

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Grau opera company closed its engagement in this city last Saturday evening after a week of varying business, and has left behind it anything but a favorable impression. It came to this city preceded with a great flourish of trumpets, but alas—what a mistake was made. It was to be something phenomenal in point of excellence but it proved to be less than commonplace. And the Messrs. Grau were so nice and kind and considerate for the public, that they would not fix their highest price tickets at more than 75 cents. So really thoughtful of them this was, they made themselves a secondary consideration. They did not wish to make very much money—not they—just a little more than was necessary to cover expenses would be quite likely to satisfy them. Then there are extra fares to be paid on this side of the line, and for that reason they can afford to give their performances in Bangor at 50 cents while of necessity they must charge 75 cents in New Brunswick. The St. John people I am sure, ought to feel grateful to these very considerate men—Messrs. Grau. Whether that gratitude exists or not, I am somewhat strongly impressed with the idea that these Messrs. Grau will avoid this city for sometime to come or else will have realized the necessity for giving such production of opera in this city as will satisfy the people that everything they give will be strictly and literally as represented. Whatever prestige or favorable reputation the Grau opera company has hitherto enjoyed in St. John and whether that was well deserved or not, it is quite evident to lovers of music that this season's company, as such, was, in a musical sense, a failure and a disappointment. People cannot long be regaled on a diet of chestnuts, and if the audience were not proverbially good natured the singing (?) of "Marguerite" would have been condemned in a manner not complimentary to the performer who gave it. As it was I question very much if anything but the remembrance of the past pleasures he had afforded, saved him from the treatment indicated. Comic opera is always enjoyed here, but the patrons want to listen to good music well sung, as well as to witness good acting. The good music and good singing is indispensable. Brilliant costumes and things of that kind are well enough in their way, but they are only incidentals. The members of the company are expected to sing, and sing effectively.

In St. Andrew's church next Tuesday evening there will be a concert and organ recital that will doubtless give much pleasure to all who attend it. Soloists will be heard who are talented and who are new to the public, and some also will appear who have been listened to with pleasure on other occasions. There will be choruses by selected voices from the choir of the church and the oratorio society. Prof. Fisher will preside at the organ.

Tones and Undertones.

Garster is to open a singing school at Bologna.

Josef Hoffman will give his only recital in London on the 19th inst.

Patti will sing Wagner's music at a series of concerts in Germany.

Jacobowsky, the composer of "Erminie," has arrived in the United States.

Madame Frances Gutherie-Mayor is the soloist with Sousa's band on its tour.

Zola is to write a libretto for Massenet from his novel "La Faute de l'Abbe Mourrot."

"Rob Roy," the new opera by Messrs. DeKoven and Smith is reported a decided success.

The subscription sale for the grand opera season, last week realized nearly \$200,000.

Sig. Francesco Tamagno, the Spanish tenor, is making a brief starting tour through Mexico.

Paderewski has just completed a Polish opera, which will be produced at Budapest next month.

Madame Calve has purchased the castle of Cabrières between Sverne and Milan. She will spend her holidays there.

"Prince Pro Tem" still holds the boards at the Boston Museum. The 150th performance will be given on the 17th inst.

The recent performance of "Faust" at Windsor, by royal command, was the first time the queen had seen Gounod's opera. Madame Albani was the Marguerite.

The 1000 performances of "Mignon" given in Paris since 1866 have yielded the sum of \$1,500,000 to the Opera Comique and \$160,000 to the composer and librettist. The libretto was offered to both Gounod and Meyerbeer before it was accepted by Thomas.

A violin supposed to be about 142 years old is now owned by violinist L. P. Whitney. It was made by the brothers Prectzchurs of Cremona about the year 1752. It is said to be in a fine state of preservation and that its tone is wonderfully strong and perfect in every way.

Mrs. Jennie Patrick-Walker, the well known soprano, is engaged to sing in the

"Messiah," at Orange, N. J., Dec. 17th. She has enjoyed a very successful season up to the present and other engagements are pending, among them being one at Worcester, Mass., on 13 inst.

