

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Christmas-tide is usually good for all sorts of amusements, but there are signs that do not fail to point out that the season is very dull here.

However, Price Webber cannot complain, for he got two big houses at the Institute Christmas afternoon and night, and very nice and smooth performances his company gave, too, especially "Jessie Brown."

I was genuinely surprised at the really artistic impersonation that Mr. Webber gave to the character of the Nana Sahib. It is a hard part, but when I say that Webber played it in a manner which will compare more than favorably with the best done here, I do not pay him any compliment, but state simple truth.

Webber's company show a great improvement in acting and costuming. Miss Grey is always a good, painstaking, conscientious actress, never slighting the least detail. She has some elegant dresses, too, and they help show her to advantage.

What I like about Webber is his indomitable energy—his courage, patience and perseverance—and he never envies any one else's success; but is always willing to lend a helping hand. I know of several instances where he has helped those who, when they had the chance, did not treat him very well.

The opera company brought by Manager McCaffrey have been giving less than ordinary performances for a party so loudly heralded in advance.

This idea of puffing so much before hand is bad policy, as the party so puffed never comes up to the expectations formed, and when 75 cents is charged for reserved seats people have a right to see something beside a dress rehearsal.

First we were told that Miss Josie Knapp "a glorious singer and a beautiful woman" (I quote from the advance notices) was to appear; but up to the present time she has failed to materialize although she was advertised as the first prima donna.

Then we were told a full and complete New York orchestra would be on hand; but the "full and complete New York orchestra" consists of one man—the conductor.

I do not think it would have kept any money out of the house to have had it advertised that our own Morton Harrison's orchestra would furnish the music.

The best and most acceptable performer in the whole of the opera company, is undoubtedly Miss Meredith. The capable way in which she sung the music of the role of "Zerlina" in "Fra Diavolo" established this fact. She is also very pleasing in appearance, and does not come on the stage as if she were giving the audience to understand that she was conferring an honor by singing to them; but that she sings because it is her profession, and she likes it.

The sextette from "Lucia di Lammermoir" which was introduced in "Fra Diavolo," on Tuesday evening, was really fine, and the pure ton of Miss Meredith's voice was manifested in a delightful manner. I could forgive the unwarrantable liberty taken in borrowing the gem from "Lucia" for the pleasure I had in listening to it.

I understand Manager McCaffrey is trying to get Manager Clarke, of Halifax, to play the opera company for two months in the city. Mr. Clarke would probably need to have a guarantee of tickets sold in advance to warrant him in taking the chance.

Speaking of Clarke, I wonder how that law suit, instituted by some of the actors of Rehan's company against him is going to come out? One thing is sure, if Clarke owes them they can get their money as he is worth it.

By the way, I hear considerable talk of W. S. Harkins coming to the institute next summer, for a season of eight weeks. There is no reason why he should not do well. Harkins is a good actor and a general favorite.

The drunken scene in La Perichale, at the Opera house, Christmas night, between the two ladies of the company, might have been necessary to the success of the opera, but it was not an edifying spectacle, nor does it tend to elevate the stage.

Harrison's Orchestra have never played better than they have this week, for Price Webber, at the Institute. Good selections of music, finely and harmoniously rendered, winning applause at every performance.

A matinee will be given on Saturday, at the Institute, "Jessie Brown" will be play

ed, and the always welcome drama of the "Octoroon" will be staged on Saturday night. For New Years Day, the favorite play of "East Lynne; or the Elopement," will be given in the afternoon, and the Irish drama of "Arrah-na-Pogue" at night, for the last appearances of Webber's company. They open in Fredericton on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd. They will do well, as they deserve to do.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

CAMPBELLTON.

Progress is for sale in Campbellton at the store of A. E. Alexander, wholesale and retail dealer in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hardware, school books, stationery, furniture, carriages and machinery.

Dec. 27.—Mr. Seney, of Montreal was in town on Thursday last. Mr. H. Hazen of the Victoria colonization railway is staying at the Royal.

Mr. J. S. Eagles, St. John, paid Campbellton a short visit on Thursday. Mr. Thomas McDevit left on Saturday evening to spend Christmas day at his home in St. John.

Mr. J. Bourque, of Moncton, was in town last week. Miss Maggie Morin, who has been attending Normal school at Fredericton has returned home.

The many friends of Mr. Mansfield Duncan will regret to hear that after an illness of several weeks he is not improving as rapidly as one would wish.

