

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Oratorio concerts are still much talked about performances the society has given. As to the instrumental portion, it is really a farce to have any one play on such an instrument as the small hart monium, which took the place of a proper organ, to say the least it is most unfair to the organist. Miss Goddard played in her usual sympathetic manner. The orchestra which consisted of picked pieces from the Philharmonic orchestra was not quite evenly balanced, the strings wanted strengthening but it, and the composer has left it to the mind taking all things into consideration I have never of the singer to portray his meaning. If I heard them give a better accompaniment to the society. I was however more than ever impressed by what appeared to be intentional disregard of Prts White to the conductor's baton, a strange thing modern ballads, he instanced Blumenthal's that a man who is such a valuable acquisition to any orchestra being the best violinist here and a very Wert Not Going," and Hatton's "Goodfair conductor into the bargain, should apply to himself such a very elementary rule, that he could be the first to impress upon those under his own baton. In the Mendelssohn's setting of the 42nd Psalm, the choruses lacked attack, the altos were very weak in the opening choruses. The best selection was the guintette. "The Lord hath commanded His kindness in the daytime," by Mrs. Allen, and Messrs Bristowe, Coster, Smith and Daniel.

Mrs. Allen was not in her best voice, although the is very little opportunity for any grand effect in the beautiful solos in this composition.

The orchestration of Romberg's " Lay of the Bell" is particularly beautiful, the work was comparatively new to the orchestra, which had only a month to prepare it, nevertheless, they played very we'll except in one or two places, when the first violin played in triple instead of common time or vice versa regardless of the effect upon soloist and other parts and the conductor. The cornet, was a little too prominent, once or twice; this however, was perhaps not the fault of the performer who is accustomed to play where much more force was required. Mrs. Allen sang with considerable effort, her best solo being "Ah the wife it is the dear one," which

was heartily encored. Mr. Daniel sang all his parts remarkably well. His voice is very like Myron Whitney's, but I hope All his solos were sung with expression and spirit and when encored he gave the short "Master's"

man who has stood face to face with the composer of "Fidelio," that is now in the in musical circles, on the whole they were the best flesh, is almost as much an object of wonder as the master himselt.

> Sims Reeves, who of all men should know about English ballads, said, when asked: "What do you consider the best ballad ever written ?" "Oh, I think 'Tom Bowling. The words and the music are alike unique; there is very great variety in were asked to sing any time, and to choose my own ballad, I should always sing 'Tom "Thinking of Thee" and "I Wish Thou bye, Sweetheart."

A programme of the first concert ever Grand Duchess, Bohemian Girl, Nanon and given by the famous pianist Liszt in 1820, The Black Hussar. has recently been discovered. The future virtuoso was then nine years old. His concert was given at Oldenburg, the selections including Ries's second pianoforte concerto and an impromptu fantasia, on a theme to be furnished by any person in the audience. The announcements on the programme ended with an appeal "To the nobility, the military, and the estimable public. I am Hungarian and I do not know a greater happiness than to offer devotedly to my dear country the first fruits of my education and instruction. That which I lack in maturity and experience I wish to acquire by incessant work, which may, perhaps, one day procure me the immense pleasure of figuring among the celebrities of this great country.

That famous actress of half a century ago, Fanny Kemble. is still living in London, at the age of 80 years. Her maiden name was Miss Frances Anne Kemble, and in her days she stood almost without a rival he will avoid Mr. Whitney's fault of being too cold. In the profession of which she was a bright, particular star. When about at the meridian of life, she married Mr. Pierce Butler. a wealthy citizen of Philadelphia, but the union was not a felicitions one, as is too often the case. She was the original Sheridan Knowles' "The Hunchback," the author himself appearing in the roll of Master Walter. What interesting reminiscenses this venerable lady could recount of noted men and women of her day, famous in the annals of the drama, did she but choose to put spur to memory! Of all her contemporaries, probably she alone remains. Looking back over life's pathway she can

for infusing some idea of time into the heads of those who essay to play upon wind instruments, a few of them might be dis-tributed with pleasing results among the members of the orchestra.