A German critic writing of Richard Strauss' new opera "Guntram" chronicles the result as question-bled. The handling of the orchestra is said to be masterly, but too massive. The stress is too constant to allow of proper effect or climax. In the vocal numbers there is much that is beautiful but, at times, the orchestra completely covers it up.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

It is said that St. Smith Russell owns \$100,000 worth of real estate in Minneapolis.

"A Trip to Chinatown," met with a decided rebuff when recently produced at Toole's theatre, London, Eng.

The books, manuscripts, pictures and bric-a-brac of the late Dion Boucault will be shortly sold at auction in New York.

Kate Claxton will shortly produce a play written by Mue. Janauschek and entitled "At Last." The authoress will be in the cast.

Yet another new Irish drama will soon be produced. It is called "Carroll Dhu" and is written by one J. D. Moynihan, of Sacramento, Cal.

A London, England paper of recent date says that the Gaiety Girl company which was playing at Daly's, New York, theatre a short time ago, was making nearly £3000 per week.

The play in which the English actress, Miss Olga Nethersole, recently made her New York debut is called "The Transgressor." It is said to be a bad imitation of "Jane Eyre."

Eleanora Duse is arranging another company for a tour through America. She is also engaged in obtaining a separation from her husband, an actor whose name is Teobaldo Checchi.

Vernona Jarbeau will attempt another road tour this season. She will head a large burlesque company and go out early in January, producing a new extravaganza now being written for her.

Alexander Salvini opened his coast and northwestern tour at St. Paul in "The Three Guardsmen." He had intended playing in Victoria, B. C. but was obliged to cancel his date in that city.

Sarah Bernhardt declares that diamonds on an actress are horrible. They kill the best expression of the face, put out the fire of the eyes, change the teeth to porcelain and chalk and ruin the pink tints of the ear and chin.

Ellen Terry is reported to dislike her role of Queen Guinevere but Henry Irving likes his role as King Arthur. Irving has engaged Forbes Robertson, to play Launcelot in the forthcoming production of "King Arthur."

"Charley's Aunt" is characterized by a Victoria B. C. writer as a decidedly weak dramatization of Frank Webber's impersonation of Judith McCann so humorously described by Charles Lever in his famous novel "Charles O'Malley." The writer adds that "if it were produced by a first-class company it is doubtless capable of producing an occasional laugh, but as it was given at the Victoria it was just about as dull and insipid a play as could be imagined. There is little doubt that by the time this play reaches this city, the public will be told of its marvellous success in the United States, of its laughter producing qualities and the impression created that it will be produced here by the original Frohman company, the New York company, with every attention to detail, etc. Something like the manner in which the citizens were led to believe the Robin Hood opera company were "The Bostonians."

Among the Boston Playhouses.

There is really nothing of special interest at the theatres this week. With perhaps one exception, melodrama, spectacular and comic opera seem to have charge of the town, and also seem to please the public, for the theatres are all doing good business.

A short time ago we had the Lveccm company here at the Hollis in the Park's new piece the "Amazons"—all Boston was agog to see Georgia Clayman play in a farce, swing Indian clubs, and, incidentally, wear pants. The two former she did fairly well. The play is a laughing success, beautifully set, brightly and cleverly written, and well played.

The past two weeks, at the same theatre we have been in fairyland. All the children know and love the "Brownies" and when the little people came to town with their friends and fairies, and their enemies the demons, not only the children, but the elders too were ready to welcome them. The extravaganza as arranged by Mr. Cox, with music by Mr. Douglas, makes an entertainment that is well worth seeing. The music is quaint, bright, and tuneful, the dialogue what might be expected from the introducer of the Brownies, the scenery beautiful, the company well trained, and

the whole performance one that bears seeing a second time. Next week the Empire theatre company come with "Liberty Hall," one of the year's successes.