Mr. George Frenette has returned after a couple of days vacation, pleasantly spent at Nouvelle, P. Q. William Murray, ex-M. P., returned on Friday from Ottawa.

The party given by Dr. and Mrs. Murray to a large number of their friends was a most agreeable surprise, but as Thursday was extremely cold with heavy drifting, a few, much to their regret, were prevented from being present at one of the delightful entertainments of the season, as Dr. and Mrs. Murray are a charming host and hostess.

The invited guests were Misses Cassie Thompson, Jennie Jardine, Bert Stewart, Ruth Chandler, Martha Barnes, Corinne Venner, Nellie Murray, Hattie Henderson, Jennie Andrew, Nellie Williams, Mary Kerr, Minnie Andrew, Bessie McKenzie, Lizzie Henderson, Gerlie Jardin, Mazie Andrew, Miss Fayer, Maude Johnson, Mary McAlister and Maggie Harper, Messrs D. J. Bruce, Frank Matheson, J. McAlister M. P., Jack White, Will Yorston, George McKenzie, James Johnson, Harry Wathen, W. A. Mott M. P., T. W. Brown, James Jardine, Albert McKendrick, James Alexander, Albert Anderson, E. W. Lewis and Dr. Lunan.

Mr. Henry Duveraux, of Petit Rocher, was the guest of Rev. J. L. McDonald on Sunday. Mr. Harry Wathen spent the Christmas holidays with his parents in Harcourt.

Mr. M. Moore, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Sadie, have gone to visit relatives in Miramichi. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Kennedy left on Saturday for Amherst, N. S. Mrs. Kennedy will be absent for a few weeks.

On Christmas eve Mr. John Mowatt was presented by the members of his family with a very handsome fur lined coat. Mr. D. J. Bruce is sojourning in St. John. Mr. Arthur O'Keefe, who is a student at St. Joseph's college, Memramcook, is home on his vacation.

The residence of Mrs. James Gerrard was the scene of a quiet, but pretty wedding on Wednesday evening, when her daughter, Miss Evelyn, was united in marriage to Mr. John Oatman, of Kempt Road, P. Q. Only the immediate friends of the bride were present. The knot was tied by the Rev. A. F. Carr, after which the guests partook of a sumptuous repast, and the happy couple, amidst congratulations and showers of good wishes, left on the midnight express for a wedding tour to Montreal, Ottawa, and other Canadian cities.

Mrs. Henry McIntyre's friends will regret to hear that she has been confined to the house through illness. Miss Martha Barnes is spending her Christmas holiday with friends in Salisbury and Sussex. Mr. E. W. Lewis, principal of the high school, left on Friday evening for a visit to Moncton. Mr. Charlie Clapperton, who is attending college at Rimouski, passed through on Thursday on his way home to Maria, P. Q. Mrs. John Mowat and Miss Alice are visiting friends in St. John. Rev. Mr. Morris, rector of St. Mary's church, Dalhousie, conducted the Christmas service in

Christ church on Sunday evening, after the Holy Communion was celebrated. Mr. Albert Connacher, who has been in Montreal, for several months returned home on Saturday. Master Edgar Lingley of New Mills, is spending a few days with his father, Mr. S. H. Lingley.

Mr. J. Barber of Dalhousie, spent Sunday in Campbellton. Christmas attraction for many was the curling match between two rinks, skips Brown and Taylor for the Harris cup, resulting in a victory for Mr. J. H. Taylor. In the evening the curlers opened their rink for skaters, and an unusually large number enjoyed the excellent ice until nine o'clock, when a very exciting race kept all in suspense, as one of the contestants was a local flyer, Mr. Theodore Jardine, who, although he did remarkably well, did not come up to expectations, as Mr. Fred Copeland, champion of the Miramichi, easily carried off the honors, winning by two laps, and was presented with a very handsome carving set by Mayor Alexander. The curlers have arranged for a series of races between amateurs, which will take place every Saturday evening during the season.

Mr. Milton Doherty, who has been in town for several weeks left yesterday, for Bathurst. Miss Lydia Thompson is home from Fredericton for a few days. Miss Sadie Miller spent Christmas at her home at Eel River.

Mr. E. Henderson left on Saturday for New York, where he intends to remain for an indefinite time. Mr. Kerr left on Monday morning to visit friends in Bathurst. The carnival which was announced to have taken place on Christmas night has been unavoidably postponed until the evening of the 31st.

