

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Before this notice appears the Robin Hood Opera Company will have come and gone. As nearly every reader of PROGRESS knows this company gave "Robin Hood" for two out of three nights and that on the closing night the bill was "The Knickerbockers."

It happened that I was present at their first appearance here and taking the performance as a whole it justly merits some commendation. The first act was rather dull and tame but in the improved work in the second and third acts the weakness of the first was almost forgotten. The condition of things during the first act might be accounted for in several ways, among which might be suggested: first appearance—an audience without enthusiasm, not to say hostile—because of a belief that they had been imposed upon—or the role of the principal tenor being filled by the understudy. Any of these reasons might be offered and with absolute truth too because all of these conditions existed. Whatever of deception did exist appears to be due to the method of the Opera House management in making a bid for large business by leading the public to believe the company were "The Bostonians." As a matter of management it was wrong; as a matter of fact it was also wrong and the directors are in no degree entitled to the gratitude of the public. Their half apology for the big prices charged is simply absurd. On behalf of the company it is asserted that they never claimed to be other than the "Robin Hood Opera Company;" that it was under that name they booked time in this city; that they are not in any way parties to a deception [and that if any deception has been practised it has been by the local management. The facts are before the public and the public will doubtless exercise its prerogative of judgment.

In my notes of last week I disclaimed any intention of prejudging the performances of the company and in a sense rather anticipated a good performance because of the rehearsals had in the Halifax engagement, with the proviso that there was talent in the company. Having heard them I am satisfied there is a fair amount of talent among them. Their strong feature is the chorus, which contains good voices, is well balanced and is evidently well drilled. The solo voices are not at all phenomenal, but they are tuneful and pleasing, although some of them may be considered lighter than they ought to be for such a work as "Robin Hood." Giving the lady soloists consideration first—Miss Palmer made a very charming Allan-a-Dale and her song "Oh! Promise Me" was given with taste and judgment, in excellent time and with good articulation. Her voice is of good quality and her song probably the best of the evening. In the accompaniment to this solo the orchestra drum was at times, quite too loud. Miss Risley, who was the Maid Marian, has a peculiar voice if I may so express it. It is sweet and musical but while her higher notes are in perfect tune in her middle register her tones are frequently the least bit out of tune. Her stage presence is admirable but in singing her articulation is quite faulty.

The title role was sung by Mr. Ross David and he did his work well, all things considered. He acted as substitute for Mr. McCreery—who was cast for the part, and whose absence caused disappointment to many among the audience who would like to have heard him again. He was indisposed. There are some nice little bits of comedy through the opera for instance, in the charming trio, by Miss Risley and Messrs. Herschell and Laude. The song "Brown October Ale" is a good one and it was fairly well given by Mr. Tesson, who played "Little John," and Mr. Cassavanti as Will Scarlet gave "The Armorer's Song." There is no doubt the accessories of appropriate costumes and stage settings lend much to the rendition of a song like this but I have heard it done better in this city without these surroundings. Yes, the choruses were the strong feature. The tinker's chorus became popular at once, but the story of the chimes was beautifully and effectively told in the song and attendant chorus. This chorus reflects much credit on the musical director, Mr. M. C. Smith, because for their efficiency he is responsible, and his industry, energy and care is shown by the promptness of the singers even when singing in the distance. I have not heard this company in "The Knickerbockers," but I have read severe strictures upon their work in this opera, in a Halifax paper of recent date. The paper says: "An unsatisfactory performance of "The Knickerbockers" was given at the Academy of Music last evening. To criticize would necessitate much fault finding... the defects were too many and too pronounced." Whether this state of affairs prevailed when they gave it in this city I am not prepared to say. The "Robin Hood Opera Company" are not "The Bostonians."

The Oratorio Society hope to secure St. David's church for the forthcoming production of "Samson" which will be about the 10th to 15th of October, but nothing definite has yet been arranged. The rehearsals were resumed last Monday evening.

