

# Musical and Dramatic.

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

With a profound regret, that I am satisfied is shared with all musical people in this city, I have, today, to refer to the death of Miss Emma Shenton, which occurred since the last issue of PROGRESS appeared. To say that the death of this estimable young lady causes a serious loss in musical circles, is but repeating a remark already made by everyone who knew her powers and who has had the pleasure of hearing her sing at any of our concerts. It is but a feeble expression at best because it gives no full idea of the distinction to which she had attained in this province as a musician. She was as well known and as highly esteemed and appreciated in Fredericton and elsewhere in New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia also, as she was in Saint John. She was generous in her impulses and appeal for her valuable assistance was never made in vain, particularly when the object was a charitable one in aid either of a congregation or an individual. Her nature, I believe, like her voice was "attuned to sweet sounds." I vividly recall what was about the first time I heard her sing. It was on the occasion of the great concert given in the exhibition building a few years ago. She sang the "Inflammatus" solo from the Stabat Mater. Clear, pure and resonant sounded her musical voice, and she sang with admirable interpretation and full appreciation of the majesty of the composition. "On the dreadful judgment day" He who "doeth all things well" will look mercifully upon her and place her among the elect where she will sing "the praise of God" eternally.

An important addition to available Christmas music is found in two recent compositions by Prof. Chas. R. Fisher, now well known here as organist of St. Andrew's church. They are carols, very musical and pleasing. The one is entitled "A Pastoral," the words beginning "Sheep in slumber, shepherds watching," purports to picture the scene about Bethlehem at the time of the Nativity; the caption of the other is "Hear Our Carol," (a four part piece) with the words "We are singing of our saviour." The words and music are both by Mr. Fisher. These little works will doubtless soon become popular. The copyright is the property of the White Smith Music Publishing Company of Boston.

The production of "Samson" by the St. John Oratorio society in Brussel's street church is now definitely fixed for the 11th Dec. inst. The rehearsals with the orchestra are already giving much satisfaction. The church ought to be crowded on that occasion.

The church choirs throughout the city are generally engaged in active preparation of their special Christmas music, as is customary each year.

## Tones and Undertones.

Paderewski's health is said to be entirely restored. He will make an extended tour of Europe next year.

Sir Arthur Sullivan does his musical writing between midnight and 4 o'clock a. m. Is he an early bird?

The New York public is credited with being very capricious and tires of nothing quicker than a prima donna.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers are giving a concert in the Shawmut Avenue Baptist church, in Boston this (Dec. 1) evening.

Madame Melba's last appearance in concert in Boston this season will be at a specially arranged concert on Dec. 4th, in Music Hall.

Mr. Hitchens, the author of the "Green Carnation," has just been appointed musical critic of The World, London, Eng., in place of George Bernard Shaw.

"Prince Ananias," the new opera recently produced by "The Bostonians" at the Broadway (N. Y.) theatre met with much success. The music is highly praised.

Mr. Martin Rolder has just completed an opera based upon incidents of the rebellion in the United States. Barbara Fritchie is a character in it. Her flag will also appear.

A new opera founded on "The Last Days of Pompeii" has just been furnished by the Flemish composer, Peter Benoit. It will be produced with great splendor at Brussels at an early date.

The Mendelssohn Quartette of Boston, Mass., is composed of Madame Marie Foster and S. Elizabeth Austin, sopranos; and Misses Anna C. Burt and Edith May Ladd, contraltos.

Madame Amelie Joachim and Miss Lillie Lehmann are giving song recitals on alternate Fridays in Berlin. A recent Boston paper says "The Berliners are interested in contemplating picturesque ruins."

A minstrel performance was given last week in Waltham, Mass., by local talent for the benefit of Y. M. C. U. The talent consisted of twenty-five young society ladies. It was the affair of the season.

London (Eng.) papers say Lillian Russell will return there next season and produce an entirely new opera, entitled "Cleopatra" the libretto of which she has suggested. Mr. Bernberg will write the music.

Dr. Osmond Carr, who composed the

music of Gilbert's latest opera "His Excellency" was born in 1858. When but 16 years of age he was appointed conductor of an amateur orchestra in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The orchestra of the new Castle Square theatre, Boston, comprises three first violins, two second, one alto, one cello and one bass, one flute, one clarinet, one oboe, one bassoon, two cornets, two horns, one trombone and drums.

At the production of "Samson" by the Boston Cecilia, last Wednesday evening, the cast was: Delilah, Mrs. Julie L. Wyman; Samson, Mr. Clarence B. Davis; the High priest, Mr. Heinrich Meyn; Abimelech, Mr. W. H. Clark.

