



MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The performances of the Artillery band at their concert last week, would have done credit to an organization of greater age and experience, it only having been in existence about six years. Of course there is the advantage of having a few members who have seen service with the "regulars" and who have had a training that our local men have no chance of acquiring. But with such a leader as Bandmaster Horsman, who seems to be so thoroughly in accord with his men, it is not surprising that the advancement has been so rapid. The said leader was a little too modest when he deprived the audience of the pleasure of hearing him play one of his euphonium solos, especially as he had his instrument by his side and I fully expected in his own overture, "La Militaire" there would be a chance to hear him.

Both bandsmen Watson and Thornhill, were at a disadvantage in their respective solos, having defective reeds, which was rather unfortunate. Bandsmen Stokes and McKay took the honors for the solo work. I should like to have heard the band in more standard compositions, in the programme. The playing of the Semiramide overture was the best piece of work.

Of the vocalists, Mrs. Harrison was at her worst and her best. The aria from the "Daughter of the Regiment" was not suited to her and she was very faulty in the singing of her intervals which gave the impression that she was singing flat. This feeling after intonations was most noticeable in the piano passages, and is a habit the singer should get rid of at once.

In Bishop's "Lo Here the Gentle Lark," Mrs. Harrison sang with more expression and less lug and in a truer manner than I have heard her before. The song was a great success partly due to the admirable way in which Bandsman Stokes played the flute obligato. The voice and the instrument were in perfect time and tune throughout.

Mr. G. S. Mayes, sang the "Death of Nelson." He took it about half as slow as it should be sung, and altered the music to suit his voice, both of which are defects apparent to everyone with such a well-known song. His solo work in the Bugler was the best piece of work I have heard him do for some time—his enunciation being much improved. In the duet with Mrs. Harrison, the same effect was apparent as when they sang together in the opera house viz. that Mr. Mayes' voice is too heavy to accord well with a soprano, and Mrs. Harrison had to use extra efforts to make herself heard.

The German street quartette acquit themselves admirably. In fact the Bugler was one of the best numbers of the whole evening. The first cornet did some excellent work in the accompaniment.

Miss A. K. Wilson played the accompaniment: as well, showing to good advantage in Bishop's song. The arrangements for the grand summer concert of the Oratorio Society are now completed. The soloists being engaged, the dates fixed and the programmes (so far as it is possible) arranged.

The "Elijah" will be sung on the 13th of June; there will be a matinee on the 15th which will probably be a vocal concert, and in the evening the first part will be miscellaneous, composed of songs by visiting soloists and probably a piano solo by Mrs. Babbitt, as this will be, most likely, her last public appearance in St. John. The second part will be "The Daughter of Jairus."

The society have this year again depended on a local orchestra, which will be the largest that has as yet performed at these concerts viz., about 22 pieces under the leadership of Mr. White.

This will be the first time that a full quartette of voices have been "imported." From press notices innumerable and from personal advice, the management seem to have been particularly fortunate, though of course press notices have to be taken *cum grano salis*.

Mrs. Jennie Patrick Walker is the soprano, Miss Lillian Carlsmith, the alto, our old friend and favorite Mr. Geo. J. Parker, the tenor, and Mr. Clarence E. Hay the bass. These artists have all been selected for their special aptitude for Oratorio work and private advice assert that Mr. Hay does specially good work in the Elijah.

The chorus this year will be larger than ever before, numbering close on to 100 voices and the rehearsals are being pushed with the utmost vigor by the society's talented conductor, Mr. Ford. I think the only thing that remains to be said at present is that the St. John public have just got to make up their minds this year that these concerts must be liberally supported and not give the, to a certain extent, half-hearted support that has been tendered hitherto. The society's expenses will be quite heavy this year, and they will want big houses to cover something in the vicinity of four figures.

Tones and Undertones.

The most cunning art as well as the highest scientific use to which wood can be twisted, turned, wreathed, warped or carved, is that when it is fashioned into an ideal violin.

De Wolf Hopper has the distinction of being the first to sing over the longest telephone circuit in the world. He sat at the transmitter in Chicago and sang one of his songs, to the delight of listeners in Boston, 1,200 miles away. The occasion was the opening of the long distance line between the two cities. The circuit is a metallic or double one. To build it, took 1,014,000lb. of copper in wire weighing 435lb. to the mile.

Mr. Michael Maybrick, better known as "Stephen Adams," before turning his attention to song composing, was an organist and an operatic singer, and played Count Aruheim in the Bohemian Girl at the St. James's Theatre. His songs, of which he manages to turn out three or four in the course of a year, command an extensive sale: more than 100,000 copies of "Nancy Lee" were disposed of in less than two years.

The remarkable birds of Manitoba are described in the volume of the "Proceedings of the United States National Museum." In the spring season of the year thousands of prairie larks there, salute the day by bursting all together into a splendid explosion of song, pouring out their rich, strong voices from every little height and perch, singing with all their might. They sing all day, and at night joyously hail the moon.

"Die Rantzau," the German version of Mascagni's new opera, has had great success in Berlin. At the first performance the composer was twice called out at the end of the first act, four times after the second act, three times when the curtain fell again, and eight times at the close of the opera. Mr. Fidersheim writes to the Musical Courier that the performance was a superb one and that Mascagni was so well pleased with it and with the public

appreciation of his work that he insists that his next opera, "William Ratcliff," shall have its first performance in Berlin.

