

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Grau Opera Company, which opened a season of one week in this city last Monday evening, presenting on that occasion the opera "Amorita," was a cause of grave disappointment, not to say disgust, to a large number of its patrons. It has continued to be a disappointment. The reason is obvious. The material is not as capable as what they have previously offered in this city. The Messrs. Grau may have fancied the mere fact that the company was performing under their management was, in itself, enough to satisfy the good people of this city, that the company was first class in every particular. The crowded house that attended the opening night would seem to justify this opinion. But from the fact that the "living pictures" were not shown that night, though their presentation was so advertised as to permit the belief they would be, it also appears as though the Messrs. Grau thought the business would drop somewhat after that first night and they would give the business a boom by exhibiting these pictures on Wednesday evening. The fact of the pictorial postponement was made in a brief speech by one of the Messrs. Grau, during which he made the startling announcement that they would be shown "in the original frame" and he literally overwhelmed the audience when he stated the cost of that frame to be the amazing sum of \$1,500. It required a palpable effort for the audience to resume its equanimity. This cost argument was used doubtless as a reason why all should see them. Well, I hope those who attended saw this frame, even if they did not hear any specially good singing. I have remarked that the company as a whole is disappointing. Miss Mason and Mr. Persee have been heard here before, and they are the only members of the company who give any pleasure to the musical listeners. My impression is that Miss Mason is singing rather better than she did when here last, and while Mr. Persee has the only steady voice among the soloists, he gives the idea at times that his voice is tired, as for instance in "Martha," when he lost control of it two or three times during the evening. The coming of the baritone, Mr. Langlois, was announced with a great flourish of trumpets but—oh! what a surprise! I heard one gentleman tell another, speaking of this baritone, that he had a well-trained voice. Trained? It is over trained. So much so that it is "wobbly." He does not always sing in tune either and that offensive tremolo is ever present with him, so that he is absolutely tiresome. There is a little scene without the prison in "Amorita" where a duet occurs between this baritone and Amorita (Miss Mason.) The former sings (?) the words "Oh, how sad I was," etc. I felt he was not half as sad as I was listening to him, and many others were sad too in filling a role like mine.

Last week the prima donna contralto was Miss Alice Carle and in last week's notes I ventured the opinion that the lady who succeeded her would be handicapped by the impression Miss Carle had made here, but that she might rely upon fair treatment. Now one likes to avoid any remark that might hurt a lady's feelings, yet I would be doing much less than my duty to Progress readers did I not say that Miss Myers does not begin to compare, as an alto, with Miss Carle, and out of regard for this lady's welfare I would add that, as she is still young, she should use every effort to get rid of that annoying tremolo which is so evident in her voice too. It has the effect, it is true, of rendering it quite difficult to distinguish singing out of tune; perhaps for this reason it is cultivated, but the falsity of tone can be detected in spite of it. The best feature of "Amorita" in my opinion was the serenade by ten ladies of the chorus. The "Robin Hood" company lately here had a superior chorus and not much else, but this company has nothing of the kind this year. The Messrs. Grau should now realize the fact that the people of this city take nothing for granted any more; that they are not to be humbugged or misled by loud sounding advance notices; and that St. John must have the best or none at all. They cannot impose pinchbeck on our people for the real article. It is said however that this company delighted the Halifax people, but, if that is the case, I think Halifax people must be easily pleased. It is a good town for this company to stay in. Justice prompts, however, the remark that the "living pictures" are very attractively produced.

The St. John Amateur Minstrels have resumed their rehearsals. They propose giving the "Pirates of Penzance" later on. Mr. Geo. Collinson is again the musical director.

The amateur concert of the Oratorio Society was a really pleasant affair. The new pianist of the society delighted all with her solo. The occasion was notable also for the debut of Mr. A. M. Smith as a soloist. His many friends were much pleased that he made the necessary effort at last, and, as they all had anticipated, he was entirely successful.

Tones and Undertones.

Mr. Tom Karl, formerly of "The Bostonians," is to start out on his own account.

Gounod's "Faust" will soon have its thousandth performance at the Grand Opera in Paris.

Oudin, the celebrated baritone, was

sticken with paralysis, in London, last week, while singing at a concert.