The Columbia holds on its stage this week, and has for several weeks, the only production in Boston fit to be called a play; we have melodrama galore, comic opera to repletion, burlesque, extravaganza and farce-comedy, but "Sowing the Wind" is a "play." It is something to sit in front of and study, it makes men and women think, it does more than while away an idle hour or two, it is a triumph of the playwright's skill, and had Mr. Grundy written nothing else this piece would have given him an assured position, it is a magnificent dramatic sermon from Hosea, VIII.—7, it pointedly asks the question—Why should a woman suffer and a man escape the consequences of the same sin? If a woman stumble in the road, why should she be cast aside into the gutter, when the man who gave her the first push is helped along by many and ready hands, aye, and by those of women too. The play is a fine one, but—and there is always a "but"—the company now playing it here are hardly equal to the task—the men are fairly good, but the women are weak. Mary Hampton, so well known and liked by St. John people, is playing the part of Rosamond, around whom all the interest of the play centres, and she is overweighed by it. In her comedy and lighter scenes she is satisfying and pleasing as she always is, but when she reaches the powerful and emotional scenes, more especially the great "Sex against sex" scene (as it is called) she rants, raves and rails, an alliterative combination which expresses her idea of the situation. J. H. Gilmore, as the father, is very good and were he supported as he should be in the great scene in the play, it would be indelibly impressed on the spectator's mind.

The "Cotton King" at Bowdoin square, "In Old Kentucky" at the big Boston, "1492" at the Tremont, "Prince Pro Tem" at the old museum, are each and all doing good business. Of the lot, "1492" is the only one to be taken off this week, and Francis Wilson follows next Monday in his new piece "The Devil's Deputy," which has made quite a hit where it has been seen.

The new theatre, Castle Square, will open its doors next Monday with a play written by the manager of the house, E. E. Rose. It is called "Capt. Paul," and will be produced by a strong company, including E. J. Henley, Minnie Seligman, and an old friend George Fawcett. The Boston Lodge of Elks run the show for their own benefit during the opening week.

STAGELETS.

DeKoven's new opera "Rob Roy" has been produced in New York, and made a hit. I did not see Miss Nita Carritte's name in the cast.

"Off the Earth," at the Park, is a very pretty production and Eddie Foy, Sadie Macdonald, and Louise Montague kept the fun going. How long is it since Louise Montague was billed by the late lamented P. T. Barnum as the \$10,000 beauty? Well, she is beautiful still.

Joseph Haworth is playing "Rosedale" on the New England circuit just now, and is meeting with good houses.

Dan Daly is now in the cast of "Prince Pro Tem" and his wonderful legs have quickened the pace at the museum. Sousa's Band play here on Sunday evenings, 18th, and 25th inst.

The Symphony orchestra is on tour just now and the Boston papers are wrathful because the New York cities actually had the audacity to fail to give some of the work done by "the best orchestra in the world."

Rheumatism.

Rheumatism is caused by uric acid in the blood, and is an unfading indication that the kidneys are performing their functions imperfectly. After the poison has entered the system, the symptoms are aggravated by dampness, exposure to cold, improper food, drinking to excess, etc., but the cause remains the same, imperfect action of the kidneys. Dr. Humphreys has given the treatment of rheumatism his profound attention for over forty years; his Specific No. 15 is the result. It goes directly to the spot, opens the clogged passages, permitting the secretions to pass off, the cure follows quickly and surely. No. 15 cures rheumatism, acute and chronic, lumbago, sciatica, and all forms of rheumatic pains, soreness, stiffness and lameness. A small bottle of pleasant pellets fits your vest pocket. Sold by druggists, or sent on receipt of price, 25c., or five for \$1. Humphreys' Medicine Company, corner William and John streets, New York.

A Timepiece For the Blind.

A recent invention is a watch for the use of the blind. It is so arranged that by passing the fingers ever so lightly over the raised letters of the dial the hands are disturbed. In the middle of each figure is a movable peg. The hour-hand would be stopped if the peg remained stationary, but at the touch of the hour-hand it drops. To learn what is the hour, the blind man passes his fingers round the circle till he finds the peg that is down. The latter remains down until the next peg drops, in order to find the outer edge of the dial or the minute-hand.

