

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Spohr's oratorio, "The Last Judgment" will be given by the Oratorio society in St. Andrew's church on Tuesday evening, the fifth of next month, the following being the soloists, Mrs. R. Blackmore, Jr., Miss Annie L. Lugin, Rev. J. M. Davenport and Mr. G. C. Coster. Spohr's magnificent work has not been performed by the society since 1883 when it was given under the direction of Mr. Peller, the two gentlemen above named being the soloists on that occasion. The number of members of the chorus now, who were present on that occasion must be very small and so the taking up of this work is practically breaking new ground. Mr. Fisher, the new conductor of the society has been putting in some very hard work with the chorus and though there was some very ragged work at the rehearsal last Monday night yet there is every prospect that by the night of the performance everything will go smoothly. It is a great advantage having the organ to aid the orchestra, which has been the weak point in most of the later concerts of the society, and it is rather unfortunate that Mr. Fisher cannot be in two places at once.

It was a great pleasure to a good many musical people outside his own congregation to hear the Rev. Father Davenport again sing the service at a choral celebration in the Mission church last Sunday. His voice seems to have stood the last two years very well, the sweetness of its tone being unimpaired. Now that a new order of things has commenced, or, rather, the old order has returned at the Mission, it will be necessary to reconstitute the choir and bring the music of the church up to the standard of old. It makes a world of difference to have an unmusical and a musical priest in charge.

At the concert at Exmouth street church last Tuesday evening, Mrs. Harrison sang the celebrated aria from The Messiah—"Rejoice Greatly, Oh Daughter of Zion." This talented lady has probably never been heard to so much advantage before, in St. John, as she was in fine voice and was accompanied admirably. Miss Ogden, whom St. John audiences seem to appreciate more every time they hear her, also appeared to great advantage, especially in the obligato to Mrs. Harrison's "Wings." The more Mr. Fisher is heard at the organ the more he is liked; the tendency he displayed at the last recital at St. Andrew's church to have too full an organ for the vocalists, was not apparent at this concert. His solos were admirably played. The rest of the performers call for no special mention. Mr. Lindsay was down for two numbers but did not appear on account of illness.

Mr. Carl Walther, the violinist, played two selections, accompanied by Mr. J. S. Ford on the organ, on Wednesday evening at the close of Rev. Mr. Desjard's lecture in the stone church school room. He could not have given himself a better advertisement, as most certainly every one who heard him that night will be sure to go to the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening next, where he gives a concert, at which Miss Walker, a soprano, will sing and there will be several local performers.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Mr. H. B. Clarke's company of players has been presenting "The Inside Track" and other plays at the opera house this week. A fairly good audience greeted the first performance and then, until Thanksgiving, indifferent attendance. The company is better than the average one; the plays should suit the popular taste. But it is hard to tell what will suit the people now-a-days. The best dramatic work frequently pays the worst or, rather, does not pay at all, while the poor, sensational clap trap sort of a play, with performers to suit, goes away with plenty of cash. After all perhaps the fault does not lie with public taste any more or as much as with management whose policy always has been and probably will be to give barn-stormers the same lavish advance notices as they accord to a meritorious company.

Among the Boston Playhouses.

Men may come and men may go but the show goes on forever. The theatres here, have for the last few weeks, given strong attractions and despite the dullness in business and the financial stringency, the managers promise still better things for the future.

Since I last wrote you, the Kendals have been in the city and as usual have made the Hollis St. theatre their headquarters. There engagement was for two weeks only and they produced but one piece, "The second Mrs. Tanqueray." A lot has been said about this piece, and about Mrs. Kendall's assumption of the title role; some saying that she has done the best work of her career in the part, and others professing astonishment and disgust at the idea of Mrs. Kendall, the matron of the English stage, taking the part of a bold, bad woman, for the character of Paula is that of a woman who has been both bold and bad and hopes by a fortunate marriage to escape the follies of her past. Of course strict poetic justice demands that she shall not, and does not. When all has been said it remains that the play is a strong one and deserves a place among the great acting plays of the day, but whether it serves a good end is another story.

