



MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL

The St. John Amateur Minstrels gave their performances last week to good houses. The first night was a disappointment to many—peculiarly musically.

The really good solo on the first evening was "My Old Kentucky Home." Mr. Lindsay sang, as I have not heard him for a long time. His voice sounded fresh, he sang with expression and that uncomfortable straining after his notes, which has been apparent lately, was not visible.

The end men (even Plum and Spud) spoiled their songs by too much dancing and gesticulation and no words. What's the use of singing what is called a comic song, if the audience cannot understand one single word that is sung.

Friday evening, the second performance, there was a marked improvement in everything. Mr. Will Starr, sang "Jack and the Sea" in a dashing manner, and Mr. Lindsay gave "The Jolly Gay Students"—though, I cannot imagine what on earth either of these songs can have to do with a minstrel circle.

Mr. R. Farmer made a large looking king—but I was surprised to find that the ordinary largeness of his voice seemed to disappear when he had to sing a solo.

The musical stave at Professor G. Sharp's was a success and sang very well. It must have been hard work to do so under the circumstances, especially with Plum and Spud carrying on as they did.

I hear it on good authority, viz., of one of the members themselves, that this is the last appearance of the minstrels in black cork. If this is the case, then in my humble opinion, they had better wind up their affairs, balance accounts, and either divide the balance of their funds among themselves or donate it to a charity.

The Lillian Tucker Company is billed for the Opera House on Monday evening, in what is rather humorously styled a spring dramatic opening. I trust the fair Lillian may not find it too frosty for her here; but I am inclined to the opinion that her company will experience a cold and backward season.

At Forepaugh's Theatre, Philadelphia, "May Blossom" was recently put on, when W. H. Lytell and Horace Dawson were in the cast.

Among the people engaged by Manager Jacob Litt for his Minneapolis and St. Paul stock companies are J. H. Gilmour and William Lee.

Mr. Louis Aldrich has been making a great success in "The Senator" the past week on the New England circuit. This week he plays in Meriden, Northampton.

Henry Irving will start, with his whole Lyceum company and some five hundred tons of baggage, in August for San Francisco, where he is to begin his American tour in September. The tour will occupy eight months.

Miss Marie Burroughs is again winning the warmest praise from every side for her gracious and winning impersonation of the secretary in "The Professor's Love Story."

which require several different dresses. In many parts the prima donna is magnificently jewelled, but her jewellery has cost her next to nothing. It has nearly all been given by royal and other admirers, who, in recognition of her genius, have bestowed diamonds and precious stones upon her to the value of many thousands of pounds.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

At the Opera House last week, the Amateur Minstrel Club gave their performances. Large and fashionable audiences attended them. But the attendance was not so large as it has been at all the previous appearances of the Minstrels, and the result financially must have been disappointing, as the expenses were undoubtedly very heavy.

They made their last appearance in November, and I suggested then that before they made any more bows to the public, a course of vigorous treatment would be well for the end men. They took this advice. The ends this time contained but two of the old faces, Esson and Burns. There can be no doubt as to the improvement, and while the songs of the end men were not so good as they might have been, there was more life and action: the occupants of the chairs did not sit still and immovable.

There can be no mistaking the fact that Burns is the life of the show: he did an immense amount of work in the end, in the olio, and in the afterpiece. Some of the new men made great hits in their different roles. Taking it as a whole, I thought the show the best that has been put on by the Amateurs, and they were certainly deserving of better patronage.

The club was evidently trying an experiment with the orchestra: on Thursday evening it was in front; on Friday and at the Matinee it was on the stage. It is perhaps a difficult matter to decide which is the better position for it, but speaking from the standpoint of the auditor and spectator, I should say keep it behind the circle every time. Just one word more and I have done. The next time, gentlemen, give a little more attention to the jokes and gibes of your end men. It does not do to let this matter run until the day before the performance foolishly fancying that most anything will do to spring on the public in the way of jokes.

This department is deserving of just as much attention as any other, and the work of the end men and the interlocutor should be well rehearsed and the same care given to it as to any other feature in the programme.

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One of the first ladies to publicly wear the crinoline skirt, in Boston, since the fashion was started, was Marie Burress, in the play "The Parvenu," when it was recently given at the Museum. The skirt measured 16 1/2 feet in circumference.

This is the roster of the Madeline Merli Company which plays here 24th May: Hal Clarendon, Henry L. Keane, Harry DeMuth, E. H. O'Connor, Chas. Montague, Harry Holmes, Walter Hagan, Lola Stuart, Edna Courtney, Helen Wheatcroft and Baby Black.

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In a recent performance of "Cymbeline" at a theatre one of the adjuncts of the bed-chamber scene was a brand-new French clock with a bronze figure on the top—a "property" slightly out of place in a clock that illustrated history some centuries before clocks were invented.

Eleanor Duse will give a performance of "Fedora" at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, on Monday afternoon, when the entire receipts will be divided between three charities—the Summer Rest, Columbus Monument fund, and the Italian Hospital. The next afternoon (April 25) Signora Duse will take her farewell of New York in "Camille."

A Kingston Orangeman.

KINGSTON, April 17.—Mr. James Blair of Napanee, whose case has been creating so much interest in that locality, is well-known in the Limestone city. He was a resident of Kingston for fourteen years, and it was while he was engaged as cutter for Mr. Livingstone of this place, that he contracted Bright's disease of the kidneys. His Orange friends in Kingston are delighted to know that he is cured of this terrible disease, by using Dodd's Kidney Pills. Many of them who have been similarly troubled with backache, rheumatism, and kindred complaints, have started using Dodd's Kidney Pills, and several marvellous cures are already reported. Mr. Blair joined the Orangemen in Napanee. He has been a delegate to the Orange grand lodge, and has held several important offices in the order. His friends considered his case as incurable, and are of course amazed at his wonderful recovery.

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