The first rehearsal was largely attended by the sopranos and basses, many new members are joining and everything points to a successful season. This is a good time for the public spirited citizens, and St. John has them in large numbers, to show their approbation of this good institution by becoming identified with it either as honorary or active members. Reference to the Heine concert in the Mechanics' Institute last Wednesday evening I regret being compelled to omit this week.

Tones and Undertones.

Fred Miller is working at a new opera, to be called "Nancy Lee."

It is again said that Jean LaSalle, the French baritone, is about to retire to private life.

J. Aldrich Libbey has signed as leading singer in the Pauline Hall opera company which opens season on the 24th inst.

Miss Jenny Lind Lewis, a very promising young singer, will be the soprano of the Boston Ideal Opera company this season.

Johann Strauss is finishing his new opera, "The Apple Fete." It will be produced at the Theatre under Wein during his festival.

The forthcoming musical festival at Worcester Mass., will be an occasion of great delight to all lovers of music who may be enabled to attend.

DeWolf Hopper in "Dr. Syntax" appears to have scored a success. This opera is a revised edition of "Cinderella at School," by Morse and Goodwin.

Armande Bourgeois, who recently made her operatic debut in "The Valkyrie" at the Paris Opera, is a native of Boston. I don't know her other name.

Everything in the way of preliminary has about been done and "Prince Pro Tem" will be ready for production on the 17th inst., at the Boston museum.

Tamagno declared that when he had secured a million dollars he would never sing another note on the stage. He is reputed worth twice that sum yet he still sings.

It is said that Mascagni owes his success in life to Madame Calve. It was she who first took him up and induced him to enter the competition which he won. He wrote for her, in Santuzza, the part of her life.

The opera season of Camille D'Arville at the Tremont, Boston, which has been perhaps the most successful of all ever given in that city, is drawing to a close. "Madeleine" or the Magic Kiss, still holds the boards and is a phenomenal winner.

It is now announced from New York that contracts have been signed for the return of Madame Calve to the United States. A Calve season would be a financial success. She is a true genius because she takes nature, no matter how homely it is, for her model.

A praiseworthy organization is called the Musical Mutual Protective Union, and it is giving concerts in New York, the proceeds of which go towards the establishment of a home for aged and indigent musicians. The talent, principally, in these concerts is first-class.

A young lady called Miss Nellie Waters and described as "a phenomenal vocalist in her line" will appear at the Palace theatre, Boston, next week. She is said to be "without doubt the greatest negro and Irish singer who has ever appeared in the United States." She ought to be told the attempt to mix the Irish and negro failed in the United States many years ago.

The St. John Conservatory and many friends of Mrs. R. A. Parker, the teacher of elocution, are glad to welcome her to St. John. Mrs. Parker was a great favorite when here four years ago and all interested in the art of expression will be glad to place themselves under her instruction. Mrs. Parker has been teaching in Millbury, Mass., since leaving the city. She also taught in the Summer Normal school, at Turner Centre, Me., with Dr. Mason, of Boston and Prof. Bradford, of Everett, Mass.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The beautiful new sign in front of the Park theatre, Boston, contains about 360 electric globes.

Kate Ryan, a long time member of the Museum company, Boston, has been threatened with blindness.

"Tennessee's Pardner" is to be revived again this season with Miss Cora Van Tassel in the leading role.

There are two Richard Mansfields on the stage—one on the Vaudeville, and the other in the legitimate.

Miss Johnstone Bennett, who made a success in "Jane," has announced, since her return from England, that she is engaged.

Wilson Barrett's next American tour, will last only three months. He will play only the towns his past experience proves remunerative.

Tim Murphy is starring in his new comedy, "Lem Kettle," at the Park, theatre, Boston, this week. Mr. Murphy is not an Italian and has become well

known as Maverick Brander in "A Texas Steer." Clarence Handyside, a member of Harkin's company of last year, is in the cast.

