

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

THE presentation of the Crust of Society gave theatre goers in this city who have not been used to seeing the best acting with all the complete accompaniments of excellent stage management, an opportunity to enjoy a treat in this particular line. Mr. Lewis and Miss Tilbury are the leading people in this company of Mr. Stetson's, and they are so far in advance of the others in the caste that comparison is out of the question. Rarely indeed, has any part been so perfectly and naturally taken as Miss Tilbury does that of Mrs. Eastlake-Chapel, while that of Mr. St. Aubyn, loses nothing in the hands of Mr. Lewis. The stage settings were unusual for St. John and such incidental and agreeable accessories as band concerts before each performance, as well as the decoration of the lobbies made the engagement a feature of the season. The public appreciates careful attention to detail which appears to have been carried in this instance to such an extent that we are assured on such excellent authority as the Sun's representative, that the champagne passed around in the first act was the genuine stuff and not the usual stage mixture.

A gentleman connected with the management of the opera house thought it was rather unfair to PROGRESS to ask last week whether, in the light of the advance notices, gentlemen would take their lady friends to see the "Crust of Society." In defending such a remark, I might quote a column or two of advance notices that appeared in the daily press a week or so before the Company opened, but that would take too much space. Here are two or three of them.

"It is a play that deals very plainly with the shady life of very shady people." "It is not such a play as a young girl would care to take her grandmother to see."

"It tells a story of unbridled and doubtful morals, of the masques and mummeries of men and women whose day begins when the angels of evening is ringing. It breathes a light upon abnormal lives, upon the feverish chaos of goodness and folly. It displays a phantasmagoria of black coats and white shoulders, of speculations in speckled consciences, and hearts of marble. The original production of The Crust in Boston caused quite a quiver in the literary circles in that city. Its morals were the subject of torrents of attack and defense in the public press. The duty of the drama is amusement, not the planning of texts and morals, and thus the comment of the Boston critics was viewed with good-humored indifference by the public of the hub. Let it be said that any diseased conscience seeking relief in the morals that the Crust of Society affords will come away with the relief that the remedy is worse than the disease."

In the light of such advance notices as these it is any wonder that PROGRESS should say that the gentlemen would be likely to go but, what about their lady friends?

I am able to say now that there was no excuse for such misleading and false notices. What a mistake it is for any theatrical manager to appeal to the worst element in the community, to attempt to draw good houses by conveying the impression that the play is "off color," that it "deals with the shady life of very shady people" and is not "such a play as a young girl would care to take her grandmother to see." Are not these phrases enough to make any man hesitate to escort a young lady there, for whom he has any regard? And that this was the case with scores of people there can be no doubt. For the first night's performance the advance sale amounted to but little and the usual theatre goers were afraid to take seats on account of these same vivid but really misleading advance notices. There was a good house Monday evening and the attendance was fair Tuesday and Wednesday. Later than that I am not able to report.

Tyrone Power and his company have gone to Montreal. The story of their departure from St. John and the difficulties they met with is told in another column. Harkin's and his company open their return engagement Monday evening. They have played to good business in Halifax.

Eleonora Duse has been humoring the London Ibsen craze by assuming the role of Nora in "A Doll's House." The attempt is said to have been a failure, but the critics do not blame Duse. They say the character has no place on the stage and consider Mme. Duse's failure to make it interesting the strongest proof of the statement. Mme. Duse went to see Ellen Terry as Olivia and is said to have been moved to tears.

Some one once wrote to Edwin Booth asking his opinion as to the real or feigned madness of Hamlet. The great actor responded: "The subject is, as you know, one of endless controversy among the learned heads. I think I am asked nearly 365 times a year, and I usually find it safest to side with both parties in dispute on the subject. Yes, I confess I do not consider Hamlet mad—except in the statement. My opinion may be of little value, but 'tis the result of many weary walks with him for hours together here in the lobby."

Signora Duse, the famous Italian actress, has taken London by storm. She is small, puny, thin, flat figured, somewhat hoarse-voiced and sallow complexioned, but with two eyes which could only belong to a woman of genius. The daughter and grand-daughter of actors, she has been connected with the stage since childhood; and though she thus came upon the Italian stage with every advantage, she had a long and weary struggle to achieve distinction. What is the secret of the mighty thrall in which her audience is bound? There are no stage tricks, but in every word, in every gesture, in her want of gesture, in her tremendous self-restraint, in her silence, in her looks, there is stamped the supremacy

of her power. It is human nature at work in its most natural and intense form. And she has accomplished all this conquest over her metropolitan audiences in a foreign tongue, which few of the spectators follow perhaps with ease or comfort, and that, too, in pieces which are almost stale upon the stage.

IN ONE TOWN.

Moncton's Prominent Citizens Speak Words of Praise.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," the proof of the virtues of "Groder's Syrup," as a cure for dyspepsia, in all its forms, is the unanimity with which it is indorsed by prominent citizens throughout the country. Scores of people give testimonials in favor of this well-known remedy, but there are thousands of men and women in the maritime provinces who have been permanently cured, or are now experiencing relief from the ills of a disordered stomach by using "Groder's Syrup," but whose diffidence deters them from allowing their names to appear in print. Nevertheless they are strong friends of the remedy and take every opportunity to recommend it to their neighbors.