Somewhat elated over the success of its Halitax business, the season there having run into the third month, the Baker Opera Company returned to this city on Wednes-

day. The opening piece Boccaccio, is an old and familiar one, nevertheless there was a very good house, and the presentation, taken all around, has never been exceeded here. Since the first visit of the company a marked improvement is noticeable in the concerted work, and the principals seemed in better voice. We do not have in the run of a year many such tenors as Mr. Armaud, nor are we amused by comedians more laughable than Messrs Wolff and Wooley. Miss Murphey is a favorite al-ways, as is Miss Dickeson, and they were enthusiastically welcomed.

Opera goers ought to be satisfied with two or three encores, and not work a man to death. Mr. Wolff's topical song, for instance, the applauders became perfectly oblivious to the title "Just One" and demanded a dozen. This becomes tiresome, both to the singer, and to that portion of the house that may not be particularly struck with the song. The bill for the week comprises the

Speaking of opera, perhaps many may remember the company that gave alleged opera in the Gift Enterprise. Aborn was its name. It is now in Indiana endeavoring to get carried off in a cyclone. It the company is not doing better work than it did here it is perfectly safe. The average cyclone would sheer off and go around a town if it should happen to hear the above company.

Very nearly all the old St. John favorites seek warmer climes for the winter. The first week in December tound the Boston Opera Company in Ohio; the Cal-

houn in Montana; the Wilbur in Kentucky; the Corinne in Texas; and the Grau in Louisiana.

The Egyptians had opera thousands of years ago.

The drama was introduced into Rome B. C. 364 to allay a plague.

Walter Besant has laid aside his novels for a time and is working on a one act comedy.

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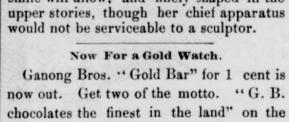
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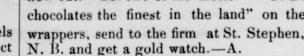
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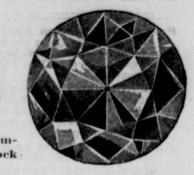
she danced round about out of time, but in rhythm, with the music, and then spun like a tee-totum; and she leaped high and fell into Signor Elia's arms in the attitude of one diving. Sometimes she hopped forward on one foot, or rather toe, and gazed at the other as if wondering whose it was and where it came from, and then gesticulated with it as it indignant at its conduct and anxious to get rid of it. She gathered herself together like a cat about to establish business with a sparrow, and, dashing forward, jumped into the Signor's embrace, and there rested like a statue of one fired out of a gun, and anon turned round in his arms as if anxious to stand on her head, and only abstaining through regard for the county council. Finally, she danced round the stage like a lighted Catherine wheel trundled as a boy's hoop. All wonderful, but scarcely graceful. Still, it delighted the audience. In person, she is tall, as handsome of countenance as a dancer's smile will allow, and finely shaped in the







we have ever shown.



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parts splendidly, especially " Let the fabric now broken."

Mr. Bristowe was much better in the concerted parts than in his solos, in which his voice lacked timbre. He was encored after singing his first solo. In his duet with Mrs. Allen, "Oh! tender longing !", he was perhaps best.

The choruses which were most dramatic required very much more practice; the attacks lacked vigor. One of the best rendered was, "Right helpful is the might of fire!"

That the work was given such a good rendering as it was, is due to the indefatigable work of the painstaking conductor. There was one point worthy of remark; the connections were all very smooth. The chorus work in Athalie was very good, not faultless, but the society never gave anything so creditably.

Miss Hea rendered her various parts in her usual conscientious and correct manner.

Mrs. Allen had more scope for expression and she certainly sang with fire but her voice sounded strained, and a little worn.

Mrs. Carter sang in her usual easy manner one only regretted that her numbers were so short. One had hardly chance to hear Miss McInnis as the trio in which she sang was so short. The trio chorus "Hearts feel that love Thee" was very nicely sung and an encore demanded. The playing of the "Priest's War-march" was really excellent and called for much and deserved praise. Many people say they have never heard it played here so well before.

Mr. Ford has certainly added to the laurels he has gained. As a conductor, he is excellent, but he is a professional conductor accustomed to professionals. Here, the best of us are amateurs and require a more decisive beat; this is only said by those not conversant with professional conducting.