A matinee performance of "The Old Homestead" was given for the benefit of the inmates of the Old Men's Home, Boston, last week.

Robert Mantell as well as "Tom" Keene will present Shakesperian plays this season. Mr. Mantell intends to appear as "Hamlet" and "Othello."

Frederick Warde, the tragedian, who lectured on "Shakespeare and his Plays" so successfully last season, will continue to deliver them this winter.

Wm. A. Brady produced at the Bowdoin Square theatre, Boston, a new melodrama "Old Glory." It is said to be "sensational and patriotic in the extreme."

Stuart Robson's season has begun at the Park theatre, Brooklyn, last Monday evening. His opening play was Buckstone's Comedy "Leap Year." It is in three acts.

Thomas W. Keene, the tragedian, is in harness again, having opened his season on the 10th inst at the Grand Opera House, N. Y., in Richard III. He does the legitimate.

Miss Annie Clarke, once leading lady in the Boston Museum Stock and who played leads in "Rosedale" last season, intends to teach and coach amateur theatricals next season.

"Senator" Crane has personally taken charge of the rehearsals of his company in "The Merry Wives of Windsor," at the Star theatre, N. Y. His opening date is the 24th inst.

Henry Dixey is receiving much praise for his work as a member of Augustin Daly's company. This company, with the St. John favorite Miss Percy Haswell, among its members, will be playing in Boston next week. They will be at the Hollis.

The author of "Arms and the Man," the play in which Richard Mansfield opens his season of 1894, is G. Bernard Shaw, a London journalist. The majority of the characters in the piece are said to be of the "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" stamp.

A Boston paper of recent date says, "It is a girl and its mother is Mrs. Miriam O'Leary-Collins." This lady, as Miss Miriam O'Leary, was a prominent member of the Boston Museum Stock company, and a special favorite with the patrons of that theatre. She became the wife of Dr. Collins and retired from the stage.

A new play (melodramatic spectacle) by Elmer Grandin and entitled "The Slaves of Gold" was produced at the Grand opera house, Boston, last Monday evening. There is an explosion, apple blossoms falling realistically with the odor of the flowers wafted to the audience, a flooded mine, with the waters rising in full view and other thrilling things in it. Eva Mountford, the heroine dashes a great glass bay window to atoms a la Will Harkins in "The Still Alarm."

NO MORE SCIATICA.

Valentine Fisher is Cured of His Troubles to have no return—He is doing a Flourishing Fruit Tree Business.

COLLINGWOOD, Sept. 10—About a year ago, a telegraphic despatch from here told how Valentine Fisher, who had suffered for years from sciatica, and who was so crippled by the disease as to be unable to work and was generally thought at death's door, was cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills. That the story was no fiction was known by all citizens of this place. That the cure is a permanent one is now just as generally known, for since his recovery, Mr. Fisher has been hard at work selling fruit trees for Chase Bros., of Rochester, N. Y., and has travelled the whole of this section for this firm with most gratifying success.

Just to Oblige a Lady.

Cyrene, who dances with much fervor and grace, is an exceptionally moral young woman. During a recent engagement in Philadelphia, she was leisurely strolling along a quiet thoroughfare, and came upon two street urchins who were endeavoring to destroy the features of each other's faces. Cyrene, after parting the youngsters, spoke to the larger one.

"This is shameful, a great big boy beating such a little fellow. Don't you go to Sunday School?"

"Yes'm."

"Do you learn to fight there?"

"No'm."

"Do you swear and say bad words?"

"Well, I ain't much on it myself, but Jimmy dere's a dandy. Cuss fer de lady, Jim."

McGill University Medical Faculty.

Owing to the complete condition of the extensive alterations and additions to the buildings of this Faculty, lectures will not be resumed until October 2nd, 1894. The Register will however be opened September 17th as announced. K. F. Rutnan, M. D., Registrar.

"The sweet atmosphere was tinged with the perfumy breath which surrounded her." Mrs. Oshant.