This week we have had Nat. Goodwin in his new play, "In Mizzoura," and it goes without saying that this popular actor's appearances have been hailed by crowded houses. Next week he returns to his last season's success, "A Gilded Fool."

The Grand Opera house has, this week, seen the return of its own stock company in an elaborate revival of "Hoodman Hood." Your readers will perhaps remember that Josephine Plows-Day made quite a hit in St. John in the leading lady's part in this play. It is rather a pleasing coincidence that Mr. Wilson Barrett, one of the authors of the piece, should be in Boston during its run.

Wilson Barrett made his first American appearance this year at the Globe Theatre last Monday, in "Virginius," a well worn but still welcome tragedy. Mr. Barrett has rearranged the play to suit his own ideas, and has almost entirely rewritten the last act. The piece was beautifully mounted and presented by a strong and well balanced company. Besides this play, Mr. Barrett has been seen this week in a bill of one act pieces, in "Claudian," "Othello," and "The Silver King."

He is a powerful actor and deservedly a favorite here, although there are many good cities which do not altogether approve of his methods.

The Columbia has scored a success with "The girl I left behind me," and full houses,

have been the rule during the last fortnight. It is a play dealing with army life on the frontier, and tells the story of the trials and tribulations, the joys and sorrows of the garrison of a western fort during an Indian uprising. Love is present too and plays havoc among the hearts of the gallant defenders of the starry banner. Envy, malice and hatred also are in evidence, but of course everything ends happily and the curtain rings down on an enemy vanquished and a number of young people engaged to be married.

At the Tremont we have had a first presentation of a new play by an actress who has been absent from the stage for some years and whose return was cordially welcomed. She is Minnie Maddern, and the play is called "Hester Crewe," written by the star's husband, Harrison Grey Fiske.

"Venus" is still evening star at the Park and will continue to shine nightly until further notice. The piece is very bright and attractive and well deserves all the nice things said of it.

No change of bill is announced as yet at the Boston Theatre where the "Black Crook" still attracts crowds to see the brilliant spectacle.

Far and away the most interesting thing seen in this city for a long time is the French piece, "L'Enfant Prodigue" at the museum. The story of the play is an old one, and is borne out in real life, time again and again. An elderly couple with one son, who falls in love with a girl of the people, steals his parents' money, runs off with the girl, who is all smiles and sweetness while his money lasts but when the end comes leaves him for a richer man. The boy repents, and comes home sadder and wiser, to the parents who forgive him. A simple plot, almost worn thread-bare, one might say, it has been used so often, but in this instance so exquisitely told that one is almost compelled to believe it is a new theme. Indeed, it practically is a new theme, for during the three acts of the play not one single word is spoken, the story being told by gesture, facial expression and the music of the orchestra. It is an odd sensation to sit in front of this production, and watch the plot unfold itself without spoken lines. The piece has been a great success, not only on account of its novelty, but chiefly because of the excellence of the finished artists who compose the company.

STAGELETS.

Wilson Barrett will play "Hamlet" during his engagement at the Globe.

Henry Irving comes on January 1st to the Tremont Theatre for five weeks. Excursions will be in order.

Rosina Vokes is reported as being very ill, but she continues to play.

I hear that Frederic Robinson and some others are about to resign from A. M. Palmer's company and that George Fawcett is to take Mr. Robinson's place.

By the way, Patti sang here this week, and La Diva's voice is reported to be the same phenomenal organ as of old. Of course she gave "Home, Sweet Home" as an encore. It would not have seemed natural had she omitted this.

The Boston Press Club had a house-warming on Thursday evening to celebrate their recent occupation of their new house, 14 Bosworth street. It is needless to say that everybody was there and had a jolly good time.

HELPFUL WORDS.

