



I was glad to see the Telegraph on Tuesday last with an editorial on music on the squares, though of course no mention was made of my remarks in last week's notes. I can set the editor right with regard to the Mayor and the band stand. At the reception given by the Artillery band on New Year's day, in the course of his speech the Mayor stated that his offer of half payment for a band stand (the estimated cost of which was \$600, according to the plans already drawn) was still open, if any generous citizens would take up the rest of the expense. He did not promise to head a subscription for payment of music, but I haven't the least doubt but that if his offer was accepted, he would willingly take the lead with regard to funds in payment of the bands.

The sympathy of their many musical friends, as well as the general public, will go out to Mr. and Mrs. Strand in the loss they have sustained in the death of their bright little boy, which occurred last Monday.

Owing to Mr. Strand being unable to play at Trinity church last Sunday, Mr. W. Ewing as usual stepped in the gap and undertook, through the kindness of his heart, to do what few men would, namely, play two services on an organ which he had never touched before, and which also had just come out of the hands of an organ cleaner. I was at the evening service and was delighted with the way in which he played Handel's Largo, as an offertory, and the Hallelujah Chorus, for the concluding voluntary. Of course, under the circumstances, nothing but chanting and the regular hymns were sung, and these all went very well with the exception of the basses roaring occasionally and the tenors being out of tune as usual. The boys are improving all the time. Of the organ, I have not been able to find out anything at present, though it sounded well in tune on Sunday.

I wonder what our four hundred or all think proper manners are. Last Thursday evening, six ladies and gentlemen (called a musical sextette) took the trouble to go to the C. of E. Institute rooms, fetch and carry their instruments too and fro, and all for what? As they imagined, they were going to play to an assemblage of cultured ladies and gentlemen, who would be pleased to listen to their efforts to entertain them! What was the actual fact? That the audience labored so much while they were playing that the first violin was unable to hear the piano and it was mostly by accident and knowing the music uncommonly well that they kept together and managed to get through the different pieces. The row, one can't call it by any other name, was simply hideous and I think such an insult should not have been put on these kindly performers. Partial science was obtained for the speakers, and the minstrel quartette, who sang their two numbers, which seems to be the extent of their repertoire. I am thinking it will be a long time before the sextette play at a conversazione again.

What should have been done months ago was done last week. Mr. Ford was asked for his resignation, which he tendered on Monday. When friction has once set up between chorists and conductor, the must part, I don't care whose was the initial fault, the fact remains the same, either the conductor must go or the disaffected members of the chorus.

People saw quite enough of the results of friction between the conductor and those under him at last year's concerts, when the first violin positively refused to look at or acknowledge the beat of his leader, and the results with the chorus would have been equally disastrous this year. There must be a certain amount of sympathy and accord between the leader and his chorus and orchestra, which I am afraid has not been the case between Mr. Ford and the Oratorio active members, or at least a large portion of them for a long time. Mr. Ford is unquestionably a very clever musician, both composer and performer, but that does not give him the right to insult and behave rudely to a body of ladies and gentlemen who voluntarily give up much of their time to forward the interests of good music in this city. Chorus are, apparently, very stupid to a trained musician occasionally, but that is no reason for their being laughed and jeered at and called an infant singing class, etc., etc. And also there are ways of saying things. I was singing at a rehearsal once, where a great musician was conducting, the work was Bach's Christmas Oratorio—and the tenors could not get a certain passage correctly. Over and over again until every one was in despair. At last the conductor said he was getting very hungry himself and would like some supper and he supposed the singers would also, but he added, that not one would get any, if he kept them their until next morning, unless the passage was done correctly. At first this seemed rather as though he were treating us as naughty children, but when one considered who had said it and how it was said, then the fun of the remark came in and gave renewed energy to the singers, the passage was mastered after two more trials and everyone was happy.

