

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. I think that on the whole we have no cause to com plain. I certainly have heard better companies, but at the same time I have heard many very much worse. The two voices which please me most are chance to show what they can do. The Miss Taylor's soprano and Mr. McCrery's tenor; while the chorus is very fair indeed. Some disaplis really nothing to make fun of. pointment was expressed at the failure of It would be manifestly unfair to judge the the company to bring their own orchestra; but our friend, Morton Harrison, has proved himself more than equal to the occasion, and his little band deserve the greatest credit for the plucky and successful manner in which they are nightly playing the by no means easy accompaniments to the various

The Easter music at the various churches has been on the whole very good. At the Stone Church on Good Friday evening a special service, illustrative of our Lord's passion, was well rendered, Mr. Lindsay being in especially good voice.

G. Easter Sunday morning Morley's fine
Te Dum was sung, and in the evening
a pretty service by Lohr and Stainer's spir.ted
cherus "Awake thou that Sleepest" were given. At
the Mission church on Easter morning, the choral
celebration was excellently sung to A. H. Brown's setting in C, and in the evening Clark-Whitfield's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E and a very taking anthem by Mr. Custance, "The Lord is my strength" were really well rendered, the various leads being taken up with accuracy and precision.

At St. Paul's church on Easter afternoon a special children's service with carols, assisted by the Y. M. C. A. orchestra, was held and passed off most successfully. I cannot say very much for the singing at Trinity, which was distinctly poor, and very much out; of time, the boys being especially weak. I hear that Mr. W. Starr has been engaged as a paid tenor singer at Trinity. His voice will be much missed at St. Paul's, but I must congratulate the author-

Much disappointment was felt on Monday night at the non-appearance of Mrs. Harrison at the Queen square methodist church concert. However, the encert passed off very successfully, the numbers most appreciated being songs by Miss Louise Dunean and Mr. Mayes, an organ solo by Mr. Custance, and a violin quartette led by Prof. White. The Y. M. C. A. orchestra acquitted themselves very creditably, and showed unmistakeable signs of investment of the profession. This orchestra improvement and careful practice. This orchestra should serve as a feeder for the Philharmonic club, and be a means of sustaining a real musical interes

amongst our young men.

The Musical Club held its monthly meeting at Mrs. Patton's residence, Elliott Row, on Tuesday last, when the programme consisted of works by Italian composers and Chopin. The attendance was not very large, owing to other attractions; but a pleasant evening was spent by those who were able to be present. Among the best numbers on the programme were pianoforte solos by Miss Goddard (Valse in A, Chopin) and Mr. Ford (Valse No. 4, Chopin) and songs by Mrs. Carter and Mr. H. Ruel,

the latter of whom sung Tosti's beautiful song, "Beauty's Eyes."

Both the Amateur Minstrel club and the Philharmonic club are holding most satisfactory rehearsals. The former will give their performances on May 11th and 12th, while the latter will hold their con-UBIQUE.

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 wonder-inspiring 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, but the crowning success of the evening was the great violin concerto, by Beethoven, delivered in a masterly manner by Mr. Adolph Brodsky. The difficult music of the selections from Wagner was well sung by Misses Gertru e Franklin, Annabella Clark and Lena Little. 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. B. J. Lang, organist, as accompanists; Mr. Farrahn, conductor. The choruses were all rendered almost faultlessly. Perhaps "Unto us a Christ is born," was the most successful. Of the soloists, as usual, the first attention is the tenor solos. Mr. Edward Lloyd has gained the enviable solos. Mr. Edward Lloyd has gained the enviable position of being the leading interpreter of the tenor music of the Messiah, and he sang in his usual excellent style. Mrs. Bishop made her greatest success in, "Rejoice, Rejoice Greatly," which she sang with great fluency and brilliancy, in iact she was good in all numbers, but evidently her best work is in the lighter, brilliant solos. Mrs. Alves possesses a remarkably beautiful quality of voice and she gave her audience perfect satisfaction. voice and she gave her audience perfect satisfaction. Of Mr. Whitney it is unnecessary to give any criti eism except to say that as usual, he was best in that wonderful bit of work "Why do the nations." It is probable that no performance of the Messiah in

Boston has given more satisfaction and pleasure than that of the Wednesday evening.

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

In all 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 a ways fine at any point of the year. One Sunday evening, for instance, some selections from St. Paul's oratorio, Mendelssohn, were very well given in the (New) Old South, by the choir, which is a double quartette, and Mr. Geo. J. Parker, the well known tenor, was one of the soloists. All the numbers were well given, but in one or two of the choruses, the organ accompaniment was rather too prominent; a very common fault, by the

Nearly all the episcopal churches have boy choirs. Some of them are very good, especially that of the Advent, which has the precedence, and there is also a well-trained choir in the Emanuel church, Newburg street. Mr. Geo. Osgood is choir director and tenor soloist. This choir possesses a very fine boy soprano, who sings with great expression and

taste.