Anton Gregor Rubinstein, the famous Russian pianist, is dead. He died at his home, near St Petersburg, last week. The cause of death was heart disease. He was born in 1830. In 1873-74 he visited the United States and created quite a musical excitement there.

Madame Libia Dro, who replaced Miss Lucille Hill as Mathilde in "William Tell" in New York, broke down completely, from nervousness at a recent performance. She was to have made her American debut as Aida, and being called upon to play the other part with such short notice that she became paralyzed with fear when she appeared before the audience.

A Portland, Me., paper, speaking of a recent performance of "Paul Jones" by the Grau Company, says, "The opera itself is far from satisfactory, the music being almost devoid of anything 'catchy.'" It compliments the stage sitting, however, and speaks of a wooden shoe dance by Miss Fairbairn, a hornpipe by chorus girls and Miss Mason's song, "Love, I dream of thee," as the features of the evening.

## TALK OF THE THEATRE.

"Shore Acres" will shortly be given in Boston.

Living pictures in New York are reported beyond decency.

Piner's new play is in rehearsal at the Garrick theatre, London.

Mrs. James Brown-Potter is credited with a hit in her new play "Charlotte Corday."

Madame Duse has sued for a divorce. This is reportedly not intended for advertising purposes.

Souvenir programmes with celluloid covers printed in five colors were on regle at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, this week.

George W. Wilson will succeed Denman Thompson as Joshua Whitcomb in "The Old Homestead" when Thompson retires next spring.

Wm. A. Brady will produce another play by Sutton Vane entitled "Humanity." The production is fixed for 17th Dec., at the Bowdoin square theatre.

Frohmans' "Sowing the Wind" company will start on a tour of New England next Monday. Mary Hampton is the leading lady of the company.

Miss Marie Burroughs will begin her career as a star in "The Profligates" at the Boston theatre on Dec. 3 (Monday next). The play is by A. W. Pincro.

Some of the members of the "Gaiety Girl" company are becoming homesick. They want to go home, but the tour, as previously stated, includes Australia.

The Castle Square theatre (new), Boston, is filled at every performance of Manager Rose's new play "Captain Paul." There is a wonderful realistic scene in the third act which shows an exciting naval battle.

Baerbohm Tree is said to be probably the most versatile actor in England among the great artists today. He was the original Private Secretary and has played a wide range of parts, including Falstaff and Hamlet.

Miss Laura Burt, the leading lady "In Old Kentucky," being recently asked her opinion on marriage among theatrical people, very promptly replied, "I do not believe that theatrical people ought to marry."

"Scenes from the life of Napoleon Bonaparte," produced at the Park theatre, Boston, by Richard Mansfield last week is pronounced "upon the whole, a rather dull affair." It is a composition in five scenes by Lorimer Stoddart.

Manager Field of the Boston museum will become partner with Messrs. Rich and Harris and Charles Froham and will dispose of equal interests to them in his lease of his museum. This arrangement will take effect at the close of this season.

Dominick Murray, who is well known to a number of St. John lovers of the drama, is receiving unstinted praise for his character work in "The Cotton King." It is said to be one of the strongest, most magnetic impersonation, seen on the stage in Boston for many years.

"The Rising Generation," a play in which "hot and cold ways of comedy and melodrama are blended" was at the Grand opera house, Boston, this week. The purpose of the play is "to draw a contrast between the Irish parvenu and the Knicker-

bockers" in which the former comes out on top.

This is the last week of the run of "The Cotton King" in Boston, and on Monday evening Marion Manola Mason played the part of Hetty Dryson. This was her first attempt at acting since her serious illness. The performance last Monday evening was a benefit complimentary to her husband, Jack Mason. The house was crowded.

Mrs. Langtry, erstwhile known as the "Jersey Lily," will appear at the Park theatre, Boston, the first half of next week in "Agatha Tyldon" and the last half in "Esther Sandras," an adaptation from the French by Sydney Grundy. The first named play was produced last fall at the Haymarket theatre, London, and was the greatest success Mrs. Langtry ever made in London.

Alexander Salvini was sued in St. Paul the other day by Miss Louise Starr, who laid her damages at \$10,000. Miss Starr alleges that while performing there Salvini threw a glass in her face which cut her cheek open and made her unconscious. Salvini says the glass first struck a table, a fragment struck Miss Starr in the face and the sight of blood caused her to faint. The judge dismissed the suit on the ground that Miss Starr was not 21. She will renew the action as a minor.

## A SIMCOE CO. MIRACLE.

THE STARTLING EXPERIENCE OF MRS. ROBINSON, OF MIDHURST.

Eleven Years Sickness—Her Case Pronounced Positively Incurable—She Was Given up to Die by Two Doctors—Now a Picture of Good Health and Strength.

