



TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Last Thursday evening the Opera House stock company put on Sardou's four act drama, The Marquise. It was new to St. John theatre goers, when played by this company a few weeks ago, and several members of the company were seen to better advantage than in any play put on since the season opened.

In The Marquise a good deal is supposed to have happened before the curtain goes up. The play hinges on the mistake of an innocent woman in not telling her husband "everything." As is often the case in real life, an explanation that would have been all right if made at the proper time proves more embarrassing when forced from the person making it; but it does not always happen, as in the case in The Marquise, that an explanation under such circumstances is so readily accepted.

The actions of the erring ones, however, before the final scene, the self-forward story of the woman, who feared that her actions might have been misunderstood, are convincing evidences of her innocence and the play ends very happily. There is a lesson in it for everyone.

Martel, the game keeper of the Marquis, marries a woman whom he knows to be a flirt. His love for her, despite her faults, surpasses everything, and when he finds her unfaithful, all the jealousy of a rough nature, capable of deep affection, is aroused. He meets her paramour near the house, for the purpose of finding out where his wife is, and is answered with a blow. This enrages the game keeper. He shoots the man, and destroys every evidence of the crime so completely that there seems no possibility of his ever being brought to justice. Suspicion rests upon another man, and during the play his trial is supposed to be going on.

It happens that on the same evening the murder was committed, that Rodolphe de Chamery, a Colonel of Cavalry, a former lover of the Marquise, had had an interview with her for the purpose of exchanging old love letters. They realize how easily their motives might be understood and Rodolphe is careful to avoid being seen. He leaves the house by a window of the Marquise's apartments and is standing on the balcony when the murder is committed. He sees everything and recognizes the men, but leaves the place as quickly as possible and goes back to his post in Algiers.

The trial excites a great deal of interest and the anxiety of the friends and relatives of the prisoner enlist the sympathies of the audience as the play progresses, while Monsieur Buisson, an unwilling member of the jury, contributes nearly enough humor to counteract it. Martel is one of the principal witnesses at the trial. Since the murder he has become drunken and dissipated, careless of his appearance and surly, but is still eager to learn the whereabouts of his wife.

Rodolphe, in Algiers, knows nothing of what is going on until he happens to pick up a newspaper containing an account of the trial. Learning that a reward is being tried for the murder, and that the chances are against him, he hastens back and seeks another private interview with the Marquise. During this interview, Miss Hampton as the Marquise, unwilling to grant it and afraid of being discovered, and Mr. Frawley, as Rodolphe, at last wits to do to save his friend, and at the same time protect the Marquise from what must be a gigantic scandal—both gave true conceptions of the parts; the fear, the anxiety, the undecidedness of the two all making an impression. Then, when the Marquise rings for a servant, and Martel appears, and they recognize him as the murderer, the exclamation of the Marquise, the startled expressions of both, and the grim, surly, unshaven face of the game keeper as he looks from one to the other contemptuously and crosses the room amid a silence that chilled one, the effect was wonderful. It was a fine piece of acting, marred by no one, and Mr. Jenson, as interpreted the part with awful reality.

Rodolphe has an interview with Martel, accuses him of the murder, offers him money to leave the place, and wants him to sign a confession which he promises to withhold until the murderer is beyond the reach of the law. By this means Rodolphe hopes to make it unnecessary to explain his presence at time of the murder, and yet save his friend. Here the love of the game-keeper for his unfaithful spouse again asserts itself. He is about to sign the paper when he realizes that he cannot leave the place without her, suspects Rodolphe's motives and defies him.