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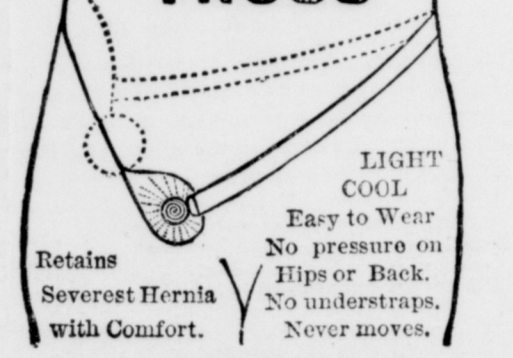
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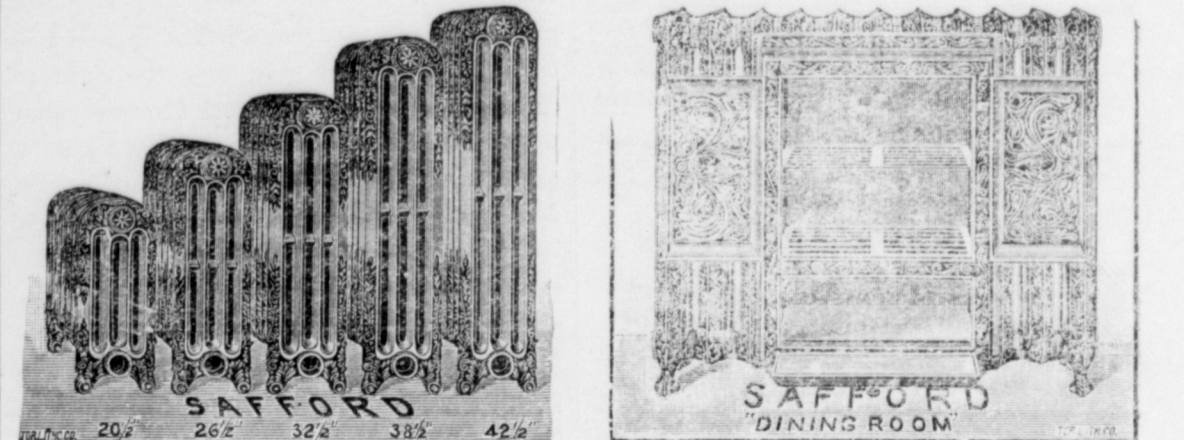
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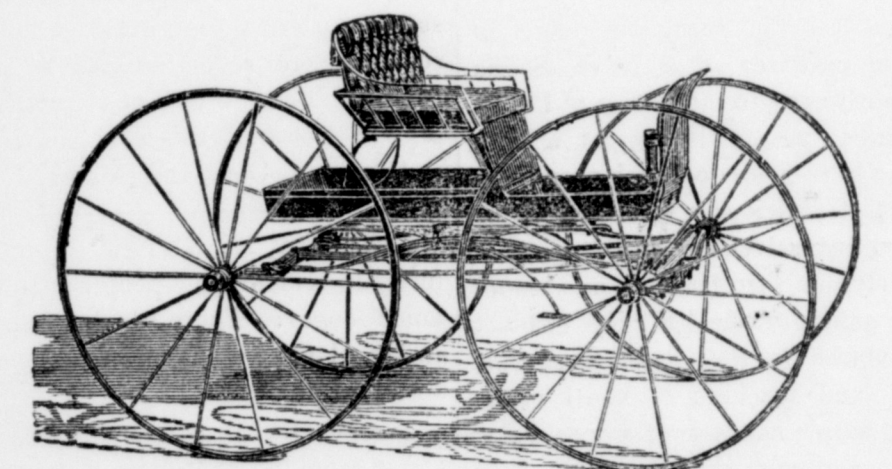
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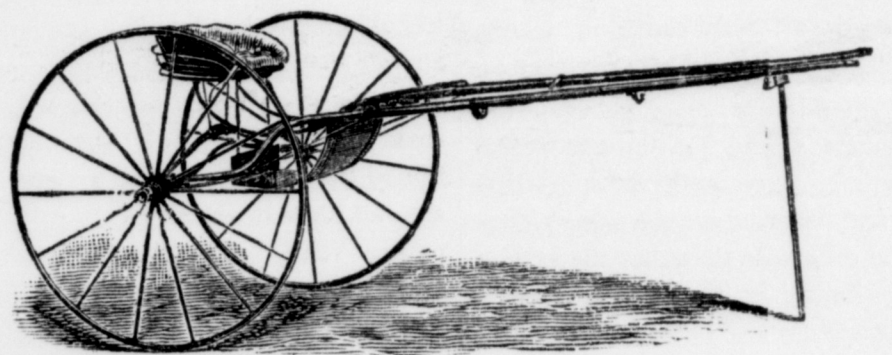
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