(From the Barrie Examiner.)

Near the village of Midhurst, about six miles from Barrie, stands the smithy of Mr. John Robinson, while within the midst of a large and leafy orchard dwell the smith and his family. Mr. Robinson is a type of the proverbial blacksmith with "the muscles of his brawny arms as strong as iron bands," but with Mrs. Robinson it has been different. The wife and mother has for a long time been a victim to acute and painful dropsy of the kidneys. Shortly after the birth of her youngest child (now about 13 years) Mrs. Robinson began to take fainting spells, accompanied by violent headaches. This continued through the years that have elapsed, during which time she has obtained the best medical advice available. For about a year she was in constant terror of going insane. Her dull heavy headache, beating pain in the back and weak swollen legs and body made her case something fearful. To a representative of the Examiner Mrs. Robinson said: "It is some five or six years since I took worse, and since then we have spent hundreds of dollars in medicine and for medical advice. The symptoms of my case were heavy headaches, pain in the back and kidneys and swollen legs. I rapidly grew worse, and last July was given up by two doctors to die, and all my friends and neighbors tell me that they never expected to see me out again. I could not raise myself up, could not dress myself, and had to be assisted in everything. Now, I am well and strong, and can put out a big washing without any over-exertion. I have also suffered from diarrhoea for a number of years, and when I spoke of it to my doctor he said it was stopped, worse results would follow. At the urgent request of my son, who was then living in Manitoba, and personally knew of wonderful cures wrought by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, I decided to give this remedy a trial. Since using the Pink Pills I have been completely cured and have felt none but beneficial effects. Only the week before I commenced taking the Pink Pills I was told by a physician that he could not cure me, and that I would likely get worse when spring came. He analyzed my blood and said it was in a fearful state and that my disease was dropsy of the kidneys, which positively could not be cured. This was about the middle of last January. After the third box of pills my backache left me and it has not since returned. I have taken thirteen or fourteen boxes in all and owe my recovery to this wonderful medicine. I can't praise Pink Pills too much, whatever I say of them," said Mrs. Robinson.

"I recommend them to everybody. I can't speak too highly of them. They saved my life, and I feel it my duty to let others, who are suffering as I was, know all about them."

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## Handel's Appetite.

Handel was blessed with a wondrous appetite, and many are the amusing accounts, true or otherwise, as to the means taken by its owner for its indulgence. His gastronomic propensities were frequently the object of satires, and in one caricature the composer is represented sitting on a beer barrel. A ham and a pair of fowl are attached to the pipes of an organ, a turbot lies upon a pile of books, and the floor of the apartment is strewn with oyster shells. It is more likely that his adversaries invented and propagated many of the wild stories concerning his eating and drinking powers than they had any foundation in literal fact. No one would probably order a dinner for three persons, for instance, and because it was being kept back for the company to arrive blurt out to the astonished waiter: "I am de gompany—bring up the timer brestissitmo."

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## Over Particular.

Cleanliness is a virtue, no doubt, but like other virtues it may be carried to a vicious excess. So it happened with an old fisherman in Nartle Devon, who made it one of the chief ends of his life to keep his boat immaculate. On one occasion a gentleman had hired him to take himself and a young lady out for an afternoon's fishing. The boat could not be brought near enough to the shore for them to step in; so the old sailor removed his shoes and stockings, and taking the young lady in his arms, was about to deposit her on board when he caught sight of some mud on her pretty pair of boots. Instantly he stooped and dipped both her feet up to the ankles in the sea, paddling them backward and forward to remove the mud in spite of the protests of the owner. His only remark as he finally put her on board was: "Bless you, miss, salt water won't give yer the snuffles."

## Awful Example of Economy.

The turning off and on of the water at the Kaaterskill Falls in the Catskills has long been used as an "awful example" of economy. But the manufacturers in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, beat the frugal Catskill mountaineer. They shut off the water of the Housatonic every Saturday afternoon, turning it on again Sunday night. By this means they fill their mill ponds at the head of the stream over Sunday, and obtain enough water to carry them through the next week. The Housatonic is naturally low, on account of the long drought; but on Sundays it looks like a broad and very muddy ditch. In some places water is hardly to be seen; what water there is trickles slowly under the stones that once on a time were hidden and unsuspected, but now are only too evident.

## Improved the Stock.

President Scott, when he first took hold of the Cincinnati Southern, was greatly annoyed by the claims for horses and cattle killed by trains of the road on their way through Kentucky. It seemed as though it were not possible for a train to run north or south through Kentucky without killing either a horse or a cow. And every animal killed, however scrawny, scrubby or miserable it may have been before the accident, always figured in the claims subsequently presented as of the best blood in Kentucky. "Well," said Scott finally one day, "I don't know anything that improves stock in Kentucky like crossing it with a locomotive."