Determined to save an innocent man, and shield an innocent woman, the young officer decides to sacrifice himself, proclaiming that he is the murderer. This causes a sensation, but is not believed by the officers of the court or the attorneys. They decide to give him a private trial and Martel is called as a witness. When he sees Rodolphe his suspicions are aroused. He commits himself, admits the crime before he realizes the true state of affairs; then he refuses to speak. This mystifies the judges and the attorney. A theory they had that there is "a woman in the case," impresses them more than ever, and when it is finally learned that the woman is no other than the judge's wife, a climax is reached. At this point Miss Hampton, as the Marquise, surpassed anything in the emotional line that she has yet done. Her recital of the story of the interview, its object, her early love affair and the protestation of her innocence, was a

remarkably natural piece of acting. Martel commits suicide in his cell, and the true story is kept from the public. Mr. Lee, as the Marquis, compelled to assume the dual role of judge and husband, was fully equal to the occasion, and portrayed the emotions of a man in the most embarrassing position imaginable with much truthfulness. Mr. Frawley had a difficult part in portraying the feelings of a man in whose hands is the life of a friend and the honor of a woman he once loved, but in every instance his work was highly artistic.

The Marquise brought out the full strength of the company whose support was admirable.

The stock company returned to the opera house Wednesday evening after giving Frederickton and Moncton dramatic greats that were appreciated. In Frederickton especially Mr. Jenson's Bender in All the Comforts of Home made him a favorite, and each appearance was the signal for applause.

Bartley Campbell's Galley Slave is not a new play in St. John, but it brought out a large audience. The drama is very emotional, has a good plot and a number of strong situations. The lines contain many gems of poetry and thought which make the play all the more enjoyable to thinking people, while it is equally satisfying to those who like the dash and sensationalism which carries all before it. The plays put on during these last few weeks have been all successful in every particular, well staged, well cast, and better work being done in every performance. Each member of the company has had an opportunity to do good work in varied lines, and in most instances has been successful. Mr. Lee whose first appearance, in comedy, were not marked by any great distinctiveness or excellence, has become a favorite by his fine work in heavy parts, although in such lines he is at a great disadvantage in his stage presence. This he has been able to overcome to a large extent by good makeup and a strong voice. In The Galley Slave he was seen in a role that differed slightly from those taken in the two previous plays, inasmuch as on this occasion he was the villain. The announcement that he had taken ill was a disappointment to the audience, but the applause which greeted his reappearance was excellent evidence of the appreciation in which he is held. During the last three acts his acting was such that it was easy to realize what would have been missed by his inability to appear.

Mr. Frawley, as Sidney Norcott, gave a good interpretation. The meeting with Cicely just after her marriage was an exceptionally fine piece of acting. Mr. Frawley's outbursts of honest indignation being so natural as to make it hard to understand why Cicely did not become convinced of his truthfulness long before she did. Miss Hampton's, however, was a careful portrayal of the part. As an actress enjoying all the happiness of first love, with wedding near at hand; as a scolding maiden, a wronged woman, an indifferent, heartbroken bride; in the trying position of a wedded woman who loves another—she realized the situation in every instance, and gave an artistic presentation. Miss Ford also had a difficult part as Francesco Romani, the forsaken Italian wife of Baron Le Bois. During the five acts the one thing that surpasses all others in Miss Ford's interpretation of Francesco is her passionate love for her child. All the warmth of an Italian nature is centered in it, and when they are finally separated the anguish of the mother is heartrending. Miss Ford entered into this part with spirit, and gave it an individuality that ran through the whole performance, while her acting when parted from the child, was very forcible without being overdone.

Miss Jeanette Lowrie was a vivacious little miss charmingly dressed, and made a pretty girl's wife for Mr. Fitts, while as a dutiful daughter getting on the good side of an indulgent mother, her acting was artistic in the extreme. And as the weather adverse to the supposed advances of elderly Oliver Oliphant, Miss Eric did some of the best work she has done during the engagement.

The dresses of the ladies in this play were simply lovely and added much to the attractiveness of the performance. Mr. Liston was amusing always as Oliver Oliphant, but natural. All Hampton was entrusted with the impersonation of Franklin Fitts and gave an artistic interpretation of it, showing that he can be funny without straining for effect. Messrs. Jenson and Hastings, and Miss Madam had very little to do, and did it well.

A new drop, painted for this piece by Mr. Fleming, was a good piece of work, and a pleasing variety in the stage settings.