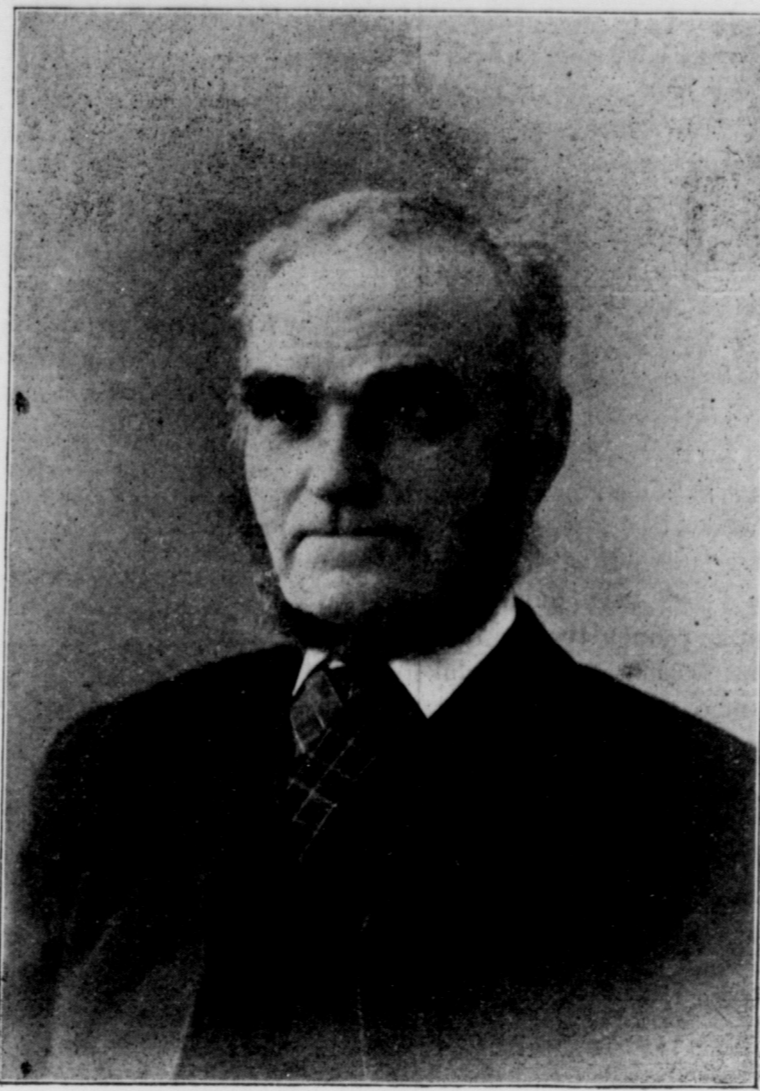
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A TYPICAL AND WORTHY SCOTCHMAN. His History Shows What Honesty and Perseverance Can Accomplish.



The above portrait is from a photograph recently taken for the present occasion. John Taylor, of Harvey Station, is the original. He came to this country from Scotland in 1850; was born at Whigstreet, Parish of Inverarity and County of Forfar, in 1825, and is therefore about the same age as Lieut-Governor Boyd. Mr. Taylor settled on a lot of wilderness land at Tweedside, so-called, on the western shore of Oromocto Lake, in 1852, where the Swans and others had "got planted unco right" two years previously.

Tweedside is merely an extension of Harvey on the south. It was originally termed the Campbell block, having been granted to Sir Colin Campbell. The land was divided into ten lots and sold to these people by Andrew Inches, who was then or some time shortly after dubbed by George L. Hatheway, "the king of the crown land office."

The road, instead of being a bridle path as has been said, was then at its best; better in fact than it is to-day, and no finer tract of land could then be seen between Fredericton and St. Andrews; and no finer farms can be seen on the same road at the present time. The first frame house was erected by Mr. Taylor. He went on with his farming for a number of years, but when the American war broke out he turned his attention to business, and opened a trade between the villages and the citizens of St. Stephen and Calais. This proved to be a lucky step for him and was a boon to the settlers as well. Fortune favored him and he began to be favorably known to the merchants of not only these towns, but Fredericton and St. John as well.

