



TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The members of the Opera house stock company let themselves loose this week and furnished fun in large quantities. It was a regular family party in which everybody was acquainted, and the actors enjoyed the entertainment as well as the audience. To a person who had not seen the company in two or three different plays the impression formed must have been anything but favorable. There was no apparent attempt to accomplish anything great from an artistic point of view; it was simply free and easy, but natural throughout, and some of the company, unconsciously and without effort, as it seemed, did work, which for naturalness and effect, showed them to better advantage than in many of their previous performances. This was particularly the case with Mr. Hastings and Miss Lowrie in a delightful little sketch, Uncle Dan; delightful, inasmuch as it was made so by those who played it. Mr. Hastings, as a briefless barrister, burdened with all the anxiety that such characters are supposed to have by divine right, and a wife, whom he thought stood between him and a fortune, entered into the spirit of the part with so much vigor that that jerky enunciation which has marred much of his best work, was lost sight of. Miss Lowrie is an actress who may be expected to spring a surprise at any time. Her Kitty Wingfield in Uncle Dan was an instance in point. As a giddy, but all the more lovable little matron, she was natural and intensely amusing; but as the same vivacious little creature with a pair of green spectacles, posing as a studious, straight-laced young woman, she carried the audience by storm. Mr. Hampton as Uncle Dan furnished the rest of the fun, and the quality was good. The performances Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening were acceptable largely from the fact that those who took part in them were favorites with the audience, old friends, at it were, on a holiday and in for a good time. Everybody was amused, laughed themselves sore in fact, just as would be the case if the haughty head of an aristocratic family were to dance a jig on the centre table in the middle of a room full of guests. What could be funnier? So it was with Mr. Jenson. How could anyone who had seen him as Martel in the Marquise, as Franz in Two Nights in Rome, or the jolly but nevertheless fatherly old captain in Turned Up—who could imagine a man of his avoirdupois, in tight and ballet skirt, tripping the light fantastic! So the audience went into convulsions, and the curtain had to go up again. Then picture Mr. Frawley, whom we always expect to find whispering love into some pretty little creature's ear,—imagine him as a dumb waiter dancing the Razzle Dazzle with Messrs. Jenson and Hampton; or, again, as a stage-struck Irishman in the amateur rehearsal. Who could help laughing when he did it so well? And Miss Erle, that portly Miss, who had been a mother to nearly every member of the company since the engagement opened—think of her gotten up as papa's stage-struck darling—almost an infant—and acting the part to perfection in word and gesture. And Miss Ford, also stage-struck, and Miss Lowrie, ditto ditto. Mr. Utter came on, too, as a very black waiter, and the twist of his mouth was a study. Then take Alf Hampton as sage manager, and heavy villain, and let her go. Anybody can see where the fun comes in. Mr. Hampton was thoroughly at home all evening. His contribution to the free fund sent the sum total up far above that of the average church collection. And so it was all through the performance. If there was fun or individuality in any member of the company it came out. Those who play sentimental parts, and whose modesty would not allow them to do the ridiculous successfully, were forced to stay in the back ground. The cast on the programme was almost lost sight of in the general merry-making, and nobody felt sorry. Nevertheless the acting of those who took the principal parts in Robert Macaire was free from any unnecessary by-play, and when they did settle down to develop the plot, made it interesting. Robert Macaire is a dramatization of the opera Ermnie, with most of the best features left out. Of course Robert Macaire has as much assurance as ever, and Mr. Liston gave a good interpretation; cool, with a bold front always, he carried everything before him, while his make-up was ample evidence of the fact that he was once a gentleman. Jacques Strop, his "poor nerves," his woe-begone expression, tattered clothing and uncontrollable propensity to appropriate, was truthfully set forth by Mr. Blake-more, but where were the dicky birds? The idea of the piece seems to be to introduce the two thieves and they are entrusted with the task of keeping the audience interested. Miss Madder as Marie acted the part with faithfulness that would have been better appreciated under other circumstances. The same can be said of others in the cast who were forced to do the sentimental in a performance in which everybody was in for fun. Mr. Liston in the last act, when, as the dying Robert Macaire, he asks the forgiveness of his wife and son, and confesses having committed the murder was seen in a new role, and his portrayal was a good one. But aside from all this, those who have pleasant recollections of Ermnie should not attend a performance of Robert Macaire.

although the audience seldom sees him. Monday evening he came on as a colored waiter. He had only a few lines to say, and did not take any particular pains to learn them, but left his book in a convenient place in the wings so that he could glance at it before going on. One of the actors carried it off, and when it was time to come on again, Mr. Utter looked in vain for the book. He had to trust to memory. He got along all right till he struck Mr. Jenson who changed his lines so that Mr. Utter was at loss what to say in return. It made a little bit of a jumble, but the company had the laugh on the master of properties.