On Wednesday evening the performance at the Opera house will be given for the benefit of the orchestra, and the house should be filled from top to bottom. During this engagement Harrison's orchestra has surpassed itself and has added much to the pleasure of the show. Their selections between acts make the time pass quickly and musical people enjoy them thoroughly. Every week new novelties have been introduced. That Mr. Hammond's piccolo solo Wednesday evening caught the house was quite evident from the applause, and last week the minstrel novelty took the house by storm. The Opera House people appreciate the work done by the orchestra, and Mr. Skinner echoed the sentiments of the company this week when he presented the leader, Mr. Morton L. Harrison, with a handsome violin case. Make the orchestra benefit one evening having; go to the show Wednesday evening.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Complaint is frequently made that the general public of St. John will not patronize really good concerts, when they are provided for them, and that concert givers generally lose money. Last week, however, showed that this is not always the case, for the Ollie-Torbett Concert company drew large

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audiences at each performance. Every one in the company is an artist, and the programme was so judiciously selected and arranged that all classes of music were represented, and consequently all classes of music lovers were pleased. I think it was a decided mistake, however, not to have kept the Sunday evening concert strictly sacred; it had a decidedly jarring effect to hear "Peggy in her Low-backed Car" given as an encore in a sacred concert, although faultlessly rendered; and as many of the audience had come straight from church, it was decidedly incongruous.

The final meeting of the musical club took place on Tuesday last at Dr. Walker's house. In spite of the rain a large audience was present and spent an enjoyable evening. Among those who gave vocal solos were: Miss Halliday, Mr. Ruel, and Mr. I. Allan Jack; pianoforte solos were given by Mrs. Babbitt and Miss Homer; while the chief attraction was the playing of the string sextette, under the direction of Mr. Cavanaugh. The sextette is greatly improving, and shows evidence of careful and assiduous rehearsal; their accompaniment was played by Miss Homer, in the absence of Miss Goddard, their regular accompanist. Unique.

WINDSOR, N. S.

JUNE 21.—The chief event of this week will probably be the closing exercises of the church school for girls, which took place today amid torrents of rain and acres of mud. This unfortunately prevented the calisthenic exercises, which was to have taken place in the open air; but the programme carried out in the spacious dining room was a very interesting one, and was as follows:

- Piano duet—Troubadour March.....Roubier
Miss M. Ruggles, and Miss F. Bowman.
Chorus—My Love is like a Red, Red Rose.....
Chorus Class.
Piano duet—Polinesa Tanze.....H. Scharwenka.
Miss C. Smith and Miss M. Peters.
Vocal duet—The Wanderer's Night Song.....
Miss Forster and Miss S. Peppert.
Piano solo—Scherzo Capriccioso.....Mendelssohn.
Miss L. Jack.
Recitation—Mrs. Jane's Prospectus.....S. Colledge.
Junior Class.
Duet—Variations sur un Theme de Beethoven.....
Miss M. Axford and Miss M. Wilkes.
Vocal Solo—The Fisher Maiden.....G. Meyerbeer.
Miss L. Jean.
Piano Solo—Cachucha-Caprice.....J. Roff.
Miss S. Dow.
Recitation—Der Handschuh.....Schiller.
The Misses C. Sewell, W. Cochran, E. Nichols, and M. Barstall.
Chorus—The Maiden's Song.....Meyer-Helmund.
Chorus Class.
Piano Duet—Symphonie Etoilee.....Beethoven.
Miss E. Nichols and Miss E. Snook.
Recitation—Quarrel of Brutus and Cassius.....
J. J. Cassin, Act IV, Scene III.
Miss M. Partridge and Miss M. Axford.
Vocal Duet—Io Vivo l'Amo.....F. Campana.
Miss J. Jones and Miss G. Oliver.
Piano Solo—Waltz Harmonie.....Rive King.
Miss M. Leckie.
Song Angel's Serenade.....G. Braga.
Quarrette (2 pianos)—Spanische Tanze.....
The Misses C. Armstrong, A. Wiggins, S. Jones and M. Barstall.
Recitation—Le Grandeur.....Bruyere, Palaprat.
The Misses M. Partridge, M. Bursall and M. Sewell.
Piano Solo—Coika de la Reine.....J. Roff.
Miss R. Wiswell.