Moncton, the hub of the Intercolonial Railroad, has a score of leading citizens who bless Groder's Dyspepsia Cure every day of their lives for the strength, vigor and happiness it has given them.

Among the number is Mr. A. Busby, one of the most widely known railway men in Canada. A year ago he had to ask for superannuation because of failing health. He had held the responsible office of general passenger agent of the Intercolonial for a number of years, and although still on the sunny side of sixty, constant attacks of weakness and heart failure had made it imperative that he should seek quiet and rest and he retired from the service. His brother officials and life long friends felt that his case was a hopeless one. He was afflicted with heart trouble and constant attacks of weakness which would come upon him at short intervals leaving him physically prostrated for two or three days. His heart would go down to 15 or 20 and then stop altogether, when he would become unconscious, and when the heart would resume its work the blood would be impelled with great force through the system producing systems resembling apoplexy. His physicians feared that in one of these attacks the sudden flow of blood to the head would burst one of the smaller veins and cause his death.

During all this time he was under treatment for heart trouble, and instead of improving was losing strength. He sank lower and lower, and to use his own words "received no relief until he commenced to use "Groder's Syrup."

When our representative called upon Mr. Busby, on July 3, he found him watering the flowers in his garden. He looked quite well and hearty, for a man who had just recovered from such a succession of dangerous attacks.

He was profuse in his praise of "Groder's Syrup," and said that he had only taken three bottles of it altogether, and felt almost entirely well. He was then about to commence the fourth bottle, and was sanguine that he would be as well as ever in his life before it was empty. He said he had recommended the Syrup to many of his friends, among others to George H. Pick, the Assistant General Freight Agent of the Intercolonial, and other railway men whose reputation extends over the Dominion.

Mr. Pick was at one time connected with the St. John freight department, and he has a host of friends in the Canadian home of the Groder cure.

He is a gentleman of probably fifty, tall, handsome, and with a military bearing, resulting from a number of years service as an officer of the militia, of which he is an ex-major, but a victim of dyspepsia. "It was an old story with me," he said, "Mr. Busby knew I was suffering from a badly disorganized stomach—the tracks were all out of order, theroadbed was bad, and the running gear faulty. He told me how much good the syrup had done for him, and I started to take it and it has put on the brakes for me too. With a little judicious dieting, eschewing tough meats and strawberries, and taking Groder's Syrup, after my dinner, I have banished those distressing pains and gases which a disordered stomach propagates."

The genial Assistant General Freight Agent said that Groder's Syrup had freed him from dyspepsia and its attendant ills. Thus in two instances the people's remedy has won friends that are friends. Their words cannot be disputed. The fact is clearly set forth; "Groder's Syrup cures dyspepsia."

And yet the cases referred are not the only ones in the busy city at the head of the Bay.

Alderman Givan, who has served his city for ten years, is surely a well-known man. His experience with "Groder's" reads almost as a fairy tale. Dyspepsia held him in its chains. Those chains are broken now. The liberator is again the popular family favorite, "Groder's Syrup." His statement in full will appear later.

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CHURCH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

List of the Prizes Distributed at the June Examinations.

Among the Ceremonies on the 20th of June, the Distribution of numerous and valuable Prizes offered at the Church School for girls, was the most interesting to pupils and to many delighted parents. The Examinations at this establishment are conducted in writing, and all the examination papers and answers were exposed to view, neatly arranged, and constituting a most formidable pile.

The list of Prize Winners is subjoined. THE SCHOOL PRIZES - Senior Class.—The Gold Star—Louisa M. Jack and Constance Sewell.

Second Senior Class.—Silver Star—Alice Wiggins.

Third Senior Class.—Silver Star—Ethel Davies.

Fourth Class.—Book—Muriel Crofton.

Fifth Class.—Book—Margaret Silver.

(Open to the Senior Department—First and Second Classes.)

THE BISHOP OF NOVA SCOTIA'S PRIZE. Gold Medal—For Knowledge of the History of the Church of England—Theresa Wake-

ling. Silver Medal—For Faithfulness in School Duties—Sarah McDonald Forster.

THE REV. CANON BROCK'S PRIZE—For Proficiency in English Church History—Louisa Jack and Constance Sewell. This Prize is duplicated this year on account of even Marks.

1. Edwy, The Fair.—A Tale of the Days of St. Dunstan.

2. Aligar, the Dane.—A Tale of the Days of Edmund Ironside.

3. The Rival Heirs.—A Tale of the Days of the Norman Conquest.

4. Brian Fitz-Count.—A Story of Wallingford Castle and Dorchester Abbey.

5. The House of Waldeve.—A Tale of the Cloister and the Forest in the Days of the Barons' Wars.

THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON'S PRIZES.—SENIOR GRADE.—For Bible Lessons, \$15—Mary Ritchie, For Prayer Book Lessons, \$10—Theresa Wake-

ling. MIDDLE GRADE.—For Bible Lessons, \$10—Ethel Davies. For Prayer Book Lessons, \$5—Ethel Davies.