The summer stock company, composed of members of the leading theatres of America, whose work has delighted St. John theatre goers, will, to-night, close their regular season with the performance of My Geraldine.

A number of the leading citizens and patrons of the Opera House recognizing the exceptional merit of this organization, which is without doubt the best company that has visited St. John for sometime, have suggested the propriety of a farewell benefit.

In accordance with this suggestion Mr. Frawley and his associates have decided to present on Thursday evening, July 7th, what they expect to be one of the strongest dramatic entertainments ever given in St. John. The programme will embrace acts from those dramas which have met with special favor during the season, and will also include novel features in the way of songs, dances, and monologues, which will in every way display the talents of the company to the best possible advantage.

The programme will include the second act of All the Comforts of Home, in which Miss Ford will appear in her successful impersonation of "Prince Vladimir," and Mr. Jenson in his inimitable portrayal of "Theo. Bender, Esq.," the second act of Turned Up, introducing "Mr. Blake-more," in his laughable negro characterizations, Mr. Hampton in his great character of "Carraway Bones," and a new song and dance by Mr. Hampton and Miss Lowrie; the second act of Sweet Lavender, in which Mr. Liston will repeat his successful performance of "Dick Phenyl," the fourth act of The Marquise, which includes the trial scene, in which Miss Hampton will appear as the wife. Mr. Lee will also appear as the stern but good hearted judge, Mr. Jenson as Martel, Mr. Frawley as the lover, and Mr. Hastings as the councillor; and judging by their previous performances in this play will give a scene which for true artistic merit will be enjoyed by every lover of legitimate drama.

The Shamrock Dramatic club went to Moncton yesterday and presented Richelieu at the opera house there last evening with Mr. J. L. Carleton in the title role, supported by the original company.

I have lately come into possession of a singular play bill, says the dramatic man of a Montreal paper, which is certainly of great rarity, if not unique, and the vein of humor which runs through it, and the singularity of the performance which it chronicles, render it uncommonly interesting.

THEATRE ROYAL, ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE, STRAND. Particularly Private. This present Friday, April 25, 1822, will be presented a farce called Mr. H—

(N. B.—This piece was damned at Drury Lane Theatre.) Mr. H—, Captain Hill; Landlord, Mr. Gyles; Bell, Mr. C. Byrne; Melesinda, Mrs. Edwin. Previous to which a prologue will be spoken by Mrs. Edwin.

After the farce (for the first time in this country, and now performing with immense success in Paris, a French Petite Comedie, called Le Comedien, D'Etampes. (N. B. The piece was never acted in London, and may very probably be damned here.)

Dorval (Comedien) M. Perlet (positively for the night only, as he is engaged to play the same part at Paris tomorrow evening), M. Macchonde de Reaboussin, Mr. O. D'Egville, L. Dupre, M. Genetier Baptiste, Mr. W. Peake, Mr. Corbin, Mr. O'Byrne, Madeline, Madame Spitalier.

Immediately after which A Lover's Confession in the shape of a song, by M. Emile (from the Theatre de la Porte, St. Martin at Paris. To conclude with a pathetic drama in one act called "The Sorrows of Werther." (N. B.—This piece was damned at Covent Garden Theatre.) Werther, Mr. C. Mathews; Schmidt (his friend), Mr. J. D'Egville; Usher, Mr. Gyles; Fritz (Werther's servant), Mr. R. B. Peake; Snaps (Albert's servant), Mr. W. Peake; Charlotte, Mrs. Mathews; brothers and sisters of Charlotte, by six cherubins got for the occasion.

Orchestra—Leader of the band, Mr. Knight; Conductor, Mr. E. Knight; Piano Forte, Mr. Knight, jun.; Harpsichord, Master Knight (that was); Civeavin, by the Father of the Knights to come. Vivat Rex! No money returned (because none was taken).

