

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES

Haydn's great work "The Creation" given by the St. John Oratorio Society at the Opera house last Wednesday evening was, taking it as a whole, a successful presentation. The soloists, as almost every one knows, were Miss Tarbox of Portland, Me, the soprano; Mr. T. E. Johnson, tenor and Mr. Wm. H. Clarke, basso, both of Boston, all of whom on that evening sang for the first time under the auspices of the society. I never before had the pleasure of hearing Miss Tarbox sing and she impressed me very favorably. Her voice has an excellent register and is of good quality. She has much power at times, and there is always a noticeable smoothness and ease in her manner of singing. Her solo "With Verdure Clad" was the test of her ability perhaps because it has been so often given here by local talent that the ordinary audience is not unfamiliar with it. The test, if such it were, was successfully met, Miss Tarbox singing with an ease, a finish and a beautifully distinct articulation that one rarely meets. Special mention is due to her rendition of "On Mighty Pines" which was a veritable triumph. The lady's work throughout the evening evinced a full comprehension of the composer's idea and she so interpreted the work as to make this manifest. She was somewhat handicapped, it seemed, in the duet "By thee with bliss" with the basso, whose powerful voice was not always adjusted to the strength of the soprano. While there are many perhaps who might hold the opinion that Miss Tarbox was not strong enough for her part in this Oratorio, yet I think all will agree that she did her work well and with special ease of manner, creating thereby a most favorable impression, and one that will secure for her an ever cordial welcome in musical circles in this city.

Mr. Johnson, the tenor, did not have an alarming amount of work to do, although physically he looks equal to any demands that might be made on his strength. He is not by any means "the best tenor ever heard in St. John" and there is, in some of his tones, a nasal quality that is, to say the least, not pleasant. His best numbers, I thought, were the recitative "And God Created Man" and "In Native Worth" which received merited applause. The recitative "Oh, Happy Pair" though short, was also well rendered by this gentleman. Mr. Johnson's voice was more effective in duet and trio than singly.

Mr. Wm. H. Clarke, the basso, sang all his numbers well. His voice is of a quality seldom heard here. It is flexible, has great strength, has smoothness, with an extensive compass, is well under control, and evinces much cultivation. There is also a mellowness and an entire absence of harshness about it that makes it pleasant to listen to. In respect to this gentleman's particular work, while his phrasing and interpretation was generally good, his pronunciation of some words such as "firmament" and "closeness" was faulty, and he was occasionally somewhat out of tune. His best work seemed to me to be done in "Rolling in toaming billows," and God said, "Let the earth bring forth," etc. "But when they face O Lord is hid and in the lovely duet with the soprano "graceful consort." The ease with which he sang the low D in the recitative which includes the words "In long dimension creeps with sinuous trace the worm" was a delight to every listener and was applauded most liberally.

The chorus, which is by no means the least important factor in the success of an occasion like this, was, in the main, better than it has been for some time. The parts were better balanced than usual, notwithstanding the seeming disparity in numbers, and there was more attention paid to the baton of the conductor. With the exception of the last chorus, which became somewhat badly mixed, the other choruses, including the fugues, were very creditable to all concerned and showed the thoroughness of the drill they had received. Perhaps the best were "Awake the Harp" and "The Heavens are telling" in the first part; "Achieved is the glorious work" in the second part and "Ye creatures all" in the third part. The orchestra was rather light for the work and had it not been for the organ, presided at by Mr. T. P. Bourne, and Miss Godard's skilful work at the piano, it would have been diaphanous.

The Oratorio may not have been the financial success anticipated, but the society has good reason for congratulation on having achieved a distinct musical success.

Prof. L. W. Titus, the well known teacher of singing has gone to Boston for a vacation of one month.

The Philharmonic orchestra will play at the mission chapel next Sunday when a special musical service will be held.

The Mendelssohn Quartette sung acceptably at the entertainment of the Boy's brigade in the Opera House last Monday evening.

