIL 19.—A number of the churches were very handsomely decorated on Easter Sunday. Holy Trinity being especially attractive with floral offerings sent by members of the parish, among which were some beautiful palms and other plants from the conservatory of Hon. L. E. Baker; several handsome callalilies sent by Mr. Robt. Caie; a rare cut flowers from Mrs. E. K. Spinyer, and numerous other beautiful plants. A very beautiful white and gold altar cloth was made and presented by the ladies of the parish to the church. The pulpit and reading desk, in the same colors. One of the members of the congregation presented the church with a very unique evergreen holder, which was placed in the font and filled with beautiful blossoms. The sermon in the morning was very eloquent and was listened to by a large audience. In the evening the rector gave an address to the children of the three parishes and presented medals and other awards for school work. The Rev. Mr. J. J. Levesque delivered a very fine sermon in the evening in the Milton Methodist church to a crowded audience; the church being very artistically decorated with flowers, among which was a beautiful white cross between petals, which was the singing by the choir has been spoken of in the highest terms. Special music was prepared by the choirs of St. John's Presbyterian, Providence Methodist, and the different Baptist churches in town.

Miss Lovitt, accompanied by her sister, Miss Emily Lovitt, left for a fortnight's visit to Boston last Friday.

A very interesting parlour social was given at the residence of Mrs. J. L. R. Webster, Milton, on the evening of Thursday last, for the benefit of St. John's church. A very attractive programme was arranged, and carried out by the following persons: Mrs. Jessie Burdell, Mrs. A. Johnson, Mr. Miller, Miss Minnie Burdell, Dr. and Mrs. Gray, Miss Eva Pelton, Misses Potter and Miss Fanny Gann. The piano solos by Miss Cain, Miss Burdell and Miss Pelton were very finely executed, as was also the violin solo by Mrs. Chambers. Dr. and Mrs. Gray sang a very pretty little ballad which greatly charmed the audience. Mrs. Von Metzke's selection from Dickens was very laughable, and a very good imitation of the character represented. Miss Potter's vocal solo and her sister's violin accompaniment were both very good. At the conclusion of the musical and literary programme, those present were invited to an adjoining room, where an "observational table" had been prepared. When the lists were compared it was found that Miss Alice Potter had won the first ladies' prize and Mr. Miller first gentleman's.

Mr. James McLaughlin has returned from his trip to England.

Mr. L. E. Baker returned from Halifax last week.

Mr. Geo. B. Doane, for some years a resident of Yarmouth, and who is now residing in Boston, was in town last week.

Miss Mary Johnson of Milton, is absent from town on a visit to relatives in Boston.

Mr. Holey of St. John, has been spending a week in town.

Mrs. and Miss Robertson of Milton returned from a trip to New York last Tuesday afternoon.

Miss Nellie Ekins has friends visiting from Lockport.

Miss Harris from Annapolis, is visiting her cousin, Miss Jenny Harris.

A number of College boys are home for their Easter vacations.

The deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stoneham in the loss of their little son, Fred, which occurred very suddenly on Sunday last. The funeral took place Tuesday afternoon, and was largely attended. Some very pretty floral offerings were sent by the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Stoneham.

A meeting of the Masonic brethren took place in the Scotia lodge last evening. New officers were elected for the ensuing year. Mr. M. P. Cook was made worshipful master, and past master J. M. Lawson was presented with an address and a beautiful past master's jewel. A number of addresses were given, and refreshments served by the brethren.

The Yarmouth band, under their new leader, have advertised a very attractive programme for Thursday evening in the Marine hall. As this is the first appearance of the band under Prof. Medcalf, no doubt they will draw a very large audience. On Saturday evening the band gave an open air concert when the song, "Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay," published in the last issue of Progress, was introduced in Yarmouth.

Miss Dexter is visiting friends in Weymouth.

I understand hand-some buildings are to be erected on the lots left vacant by the recent fire. The occupants of the old buildings will resume their business in the new quarters.

SHEDIAC.

[Progress is for sale in Shediac at A. Stone's store.]

APRIL 20.—As a general rule, moving is a thing very little known about, to most of the people in Shediac. This spring, however, quite a number seem to be desirous of a change. Mr. Jas. Wilbur of Shediac Cape, having bought the house on Sackville street, lately occupied by Mr. J. G. A. Belyea, the latter has consequently been obliged to move and has taken up his abode in the Calder house, or better known to some as "the old house."

Mr. R. C. Tait is moving the Kinear house down town and intends placing it between Mr. Deacon's drug store and Mr. W. A. Ross's law office. This new residence is to be occupied by Mrs. Capt. Evans.

Miss Fannie Dunlop of Amherst, is visiting Miss Penman and accomplished Business College specialist, has purchased an interest in my business and will be with me after the first of July. We will then have the strongest possible combination of teaching talent, and expect to win success by deserv.

Notice is given thus early that those who are planning their summer work may know their opportunity. Send for circulars and samples of Mr. Pringle's Penmanship to S. KERR, Principal, Oddfellows' Hall.

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