The following prizes were distributed: The Gold Star—Miss Constance Sewell, (Quebec); the silver star, Miss Maud Huntington, (New Brunswick); the bishop of Nova Scotia, Miss M. Leckie, (Halifax); the bishop of Nova Scotia's silver medal, Miss Maud Huntington, N. B.; Miss Helen Smith, N. S.; the dean of Nova Scotia's gold medal, Miss Mary Hamilton, N. S.; the dean of New Brunswick's prize, Miss Louie Jack, N. B., \$16.00; Miss Mary Partridge, N. B., \$8.00; Miss May Armstrong, N. B., \$6.00; Miss Agnes Dimock, N. S., \$5.00; Miss Mary Giffin, N. S., \$5.00; Miss M. Leckie's prize, Miss Constance Sewell, Quebec; Miss Mary Wallace, of Halifax, gets a silver star, and Miss Mary Wilby, of Halifax, gets a gold medal.

A very creditable display of drawings and paintings was shown by the young people of the Methodist church, and \$12.00 was realized. Miss Hyde, of Turro, is visiting Mr. John Smith, Miss Carr, who has returned from her friend's wedding. Mrs. Chas. Wilson and Mrs. Reuben Hart, of Halifax, have been the guests of Mrs. Geo. Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Tobin have gone to Montreal for a trip. Miss Maynard is at Annapolis, the guest of her sister, Mrs. How.

On Tuesday evening this week there was a dance at Dr. Haley's handsome residence on the banks of the Kennebec, at what is popularly known as Waddell's Landing. The house is new and well furnished. The rooms are large, airy and comfortable; especially adapted to the comfort of permanent guests. "The Willows" can be reached three days in the week by the Steamer "Clifton," which makes the run in a trifle over two hours, or by stage from Robesay connecting with morning train, which is three miles distant. For terms and particulars, address HUGH J. McCORMICK, Proprietor.

ANNAPOLIS.

JUNE 21.—On Thursday Judge Sparay was married to Miss Hunt, of Dartmouth. Mr. and Mrs. Savary are spending a few days at Wolfville and are expected home next week. Misses Grace and Nellie Robinson are spending a few weeks in Frederickton, after which they will join some friends who are camping near Robesay, returning some time in July. Judge Cowling returned from Halifax on Monday, where he has been attending a meeting of the Historical society, to present before it the desirability of the town retaining full possession of the old garrison grounds. There has been a great improvement in the music since Mrs. Malcolm has presided at the organ of St. Luke's church. Miss Emily Dakin is the guest of Miss Crozier. Mr. Whidden who has lately been inducted pastor of the Presbyterian church at Brighton and Annapolis held his first service here on Sunday. Mr. Fred Harris, who has been visiting friends in Halifax, returned on Monday accompanied by Mr. Samuel Porter who will be his guest for a few days. Mr. Jack Leavitt returned home on Saturday. Mr. Barrows who has been filling his place in the Union Bank returned on Monday to Halifax. Miss Shaw received the sad news of the death of her brother Mr. Alfred Shaw, four weeks at Georgia where he had gone to try and regain health. Much sympathy is felt for the family.

CAMPBELLTON.

[Progress is for sale in Campbellton at the store of A. E. Alexander, wholesale and retail dealer in dry goods, groceries, books and shoes, hardware, school books, stationery, furniture, carriages and machinery.] JUNE 22.—One of the interesting topics this week is the anticipated excursion to Black Cape, which is to take place July first under the auspices of our musical society.

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Don't buy inferior articles when you can purchase the BEST at the same prices. No dealer's profits as we sell on commission.

CHAS. CRUTCHER, St. John Bicycle Club says:—The materials and workmanship in the "QUADRANT" are first-class, and for our rough and hilly roads no better machine can be got.