What an odd expression! The lady referred to must have been using some of those perfumes of exquisite fragrance manufactured by Piesse & Lubin of London, Eng. These perfumes, OPOPONAX, LOXOTIS and FRANGIPANNIE are the most fashionable of the day. Your druggist has them or will procure them for you. Perfumes from every flower that breathes a fragrance.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM A PROMINENT PHYSICIAN.

A Remarkable Cure of Consumption In Its Last Stages—Is This Once Dread Disease Conquered?—Important Facts to all Suffering from Diseased or Weak Lungs.

ELMWOOD, Ont., Aug. 21st, 1894.

DEAR SIRS:—I wish to call your attention to a remarkable cure of consumption. In March, 1893, I was called in my professional capacity to see Miss Christina Koester, of North Brant, who was then suffering from an attack of inflammation of the left lung. The attack was a severe one, the use of the lung being entirely gone from the effect of the disease. I treated her for two weeks when recovery seemed assured. I afterwards heard from her at intervals that the progress of recovery was satisfactory. The case then passed from my notice until June, when I was again called to see her, her friends thinking she had gone into consumption. On visiting her I found their suspicions too well founded. From robust health she had wasted to a mere skeleton, scarcely able to walk across the room. She was suffering from an intense cough, and expectoration of purid matter, in fact about a pint each night. There was a burning hectic fever with chills daily. A careful examination of the previously diseased lung showed that its function was entirely gone, and that in all probability it was entirely destroyed. Still having hopes that the trouble was due to a collection of water around the lung I asked for a consultation, and the following day with a prominent physician of a neighboring town again made a careful examination. Every symptom and physical sign indicated the onset of rapid consumption and the breaking down of the lungs. Death certainly seemed but a short time distant. A regretful experience had taught me the uselessness of the ordinary remedies used for this dread and fatal disease, and no hope was to be looked for in this direction. I had frequently read the testimonials in favor of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in wasting diseases, but not knowing their composition hesitated to use them. Finally, however, I decided to give them a trial, and I am free to say that I only used them at a stage when I knew of absolutely nothing else that could save the patient's life. The test was a most severe one and I must also admit an unfair one, as the patient was so far gone as to make all hope of recovery seem impossible. A very short time, however, convinced me of the value of Pink Pills. Although only using an ordinary soothing cough mixture along with the pills, within a week the symptoms had abated so much that it was no longer necessary for me to make daily calls. Recovery was so rapid that within a month Miss Koester was able to drive to my office, a distance of about six miles, and was feeling reasonably well, except for weakness. The expectoration had ceased, the cough was gone and the breathing in the diseased lung was being restored. The use of the Pink Pills was continued until the end of October, when she ceased to take the medicine, being in perfect health. I still watched her case with deep interest, but almost a year has now passed and not a trace of her illness remains. In fact she is as well as ever she was, and no one would suspect that she had ever been ailing, to say nothing of having been in the clutches of such a deadly disease as consumption. Her recovery through the use of Pink Pills after having reached a stage when other remedies were of no avail is so remarkable that I feel myself justified in giving the facts to the public, and I regret that the composition of the pills is not known to the medical profession at large in order that their merit might be tested in many more diseases and their usefulness be thus extended. I intend giving them an extended trial in the case of consumption, believing from their action in this case (so well marked), that they will prove a curative in all cases where a cure is at all possible—I mean before the lungs are entirely destroyed.

Yours truly, J. EVANS, M. D.

The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Carlyle on American Humorists.

In one of Carlyle's letters recently printed, a statement which should appeal to the pride of the American humorist is to the effect that some bits of extravagant American fun quoted to him "show a great deal of intellect floating about in America and not knowing what form to put itself into."

