



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Harrison's orchestra had one of the largest houses that St. John has seen at a local concert for a long time, the Minstrels excepted. I wonder that there were not more of our well known local lights among the performers. The audience was a most enthusiastic one and encodes the order of the day. The first number by the City Cornet band "La Traviata" was hardly a success. It is but a short time since the band performed at a concert in a most creditable manner, but this time the result was woefully out of tune and the attack was poor, the redeeming points being the work done by the cornetist and euphonium player.

The overture to "Semiramide" by Harrison's orchestra was very good as a whole, though in the pizzicato passages the instruments were not quite together.

Miss Craigie was so evidently suffering from stage fright that it is hardly fair to criticize her, her voice carefully and properly trained ought to be a very fine one in time as Miss Craigie is very young.

Herr Doering maintained, and with many people added to the already favorable opinion St. John people have held about his clever cello playing. He has a very graceful bow arm. His first number was a beautiful simple air of his own composition, which he played with great pathos. The second selection a Spanish dance was a very pretty little thing.

Miss Pidgeon sang a very taking song, but her runs were defective and she seemed to have a great difficulty in taking her high notes. In some parts her voice sounded very nicely.

Frau Brauer had to perform on a wretched instrument, which was no doubt the cause of her changing her solo, and playing a rather good arrangement of her own instead of the "Rigoletto Fantasia" by Liszt.

In Fraulien Bendinger's first selection her voice was not in good condition. She also used more tremolo than was judicious and there was an unpleasant ring about her tones. In the second her voice was in much better condition, and she displayed her careful training to good advantage showing that she was the possessor of a full, rich voice.

Mr. Wild's banjo solo was conspicuous by its absence.

In the grand descriptive fantasia "Columbus" the storm scene was but a rather "quietness and dullness" couldn't be surpassed. In "Hail Columbia" the attack was poor. Taken as a whole this was very good.

The style of the song "Spring a Leak" just suited Mr. Cole's voice, but the lower notes were out of his compass and he got entirely out of depth when he came to the "water." O Promise Me" which he gave as an encore, was more in his range, the high notes were a little strained.

The concerto, including "allegro moderato" adagio cantabile" and "rondo allegretto" movements is a credit to its composer, who played very well. Mr. White is making marked improvement in his playing due to careful study and persistent practice.

Fraulien Bendinger, sang the "Valse song," nicely, but was better in the "Lullaby" she was a little inclined to be untrue in her runs and shakes which she did with ease and fluency, very prettily. Herr Doering was excellent in his two last selections, "Serenade" by Gabriel Marie, and "Spinning Song" by Popper. The chromatic passages were very skillful.

The selection from Offenbach's "Grand Duchesse" was played by Harrison's orchestra.

Frau Brauer showed no mean skill in the manner in which she played the accompaniments tastefully and displaying a good execution.

The Leinster Street school boys have given a concert in the Institute, quite a novel affair, in which nearly all the performers were boys. The programme included violin, piccolo, flute solos and a vocal solo by Master Crockett, besides several choruses notably "Up with the bonnets of Bonny Dundee" in which the boys wore Highland outfits. It was quite nice to have the boys muster up courage enough to appear in public in place of the inevitable good little girl who generally is the centre of attraction at small entertainments.

In the Mission Church on Sunday evening *Diez Ise* was sung after evensong as has been the custom in the church during Advent. Fr. Jones sang two verses as a solo the choir singing alternately two verses a small voice. He in many ways reminds one of Fr. Davenport, and though he has not got the power, he certainly possesses the earnestness which is required to properly sing this, one of the grandest hymns of the Church.

St. Andrew's Society held a Conversazione on Wednesday, being St. Andrew's day; those who contributed the interesting programme were: Harrison's orchestra, Mrs. Worden, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. W. J. Robertson, Mr. I. Allen Jack and the Minstrel Quartette.

The Oratorio Concerts come off too late for criticism. As far as one can see by the practices the picked orchestra is by far the best local one that has yet accompanied the Oratorio Society. No words can express the amount of credit that is due to Miss Goddard who has been indefatigable at all the practices.

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

Paderewski's secretary, Gorlitz, has cabled that the pianist will sail for New York on the Havel December 14.

Gilbert, Sullivan and Carte, as composers and managers, divided \$1,350,000 in fifteen years, profits of their joint labors.

To proficiency as a pianist Princess Victoria of Prussia adds a mastery of the banjo which would not disgrace a music hall performer.

Miss Gertrude Stein has been engaged to sing the contralto role in the "Messiah" at Washington, December 13 and 14, under the direction of Walter Damrosch.

Lady Randolph Churchill is a capital musician, and did any reverses come to her she could support herself and family with her music. She plays the piano and the harp.

Mascagni's new opera will be called "Vestitia" and not "Radcliffe." The opera is in three acts, and contains the now indispensable intermezzo. It will be produced in Italy early in March.