The sale of a Stradivarius at Puttick and Simpson's auction rooms brought together all the London connoisseurs. The violin is dated 1734, and the slab back, the sides, and scroll are made from the same cutting of wood. The biddings started at £400, and rose by leaps and bounds to £800. The sum then slowly increased to £860, and at last reached £860, at which figure Messrs. Hill and Sons secured the coveted instrument.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Dainty little invitation cards gotten up at Progress office I believe, summoned a large number of the friends of the St. John Amateur Minstrels to a smoking concert on Saturday evening last at their rooms in the Jardine Building. It was the second entertainment of the kind that the club has given and every one present wished most heartily that it would not be the last, for the boys who put on the black for the amusement of our citizens at times, make most excellent hosts.

During the evening the president announced that when they next appeared before the garish lights it would be in comic opera—in all probability "Pinafore"—and the date was set for November.

A benefit was recently tendered Mrs. E. A. McDowell (Fanny Reeves) at Green's Theatre, Montreal. The house was literally packed, and must have netted a handsome sum.

The Gurney Opera Co. (the same by the way as was booked for the Opera House here, but failed to connect,) stranded in Montreal the last week of April.

Oscar Wilde has written a new play, "A Woman of No Importance," and it is now running at the Haymarket Theatre, London.

The demand for places for the first night was enormous, and the Prince of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of Teck were occupants of the royal box.

The play is described as being in more ways than one remarkable, abounding as was the case in his other play, "Lady Windermere's Fan," in smart sayings.

Here are a few samples:

"Taking sides in politics leads to sincerity, which is the beginning of earnestness, and ends in making people bored." "The heaven of some people is the English hunting man pursuing a fox—the unspeakable hunting the unobtainable." "The House of Lords is never in touch with the people, and therefore remains civilized." "If I weren't in debt I should have nothing to think about." "Nothing spoils a romance so much as a sense of humor in the woman, or a lack of it in the man." "The book of Life begins with a man and a woman in a garden, and ends with Revelations." "All men are married women's property; in fact, that is the true meaning of Married Women's property." "My husband is like a promissory note; I'm tired of meeting him." "All married men, nowadays, live like bachelors, and all bachelors like married men." "Ernest talks all the time, but he has no conversation." "What is life? Life is a mauvais quart d'heure, made up of exquisite moments." "Duty is what one expects from others." "You should read the Peerage; it is the best thing in fiction the English have ever done." "A well-tied necktie is the first step in life." "There are only two kinds of women in society—plain and colored."

Willard made such a hit in Washington that the public there are clamoring loudly for him to pay a return visit. President Cleveland and family attended one of his performances of "Judah," and were highly pleased.

Paderewski has at last departed, having sailed from New York on the Paris. He was compelled to cancel his engagement to play for the Actors' fund benefit on Friday 11 New York, and sent a check for \$100.00 as a recompense for the disappointment.

Light opera appears destined to be the standard attraction for the summer months in Boston. It is now announced that the Baker opera company will open for a long engagement at the Bowdoin Square theatre, June 5. The organization has a very large repertoire.

A thousand pounds is about the figure that the recent performance of "Becket" at Windsor will have cost Mr. Irving. Two hundred is allowed by the court for such a function; but on both sides, carrying every detail to a perfection, as was done on this occasion, the expense is necessarily very much greater.

Few actors devote as much attention and study to the making up of the parts they play than does Comedian William H. Crane. He holds that the time is past when an actor can tell his audience he is one kind of a man and consistently appear in the garb of another and altogether different style of personage.

Since Buffalo Bill was honored by royal approval and recognition on the other side of the water his social standing in this country has been simply unassailable. Of course the climax of that success was reached at an absurd dinner party at a swell house in Westchester, N. Y., when Cody was the guest of honor and one of the only three men present, and when each of the young women present had the honor of sitting through one course by his side, then moving on and giving way to another. Everybody laughed at this, as they do at everything, and dubbed it a "Progressive Buffalo Bill party."

Samuel Phelps, the actor, habitually encouraged young actors if they had talent. Some years ago, a young man who had resolved to go on the stage was introduced to him at Sadler's Wells, and at his request recited Othello's address to the senate.

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A West Country farmer was the defendant at a recent assize of the county in a case of alleged sheep stealing.

He had not engaged a barrister, and thought that he was capable of conducting his own defence until he came into court and heard the conflicting speeches of the counsel in one or two other cases, at which he began to fear that his chances of getting off were but small.

During an interval of the court, seeing a barrister pass by in the courtyard he hailed him.

"I say, mister, 'ow much do 'e charge to do a case?"

"Oh, that depends," replied the Q. C. with a smile; "it would be according to the nature of the case. From twenty guineas upwards."

"Twenty guineas!" exclaimed Hodge aghast. "What for a couple o' hours' work? Hang me, if I get clear o' this yer, I'll turn barrister myself!" — Cassell's Journal.

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Board of Health.

TO THE CITIZENS OF SAINT JOHN AND VICINITY:
THE Board of Health has this day issued its Annual Notices to water and Tenants of Houses to Cleanse and Purify their Premises.
The Board further requests that in the interest of the health of the city,
all citizens will assist the Board, by the personal inspection of their premises, the condition of sinks, drains, traps, vents, etc. Such supervision on the part of individual citizens will do much to preserve the public health and prevent the spread of any epidemic that may unfortunately come to our city.
T. M. BURNS, JAMES REYNOLDS,
Secretaries, Chairmen.
Office of the Board of Health, Saint John, N. B., April 26th, 1893.

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