In a recent Boston paper appears the following note taken from a St. John paper regarding a clever young lady native of this city who is highly esteemed here, viz: "Miss Louise Skinner has a remarkably sweet, strong and well trained voice,

and the musical world of St. John has secured in her a soprano of more than ordinary power." Miss Skinner is a pupil of Mrs. Richard Blackmore, jr., of 149 A Tremont street.

Mr. Charles R. Fisher, Mus. Bac., and conductor of the St. John Oratorio Society sails for England per steamer "Halifax City" on Monday next on a well earned vacation. He will be absent about two months.

Tones and Undertones.

Madame Nordica will spend the summer at Bayreuth.

A \$6000 harp was destroyed by fire in Boston recently.

Emma Juch will be married at Stamford, Conn., next Tuesday.

King Oscar of Sweden, when young, was one of the most accomplished tenors in Europe.

Herr Seidl is to be added to the faculty of the United States National Conservatory of Music.

A son of Bernhard Listeman recently made a successful appearance, at Dresden, as a violinist.

"Utopia, Limited" closed its run at the Savoy theatre, London, last week. The opera "Mirette" follows it.

Sullivan does not write more than two songs per year. He receives hundreds of poems for music, but does not read them.

Thomas Daniel, the basso, well and favorably known in St. John, and now living in Boston, has been engaged to sing at the Mount Vernon church.

Paderewski has just created a great sensation at the Lower Raine musical festival. The Germans and their foreign guests were "fairly beside themselves."

The "fauteuil" in the Academie des Beaux Arts left vacant by Gounod has been allotted to Theodore Dubois, the composer of the "Redemption."

De Wolf Hopper's season has closed. He will start next season with "Dr. Syntax" at the Broadway (N. Y.) theatre. Miss Bertha Walsinger will replace Della Fox.

Bremen, in a desire to rival Bayreuth, proposes to erect a theatre to be devoted exclusively to the production of Rubinstein's Biblical operas, "The Tower of Babel," "Moses," and "Christ."

Emil Haberkorn, the well known orchestral leader died of pulmonary consumption at Los Angeles, Cal., last week. He was thirty-four years of age. He was once the husband of Margaret Mather, the actress.

Carl Zerrahn, the director of the Handel and Haydn society of Boston, during his vacation in Europe visited Matchow in Mecklenburg, where he was born. He received a most flattering reception at the hands of the mayor, burgomaster and citizens generally.

Comic opera will be in order at the Boston Museum during the summer. The new nautical opera "Davy Jones" will be produced there July 2nd. Mamie Gilroy will play the part of "Bottles" in this work. Miss Gilroy is remembered here, and is a clever little lady.

The Triennial Handel festival is to be given at the Crystal Palace, London, June 22, 25, 27 and 29. The soloists are to be Melba, Albani, Anna Williams, Clara Samuel, Ellen Kussell, Marian McKenzie, Clara Butt, Edward Lloyd, Ben Davies, Charles Santley, Norman Salmund and Andrew Black.

In a notice of "The Pirates of Penzance," recently given in Boston by Camille D'Arville and her company, a Boston critic says: "The Major General Stanley should remember that the words of his song were written to be heard. He might have been singing in Choctaw for aught the audience knew." And again "the Chorus should be made to follow the conductor's baton and not their own sweet will." These remarks seem very pertinent, especially to chorus work in all cities. "The Pirates of Penzance," some will remember, was given here by amateurs in Mechanic's Institute.

M. Ambroisi Thomas, who, on the occasion of the 1000th performance of "Mignon," has been made a Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, is 82 years of age and is the only French composer who has ever attained that exalted dignity. Gounod was only a grand officer of the order. M. Reyner is a commander. MM. Massenet and Saint-Saens are officers and M. Paladilhe simply a knight. Verdi is a grand officer, the rank which was held by Auber and Rossini. Cherubini, who was the director of the National Conservatory of Music, was made a commander a month before his death.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Mary Hampton is very ill at her home in New York.

A palm leaf fan attached to the back of each seat is the latest at a Union square theatre, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal say their next season in America will be their last. They will revive "Clancarty."

Mrs. Langtry is still playing in "A Society Butterfly" at the Opera Comique, and Mr. Buchanan, the author of the piece, has

instituted a libel suit against Sketch on account of sundry remarks made in it about the play.