After the completion of the European and North American Railway (now the Atlantic division of the Canadian Pacific Railway) he sold his farm at Tweedside and removed to Harvey Station. Here he con-

tinued trading, and seeing that business at that place promised well, he erected a large and substantial building, the upper portion of which was designed for use as a public hall; the lower divided into two commodious stores for his own use. Previous to this he had become a shareholder in the York woolen mill, the largest mill of the kind in the province, and after a time became sole owner. Carrying on this business took him away from home a great deal and he decided to sell, which he did at a good profit. The mill while under his control got the reputation of manufacturing an extra fine quality of goods, which reputation it has satisfactorily sustained. Mr. Taylor has been twice married. His first wife was a woman of fine attainments and a sister to John and Alex. Swan of Tweedside. She died in 1881. Three years after he married Phoebe Amanda, eldest daughter of the late David Hart of Fredericton Junction, a lady esteemed by all who have the pleasure of her acquaintance.

Mr. Taylor has had no children of his own but has had the care of his brother's children, two boys and two girls, since they became orphans and all who know the young folks will say that he has fulfilled his duty to them in the fullest sense.

He is still hale and hearty as his picture shows. He enjoys the friendship of many prominent men throughout the province by whom he is esteemed and respected for his many excellent traits of character.

Three times he has been privileged to visit his native land, thus having seven times crossed the Atlantic.

In his time he has contributed a good deal to the press, largely for the St. Croix Courier. His productions always show a keen foresight; a fine descriptive faculty, and an accurate estimate of men and matters. It has been said of him that he is a close observer; as glib with the pen as a true Scotchman and a worthy representative of "The land o' cakes."

