

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The musical event of the week was the giving of "Samson," the great work of the Master Handel, by the St. John Oratorio society in the Brussels street baptist church last Tuesday evening. Assuming, and not without sufficient foundation for so doing, that many readers of PROGRESS will be desirous of learning what this department of the paper may have to say on the subject, a more lengthened notice than originally intended has been decided upon.

The production of the oratorio on the whole was a pronounced success when one considers that there were no professional singers except, perhaps, the organist, and that the merits or demerits of such productions should, as a measure of justice, be regarded from the standpoint from which they are given. Of course, no such thing as perfect work can be claimed for the production referred to, but all things considered, it was such as to be clearly a matter of congratulation.

There was a difficulty attending the work during the evening, which perhaps few of the patrons observed and that was the very imperfect lighting of the platform. In view of which, it was a matter of no little surprise to me that the voices in the chorus did their work at all satisfactorily. In fact I was forced to the belief that numbers of the chorus must have literally memorised their scores. In order to a just estimate it should also be borne in mind that both the young ladies who sang the soprano roles had never previously undertaken any such heavy responsibility, one of them—Miss Skinner—I believe then making her first important appearance as a soloist. The nervousness that always attends one at such a moment, was noticeably present, in the earlier part of the evening, in respect to these young ladies, rendered their work in the third part their best. Everyone who knows "Samson" will admit its difficulty and the necessity of dramatic force in interpretation as a condition tending to perfection and therefore the work of these young ladies, Miss Skinner and Miss Pidgeon, fairly entitles them to complimentary reference for the creditable manner in which they acquitted themselves. Miss Hea sang the alto solos so as to delight her many friends, but she was obliged to encounter a rather loud organ along with the not easy score of her part, and to my mind, therefore, she did not appear at her best. The Rev. J. M. Davenport had an extremely trying and difficult part, as "Samson" and, though suffering as I have learned from throat trouble, sang well such notes as were within easy compass of his voice, again demonstrating his familiarity with and his excellence in all respects as an interpreter of oratorio music. Some, in fact, all of the other soloists might advantageously follow the example set by this gentleman's method. Mr. G. S. Mayer's powerful voice commended his work to general admiration and its robust quality was not ill adapted to some of his work especially in the music written for Harapha the challenger. It occurred to me that this gentleman took liberties with the score in respect of substituting a note for one the score supplied. All the excellence of solo work, however, would be comparatively to no purpose if there was not a good chorus.

The Chorus, as I have already intimated surprised me. They sang with a confidence and verve that was inspiring and saving a few instances when they escaped what could easily resolve itself into disaster, pleased every listener. They were well balanced the weakness, such as it was, being in the alto part. The society in future when producing such an Oratorio as "Samson" should see to it that an orchestra in point of numbers adequate for the purpose should be secured. While I do not desire to detract from the work of the orchestra last Tuesday evening, it was evidently light for the work placed upon it.

"Samson" therefore as the work of amateurs, I think may fairly be designated a success. There were, it is true, a number of rough spots noticeable, but on the whole the society has good cause for congratulation on the outcome of the undertaking and Mr. Fisher, the conductor, of the society, has every reason for satisfaction in the way the chorus responded to his baton and indicated that his labors with them since the work was taken up for rehearsal, were not in vain.

A word of commendation is also justly due to the painstaking secretary of the society—Mr. Pickett—upon who devolved a great deal of hard work which contributed so materially to the comfort of all the patrons of the society and make the occasion so pleasurable.

The operetta in St. Peters Hall last Monday evening contributed very much to the enjoyment of a large audience assembled to hear it that evening.

The Schubert quartette, with the exception of Mr. Wigmore, sang in Germain street baptist church last Sunday. Mr. Wigmore's place was abundantly filled by Mr. G. W. Parker. The quartette will sing in the same church tomorrow.

Tones and Under-tones.
Paderewski, at present is giving all his time to composing.
Doutzetti, the Italian composer, was in

sane for a time and was shut up in a lunatic asylum.

Brain disease caused Mozart's death. He had morbid delusions, attacks of faintness and convulsions.

Della Fox is coming to the Hollis theatre Boston with "The Little Trooper" very soon. The opera is new to Boston.

Madame Calve begins an engagement in Madrid this evening. She intends going to Russia before returning to America.

Eleanor Mayo as "Princess Bonnie" has become a great favorite with the lovers of that opera, because of her fine soprano voice and personal charms.

A new opera was tried at Springfield, Mass., last Wednesday evening. It is called "The Dustrials." I have not yet heard of its success or failure.