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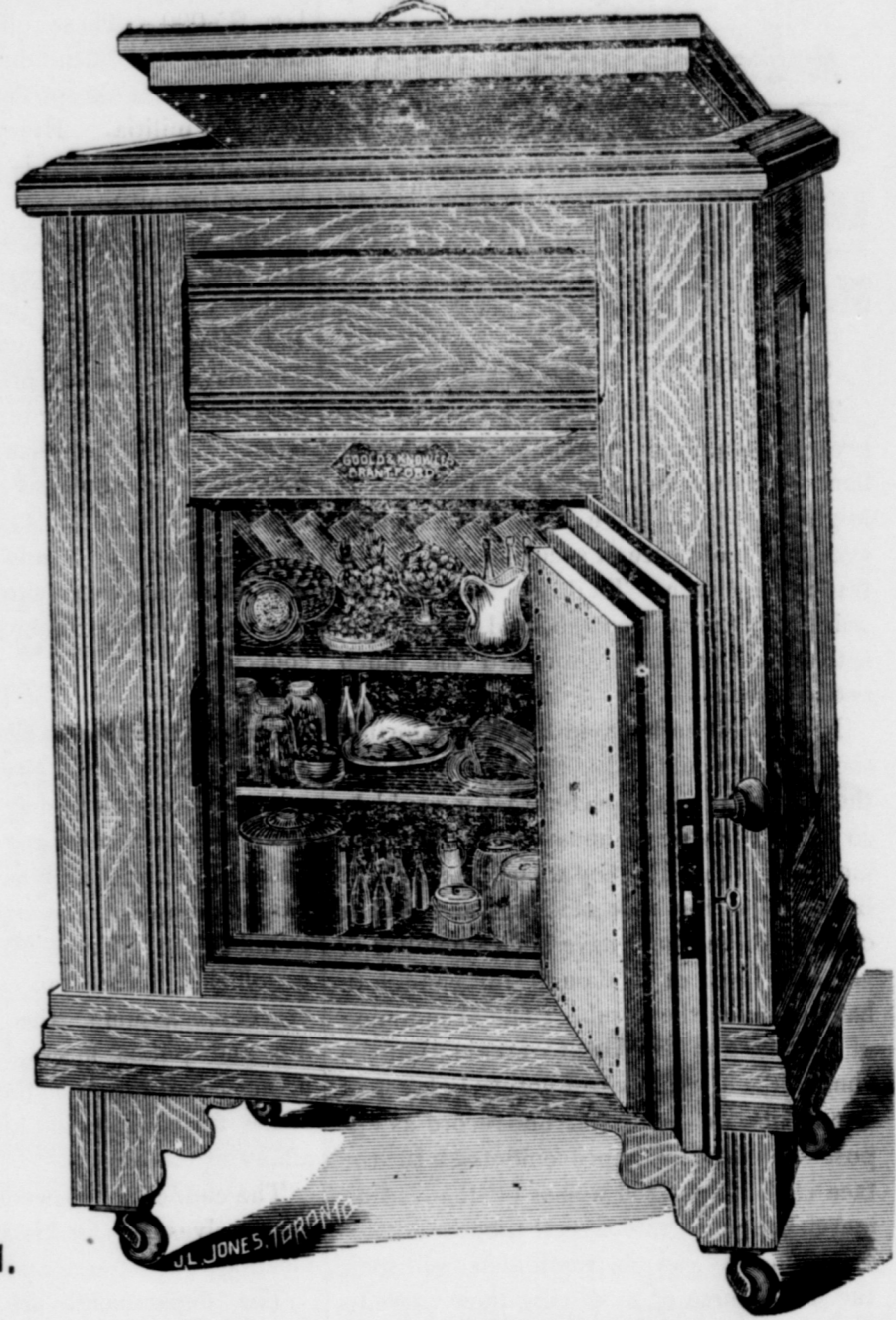


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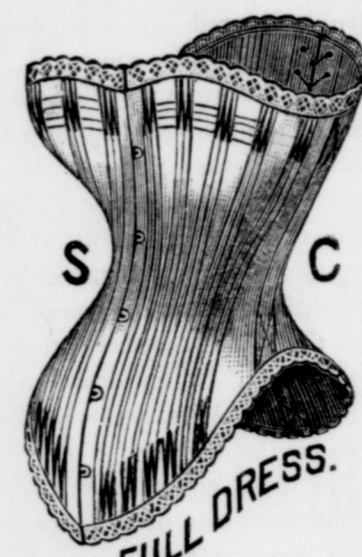
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FOR Dominion Day!

