

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

PROGRESS has a new theatrical correspondent this week—a voluntary one, Mr. C. H. Haystead, who being doubtless in good spirits owing the contract he has signed as advance agent of Edwin R. Marshall's great American play, "A Fair Rebel" writes to let all his acquaintances know what he is doing. The Opera company he booked with failed to materialize. He adds—Miss Josie Mills has received several very flattering offers for the season but will not go on the road until late in October; Harkins is with the Still Alarm; Tom Wise goes with the Frohmans; Julia Arthur is on a vacation to the World's Fair; Clarence Handysides plays leading business to Katherine Clemons; Geo. Staley says he's going to pay your town a visit in the spring. If so he will make a big hit, for he is very good, and last but not least, I see our old friend Pat Nannery on the Rialto every day.

A CHAT WITH MADAME ALBANI.

How the Great Canadian Singer Keeps Her Voice.

It was Madame Albani's performance of the part of Elizabeth in Wagner's Tannhauser at the Convent Garden Theatre which suggested the subject of my conversation with her when, two days later I found myself in the prima donna's drawing-room at South Kensington. In the Italian version of the opera an immense burden is cast on the singer of the part of Elizabeth, and it was marvelous to observe how, for nearly four hours, Madame Albani's voice was sustained without the least trace of fatigue—how, as a matter of absolute fact, her solo was sung with the power and freshness shown in her first. In what way was she able to husband her vocal resources?

"The Boltons," where Madame Albani and her husband, Mr. Ernest Gyde, reside, is one of those havens of quietude and verdure which are happily so numerous amid a large part of London's bricks and mortar. It was for many years, likewise, the home of Jenny Lind, her intimate friend as well as near neighbor.

"Yes, Elizabeth is a heavy part," Madame Albani agrees, when she appears in the drawing-room, reflecting in her face the bright morning sunshine I have just left. "But then I am so much in love with the character. Elizabeth's is such a noble nature, is it not?"

"Yes, your sympathy with the part was quite evident. But tell me, how do you fortify the voice to successfully pass through such severe ordeals?"

"Oh, I'm obliged to be very careful all day before going to the theatre. I hardly speak a word, even to my husband, and then only in whispers. I sit alone, reading quietly, except of course, when I am practising a song. Perhaps I may take a drive in the afternoon, but even then I go alone. I dine at three, and resolutely refuse to see anyone till I go to the theatre. As you may suppose, such self-restraint is sometimes vexatious. Just now, for instance, my boy is at home, and on Wednesday it was quite annoying not to be able to talk to him. But a singer must be prepared to make sacrifices. There is scarcely a pleasure as to which I have not sometimes to exercise self-denial. I have found it necessary to lay down certain rules and rigidly adhere to them. The first is never to sing on two nights in succession."

"You mean in opera?"

"No, in concerts or operas. When I am on a tour there is the fatigue of railway travelling."

"And the encores—?"

"Yes, Madame Albani assents, with a smile. "The voice, in my opinion, should not be put to the same exertion every twenty-four hours. On some tours, concerts are given every evening, and there are artists who, during the greater part of the year, are singing somewhere or other every day. There is a mercenary motive, of course, but even from that point of view it is, I am sure, a mistaken policy. I will not mention any names, but I have known several most promising singers whose voices have prematurely broken down in consequence of the excessive strain imposed on them. Even when I was quite young in the profession I refused many and many an engagement because I was so convinced of the care that ought to be taken in protecting one's greatest treasure," and Madame Albani playfully touched her throat.

"Then I have another rule—never to sing to my friends," the prima donna continued.

"Is that," I inquired, "because you have so many friends that to disappoint none you have to refuse all?"

"Oh, I found this necessary when I hadn't nearly so many friends as I have now. Many young artists make the mistake of going here, there, and everywhere, singing in hot crowded rooms at all hours of the night. My rule is now so well-known among my friends that when I go to a party I am never put to the unpleasant trouble of refusing."

"Do you use any specific, any a stimulant, for the voice?"

"Well, whenever anything is amiss with my throat I use prescriptions given to me by the late Sir Morell Mackenzie. My voice, I ought to say, is greatly indebted to Morell Mackenzie. Once or twice, when I went to him, he wafted a kind of powder down my throat, which seemed to have a magical effect. I often say that I don't know what I shall do if there is anything seriously the matter with my throat, for I don't know the secret of that powder. It was Sir Morell Mackenzie who urged me to go to Modane, where my stay proved most beneficial to my voice. He was a charming man, who had the great physician's art of reassuring the patient as soon as one was in his presence."