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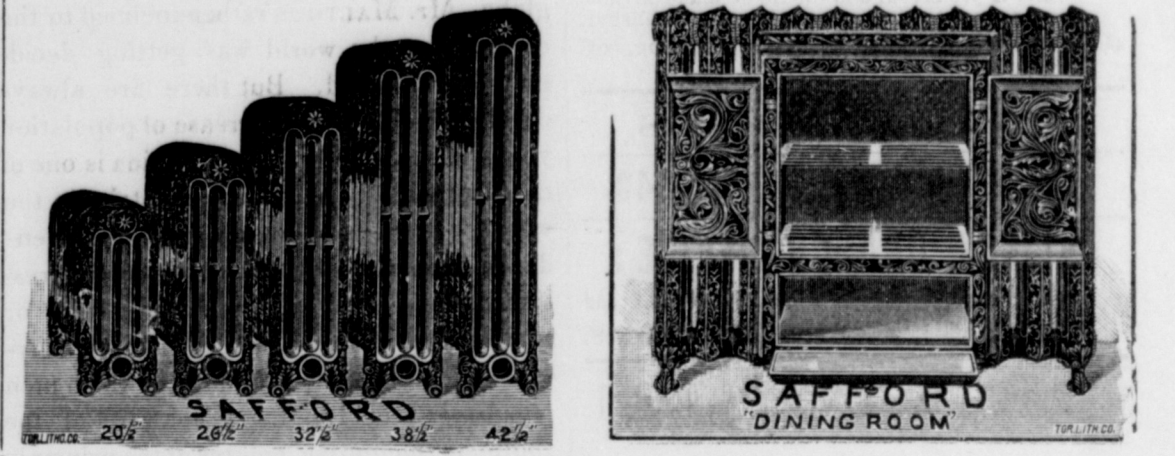
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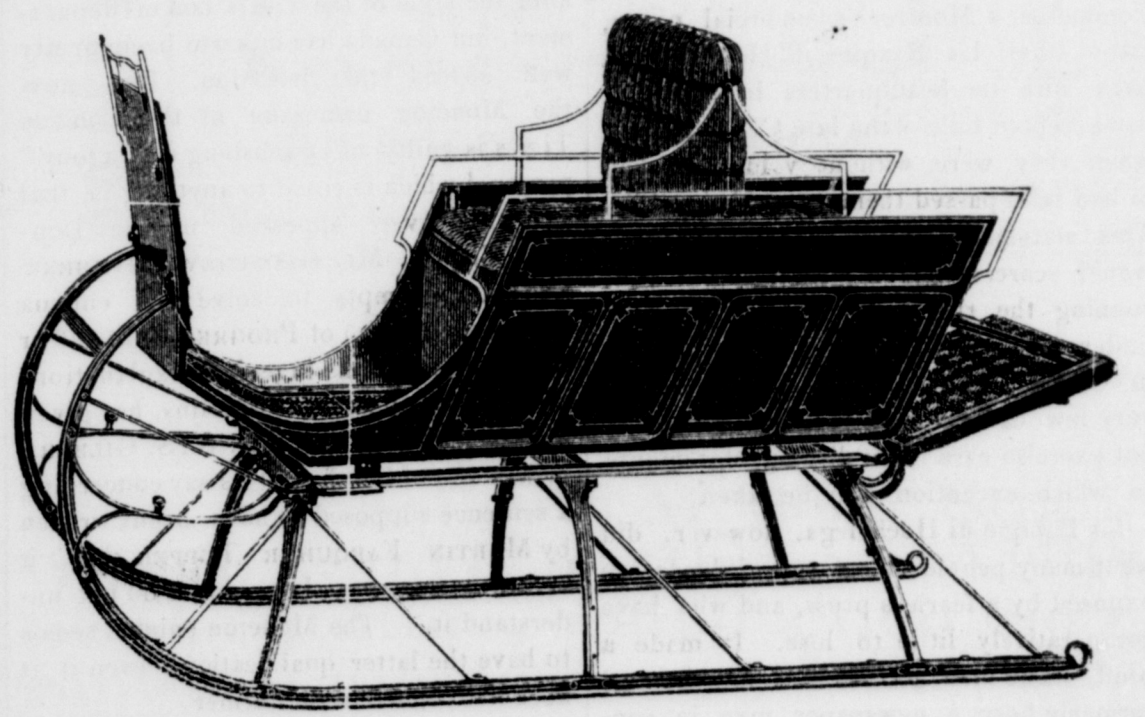
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