Actor Belasco was recently committed to jail in New York for non-support of his wife, Grace Wallace Belasco.

The Bijou (N. Y.) theatre, will be opened next season, Aug. 27, by Miss Fanny Rice in "Miss Innocence Abroad."

Ellen Terry's first husband was George Frederic Watts, the eminent royal academician, still living, and past 70.

The 400th performance of "1492" will be given July 14 at the Garden theatre, N. Y. Souvenirs are being prepared.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree gave the fiftieth performance of "A Bunch of Violets" at the Haymarket, London, last Saturday night.

Joseph Haworth is still at the Boston city hospital. His physicians have not yet decided in regard to the advisability of an operation.

Charles Frohman has secured "The Masqueraders," one of the successes of the season, also "The Bauble Shop" and "Marriage."

May Yohé recently sang and danced before an audience which included the Prince of Wales, Duke of Edinburgh and Sir Arthur Sullivan.

An open air performance of "As You Like It" was given at Bradford, Mass., last week. All the characters, including that of the wrestlers, were taken by young ladies.

A. M. Palmer is on his way to New York from London. He has purchased the American rights of "Little Christopher Columbus" which is having a run at the Lyric theatre.

A new comedy, "American Money," by Charles Bradley, will be produced in Montreal on the 25th inst. J. K. Hackett will play the leading role, that of an English nobleman, Lord Herndon.

It is said a New York banker has offered Lillian Russell \$1,000,000 if she will marry him and retire from the stage. Lillian is now lying seriously ill in New York as a consequence of a surgical operation.

On the 12th inst., Miss Bessie Cleveland, the actress, was married at Taconic, near Pittsfield, Mass., to Dr. John Burke, of New York. The fair bride is a second cousin of President Cleveland. She has retired from the stage.

Julia Marlowe, whose maiden name was Sarah Frances Frost, and who recently married a Mr. Taber, has been granted permission to retain her stage name. She will hereafter be known as Julia Marlowe Taber. She is 27 years of age.

At the Avenue theatre, London, last week, a new play by Forbes Dawson was produced at a matinee. It was a profitless variation of the Enoch Arden theme mixed with the farce of "The Sleepwalker." Those of the audience who did not giggle slumbered peacefully through the performance.

When studying a new part Charles Wyndham likes to walk in the woods and recite his lines aloud. Once in Hampstead woods when at the top of his voice he shrieked out some incriminating words from a murder scene, a policeman arrested him. An explanation and pass for two seats set matters right.

Ibsen dines every day at the Grand hotel, Christiania, in solitary grandeur at a little table. He seldom speaks except to the waiter but takes frequent notes of those about him. His wife is living, but they are never seen together. He is one of the vainest of men, and always carries a comb and small mirror in his hat.

Ollie Archmere, a popular soubrette who suddenly threw up her contract in 1891 at the Madison Square (N. Y.) theatre and sailed for Europe, has just been discovered singing the role of Yum-yum in "The Mikado" in New York. She is playing under the name of D. Eloise Morgan. She was engaged by manager Duff last November. He then had no suspicion of her identity. She is a San Francisco girl.

HE'S WORKING NOW.

Chester Loomis Was Crippled with Kidney Disease—Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him—They were Never Known to Fail.

NEWCOMB MILLS, JUNE 18.—Chester Loomis, a well known farmer living near here, has for years been afflicted with kidney disease, so badly that he could not sit in a buggy to drive to town. As he is 69 years old he despaired of a cure. He tried Dodd's Kidney Pills and they cured him. He has not done any farm work for years, but he helped to put in this spring's crops, and anyone who goes to see him today will find him between the plough-handles instead of laid out on a bed or an easy chair as he used to be.

Who Did the Hissing?