"And your other rules, Madame Albani?"

"Well, the most important is to study every day. No matter how often I have sung a song, an oratorio, or an opera, I always practise it at home before singing it

in public. I should go through the music even of "Home, Sweet Home," if I knew that I was to give it in the evening. The cultivation of the voice is never really ended. Too many singers, I fear, as soon as they make a success and engagements come pouring in, think that the hard work is over, and give up their study, imagining that all they have now to do is to keep their engagements. They will go on to the stage or platform with scarcely a glance at the music they are to sing. As the result, their success is generally short-lived."

"In the dining-room of 16, "The Boltons" there hangs a fine picture of the valley of the Dee at Bramar, painted by Tucker. A reference to it reminds the singer of another important means by which the splendid power of her voice has been preserved through so many years of professional service.

"I make it a rule," she says, "to have two months' holiday—August and September—at our cottage in the Highlands. I like to have my stay uninterrupted by a single professional engagement, but this year I shall have to come to Worcester in the early part of September for the Festival. Unless you have been there, you can have no idea of the wonderful amount of good I get out of my holiday at Bramar. The beauty of the scenery is so refreshing and the air so exhilarating. Whenever I feel tired towards the close of the season, I always have a good look at the picture, and I am buoyed up again by hope."

It is during this annual holiday, by the way, that Madame Albani has won the warm friendship of the Queen. Balmoral is just within driving distance of Madame Albani's cottage—which has the Duke of Fife's shooting box in sight—and there is consequently a frequent interchange of visits between the singer and her sovereign. Madame Albani sometimes sings before Her Majesty at Balmoral, or with even less formality, the Queen will take tea in the cottage and afterwards enjoy some favorite air.

"I am singing at three of the provincial Festivals this year," Madame Albani tells me in conclusion—"at Worcester, Bristol, and Gloucester. Singing in oratorio makes a very pleasant change after opera, as you can understand. It is only in oratorio that I ever make an exception to my rule as to singing on successive days."—Cassell's Journal.

The Elliott Case.

BRANTFORD, Sept. 4. Many citizens of this city are willing to vouch the truth of Frank Elliott's statement that he was cured of kidney disease of six years standing by the use of Dodd's kidney pills. Everyone is astonished at the rapidity and thoroughness with which these pills do their work. As one who had tried them says: "A man feels, after using them, as though he had never enjoyed life before." The renal case, in which a paralytic was cured by Dodd's kidney pills, opened the eyes of the people in this vicinity to the virtues of this remedy.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

SHEDIAC.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Shediac at R. W. Abernethy and Fred Inglis.]

SEPT. 5.—Mr. and Mrs. Chambers of Woodstock, Ont., with their little son, are the guests of Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Chambers' mother.

Mrs. Carlyle and Miss Theal have moved into the stage lately occupied by Mrs. Narcisse Landry on Main St.

R. C. Tait went to St. John on Friday, returning the next day.

Mrs. O'Doherty of Boston is spending a few days at the Weldon House.

Mrs. George Moore of Charlottetown, and her little daughter, are visiting Mrs. Evans.

The Misses Evans pleasantly entertained a few friends on Thursday last.

A delightful little party was given by Miss Jennie Webster, last week.

Master Hal, Belyea, who has been spending his vacation in New York, is home again.

Several of our young ladies left for Sackville on Monday morning to resume their studies at the College. The Misses Dickie, White, Benedict, and Deacon, were among the number.

Miss Albina Bourque is quite ill with typhoid fever.

Miss Katie Lawrence of Moncton is the guest of Mrs. C. A. Dickie.

Miss Carrie Smith, of the Postal department, is visiting friends in Nauwigawauk.

Mr. James Irvine is in town this week.

Miss Butt, who has been spending several weeks with Mrs. J. J. Smith, returned to her home in St. John, Monday.

Mr. Smith, who has been filling the Methodist pulpit during Rev. Mr. Lodge's absence, returned to Sackville on Tuesday.

Rev. Mr. McKay of Sydney, was the guest of Mr. James Webster, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton returned on Saturday from a driving tour through Kings county.

Miss May Geldert has taken a school in Albert county.

SUSSEX.

SEPT. 6.—Miss Lizzie Hallett, is spending her vacation with her sister, in Amherst.

Mr. A. M. Belding, St. John, was in Sussex on Thursday.