DeKoven's latest, "Rob Roy," is occupying the boards at one of the New York theatres and the work of Juliet Cordon is very highly complimented in the press of that city.

Believing that the Bostonians as an organization had been weakened by the withdrawal of Tom Karl, Camille D'Arville and others from the singer's ranks, manager Hayman has quit.

The Handel and Haydn society of Boston will begin its 80th season on the evening of Sunday 23rd Dec. with "The Messiah." It will be repeated evening of 25th inst., with an entire change of soloists.

Every seat in Albert hall, London, Eng., was occupied when Patti appeared in concert there week before last. It will be her only appearance this season. The Diva was dressed in mourning and looked charming.

"Madeleine, or the Magic Kiss" the opera which was first produced and made such a remarkable hit in Boston with Camille D'Arville in the leading role, recently played to wretched business in Montreal.

"Mignon," was sung at the Metropolitan opera house, New York, Monday evening last with Mira Heller as the heroine. "Faust" with Melba as Marguerite, Scaldi and the de Reske brothers in the cast was sung on Wednesday evening.

The Boston symphony orchestra gave the following programme in Music hall last evening in memory of Rubenstein: Funeral march from Beethoven's heroic symphony. Rubenstein's ocean symphony, entire, and concerto in D minor; Mr. Ernst Lent of Washington, pianist.

The new violin concerto attributed to Haydn, which was performed for the first time in public at the Crystal Palace, by Herr Popper, recently was scored by himself last summer. The solo part was presented to him by a rich amateur while he was cellist in the Vienna Opera orchestra twenty-five years ago, but neither the score nor the parts could be discovered.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Quite recently I took occasion to mention the fact that the management of the Opera House had neglected or failed to supply entertainment at their house for Thanksgiving day. While no one accuses or attempts to accuse this management of any neglect of their own interests yet it is not unreasonable to expect that the citizens and their wishes and their entertainment should receive some consideration. Particularly reasonable is this when one recalls the efforts made from time to time to interest the citizens as stockholders and, as a matter of fact, that it is due to investment by the people generally that this place of entertainment has an existence at all. I might have used the word "generosity" instead of investment because I do not think any individual who purchased stock ever for a moment expected to receive any dividend. Be that as it may; while contemplating this instance of indifference to the public as indicated in respect to Thanksgiving day, it is not a little amusing to read the almost childish whine that one sometimes reads in the daily press it an engagement of any star or company at that house fails to produce the extent of business anticipated by the management, and almost assert that the people are ungrateful in failing to support the enterprise of the directors in securing such and such attractions. The public understands pretty thoroughly by this time that companies come to this city as a matter of speculation, that they "are out for money," that if they did not consider there "was money in it" they would not come here and no effort of the directors could otherwise induce them to come. The directors, as such, are after money also, they therefore do not give guarantees, and it matters not particularly, what terms they accord—because in the absence of guarantee there is only a glaring contract—or what percentage they play a company on, there is little probability of loss to the house. It is therefore worse than useless to keep up this pretence of special enterprise longer. It is not due to any skill upon the part of the directors or anyone of them, that any dramatic or operatic company plays this city. Does any one who ever heard of Charles Frohman to suppose that he would bring "Charley's Aunt" down here, or any other play, just for the

purpose of enabling our people to spend a few pleasant evenings? Oh! no, indeed. There is no longer reason to say we brought Mr. — or Madame — here—the very best of their kind—and you did not patronize them. You are ungrateful to us. We secured them, you either do not want good productions or you do not understand them. The theatre-going public have rights which they themselves respect, one of these rights is the privilege of going to or staying away from the theatre. In this connection I hope we will not be told that the company playing at the opera house next week is the original company.

A favorite in the past and a favorite in the present, among lovers of the drama, is H. Price Webber, who comes to this city and who will give two performances at the opera house on Christmas and New Year's day. Miss Edwina Grey is the leading lady of the company this year as usual. This lady is quite as strong a favorite here even as Mr. Webber and that is substantial tribute to her popularity. Manager Webber, or "Price," as his friends know him, is a veritable hustler. He always has a warm corner in his heart for this city in which he passed some years of his life, and during his visits to St. John he has won the confidence and respect of the public as a manager, because he gives the public just exactly what he advertises to give them. He will be greeted with crowded houses when he plays here again.

"In Old Kentucky" is now in its eighth week at the Boston theatre.

Lotta recently celebrated the 47th anniversary of her birth. She is in Europe.

Salvini the younger will attempt "Hamlet" at Louisville, Ky., on 16th February.

