



IN MUSICAL CIRCLES

The St. John Amateur Minstrels gave their performances last week to good houses. The first night was a disappointment to many-pecially musically. After the unsuccessful experiment of the Snowflakes in placing the orchestra in the auditorium during the circle part of the performance, I was astonished to find such an experienced stage managwith the very full chorus the Minstrels have, it was impossible to hear them well with such a volume of

-sound between them and the audience. With the orchestra placed as it was-not a sound of it was lost. With the circle placed where it was, a large portion of the sound went up in the flies. On Friday were grouped as of old, behind the circle, and there was no question as to which was the better arrangement. The chorus was full and the orchestra sub-

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 harmonies of the chorus for this song were uncommonly good and were, I believe, arranged by Mr. Lindsay himself. Mr. Will starr sang his number well, as he always does, but he evidently was not very much in love with his song. I wish Mr. H. Cole would make his register a little more even. He has a very good voice, but there are so many breaks in it that one never knows what sort of a note is coming next.

The end men (even Plum and Spud) spoilt 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. It at once showed that the club has lost its best end man, and that the others have not taken the tips from him that they might. Of course I allude to Mr. Fred Blackadar-who ever missed a single word when Fred sung "Dem Chickens," "Mary's gone wid a Coon," "Who Did" and the other of his inimitable songs. It was most unfortunate, both for the club and the public, that through severe illness this inimitable "darkie" was unable to appear in his accustomed seat.

Friday evening, the second performance, there was a marked improvement in everything. Mr. Will Starr, sang "Jack and the Sea" in a dashing the songs of the end men were not so good Students"-though, I cannot imagine what on earth either of these songs can have to do with a minstrel pered." He sang with ease, in perfect time, his enunciation was capital. In fact he set some of his elders an uncommony good example.

which require several different dresses. In many parts the prima donna is magnificently bejewelled, but her jewellery has cost her next to nothing. It has nearly all been given by royal and other admirers, who, in recognitian of her genius, have bestowed diamonds and precious stones upon her to the value of many thousands of pounds. er as Mr. Esson attempting the same thing. Even Her jewel case is probably more valuable than any other artiste's except Madame Patti's.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

At the Opera House last week, the evening the positions were altered, and the orchestra | 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. The falling off is mayhap attributable to the fact that our citizens were saving their shekels for Gilmore's Band. But it is my opinion that the Minstrels do not attract such large houses as they did at first, simply because they are overdoing the business, that is to say are giving too many performances. The people are surfeited with Minstrel shows. Is not once a year often enough^p Let the club consider this little conundrum offered in the most friend'y If you have not tried this, way

> 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

manner, and Mr. Lindsay gave "The Jolly Gay as they might have been, there was more life and action : the occupants of the chairs circle. Master Willie Rodgers took the honors of did not sit stiff and immovable. The first the evening with his singing of "Somebody Whis- night the audience was cold and unresponsive, but things went with such a dash on the second that much applause was secured, clock with a bronze figure on the top-a and the matinee was the best performance

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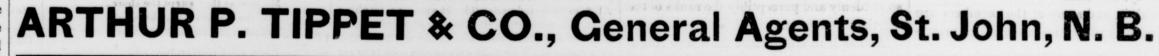
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INSTRUCTION.

The four end men redeemed their characters on this evening, giving their songs with appreciation of the lot. of what words they were singing. The best were Plum Jones, "But it is So," and "Hol' me down, I'se gwine to Fly," by Will Ward. The Burlesque "Tut i Frutti" was not the equal

of " Princess Lollypop." 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, specially with Plum and Spud carrying on as they did.

Taking a resume of the whole performances, the Minstrels have not advanced. There is too much sameness about the performances, and however much one likes favorite singers, one doesn't want to hear them every time. Variety is charming. Why, since Ronconi sang a bass song in the Min. strels years ago; I don't think there has been more than one bass solo since,-are there no bass soloists to be got? Four end men songs out of seven is too large a proportion, the public would be glad to hear more of the old sweet ballads, and not quite so much of bobbing up to glory and golden chariots and wings, etc., etc.

* * * 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 amongst them selves or donate it to a charity. Comic opera! No. gentlemen! you do very nicely with your faces blacked and scrambling about in black tights with spears, etc., in what is called a burlesque. But opera is a very different thing. If you would take up part song singing and the hundred and one compositions for male voices that there are, and give some concerts, then you would make a success. The Orpheus Club of Halitax give some splendid concerts and I think just for once the St. John's might follow Halifax.

Oratorio Society the other night, (owing to the absence of Mr. Ford-otherwise engaged,) and I hear from several of the members that they were very pleased with his beat. It is not very good policy to change conductors even for one evening, and I think that it would be wiser to change the night of rehear-al instead.

* * * Gilmore's Band is the great treat in store for us this week.

Trinity boys are improving all the time, tho' they suffered, and I suppose I ought to say Mr. Strand suffered also last Sunday morning under two dis advantages, the organ in a bad state, and the tenors frightfully out of tune. How the little fellows kept straight I don't know except the powerful backing of the basses. Nothing seems to throw them out specially with such on old and able hand as Mr. A. M. Smith to lead them.

The music for the special service of the St. George's Society to be held in Trinity church on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock is, as follows: --Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis in F. by Tours, and Stainer's anthem, "What are these." The hymis will be "Brightly gleams our barner," "For all the Saints" and "Now thank we all our God" sung to tunes in the A. and M. Bock. UNLE.

Tones and Undertones.

-"So his mother intends making a pianist of him?" "Yes." "Who has she selected as his teacher?" "She hasn't got that far yet; at present she is just letting his hair grow."

Judged from M. Paderswski's experience genius is not always hereditary, or at least immediately transmissable. His married lif - he hardly ever refers to, for his wife died during the first year of their matrimonial happiness, leaving a son, which is M. Paderswski's only link with this sad past. But Paderswski's fils is, musically, disappointing, and, far from being the infant phenomenon that he has been represented to be, has a lively dislike for the pianoforte.

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 deserv- York in "Camille." ing 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 Just one word more and I have time. 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 toolishly fancying that most anything will do to spring on the public in Orangeman in Napanee. He has been a 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 as well rehearsed and the same care given to it as to any other feature in the programme.

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 Mil Collinson conducted the rehearsal of the 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. 11. Gillmour 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 Protessor's Love Story." Her personal attractions gloriously second herartistic performance.

One of the first ladies to publicly wear the crinoline skirt, in Boston, since the fashion was started, was Marie Burress, in

at a theatre one of the adjuncts of the bedchamber scene was a brand-new French "property" slightly out of place in a play that illustrated bistory some centuries before clocks were invented.

Eleonora 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 tarewell of New

A Kingston Orangeman.

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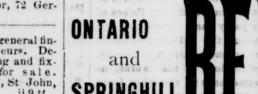
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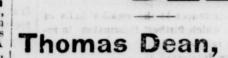
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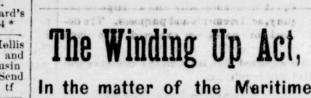
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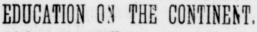
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