The Seidl orchestra concerts to be given in Boston are set down for Dec. 2nd and 6th. Isaye, the violinist, will take part.

The Boston Symphony orchestra will give their New York concerts at the Metropolitan Opera house. Nordica and Piancon are among the soloists.

Eleanor Mayo the prima donna of the "Princess Bonnie" opera company, will remain with that combination all the season, despite all rumors to the contrary.

"Othello" will be given with special excellence at the Opera this winter in Boston. Tamagno, Maursel and Scalchi will be in the cast with either Melba or Eames.

Mrs. E. Humphrey Allen sang at a charity concert in Music Hall, Boston, on the 25th ult. She gave "Sancta Maria" by Faure, and "Spring Song," by Weil.

The dates fixed upon in Boston for the recently postponed Melba concerts, are 8th Nov. in the evening and 10th Nov. in the afternoon. The occasions will be memorable.

There is a tenor singer in Boston whose name is Brenton H. McCurdy, and a paper of that city in mentioning him says he has "an unusually strong and high voice, and easily sings high C."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Louis James is to play Falstaff.

Mrs. Langtry has arrived in the United States. She is not a novelty now.

Sardou refuses to have his play "Patrie" revived at the Theatre Francais, Paris.

Mlle. Rhea has scored such a success in her play "Napoleon at School" that it will be permanently in her repertoire.

One half interest in the play entitled "In Old Kentucky" is owned by Jacob Litt, who says he would not take \$100,000 for it.

When Mlle. Rejane, the French actress, arrives in the United States next February she will give "Mme. Sans Gene," "Sousine" and other well-known works.

Isabel Irving has been engaged by Daniel Frohman for three years with the Lyceum New York company. Miss Irving was formerly with Augustin Daly.

Rejane has dethroned the divine Bernhardt and is setting the fashions in Paris. Rejane's hair is of a slightly brighter hue than mahogany and Parisian hair is being worn that color.

The New Castle Square theatre, Boston, will shortly be opened with a new play by Mr. E. E. Rose, entitled "Captain Paul." Miss Minnie Seligman is the leading lady of the company.

Miss Olga Nethersole, the English actress now in New York, who has not impressed the theatres goers of that city very favorably is to play "Camille" and Maurice Barrymore will be Armand.

George Fawcett, well remembered here as a popular member of the Lansdowne theatre company a few years ago, is this season engaged as a member of the New Castle Square theatre company, Boston.

"Church and Stage" is the title of a drama recently produced in San Francisco which is said to treat in a daring manner with the social problems of the day, and by all accounts has created a sensation. It is by one Theodore Kremer.

Mrs. Fanny Stirling, who, for upwards of fifty years held a high position on the English stage, having acted with Macready and with Henry Irving, in 1886, is about 80 years of age. She has recently been married to Sir. William Gregory, an octogenarian like herself.

Coquelin, the famous French actor, speaking of Sardou's plays says, "You must act his plays as you hear him read them. One rehearsal of a Sardou play with Sardou on the stage is worth, for a young actor, all the teaching he can get from all the veterans who take pupils."

Mary Hampton, of "Sowing the Wind" company is again in Boston and is having a good time among her friends in that city. Her stage work in this play has been highly complimented. The play inculcates the moral that a man shall be held guilty for a committed sin to the same extent as the woman.

Berbohm Tree, the English actor, recently transported his entire company from Balmoral, where he had been playing before the Queen—to Dublin, in time for the next evening's performance. The distance is 591 miles. His company numbered 60 persons. This theatrical company outnumbers most of the so called opera companies that travel in this country, such as the one entertaining (?) our citizens this week.

A Learned Clerk.

A man who applied for registration in San Francisco the other day was at first refused because he said he was born in New Hampshire. The clerk wanted to see the applicant's naturalization papers, because "New Hampshire is a province of England." The San Francisco Bulletin tells this story.

A Sleeping Idol.

The Chinese have a god for every disease, even for childhood's afflictions like the mumps and measles. At present their god for keeping the frisky Japs in subjection seems to be having a vacation.

A WASHER-MAN.

A Bride and her Husband are Partners in the Scrubbing Line.

"Our washerwoman has got married," said a North End lady to the reporter, "and I don't know what I'll do for a new one."