JUNIOR GRADE.—Bible Lessons, \$5—May Haley. Prayer Book Lessons, \$5—Lucie Poole.

MRS. COURTNEY'S PRIZE.—Book—Ethel Davies.

MISS LILLIE MACHIN'S PRIZE.—Books—Constance Sewell, two books. Louisa M. Jack, one book.

THE LADY PRINCIPAL'S PRIZES.—THIRD CLASS.—Books—Florence Bowman.

FOURTH CLASS.—Books—Gertrude Townsend.

FIFTH CLASS.—Books—Dorothy Poole.

Testimonials.

FIRST SENIOR CLASS.—Theresa Wake-

ling, Mary Ritchie, Edith L. Nichols, Margaret A. G. Leckie.

SECOND SENIOR CLASS.—Ellen Douglas, Lillian Markham, Mary C. Wallace.

THIRD SENIOR CLASS.—Margaret L. Corbett, Georgina Ouseley, Gertrude P. Price, Edith U. Leckie, Florence A. Bowman.

FOURTH CLASS.—Agnes Dimock, Nellie Paulin, Madge O'Brien, Hope H. Sewell, Lillie Adams.

FIFTH CLASS.—May Haley.

Special notice is deserving of the proficiency of the following young ladies in Painting: The Misses Anna Sterns, Edith White and Alice Trites.

In Drawing, of Ethel Davies, Janie Wickwire and Mary Barberie.

In China Painting, of Constance Sewell, and Sarah Porter.

In Music the following young ladies distinguished themselves: Miss Blanche Wiswell, Miss Edith Nichols, Miss Sophia Jones, Miss Hilda Irvine, Miss Blanch Taylor.

The Church School for Girls at Edgehill, Windsor, has now become a household word among the Anglican Body, and well does it deserve the high reputation it has so rapidly acquired. We learn that applications for admissions into the School next September have already been addressed to the Secretary at Windsor. As the accommodation of this establishment is limited to 80 boarders, it is desirable that those who are anxious to send their children, should make early application.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is the Bishop of Nova Scotia, the Bishop of Fredericton is also one of the Board. With such attractions and results as Edgehill presents and supplies, it is no wonder that the clientele of this Institution should be so large in both Provinces. The Trustees are anxious to make the School First Class in all particulars, and the Lady Principal has already sailed for England to select trained governesses for the higher departments of Music, Voice and Culture, Painting, Drawing, and some English Branches.

A NOBLE DEED.

(Globe, Wednesday).

In the year 1854 the Rev. Thomas W. Robertson, an esteemed clergyman of the Church of England in this Province, died suddenly, leaving a wife and several children with very little provision for their support. Dr. William Bayard, the Rev. Wm. Scovil and the late Mr. William Carman appealed to friends for a fund to enable the widow to bring up the children, and six hundred pounds of the currency of that day—\$2,400—was raised for them. These gentlemen administered the fund, paying the widow the interest and occasionally drawing upon the principal. One of the children was Mr. James F. Robertson now a member of a leading mercantile firm here and out of the fund there was advanced Mr. Robertson when he began business twenty-seven years ago the sum of one thousand dollars, which amount he returned before his mother's death in 1871. Constantly Mr. Robertson has had in mind the kindness and benevolence of those who made provision for his mother, and he turned his thoughtfulness to practical account, for he was largely instrumental in having established the special widows' and orphans' fund in connection with the Church of England in this diocese, by which the widows and orphans of the clergy now receive as a matter of right that which if done before was done as a special act of kindness. To this fund it is known he has often been a hearty contributor. And now he has exhibited his gratitude by a crowning act of grace. Of the administrators of the fund raised for his mother Dr. Bayard is now the only survivor. A few days ago Mr. Robertson went to Dr. Bayard and recalling all the circumstances to the mind of

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the latter stated that he wished to fully discharge the debt; and therefore he placed in his hands the sum of twenty-four hundred dollars, with a request that it be put to the credit of the widows' and orphans fund to be distributed in the usual way. Mr. Robertson did this not only because his success as a merchant enabled him to do it, but because he believed that he has been blessed in his meetings and out-goings by reason of the manner in which the money came to him to commence his business career; and because this is the most practical method he can take of continuing the good work begun by those who made up the fund which provided for him in childhood and helped him in early manhood. All of the circumstances are of a most pleasing character, and the Diocesan Church Society when it received the announcement yesterday from Dr. Bayard through Canon Brigstocke expressed itself in a hearty sentiment of well-deserved praise. The age is in many respects a prosaic one, but it is full of good deeds.

NINE TYPEWRITERS afford ample facilities for our shorthand and typewriting students—there is one school that does the best it can for its students. Snell's Business College, - - Truro, N. S.

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

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