Mr. F. C. D. Bristowe, of Fredericton, has consented to take up the vacant baton and conducted the rehearsal on Monday. It is a very risky thing for both himself and the society but is the only course open. The change of a coach at the last moment for a hostess crew is always supposed to be a great mistake, but in many cases it has sent the crew to victory. I still hope that the society has profited under the somewhat harsh rule of their late coach and will pull together under the milder rule of their present one.

Mr. Porter has kindly shown me the programme for the Song Matinee to be given by the Oratorio Soloists. It is a very fine one, embracing old and new composers with delightful variety. There will be four quartettes, a duet by Messrs. Parker and Hay, "The Fishermen," by Gabussi; and amongst the songs are such favorites as "When love is kind," "She wandered down the mountain side," and "Tom Rowlog."

The Grand Concert by the St. John Conservatory of Music came off duly on Tuesday evening, to a fairly sized house. The performers were vigorously applauded, and certainly some of the pupils' numbers showed signs of diligent teaching and practice, though their efforts were sadly marred by the most wretched piano accompaniments I think I have ever heard.

Mr. L. P. Morrill was a disappointment. Her voice shows signs of hard usage, and her enunciation is faulty. If I had not known what the aria was she sang, I could not have caught a single word. Mr. Ford accompanied her splendidly, and it was most noticeable to find the change in the tone of the piano when he played as compared to those preceding him. George Dean Spaulding plays the harp well, and has lost none of her old time excellence. Her first encore, "Men of Harlech," was a very fine piece of work. Miss Nettie Pidgeon is improving in voice, but her enunciation is not quite what it should be yet. I pitied her very much for the poor way in which she was accompanied. Miss Marion Ogden was successful, as she always is, with her violin solo, but I think Mr. Ford was a little too robust with the piano. In many ways the concert was a success.

Mme. Adelina Patti has established a rule not to kiss any but her most intimate friends. It is said that after her last concert in this city 3,000 ladies insisted in embracing her.

Speaking of grand old men, surely Verdi is entitled to a seat in the front row. He was almost sixty when he wrote Aida, was seventy-five when he brought out Otello, and now, at eighty, he has produced Falstaff, and emphasises his right to be called the world's greatest living composer.

M. Johannes Wolff, the great violinist, is the son of an official in the Dutch Home office. When ten years old, his father took him to hear Wieniawski play; from that hour he had a passion for the violin. He studied music in Dresden and at the Paris Conservatoire. He is thirty years of age, and possesses a violin which is valued at £1,500, but he says he would refuse £5,000 for it.

There are reasons for fearing that the musical schemes for the Fair are destined to result in something approaching a fizzle. We advertised last week to the impossibility of Saint-Saens, Massenet or Richter being there. And now we learn that the prospects of the Oratorio society and the Handel and Haydn society of Boston participating are extremely remote, to say the very least. With unaccountable stinginess the Bureau of Music has peremptorily refused to pay any of the expenses involved, or to advance the money for such a purpose. The estimated expense of the Oratorio society's visit to Chicago and participation in the programme to be performed there is \$25,000 to \$30,000. This would include the railway and hotel expenses of 400 to 500 members. The same applies to the Handel and Haydn society. It is therefore fully safe to assume that neither organization will be there. All of which is a great pity and reflects small credit upon the men to whom the management of the music has been committed. We presume that they will spare no pains, however, to secure some of the popular choruses from Podunk and Squeedunk.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Daniels' Specialty Company, after giving good satisfaction here, left yesterday on their tour through the maritime provinces. They played in Moncton, Friday and Saturday, and open in Halifax, Monday. They will visit Charlottetown before returning in this direction.

Reports wired to this city say that H. Price Webber, with his usual kindness, helped out the Josie Mills company when it stranded in Halifax. Webber always has his wallet handy when any printer or actor is in trouble, and the balance to his credit in the bank of kindness is considerable.

A note from Manager Haystead, of the Josie Mills company, indicates that he is journeying backwards with the remnants of his shattered organization. Those who are best acquainted with Haystead, and his methods, have scant sympathy for him in the trouble with his company.