Mrs. Charles Dudley Warner is an accomplished player, and the most charming room in her colonial home at Hartford is the music room, with its grand piano and many curious souvenirs from foreign lands.

"How can I tell classic music when I hear it played?" asks a subscriber from Long Island. If the audience looks relieved when it is finished you may be reasonably sure it's classic, says a New York paper.

The choral societies invited to attend the World's fair at Chicago will be permitted

to present special works of their own selection, but the great festival performances, in which all will participate, will be confined to the great compositions of Bach and Handel, with which all are supposed to be familiar.

Mr. George W. Childs has the harp that the people of Limerick presented to Tom Moore. "The pride of all circles and the idol of his own." Moore's widow gave the harp to an English earl, who in turn presented it to Mr. Childs.

Patti's reason for always signing her name at the very top of a collector's page is that once she signed in the middle of a page, and soon after the leaf was further embellished with the words: "I promise to pay at sight the sum of £1,000."

Adolf Neuendorff will be musical director of the new Manhattan Opera house, New York. The first opera will be "Boadil," new to this country, and Januchowsky will be the prima donna. "Carmen," "Fidelio," "Faust," and other favorite operas will follow.

Madame Albani at eight years of age could play any of Beethoven's sonatas at length and had already sung in public. At 16 she was first soprano, organist and choir teacher at a church in Albany, New York State. Very few singers are such good all-around musicians as the famous soprano.

The oldest amateur orchestra in London is named "The Wandering Minstrels," and is composed of people belonging to the highest social rank. This society was organized about thirty years ago in the smoking room of the Guards barracks at Windsor, under the direction of Sir Seymour Egerton, afterward Earl of Wilton. For twenty years it was led by Lord Fitzgerald in his house in Sloane street.

The amateur composers of England include the names of the late Prince Consort, the late Duke of Albany, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Marquis of Devonshire, Lady Baker, Lady Arthur Hill, Lady White and the Hon. Mrs. Malone, all having created melodies of more or less lasting quality. The Earl of Dunraven has organized two orchestras. One at Oxford and the other at Cambridge, of forty members each.

Mrs. Andrew Carnegie is a pianist, while Mr. Carnegie performs upon a curious instrument called "musical tubes." It is a Japanese affair and probably the only one of its kind in this country. It consists of eight metal tubes of graduated sizes, rather suggestive of the pipes of an organ upon a miniature scale. The performer draws music from these tubes by means of a little malletlike arrangement. The tunes Mr. Carnegie most affects are naturally Scotch airs. He is also very fond of our national anthems. The musical tubes are in the library of his New York residence, and Mr. Carnegie often seeks relaxation in a little music of his own when shut up in his library for the day writing an elaborate article for some magazine.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Daniels Specialty Company have been playing to crowded houses all week, and have decided to remain here all next week. This company is certainly a popular one and has scored a great success. The entertainment given is clean and bright. Seats are reserved for ladies, and ladies with escorts, without any extra charge.

The amateur minstrels will again occupy the boards of the Opera House, on Tuesday evening. The net proceeds of the performance will be equally divided between the catholic and protestant orphan asylums of this city. The object for which the entertainment is given is one which should appeal to every citizen. The minstrels have always been willing to assist to the best of their ability anything which could reasonably expect their independent support, as has been seen by the assistance they rendered the Oratorio society, Athletic club, &c. but the purpose for which this performance is given, may be looked upon as the best yet undertaken and when it was suggested to them by a number of citizens they very willingly complied. The programme for Tuesday evening is an excellent one; Messrs. Lindsay and Starr will sing two new and very pretty songs, while Mr. Cole will, by request, sing that very fine ballad given last winter by the club entitled "Afloat." The comic songs in the circle will be old favorites with new localizations. The musical sketch will include all the best features of the last show for which will be added some of the popular songs of New York and Boston. In the burlesque which concludes the performance a number of new songs will be introduced, so that a fine programme is offered the public. The local jokes may be expected to deal with some of the political occurrences of the past week or two. When the curtain rises on Tuesday evening there should not be a vacant seat in the Opera House. As many have not seen the Minstrels, they should embrace this, the last opportunity of hearing and seeing the "King of the Cannibal Islands," a very funny burlesque.

Among The Boston Play Houses.

We have had quite a list of good attractions lately, and the managers promise more in the near future. At the Globe Theatre, Rose Coghlan and a fine company have given us Sardon's "Diplomacy" in a manner that left nothing to be desired. In the company were some well known people, among them: Charles Coghlan, Sadie Markinat and Frederic Robinson.—This week we have had Richard Mansfield in his much talked of production of "The Scarlet Letter"—To my mind this beautiful story

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of Hawthorne's cannot be dramatised, it does not possess the elements to make a play and is clearly a study to be read and thought over in the quiet of one's room. The adapter has found difficulties in his work and has had to write in what comedy there is in the piece.—Mansfield as the erring pastor Arthur Dimmesdal, gives a fine performance and lends dramatic strength to a character that can never be considered as dramatic. Miss Beatrice Cameron, as the wearer of the fatal badge, Hester Prynne, does all that she can with the character which was never created with the idea of being played. Next week Mr. Mansfield will be seen in repertoire.