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. McLeod, of Fredericton, were in Sussex on Thursday and Friday visiting friends.

Dr. S. F. Wilson and daughter, of Montreal, paid us a short visit on Friday, Dr. Wilson formerly practised here and was warmly welcomed by his many friends.

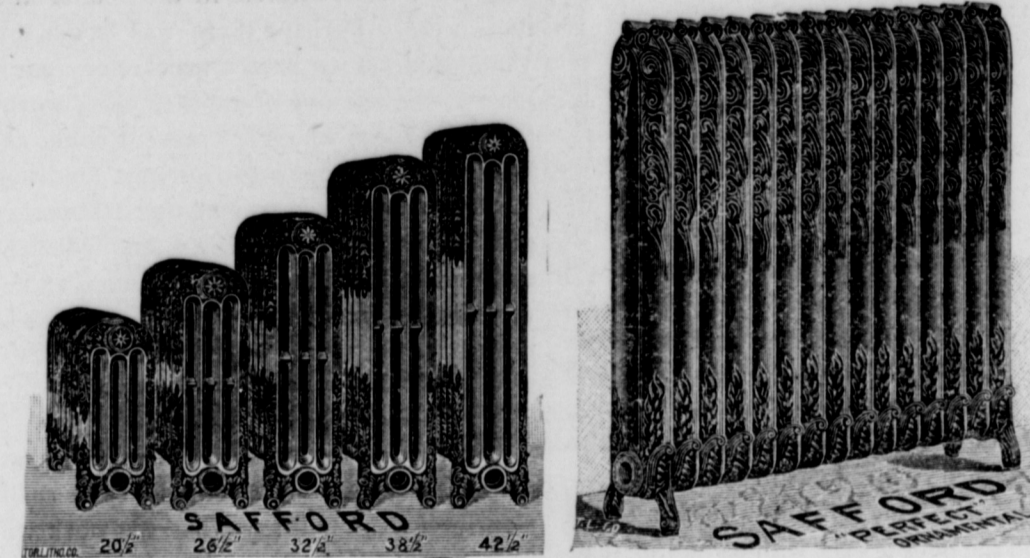
F. A. McCulley, of Moncton, was in town on Friday.

The Misses Howard, Miss Hayes and Miss Blanche left last week for Fredericton, to attend the Normal school.

Mrs. Peter Snider, of Moncton, spent last week here the guest of her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Brannen.

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Miss Bertha Burnett, left last week for Wolfville, where she has accepted a situation as teacher of elocution at the Academy there.

Miss Calbert is visiting friends in Moncton.

Miss Miller of St. Martins is visiting Miss Carrie McLeod.

Mr. Thos. Byrne has returned to New York to resume his studies at Bellevue medical college.

Miss Walsh, who has been staying at the Queen for some weeks, has returned to her home in St. John.

Miss Belle Robertson spent Saturday in St. John.

Miss Mary Byrne is making a visit in St. John.

Mrs. G. H. Raymond left Sussex on Saturday. Her many friends were sorry to see her go.

Rev. J. S. Sutherland is home again from his holidays and occupied his pulpit in the Presbyterian church on Sunday.

Miss Annie Morrison is visiting friends in Fredericton.

Mrs. Geo. Dixon, of Bridgetown, and Mr. and Mrs. G. Dixon and children, Boston, paid a short visit here last week, the guests of Mrs. E. Hallett.

Dr. G. N. Pearson and wife have moved to Sussex and are occupying the house vacated by Dr. Raymond on Church avenue.

Rev. Andrew Gray and Mrs. Gray, of Boston, Mass., arrived here on Monday to visit at Mr. Gray's home in Waterloo.

Mrs. Botsford and children, who have been visiting Mrs. J. S. Triles, left for New York on Monday.

Mr. C. Flood, St. John, was in town on Tuesday.

Miss Laura Hazen, St. John, is visiting her friend, Miss Maggie Arnold at the Knoll.

Miss Lulu Ryan, of New York, is visiting her mother here.

Miss Anderson has returned to Sussex, and is forming her music class again.

Miss Lillian Taylor and Miss Melina Boal have gone to Sackville to resume their studies at the Academy there.

Miss Sarah Byrne is attending the Convent of the Sacred Heart in St. John.

Mr. F. A. Mansfield of Boston, was at the Depot House this week.

Miss Edith Kierstead of Springfield is the guest of Miss May White.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each inserter. Five cents extra for every additional line.

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