Ellen Terry is under treatment for congestion of the vocal chords and is off the stage.

The death is announced of Victoria Vokes, the last of the celebrated Vokes family.

Marie Burress has been obliged to resign from James O'Neill's (Monte Cristo) company through illness.

The 100th performance of "The New Woman" took place at the London comedy theatre week before last.

The amount realized from the performances of Sardou's play "Madame Sans Gene" up to date is \$400,000.

"The District Attorney," will be produced at the American theatre, New York, on Dec. 21, by T. Henry French.

Upwards of 200 people will be employed in the forthcoming production of the melodrama "Humanity" in Boston.

The run of "Captain Paul" at the new Castle Square theatre, Boston, will terminate, for the present, on the 22nd inst.

Miss Marie Burroughs of "The Profligate" company, is a great social favorite in Boston. She says she "hates the stage."

Roland Reed in "The Politician" is filling the Boston museum theatre nightly. The play is "a dashing four act comedy farce, full of fun."

Vernona Jarbeau and Fay Templeton have decided to star jointly next season. They will be at the head of a large burlesque company.

Kate Claxton's new play "My Lady Reckless" is an adaptation of "Aurora Floyd" by Arthur Forrester. The plot of the story is followed closely.

Mr. P. A. Nannery has returned to San Francisco after spending seven enjoyable weeks at Hawaii, the Paradise of the Pacific. His many friends in St. John will be pleased to know that he is again enjoying robust health.

Miss Grace Palotta who plays the role of the French maid in "A Gaiety Girl," is an equestrian of great ability, and has distinguished herself by riding one or two of the bucking ponies that are features of Buffalo Bill's "Wild West."

C. W. Coudock and Miss Bebe Vining, two favorites in this city, are in the cast of the new play "Humanity" which is now in active rehearsal for early production at the Bowdoin square theatre Boston. The author of the play is Sutton Vane.

"Leah, The Forsaken," will shortly be played in Boston under the direction of Miss Rachel Noah, who, with Miss Miriam O'Leary Collins, will be in the cast. Miss Noah was one of the special St. John favorites during the days of Laneragan's lyceum.

A writer in a Boston paper dealing with "A Gaiety Girl" the play(?) recently produced in that city to the delight of "the very old and the very young" says: "It is a flimsy and tenuous farce into the territorial emptiness of which a comic opera chorus has emigrated and taken up a nomadic existence."

"The Profligate" by Pinero was first played in Boston last week. It is said to be of patriarchal dignity and importance because it marks an epoch as having opened the ball at which "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray," "Sowing the Wind" and other low necked and out spoken pieces have since been so generally adm red."

Miss Isadore Rush, who plays the role of a "20th century woman" in "The Politician," dresses in a mannish manner and affects a mannish swagger in walk and action which is delightful in that it is not overdone or developed to the total obliteration

tion of the graceful femininity which is so charming in her. She doesn't wear trousers. Mrs. Langtry (Jersey Lily) has been playing at the Park theatre, Boston, in "Esther Sandraz," a new play by Sidney Grundy. Of her work a Boston critic says: "She has not improved as an actress since last seen here." Few go to see the woman. She never arouses any emotion in the audience. "One is inclined to laugh at her most passionate moments and smile when she attempts pathos."

FAME TRAVELS.

The Merits of a Popular Canadian Remedy Become Known Afar Off—An Important Admission About Austrian and German Doctors.

The following excerpt is from the Toronto Empire of November 20.—Dr. L. A. Smith & Co., showed the Empire yesterday a letter from a dealer in Wietzno, Austria, ordering a quantity of Dodd's Kidney Pills. As these pills are not advertised outside of Canada and the United States, the demand in foreign countries must be due certainly to the merits of the preparation. The communication also stated that the medical profession in Austria and Germany were prescribing Dodd's Kidney Pills for all kidney disorders, including Bright's disease and diabetes, with remarkable success. Canada has a right to feel proud of furnishing a remedy that has not only a reputation over this continent, but sets all Europe talking. The address given for shipment of the above order was: Josh Hughson, Wietzno, Post Rone, bei Dukia Galizien, Austria.

Bound by Habit.

Mrs. Cawker—Don't you think it is very strange that Mrs. Stivets hasn't returned my call yet?
Mr. Cawker—Not at all. It is merely the result of force of habit.
Mrs. Cawker—How is that?
Mr. Cawker—She was a telephone girl before her marriage.

I was cured of rheumatic gout by MINARD'S LINIMENT. ANDREW KING, Halifax.
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