Last Sunday Gounod's Ave Verum was well sung by the boys' choir in All Saints, Ashmont; the boys sang with great expression, and showed marks of careful rehearsal. At Trinity church there is a mxied choir. The soprano is weak and the music does not receive sufficient practice; but as many of the members reside out of the city, it is found rather difficult to summon extra practices. The organist and choir director, Mr. Gillet, is very well liked by

the congregation.

The Easter music here, however, promises to be very good the Stanford Te Deum in B flat an antim by Tours, "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us," and another anthem, alto solo from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Kyrie-Tours Sanctus, Elvey, Gloria, simple chant. In the Advent Stainer's serious in the same of t

Sloria, simple chant. In the Advent Stamer's service will be given.

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 com-

posers 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. ANTICUS. 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 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 chorus have no comedian tries hard to be funny when there 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. But what a marked improvement there was in the Mascot performance! Here, the company seemed thoroughly at home, and in spite of the curtailment made necessary by Miss Taylor's cold, the opera was thoroughly enjoyable. Both principals and chorus did their best, and proved themselves worthy of the captivating, graceful manner. Her voice is sweet and pleasing, and, at times, powerful. Her expression is always in perfect sympathy and accord with her lines, eagar and animated, pouting and disdaintul, hard and vicious, in laughter or tears, as the occasion demands. With such attributes and a bright, vivacious manner it Miss Taylor in any role.

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 illtimed puning, which reminded one much of the vari- to the theatre and saw a performance of ety 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 favor- out with this company next season. The able mention in the preceding paragraphs. lady is known on the stage as Miss Alice It has never been my fortune to see any Graeme and will be remembered by many opera so sadly and brutally mutilated or to friends in St. John. listen to terms and phrases so insulting to the patrons of the house. Such buffooners also intend giving a concert in May, so that we have plenty of music to look forward to. There will be no rehearsal of the Philharmonic club this ed the Bijou here a short time ago, and even this did not prepare one Boston, April 16.—Bostonians boast of being for the ceaseless repetition of the senseless musical, and certainly they have some claim for phrase, "you make me tired," or the equally elegant "cheese it," or the references to a notorious woman, an injury to the house and an insult to the audience. Such alleged jokes as "They've got the grippe" could be pardoned, but such interlocutions as "I'll meet you in front of the Vic." and "I'll see you after the show," have no place upon the stage of the opera house when regular admission charges are the rule. On the contrary, when you go to a dime show, ten-cent performers are

> 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 lowed is now a matter of history. Howcarry out your advertisements to the very ever, having gone so far as to express my 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 van and Corbett ever taking place. Anyevening by the absence of the serpentine dance, as well as the lack of any explanation from the stage. This latter was corrected Tuesday evening when the dance failed to materialize again. But explana-tions and apologies from the stage after Slavin is champion of the world, the performance are not satisfactory to the audience who, on the strength of advertise- ready and willing to meet all comers ments and advance notices buy their tickets | in any part of the globe, and has never to see a certain performance. I know of a tried to screen himself from hostilities benumber of gentlemen from out of town who | hind a big pile of dollars, nor been a party spent five times the price of admission to to any particular combination formed for come to the city and see the serpentine dance Monday evening. It will be exceedingly difficult to indu e them to come again help thinking that I could satisfy some of for a similar attraction. They went away with an impression that there was a "fake" somewhere, while, in reality, there was only a mistake of judgment in announcing something to take place that the management was not certain would take place. The evening papers of the city can always get in a two or three line paragraph as late as 4 o'clock in the afternoon and I believe it will be prudent and wise for the management in tuture, to always an nounce when a feature will not be given as readily as when it will be a part of the pro-

Don't trifle with the people for the people won't stand it.

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 shews 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, firstclass acrobats, and all the necessary adjuncts to the tented ring.

way, The County Fair was running to made the line popular, and is still in comgood business, for some reason, a mand. In summer the Kennebecasis is one reason well known though to those of the beauty spots of the province, and inside, pulled it off and put on his people who spend six days of the week in old play of Vim with a circus act written town can enjoy a rest in the country with-

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 known English actor, of whose abilities I have spoken more than once, occupies the stage of this theatre now, and will do so tor some weeks to come.

At the Hollis street theatre, Mrs. Leslie Carter, she of divorce court fame, and celebrated for her gold red hair, has given us Miss Helyett, 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 splendid audience present. The prima in New York, and would not have left that donna, Miss Mamie Taylor, was charming city had it no been for prior arrangements -all that she did she did in a natural, to appear here which could not be

The Boston Museum has put on a new play, the Councillor'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 would be difficult to find serious fault with rather a laughing stock by stating he was Hiss Taylor in any role.

Both the tenor Mr. Macrery and Miss 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 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 PROSCENIUM.