Mr. A. J. H. Stewart and bride, of Bathurst, spent Christmas day in town, the guests of Mrs. William Mott. Mr. Guy Viets, of the bank of Nova Scotia, spent Sunday and Monday in St. John.

At the young folk, who were on the qui vive for the wedding which was to have been solemnized in St. Andrew's church on Monday evening, were sadly disappointed, when it became known that the interesting event had been postponed for some weeks. The Sunday school scholars of the baptist congregation were treated to a Christmas tree on Friday evening, when the little ones were made happy as the recipients of pretty gifts as well as good things to eat.

The Methodist Sunday school also had an entertainment and Christmas tree for the children, which passed off pleasantly and was much enjoyed by those present. Miss Mabel Hillson, spent a few days in town last week, returning to her home in Moncton for the holidays. Mr. George Braziers, spent last Sunday in St. John. Mr. J. McDonald, of Truro, N. S., is in town to be the chief amusement of the evening.

Mr. I. Stevens, spent Xmas in Newcastle. Mr. Raymond Cullen left on Tuesday for his home in Carleton, P. Q. Mr. George Reed, of Newcastle, was in town on Saturday. Mr. J. D. Sawyer received the sad intelligence of the death of his sister, Mrs. Edward Walker, which occurred very unexpectedly at her home in Bass River, Kent Co., on Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer left by the midnight express to be present at the funeral.

Mrs. George Allan's many friends extend sympathy to her, in the death of her father, Mr. Thomas Robb, which occurred in Moncton on Saturday last. Mr. T. M. Gwynor, of the Northern Enterprise, left on Monday for his home in Chatham. Mrs. William McIntyre, of Dalhousie, is the guest of Mrs. Henry McIntyre today. Mr. A. J. Venner is confined to the house with a severe attack of rheumatism.

Service was held in the R. C. church on Xmas morning, during which very choice music was rendered by the Misses Deary. A noticeable feature was the unique and beautiful decorations of the sanctuary, which far surpassed that of other years. Five masses were celebrated, the first one being at ten o'clock, at which Rev. J. L. McDonald, officiated and an eloquent sermon was delivered by Rev. Father Campbell.

After an illness of several weeks Mr. D. F. Graham's numerous friends are delighted to welcome him in their midst once more. VIOLA.

MUSQUASH.

Dec. 26.—St. Ann's church was handsomely decorated on Christmas morning with evergreens and flowers. The service was conducted by Rev. H. M. Spike, and the music was unusually fine. That beautiful anthem, "Sing, O Ye Heavens," sounded very well, Mrs. Joshua Knight taking the solos. The ladies of St. Ann's guild have recently purchased a new organ for the church.

Captain and Mrs. Robinson are spending the winter months with Mrs. Robinson's mother, Mrs. J. E. Knight, Inglewood. Mr. G. M. Anderson and Miss Emma Anderson returned home last week, having spent the past three months in Boston and New Jersey. Mr. Fred. Bell is home from the Davenport school for the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Woodford, of St. John, spent Christmas at Sunnyside. Mrs. Y. E. Knapp and Miss Hattie Knight, were in the city last week. VIVE.

GRAND MANAN.

Dec. 25.—Mr. C. S. Newton went to Boston by Thursday's boat, where he will remain during the winter. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Gupitil, of Lubec, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Gupitil. Messrs. R. L. Ca son and R. W. Wooster returned from Fredericton on Friday. Dr. Covert and Mr. A. M. Covert are at the rectory for the holidays. Dr. and Mrs. Jack arrived here on Friday. Mrs. Ida Gupitil and Miss Minnie Frazier have returned from their studies in Fredericton. Mr. H. F. Perkins leaves this morning for Petersburg. Miss A. Gupitil, of Lubec, is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Foster. SEAWEED.

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ARRAH-NA-POGUE; or, The Wicklow Wedding. MISS GRAY, as.....Gora Melish. SATURDAY Evening, Dec. 30, Jessie Brown. The Octoroon. POPULAR PRICES. Matinee Admission, 25 cents to all parts of the Hall. Evening Admission, 25c.; Reserved Seats, 30c. Tickets for sale at A. CHIPMAN SMITH'S, who is a pan of the hall may be seen and seats secured. This Company will open in City Hall, Fredericton, Tuesday ev'g., Jan. 2nd.



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