On account of the above surprising novelty, not an order can possibly be admitted; but, it is requested, that if such a thing find its way into the front seat of the house, it will be kept. Doors open at Half past Six, begin at Half past Seven precisely. The entrance for all parts of the House at the Private Box Door in Excise Street.

Lowndes printer, Marquis Court, Drury Lane, London. It is well known that Chas. Lamb's play Mr. H. was killed in its production at Drury Lane, but that it was subsequently acted does not appear in any of Lamb's biographies. As Lamb was interested in the play, why not also in the play bill? The peculiar vein of humor is certainly his. The following printed apology was circulated in the theatre:

"The ladies and gentlemen who have honored the theatre with a visit, are most respectfully informed that Mrs. Edwin has been very suddenly and seriously indisposed. In this emergency Mrs. Edwin (formerly Miss J. Stevenson), of this Theatre, has kindly undertaken the part of Melesinda, in the farce called "Mr. H.—" The prologue intended to have been recited by Mrs. Edwin, will be read by Mr. H. himself, who solicits the customary indulgence.

"As a conclusion to this complicated apology it is with sorrow announced that Mr. Perlet, Mr. Emile and Mr. C. J. Mathews have had the misfortune of falling from their horses, and spraining their right ankle, but it is anxiously hoped that as the actors intend to put their best leg forward the performance will not be considered a lame one.

The second paragraph is probably a hit at the ungrammatical announcement put forward by the Drury Lane or Covent Garden management. The pun is characteristic of Lamb.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES. The Amateur Minstrel club has given up the idea of putting on an opera this year on account of the great expense, and has decided to give another minstrel performance in the fall. Perhaps this is a wise decision, as the minstrel performances are always good and the club is sure to make money by

THE LAST DAY

The Guessing Contest for the handsome chair at the 20TH CENTURY KANDY KITCHEN, closes tonight.

HAVE YOU GUESSED?

them, while an opera is rather a hazardous undertaking. I was very pleased with the playing of the Philharmonic orchestra on Wednesday afternoon, at the Davenport school closing exercises. They labored under the disadvantage of the unavoidable absence of many members, notably Prof. White and Mr. W. Ewing, the latter being confined to the house through illness. Mr. Cundance played the double-bass and conducted, and the little orchestra acquitted themselves nobly, while the music sounded beautiful in the soft, summer air. The congregation of the Mission church had a rare musical treat on Sunday evening. During the service Mr. Howarth Swann sang Handel's "Comfort Ye," and after the close of the service Prof. White played a beautiful selection of appropriate music on the violin and cornet, accompanied by Mr. Cundance on the organ. Handel's Largo, Ruff's Cavatina, a Meditation on Chopin's Funeral March, and a Berceuse by Hauser were the violin pieces, while Sullivan's Lost Chord was the cornet solo. Both soloist and accompanist played excellently, evidently entering into the spirit of the beautiful music, being entirely "en rapport" with each other. On Thursday next, on the occasion of the meeting of the diocesan synod, there will be special services at the Mission church and at Trinity. At the Mission church there will be full choral celebration of the holy communion at 7.30 a. m., at which Tour's Service in F will be sung, and the choir will be assisted by a male quartette. In the evening at Trinity, there will be a fully choral evensong, in which the three supplied choirs will assist. The Canticles will be in F, and the anthem "Sing a Song of Praise," by Dr. Stainer.

WHERE MANY PICNICS WILL GO.

The Shore Line Railway's Arrangements at Lepreau this Year. The Shore Line railway has leased the beautiful grounds which form part of the estate of the late W. K. Reynolds, at Lepreau, and has gone to considerable outlay in preparing them for picnic purposes. The large barn has been repaired and has now a floor worthy of a ball room, while needed improvements have been made to the cook house. The adjacent groves have been cleared of underbrush, swings, etc., put up, and in many other ways there is a great improvement in the place as compared with last season, though everybody was charmed with it even then. The indications are that there will be a very large picnic traffic this year.