"Who's she married to?"
The lady named a well known character, who has the reputation of having been born tired, and who has spent considerable of his life in jail for petty crimes.

"Why are you looking for a new one? Has she given up washing? Or has she gone to Niagara Falls on an extended honeymoon?" "No, she hasn't given up washing, and her honeymoon is being spent at home."

"Well, then, what's the matter?" asked the reporter.

"I told her that I didn't require her services any longer," said the lady.

"But, surely," said the cynical reporter "she needs work more than ever now that she's got a husband to support."

"It's her husband that's the trouble," said the lady. "He loves her so."

"Does he love her enough to work for her?" continued the cynic.

"He does," said the lady, "and that's just what's the trouble."

"One day last week she had finished her washing and was about to commence scrubbing the kitchen floor, when I saw an awful looking man coming up the path. I said, 'Mary, for gracious sake tell that man we have nothing for him.' 'Indeed I will not,' Mary said, 'that's my husband, mem.' And the next minute she opened the door, and he walked into the house as if he owned it."

"My, but the mud he had on his boots! On the kitchen floor which was just being scrubbed too! But Mary said never a word. And he went up to her and kissed her, and asked her when she was going home."

"Not till I get this floor scrubbed," she said. "Oh, I'll help you, my darling," he said. And that sweet one got down on his hands and knees and took a scrubbing brush and commenced to work. And it was a full hour before that floor was scrubbed. There was so much else for the firm to attend to. 'I'll always come 'n' help you scrub after this,' said the man. And although Mary wished he would, I didn't. For as he went out, he left more tracks, and I had to finish the scrubbing myself. As they went down the street together arm-in-arm, into 'that new world that is the old,' I came to the conclusion that I did not require both a washerwoman and a washer-man."

Aberdeen as an Engine-Driver.

A very pretty story of Canada's governor-general comes from Brandon, Man. It is to the effect that he was staying there over night when a fire broke out in the outskirts of the city. A C. P. R. engine standing in the yard was about to be run out to the scene of the conflagration, when several men attempted to board her in the hope of getting a free ride. They were all ordered off and obeyed the command with the exception of "a stately man of about 49 years," who said he was an engineer, and as such, by way of courtesy, was asked to run the engine. He opened wide the throttle and managed the levers like a veteran. They quickly reached their destination, and one may judge the engineer's and fireman's surprise when by the light of the fire they recognized in their companion Lord Aberdeen.

Taxation in Europe.

In Prussia incomes above \$100 are taxed; in Saxony all incomes, though under \$115 the rate is only one-fifth as great; in England those above \$750. The chief import taxes in Great Britain are upon beer, chicory, cocoa, coffee, currants, figs, plums, prunes, raisins, spirits, tea, tobacco, and wine. In Mexico the custom is common of exempting new manufacturing enterprises from all save general taxation from ten to twenty years. In Burgstadt, Saxony, men who are slow about settling up their local taxes are not allowed in the beer shops and cafes. Very queer taxes are recorded in history. Holland has had at different times a tax on boots and shoes, on travelers, on marriages and deaths, on theatre tickets and on each visit to a tavern. England had, not so long ago, a window tax which had the effect of shutting the light out of the dwellings of the poor.

The Major Must be Obeyed.

A Maine soldier tells how he got a tidbit while his regiment was marching along a hot and dusty road in Southern Pennsylvania. Orders were very strict against foraging, but in spite of them a soldier suddenly sprang out of the ranks in pursuit of a fat gobbler standing among the sumach bushes on the roadside. The turkey started off in a hurry, with the man after him. Mayor Brown called out angrily, "Halt! What do you mean? Halt!" A few hurried steps and the turkey laid low with a blow from his rifle barrel. "There," he exclaimed, as he picked it up, "I reckon you'll understand that when the mayor says halt he means halt!"

The Origin of "O. K."

Professor O. S. Wyman, of the university of Alabama, doubts the common explanation of the letters "O. K." which is to the effect that they were President Andrew Jackson's abbreviations for "all correct." He thinks that Jackson borrowed the phrase from the Choctaw language, in which the word "okeh" means, "it is all right."

Information for a Tourist.