Mr. Alfred Porter deserves many thanks and much praise for his zeal and untiring energy, but I am sorry to say the concerts show a deficit of \$100. Mr. Bristowe was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. Porter last week.

Mrs. Allen was entertained by Gen. and Mrs. Warner, and Mr. Tom Daniel stayed with Mr. Climo.

After the concert Thursday evening Mrs. Bowden gave a delightful conversazione which broke up time for one to have an early breakfast.

On Friday evening Mrs. Patton entertained son of the performers after the concert.

There is some talk about having the "Messiah' at Christmas-tide or there abouts.

In Boston the Handel & Hayden society are to give two performances of the "Messiah" at the Christmas day concert. Mr. Geo. J. Parker is be tenor soloist, and Miss Emma Jack, soprano.

I am told that the Minstrels again covered them. selves with honors on Tuesday evening. LOUNGER

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

The list of musical prodigies in Boston at present includes a young Cherokee Indian girl.

Agnes-Really, Helen has improved in her music wonderfully since she went abroad. Edith-In what way? Agnes-Why, she never plays anything now that sounds the least bit like a tune.-Ex.

Among the notable violinists now in this country is Pedro de Salzar whose playing both here and abroad has earned for him the recognition of the most exacting critics. His playing last year in the Thomas and the song is a good one, and should have other concerts in New York and vicinity proved him to be an artist of high rank. We trust that he will be heard frequently with "My Mary Green;" neither was the the present season. He was born in Hav- orchestra.

recall her well-won triumphs, albeit that pathway though often adorned with laurel leaves was not without its hidden thorns.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Benefit me no benefits! Odd, isn't it

that benefit performances in St. John are not as a rule much of a success? Now here we have the Amateur Minstrels giving a complimentary benefit to the two Orphan Asylums-the Protestant and the Catholic. These institutions are certainly deserving, and one would imagine that a crowded house would have greeted the Minstrels on Tuesday evening, when the suave and gentlemanly interlocutor invited his companions to be seated. Such, however, was not the case. The spirit of Xmas is not yet hovering around apparently. Perhaps it is not cold enough.

The managers of the Opera House donated the rest; Harrison's orchestra volunteered their services; so did the City Cornet Band, but the public did not flock to any great extent, to the benefit. Consequently there will be only some \$200 to divide, when there should have been \$400. The programme presented was an excellent one. The circle comprised the best selcctions from the club's previous appearances, and some new ones.

Mr. Cole's rendering of "Afloat" was hardly as satisfactory as Mr. Hartt's singing of it in January last, nor was Mr. Starr's new song "A pretty girl" received with that degree of favor which marked his songs in other entertainments. Nevertheless he was encored giving "Loving Eyes of Violet Blue" very sweetly.

"Irene Good Night" a new and pretty ballad was just suited to Mr. Lindsay's voice. and was well received. In the olio and the after-piece several popular airs of the day, familiar in other cities, were introduced-with but indifferent success. After three verses of "The Bowery" Messrs Esson and Burns stopped and perceptibly waited for the encore which never came. This was unkind as there are six or seven verses and the audience might just as well as not have had them all, and besides made a hit.

Mr. Starr evidently was not familiar tried to stand on its apex, tip-toe. Natur-Mr. Burns, the bewitching Princess Lolly-pop. in "the King of the Cannibal Islands" was recalled for his rendering of "My Sweetheart's the Man in the Moon." Since we last heard Mr. Burns he has visited the leading theatres in New York and Boston, and has brought home with him improved and modernized ideas of act-

The club has given the citizens some

The seats of a Greek theatre were arranged as at present, but the parquet was given up to the chorus.

Madeline Brohan, one of the most charming of the actresses of the Francais, turns out to be the daughter of a Scotchman named Brown.

Henry Irving's company have presented him with a statuette of himself in the character of Mathias by Onslow Ford, on the twenty-first anniversary of the first production of The Bells.

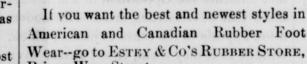
From 1670 to 1700 there was great illwill between the pit and boxes, the occupants of the latter being accustomed to spit into the pit at frequent intervals. In 1700 a royal edict forbade the practice.