The summer timetable of the road, which went into effect yesterday, is arranged to accommodate small parties when special trains are not required. The regular leaves St. John at 7.14, standard, and reaches Lepreau at 8.47. Returning, it leaves Lepreau at 4.25, or 5 o'clock local time. This gives as good a day in the country as most people require. Private picnics can have the grounds free of charge, and in any case there is no extra charge for the use of the buildings and appliances. The rolling stock of the line has been put in first-class order.

As everybody who has been there knows, Lepreau is one of the most healthful and beautiful spots in which a summer day can be spent. Bordered as it does on the Bay of Fundy, there is at all times a bracing breeze from the water, and such things as mosquitoes and other insect pests are scarcely known. The scenery of hill and vale is exceedingly attractive, while the falls, which point to the best waterpower in the maritime provinces, never fail to charm the visitor. The village itself has been very quiet since the famous saw mill was burned several years ago, but the absence of noise and bustle is just what the city visitor wants. Then, too, there is good fishing near at hand. Lepreau is naturally adapted to picnic purposes, and with the fine grounds now arranged, with special reference to the pleasure of visitors, a good many thousand people are likely to go there this summer.

FREEMASONRY IN TASMANIA.

A Native of Cape Breton the Grand Master in That Country. A prominent member of the craft in Halifax sends PROGRESS the following interesting note:

At the installation of the grand officers of the grand lodge of Tasmania, June 26th, 1890, there were present three distinguished grand masters, besides the grand master elect, M. W. Rev. R. D. Paulet Harris, M. A. The interest in the prosperity of the craft could have been no better exemplified than by the fact that three grand masters, high in rank and in positions of eminence and responsibility, left their respective jurisdictions in Australia, and went all the way to Hobart, Tasmania, to take part in this interesting and imposing ceremony. These were his excellency, Lord Carrington, M. W. G. M. of the grand lodge of New South Wales; his excellency the Earl of Kintore, M. W. G. M. of the grand lodge of South Australia, and Sir W. J. Clarke, bart., M. W. G. M. of the united grand lodge of Victoria. Each of these grand masters was accompanied by his grand lodge officers, and Lord Carrington was the installing grand master.

Then, in the high position of governors, leave Great Britain to assume their many duties in the Australian colonies, but carry the masonic principles into proper practice wherever they go. To the Cape Breton readers of PROGRESS, it will be interesting to know that the then and present grand master of the grand lodge of Tasmania, the Rev. R. D. Paulet Harris, M. A., was born in Sydney, C. B., in the year 1817. His father was at that time captain in the 60th rifles, then stationed at Sydney. He graduated with high honors at Trinity college, Cambridge. He has identified himself with the great cause of education in Tasmania. So the distinguished honors of grand master in the sunny South have fallen on a Cape Breton boy.

The "QUADRANT" as a Roadster



May be estimated by the following items, which have come casually under our notice in the newspapers. No doubt a very large number of similar cases would be forthcoming if we sought for them. The following gives the results of the 100 miles Road Race at Philadelphia, 1891:—