"Is it the custom in this country to reach for your gun to back it up after you have called a man a liar?" asked a tourist.
"It air not, stranger," replied the early settler, "and it never wuz. It has allers been the custom in the best society of Yaller Dog to reach for the gun fust."

This Pin Cushion FREE.

If your grocer is out of them ask him to send for more.



This illustration represents a very attractive pocket pin cushion. Ask your grocer for one.

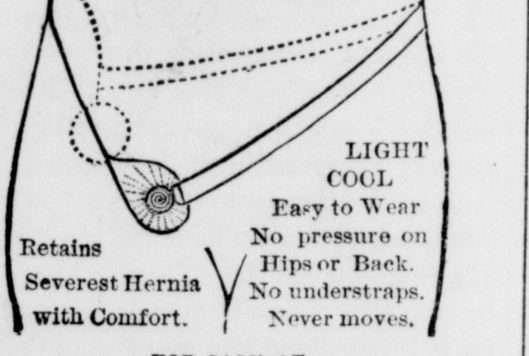
CHASE & SANBORN, BOSTON, MONTREAL, CHICAGO.



Hats, Toques and Bonnets

TRIMMED and UNTRIMMED, INCLUDING ALL THE LATEST STYLES FROM PARIS, LONDON and NEW YORK. Inspection cordially invited. CHAS. K. CAMERON & CO., 77 King St.

FRONT AND BACK VIEW OF THE SILVER TRUSS



FOR SALE AT The Montreal Silver Truss Co., 180 St. James Street, Room 6, 1st floor, MONTREAL, QUE.

THE DOMINION BREWERY COMPANY, L'TD., TORONTO.

MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED WHITE LABEL ALE and XXX PORTER,

which are now taking the place of the Best Imported. Our Ales and Porters are known and used from the Atlantic to the Pacific and are in General Favor.

ASK FOR THEM and see that our Brand is on every cork. JOHN O'REGAN, ST. JOHN, N. B.

Agent for the Dominion Brewery Co. and Reinhardt & Co's Salvador Lager.

ST. JOHN Conservatory of Music AND ELOCUTION.

168 Prince Wm. St. FALL TERM opens Sept. 10th TEACHING STAFF:

- M. S. Whitman, Piano and Harmony.
- Mrs. R. A. Parker, Elocution.
- Miss Alice Rising, Vocal Music.
- Mr. Carl Walker, Violin.

M. S. WHITMAN, Director.

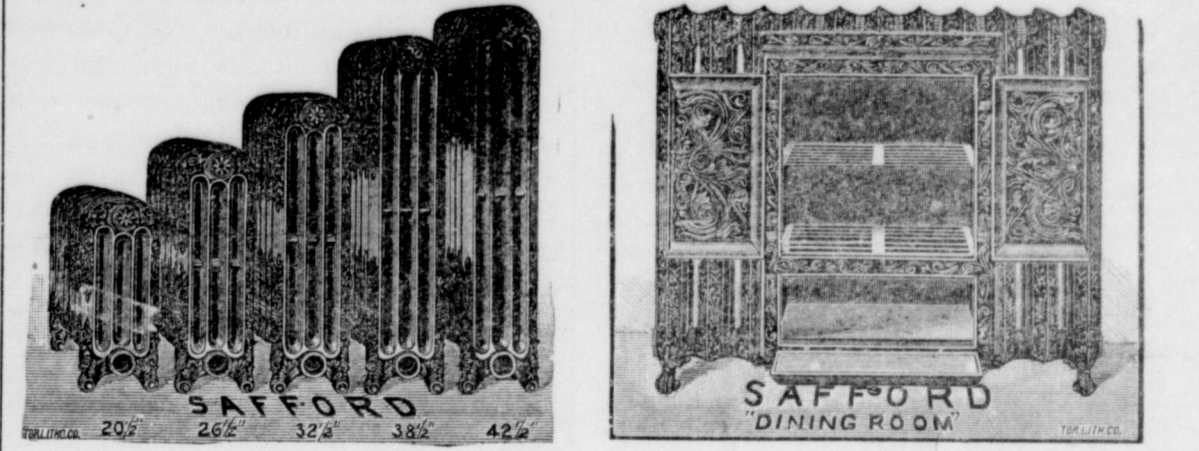
ICE! Wholesale and Retail.