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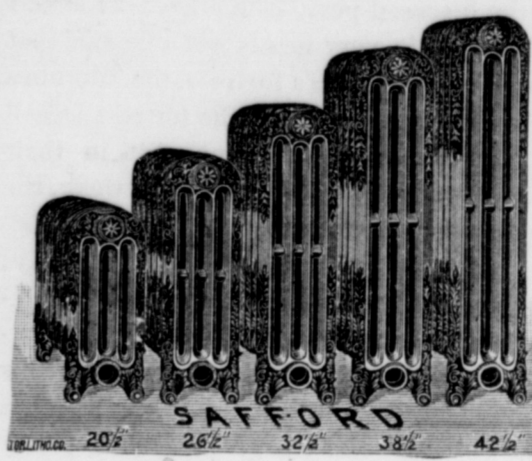
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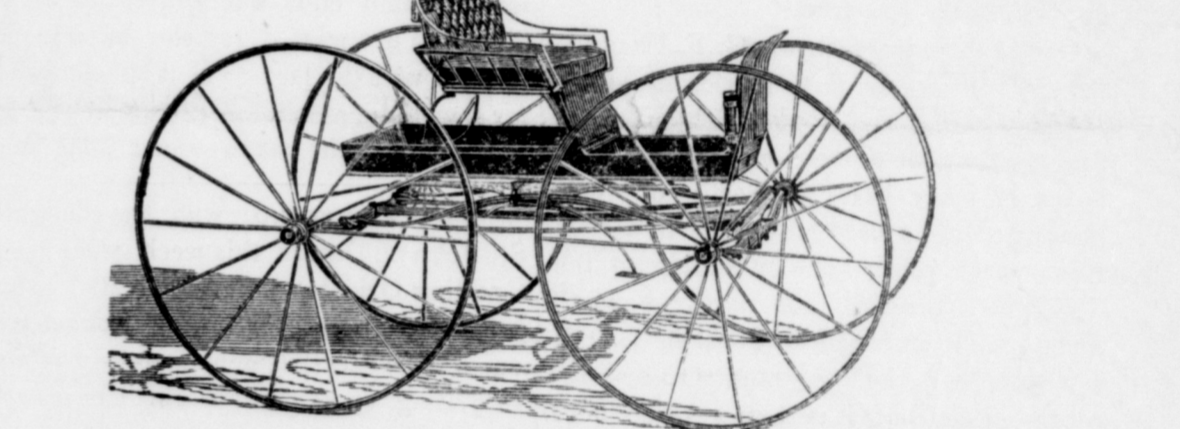
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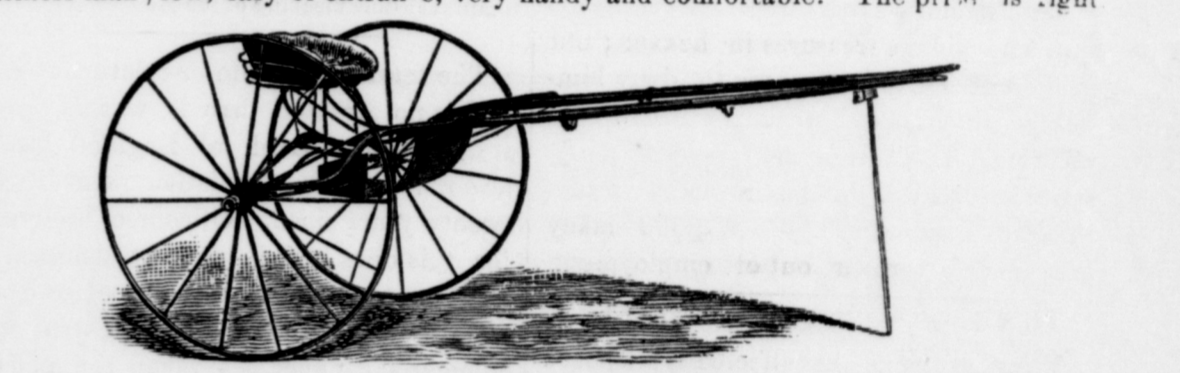
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