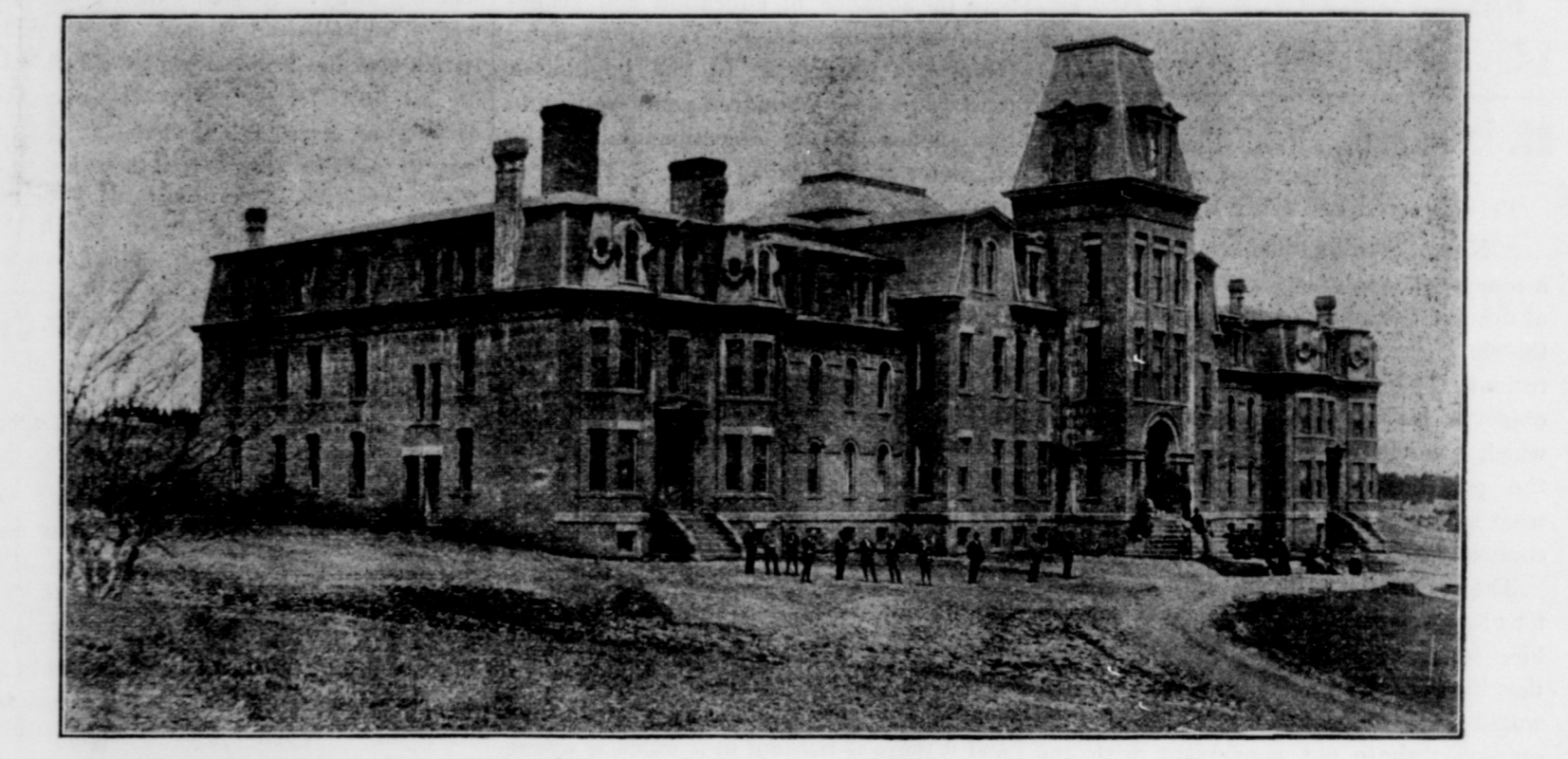
Table with columns: Nationality, Make, Started, Finished, Proportion. Rows include American, English, and Machines.

No information is given as to what make won, but in the previous year's race, out of over a 100 Safety Bicycles at the start, the majority of any one make were "Quadrants." The first Safety to finish was a "Quadrant," and the first lady to finish rode a "Quadrant."

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TERM OPENS SEPT. 15TH. For Calendar and all other information apply to the Principal at St. Martin's, N. B.

Bonnets and Bargains. A bargain sale in millinery is what the ladies do not grumble at. Bargains are as dear to their hearts as bonnets, and when they meet both bargains and bonnets at the same counter satisfaction abounds. Madame Kane says she has both at her store in the opera house block. It won't do any harm to drop in and look over her goods.

Read the article "What Do You Think?" on the fourth page. It will interest you.



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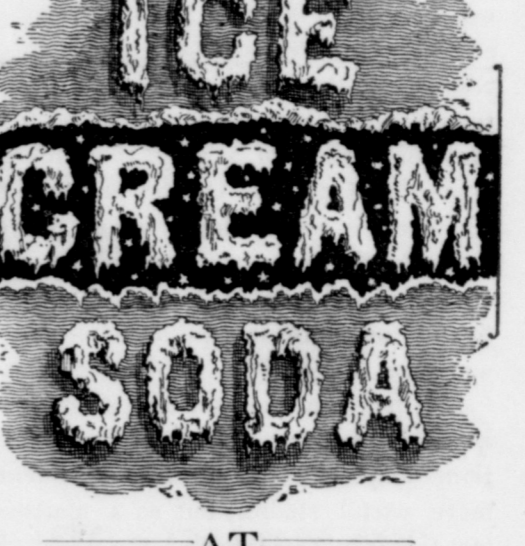
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