Telephone 414. Office 18 Leinster Street. Mrs. R. Whetsel.

Toronto Radiator M'fg Co., L'td.

Sole Manufacturers of the celebrated "SAFFORD" RADIATORS.

...The paragon of beauty and efficiency...

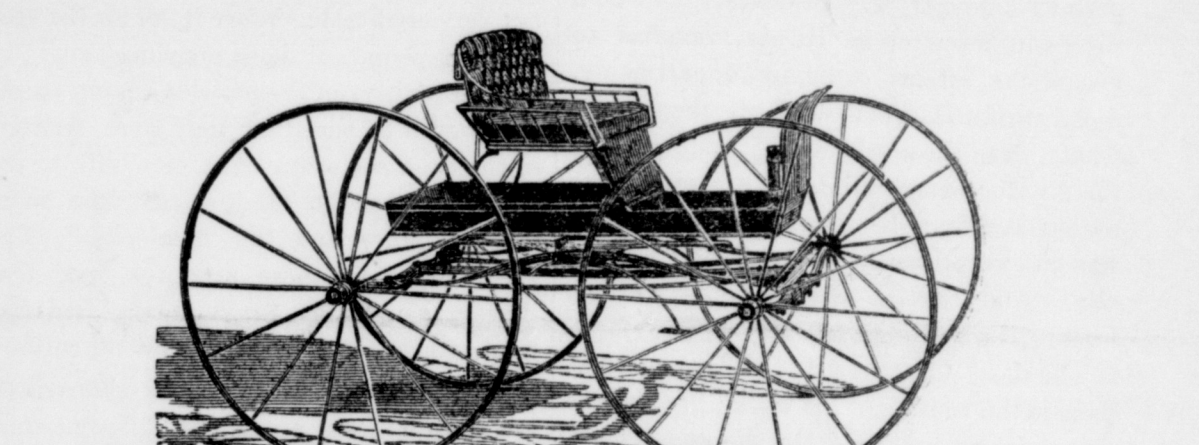


The largest RADIATOR Manufacturers under the British Flag. The greatest variety of patterns in the world. More than two hundred sizes and styles. Do not be deceived by what others tell you, the SAFFORD is the only RADIATOR made with Screwed Nipple Connections. Call and see Samples.

W. A. MACLAUCHLAN, Agent. 51 Dock Street, - St. John, N. B.

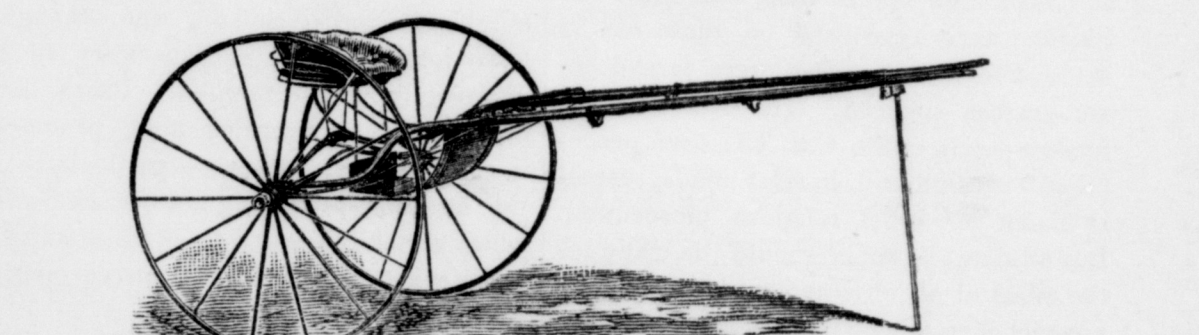
WAGONS and CARTS.

Our stock of carriages of all kinds is very complete, and we are in a position to suit the wants of the public in this respect.



The Fredericton Road Wagon.

An illustration of which is shown above, is especially popular. It is the wagon of the business man; low, easy of entrance, very handy and comfortable. The price is right.



A Good Road Cart.

In the spring of the year especially, a road cart, such as that shown above, should be owned by every man who owns horses. It saves a carriage, is convenient for exercising and the preliminary training of a speedy horse. Well built, handsome and easy to ride in.

JOHN EDGECOMBE & SONS, FREDERICTON, N. B.