The heart of the great Boston public is sad for we have had the last performances of "1492" This merry trifle has run for thirteen weeks and could have easily gone on for as many more, but other engagements made it impossible for it to be continued. Hoyt's "A Temperance Town" is its successor and it does anything like the business the unhistorical account of Columbus's adventures has done it will be a winner.

The Tremont has given a season of farce comedy by the Russel comedians of whom graceful Amelia Glover is the leading attraction. Rosina Vokes, the unapproachable is to follow and the house will hardly be large enough to hold this lady's admirers.

E. H. Sothorn closed his two weeks' engagement at the Hollis street this evening and on Monday at this house the curtain will rise on Fanny Davenport's gorgeous production of "Cleopatra." Sothorn played only his new piece, "Captain Lettarrablar." The play is by Miss Merrington, an erstwhile school-teacher but now flushed with success a full-blown playwright. The play is good in spots and weak in sections; the dialogue is bright, crisp and witty, but the business at times degenerates almost into farce comedy and on the whole strikes me as a medium below the level of the ability of Sothorn and his capable company. Repartee flows through the piece like a stream, but repartee, even when witty, grows tiresome; doubtless the author will improve in her future works, one of which is to be done by the Museum company.

Speaking of the museum, they are doing "Nerves" there now this piece in the hands of the Lyceum Company of New York was execrably funny but its present delineators only contrive to make it moderately so.

"Babes in the Wood" at the Boston and they bid fair to wander through the wood for some time to come if full houses are any criterion. The gorgeous scenes unfold themselves, the trained choruses march, the nimble dancers elevate their dainty toes with a charming disregard of the laws of gravity and the box office tells a story of success.

"Surrender" at the Columbia, a war play without a shot, is doing fairly well. It is by the same author as "Alabama" but is nothing like as a good piece. Louis Aldrich is playing the lead and the Boston favorite, Miriam O'Leary is also in the cast.

Paderewski plays in Boston, January, 4th., 12th. and 21st. George Grossmith, the London actor, so well known as the originator of the parts of Sir Joseph Porter, the Lord High Chancellor, Koke, &c., has given three of his delightful entertainments in Music Hall and has established himself as a favorite. He is a good singer, a more than ordinarily good pianist, a clever mimic, and the fact that he holds his audience for over two hours obedient to his will, with no stage accessories of costume and scenery, shows that he is an entertainer of great merit. The Bostonians will spend Christmas and New Year's at home, and we will have the pleasure of hearing the bright music of "Robin Hood."

Mrs. Bernard Beere, the English actress, follows Fanny Davenport, at Hollis Street Theatre.

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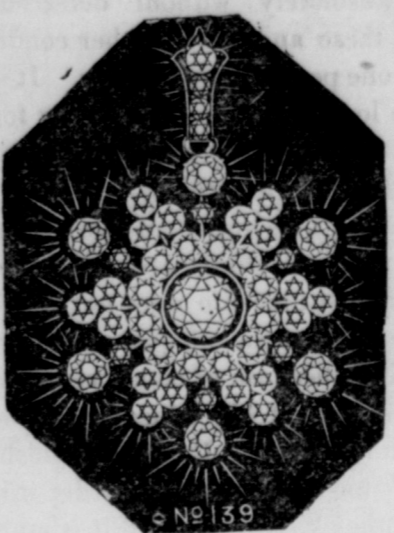
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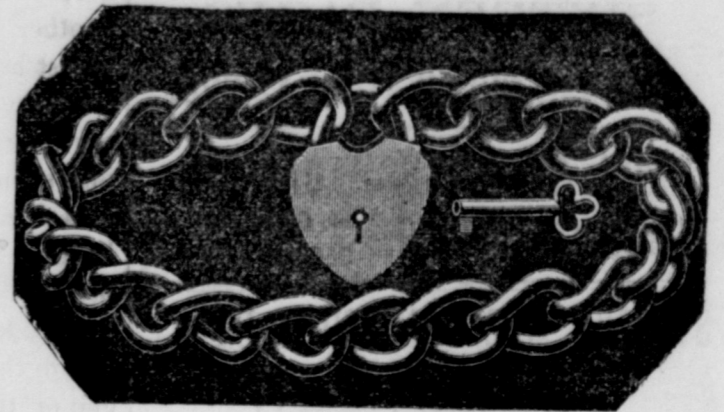
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