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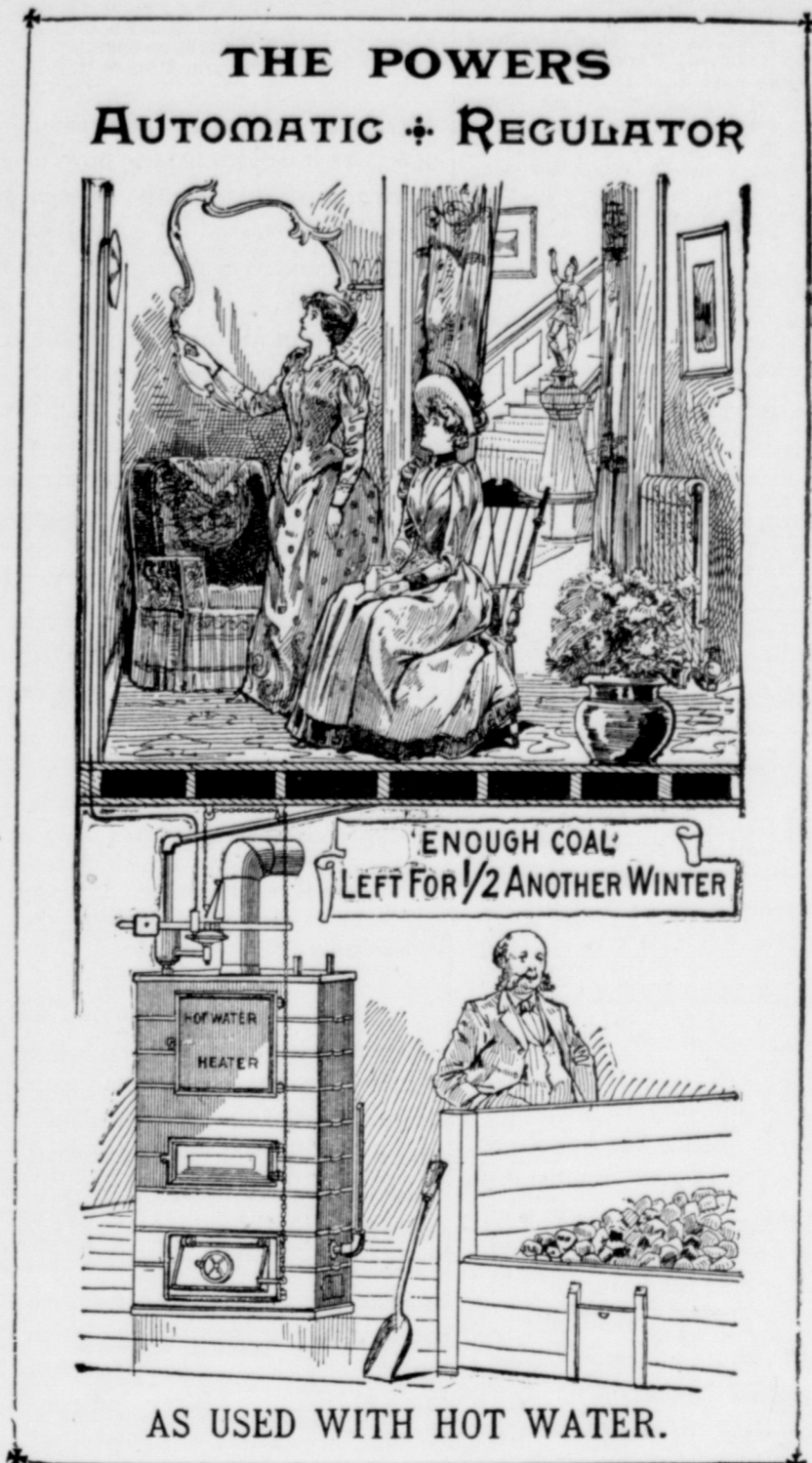
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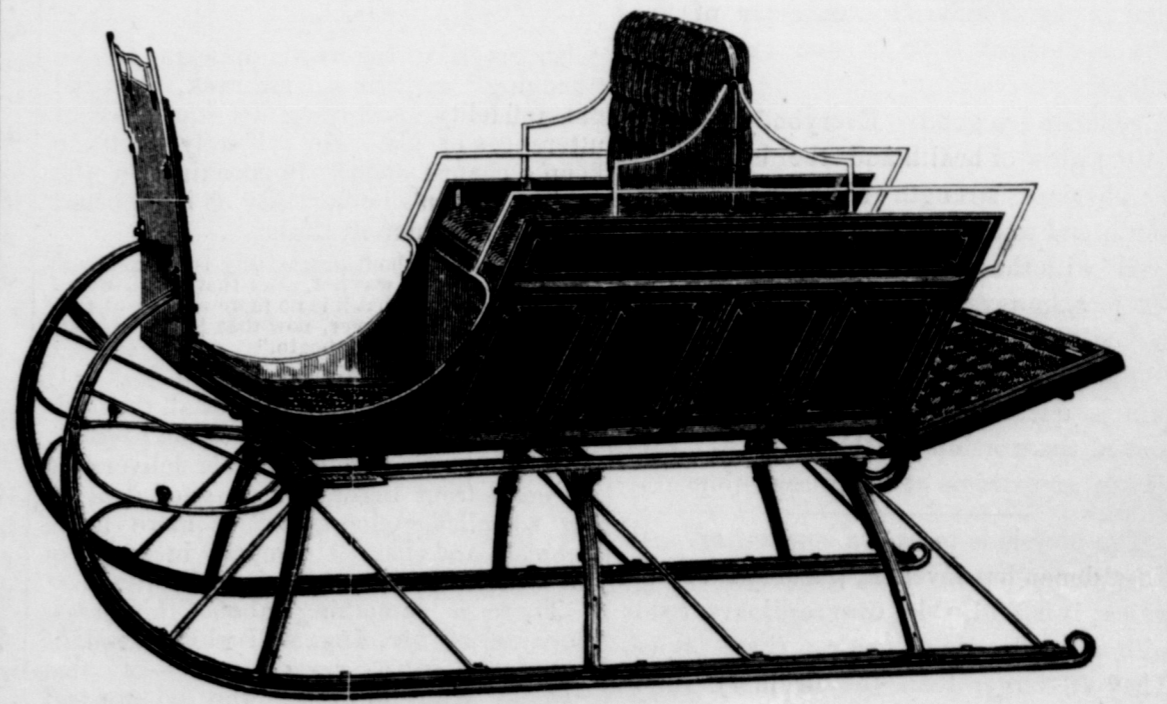
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