SPORTS OF THE SEASON

When a prize fighter takes to letterwriting, 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 bow to

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 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 folwillingness 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 Sulliway, if there is no fight I stand prepared any time after the date fixed for the Sullivan and Corbett business to fight Sullivan or the man who may be acknowledged he has always shown himself need not illustrate. Somehow I cannot 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 lorger 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 lick 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 hampion will receive the attent-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 as the advantages of the service becomes more widely known every year, this summer's travel along the Kennebecasis will Neil Burgess at the Park, where, by-the- be larger than usual. Capt. Earle has in, utilizing for this part of the performance his racing machine. Mr. Burgess' attempt has not met with the same success he an- back in good time Monday morning.

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

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 calla-lilies sent by Mr. Robt Caie; a rare Easter lily from Mr. E. K. Spinney, and numerous cut flowers from others who assisted in the church ability. Her Leah is a performance to be remembered and ranked among the great performances of the day. Mr. E. T. Willard, the wellunique silver flower 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. Lanquill delivered a very fine sermon in the evening in the Milton methodist church to a crowded audience; the church being very artis-tically decorated with flowers, among which was a beautiful white cross between potted calla lilies. 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

A very interesting parlor 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 John's church. A very attractive programme was arranged, and carried out by the following persons: Miss Jessie Burrill, Mrs. Chambers, Mr. Miller, Miss Minnie Burrill, Dr. and Mrs. Gray, Miss Eva Pelton, the Misses Potter and Miss Fanny Cann. The piano solos by Miss Cann, Miss Burrill 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 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 Petter's vocal solo and her sister's violin accompaniment were both very good. At the conclusion of the musical and literary programme, those present was invited into a contraction of the musical and literary programme, those present was invited into a contraction. ent were invited into an adjoining room, where an "observation 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

where he has been attending Parliament, and his friends will regret to hear that sickness confined him to the house a greater part of his time while

Yarmouth, and who is now residing in Boston, was

Mr. Holley of St. John, has been spending a week in town. Mrs. and Miss Robertson of Milton returned

Lockeport.

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

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.

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 beau tiful past master's jewel. A number of addresses were given, and refreshments served by the breth-

ubt 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

SHEDIAC.

Miss Fannie Dunlop of Amherst, is visiting Miss Jennie Webster.

Messrs. J. A. McDonald of Moneton, and W. Mc Donald of Sackville spent Easter at their home in

R. C. Tait. He preached in the methodist church on Sunday evening. The pulpit of the church, as were also those of the episcopal and baptist churches, was prettily decorated with Easter lilies and various other beautiful plants.

Mr. W. Marriage, of Montreal, spent Sunday in torus

Mr. H. P. Clarke, of Quebec, was here for a short ime last week. Mr. Leonard Webster was confined to his home or a few days last week through illness.
Miss Laurie Deacon, accompanied by her friend,

Miss Laurie Deacon, accompanied by her friend,
Miss Minnie Hay of Mt. Allison, came home on
Thursday to spend the Easter holidays. They
returned to school again Tuesday.
Mrs. R. C. Tait and Miss Maggie Evans spent
Thursday of last week in Moncton.
The many friends of Miss Lottie Deacon are
delighted to see her out again, after her long illness, although only for a short drive as yet, on
very fine days.

very fine days.

The children of the Methodist Sunday school gave a very pleasing entertainment, to a large and appre-ciative audience in the church on Monday evening.



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YARMOUTH.

APRIL 19 .- A number of the churches were very

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

Hon. L. E. Baker returned from Halifax last

trip to England. Wm. Law, M. P. P., has returned from Halifax,

Mr. Geo. B. Doane, for some years a resident of Miss Mary Johnson of Milton, is absent from town on a visit to relatives in Boston.

om a trip to New York and Baltimore last week.

Miss Nellie Eakins has friends visiting from

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

The deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stoneman in the loss of their little son, Fred, which occurred very suddenly on Sunday

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. Medcalfe, no

The occupants of the old buildings will resume their business in the new quarters.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Shediac at A. Stone's

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 was assailed with challenges, issued solely seem to be desirous of a change. Mr. Jas. Wilbur for advertising purposes to boom certain of Shediac Cape, having bought the house on Sack ville street, lately occupied by Mr. J. G. A. Belvea, the latier has consequently been obliged to move and has taken up his abode in the Calder house, or better known to some as "the farm." Mr. R. C. Tait is moving the Kinnear house down town and intends placing it between Mr. Deacon's drug store and Mr. W. A. Russell's law office. This cosy residence is to be occupied by Mrs. Capt.

Miss Copp, teacher of the primary department in the Central school, spent Easter at her home in

Mr. R. C. Tait made a short visit in St. John last Mr. F. L. Theal, of Sussex, was in town for a day or two last week. Rev. Mr. Darly, of Mt. Allison, Sackville, spent his Easter holidays here, the guest of Mr. and Mrs.

The programme which consisted of music, readings, and dialogue, was well carried out in every particular. Master Frank McFadzen's, piccolo solos deserve special mention.

Bon-Ton.



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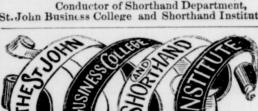
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