Some years ago there was trouble at the leading Belgian theatres. Many of the pieces produced appeared to be unpopular, and in several instances the management was objected to. It resulted in strife. The practice of hissing became a nightly nuisance, and efforts were made to put it down by the strong arm of the law. But, restrained for a space, the malcontents brooded over the plan to outwit the police. They insisted on leave to show displeasure in the familiar fashion. Invention was busy. One night the Ghent Theatre was full of the sound hateful to actors. It came from every quarter; but the staff detailed to insist on order could see nothing to account for the harsh chorus. The spectators seemed one and all to be filled with wonder and with well-feigned

disgust. Not one could be detected hissing. The uproar continued at every performance, and at length the mystery was solved. A curious pair of miniature bellows, with a whistle for its mouth-piece, had been designed. The willful foes to decorum had ingeniously placed these under their feet; they could then revel in noise and wear a grave face at the same time.

Falmouth, Can Now Reciprocate.

When the late Lord Falmouth was in the middle of his victorious racing career, so that he seemed to have a lease of all the great races, Lord Rosebery excited a good deal of amusement among their friends by getting a hundred letters of congratulation lithographed in the following words: "My dear Falmouth—Allow me once again to congratulate you on the success of your horse—in another classic race, the—Believe me, etc., Rosebery." The blanks for the name of the horse and the race were duly filled in, and one of the forms was sent to Lord Falmouth at each fresh success.

"So you have written a novel?" "Yes."

"Has your heroine satin skin, velvet eyelashes, and hair like spun gold?" "Yes."

"Is her name Gwendoline?" "It is."

"Then I don't see why it shouldn't be a success."

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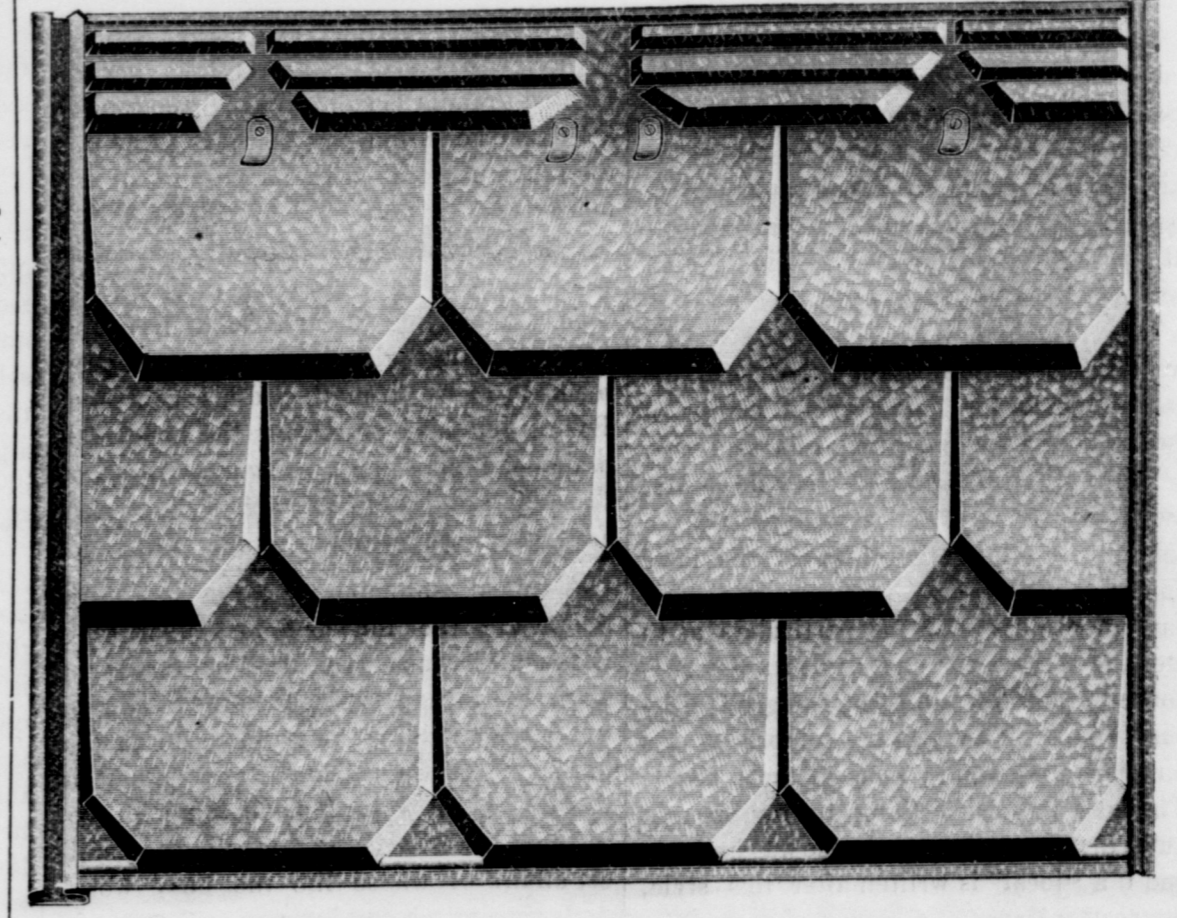
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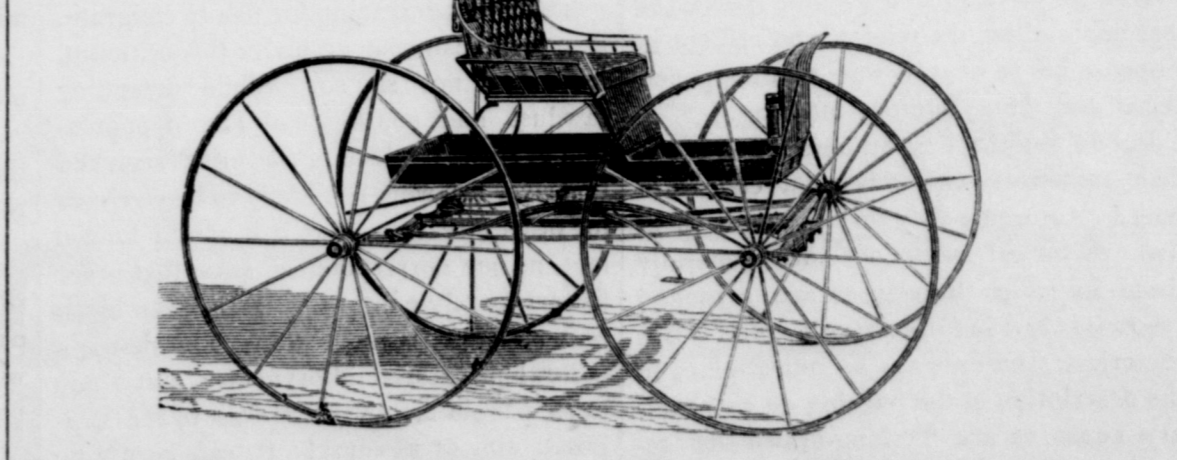