Among the events booked in the Opera House for June is Harkins, with whom W. A. Whitecar is coming, and Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The Gilbert Opera Company are booked to appear in the Mechanics' Institute, Monday June 12, in the two popular operas Maritana and the Bohemian Girl. Next week the company appears in St. Stephen and Fredericton. The season has come when some of the best operatic singers are free to make summer engagements, and Mr. Gilbert says that he has them in his company. The sketch of Miss Carvell, the star of the company and a maritime province lady which was to have appeared this week is not in this column on account of the short time which was available in which to get the engraving executed.

The Amateurs who presented the "Loyalist" at the Institute, Thursday afternoon, according to the Globe, acquitted themselves creditably. Progress was not present in the afternoon, and any remarks on the evening performance were too late for this column.

There is a rumor that Mary Anderson Navarro will take the Lyceum theatre in London, and will appear there during Henry Irving's American tour.

Edwin Booth will be removed, as soon as his condition permits, from the Players' club in New York to the cottage of his son-in-law, Mr. Grossman, at Narragansett, where it is hoped the sea air will hasten his convalescence.

Ellen Terry has determined to make the time spent in answering requests for her autograph profitable to somebody, so she has established an "autograph bed" at the hospital. In reply to the letters she receives, the desired signature is sent with the request for a few pence for the bed.

Mr. James E. Murdoch is dead at an advanced age, and another of the old school of actors has joined the majority. He was associated with the men and women that were great in the classical drama and paid marked attention to the impressive reading of the lines. In these days of so-called dramatic realism, in these days when disappointed women leap suddenly and unprepared upon the stage, when young men care not for tradition, hastily learn the text and gabble it, relying too often on personal advantages or the reputation of a scandal, Mr. Murdoch must have felt lonely and ill at ease.—Boston Journal.