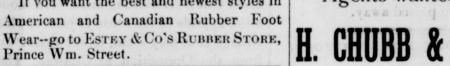
Dr. Dabbs, medical adviser of the late Lord Tennyson, and who, with Sir Andrew Clark, attended the laureate through his last illness, is a journalist and playwright as well as a physician, and has a new comedy with the title of "Farewell" ready for production.

The Prince of Wales' laxity in money matters has taken a new form, according to one of the New York papers. It says that in a recent trial in London testimony brought out the fact that His Highness was indebted to the extent of \$2,345 to the London Lyceum for box tickets.

It is told that at Alton, Ill., the other night, Jane Coombs, the old-time actress, was playing the part of Lady Deadlock and was exciting the audience to tears when a scene was enacted not down on the bills. A lady in the rear of the theatre got on her chair and shrieked. There was a panic and four persons were slightly hurt in the rush for the doors. When the excitement was over it was found that the lady who started the panic had been trightened by a mouse which had taken refuge under her skirt.

Helena Modjeska was born in Cracow, the ancient capital of Poland. She belonged by birth and training to a race of mountaineers. Coming into the world in an era of national disaster, she was tamiliarized while a mere infant with trouble. During the period of childhood she saw her kinsmen slaughtered in the streets, witnessed numberless wrongs and outrages perpetrated by an autocratic government on an op-pressed people. Before she was ten years old a fresh outrage by the Austrians de-stroyed Cracow and reduced her tather, Michael Opid, to beggary. Thereafter the child was compelled to do her share of drudgery in the struggle for existence. She had been christened Helena because her head had a Grecian contour. When she was an intant Michael Opid predicted that she would occasion her mother trouble, because, he declared, there was a strange look in her eyes. The prophecy came true. When the Opids were still in prosperity Helena was taken to the theatre. The production was an opera, part of it being ballet, in which a coryphee floated in the air. This feat took possession of the fancy of Helena, then seven years old. Next day in the kitchen she heaped two chairs on top of the table, one above the





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other, and then climbing up the pyramid HATS, TOQUES & BONNETS,

LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET. By Miss M. E. Braddon. VANITY FAIR, By W. M. Thackeray.

anna in 1868 and is consequently only 24 years old.

"The old Gilmore Band" says the Indicator, "will be continued under the direction of Mr D. W. Reeves of Providence. Mr. Reeves is a musician who has had large experience in band direction, but the old organization has lost its identity. It will never be Gilmore's band again, although ing. His art is shown at its best in the love the name will be the same." It will be a passages with Ben Blunt (Mr. H. Ruel) first-class band all the same, and will do and he has a stage kiss that would cause fully as good work as it did under its late Clara Morris to turn green with envy. distinguished and able conductor.

ally enough the experiment ended in disaster. While applying arnica and medica-ments to the sufferer Mme. Opid vowed that Helena should never again be permitted to go to the theatre.

The Pall Mall Budget speaks of a new ballet dancer at the Empire in the following descriptive and not altogether complimentary tashion :-

Signorina Cerale, the new dancer at the Empire, is a very good exponent of the school, the decadent school, of ballet dancing; decadent, for the old Italian school has fallen, as tell Gothic architecture, from over-cultivation of mere technique, from making means an end. The Signorina's must have ached, and rushed about on tip-

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PAPER

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BROS.

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very pleasurable evenings, and I hope we shall see them again, but before their next Imperial Court Kapellmeister, Benedict appearance a judicious weeding might be advisable. It in that operation the rake Randhartinger, a contemporary of Beeth-oven and a close friend of Schubert, has just celebrated his ninetieth birthday at his residence in Gloggniz, near Vienna. It end men and drag them off they never on tip-toes till her gastro cnemius muscles seems strange to us of the present genera- | would be missed. tion to read of such a venerable relic of If in the meantime some musical genius toes in time, not rhythm, with the music,

"ye olden time." True, there are tew should invent a cute little mechanical toy till her solon muscles must have trembled; WHOLESALE DEALERS, - ST. JOHN, N. B.