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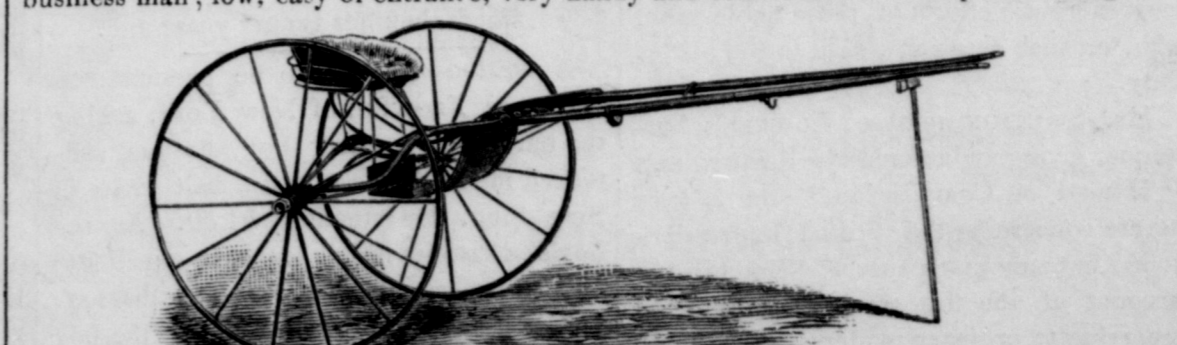
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