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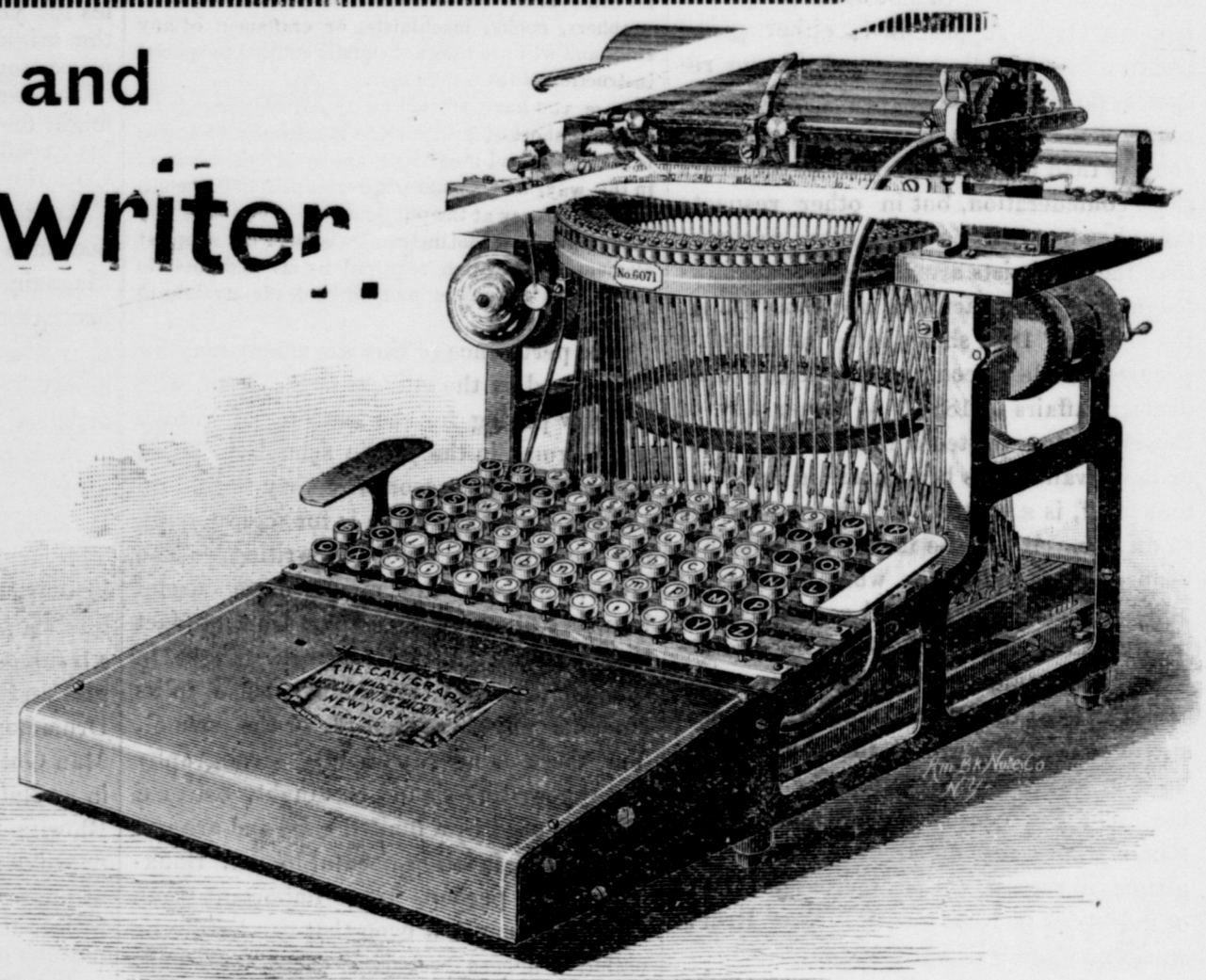
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Mr. Jefferson's architect is preparing to rebuild his summer residence at Crow's Nest, Buzzard's Bay. It will retain the best features of the old house. A rare possession of the veteran actor, picked up abroad, is an antique mantel of curious design and as old itself as the style of its carvings, a relic of the 17th century. This mantel Architect Mitchell has just placed in position in the reception room of young Mr. Jefferson's new house as a companion piece to the mantel in the dining room adjoining, by Bauer of New York, representing the veteran actor as Rip, Bob Acres and Dr. Pangloss in old ivory.

Herr Anton Seidl. The symphonic music in the production of "The World Finder" at the Chicago Spectatorium will be rendered by Herr Anton Seidl and his famous orchestral organization of New York. Mr. Seidl's well known ability in the domain of music will add increased pleasure to the production which is to be given in the Spectatorium when it is completed. Incident to Mr. Seidl's departure for New York he gave a series of farewell concerts which were very successful, from all standpoints.

Mrs. Bancroft, the popular London actress, has a drawing-room which has all the solid comfort and unostentatious luxury characteristic of Berkeley Square, and is not wanting in mementos of the Bancrofts' brilliant career. On the table is a beautiful album, every page designed by the Princess Beatrice, and containing the signatures of most of the famous people Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft have met in the course of their professional and private life. A large drum is ingeniously converted into a table for all sorts of knick-knacks. The drum was used at Inkerman, and was presented to Mrs. Bancroft by the distinguished officer who led the regiment to which it belonged, after he had seen her acting in "Ours," a T. W. Robertson play, in which one of the scenes is laid in the Crimea.

From Rymal's Home. MIDDLEPORT, May 29th—Mr Archie Rymal of Brantford, was an old time resident of this place. As his many friends believed his case incurable, it may be imagined that the following paragraph from the COURIER was gratifying to everyone: "Mr. Rymal's case which is known to be true, proves beyond a doubt that Dodd's kidney pills are of great merit for the purposes they are intended, viz: Bright's disease of the kidneys, rheumatism, back-ache etc. It has certainly attracted the attention of the public by several marvellous cures, and Mr. Rymal's case occurring in this city brings the truth home to every fireside in Brantford and vicinity."

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