FROM St. John to Digby and Annapolis,

In the splendid Steamship "CITY OF MONTICELLO," GIVING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A DELIGHTFUL SAIL ACROSS THE BAY OF FUNDY AND UP THE ANNAPOIS BASIN AND RIVER.

The attractions at Digby will include Horse Racing, Running Races for Men and Boys, Sailing Races, Canoe Races for Indians, Firemen's Hose Race, etc.

There will also be great attractions at Annapolis, as follows: 100 Yard Dash, Half Mile Run, One Mile Run, 220 Yards Dash, Quarter Mile Run, One Mile Run, Hurdle Race, Running High Jump, Pole Vault, Bicycle Race, Bicycle Race (tandem), Tug of War, Wheelbarrow Race, Three-legged Race, Potato Race, Greased Pole, Greased Pole, for which handsome Gold and Silver Medals are offered. Also a grand exhibition of Ancient and Historic Curios will be shown in the old French Magazine, the oldest historical building now standing in America.

The boat will sail from St. John at 7.30 (local time), due at Digby at 11 a.m. and Annapolis 12.30 p.m. Returning, leave Annapolis at 4.30 p.m. and Digby at 5.30, giving excursionists 6 1/2 hours at Digby and 4 hours at Annapolis, weather permitting. Should the weather be fine the steamer will remain a half hour longer at Digby and Annapolis. Fare for the round trip: Digby, \$1.50; Annapolis, \$2.00. Parties will have the privilege of returning Saturday, 2nd inst., at the above rates. The City Corner Band will accompany the excursion and furnish music. Refreshments can be obtained on steamer. Tickets can be procured on board from purser or from agent, Reed's Point.

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Followed by the Amazing After-piece—

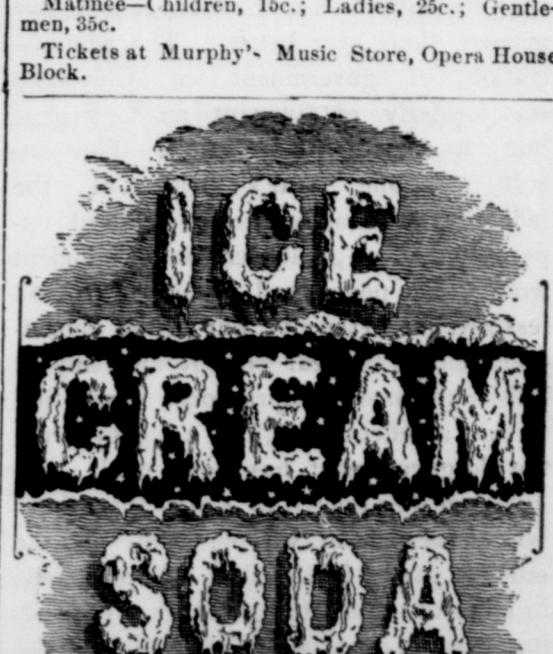
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Forty Minutes of Breezy, Unalloyed Fun.

Two Good Performances on Dominion Day, July 1st.

For balance of the Week see posters and daily papers.

Reduced Prices for the Summer Season. Reserved Seats, 50c and 60c.; Ladies, 25c.; Gentlemen, 35c. Tickets at Murphy's Music Store, Opera House Block.



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I HAVE much pleasure in informing the public that I will, on July 1st, open "THE WILLOWS," the new Summer retreat on the banks of the Kennebec, at what is popularly known as Waddell's Landing. The house is new and well furnished. The rooms are large, airy and comfortable; especially adapted to the comfort of permanent guests.

"The Willows" can be reached three days in the week by the Steamer "Clifton," which makes the run in a trifle over two hours, or by stage from Robesay connecting with morning train, which is three miles distant. For terms and particulars, address HUGH J. McCORMICK, Proprietor, Reed's Point, Kings Co. June 11.