

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Last week the Conversazione at Mechanic's Institute by the pupils of the Conservatory of Music filled the hall to overflowing, and was a delight to all the friends who were present.

The concert given by Herr Bernhard Walther, Mme. Walther, Mr. Dodwell and Miss Bertha Harvey on the 1st inst. at Mechanic's Institute presented more ambitious and more matured talent, as one might say. Mr. Walther is a solo violinist of quite good quality. He has good tone, and in many respects his work bears much resemblance to that of his brother, Mr. Carl Walther, who, as a violinist, is well known and prominent.

Mme. Walther, a lady of attractive appearance, sang her selections very nice and her articulation was noticeable for its distinctness. This feature of solo work by the way, appears to be receiving more consideration from singers than it formerly did. Not any too soon either. Hamlet's advice to the players, "Speak the speech, I prithee, trippingly on the tongue, etc.," invariably suggests itself when one is listening to the average vocalist. Mme. Walther is a relief in this respect.

Mr. Dodwell is a baritone of much power—of much ponderosity I had almost said. The gentleman impressed me as having reached his limit of excellence—in other words it seemed to me there was no room for improvement—so was I impressed. He has a few good tones in his voice, however, although there is a nasal quality and a harshness about the others that we are not used to on our concert platforms—that is to say, by singers of any pretensions. The gentleman's composure I trust will not be seriously disturbed when I say he sings out of tune. There are several better singers in St. John than Mr. Dodwell. Miss Harvey is an excellent accompanist. She played beautifully, but her piano did not seem to be adapted for solo work. The privilege of changing the programme at this concert was freely availed of.

Mr. Durward Lely gave his first concert in St. John last Monday evening. The programme was distinctively Scottish music, as announced. On Tuesday evening the programme contained English and Irish ballads as well. Among musical people there will be, in all probability, considerable difference of opinion as to the merits of Mr. Lely as a vocalist generally and as a singer of Scotch songs particularly, but I rather think all will agree that he has enjoyed excellent training and artistic experience, and that in opera he has been and would be very successful. His present form of entertainment is on the lines of that furnished by the late Mr. Kennedy, and his treatment of some of the best known Scotch ballads has the feature of novelty at least; for instance, in "Annie Laurie," which he sings much more rapidly than we are used to hearing it sung. In my judgment he is not yet entitled to wear Kenney's laurels. Notwithstanding this the entertainments are much beyond the ordinary in point of merit and interest. He is a good actor and a good singer, and those who hear him will be abundantly compensated so far as the music goes, and will know more about the history of the words and airs of the Scottish ballads than they did before they attended his receptions.

On next Monday evening "The Ten Virgins" will be given at St. John (stone) church and as much care has been bestowed upon the preparation of the work, coupled with the well deserved reputation of the soloists, there is no room for doubt that the occasion will be one of unusual musical excellence. Mr. Ford has been indefatigable in connection with the coming production. The work is difficult but tuneful, and the singers have individually taken particular interest in making "The Ten Virgins" a pronounced success. The proceeds are for the organ fund of the church and all present will therefore avail themselves of the privilege to contribute liberally.

The concerts of the Oratorio Society on 20th and 21st insts are arousing much interest in the community. There is no doubt the efforts of the society in fostering and developing a taste for oratorio and other classical music, merit and should secure a liberal amount of public recognition which can be really manifested by liberal patronage of the concerts of the society as they are given from time to time, and by swelling the honorary membership. The society has no sectarian quality. Its aim is now and always has been to give a full musical equivalent to its patrons and the directors believe that in the coming concerts the society's record in this respect will be fully sustained.

The concert by the 62nd Battalion band at the opera house being fixed for Thursday evening precludes possibility of notice for today.

Mr. Boddis, the organist of St. Andrews church, Wolverhampton, is now in the city on a vacation, and will remain a short time here enjoying a rest. His trip is for the benefit of his health, which has been much impaired by hard work. Mr. Boddis is a brother-in-law of Mr. Wilson, organist of the Mission church in this city.

Mrs. W. S. Carter sang in Brussels

street church last Thursday evening on the occasion of Mr. F. W. Adam's readings there.

Tones and Undertones.

Eugene D'Albert has written and composed a tragic opera.

Paderewski hopes to have his Polish opera produced next May at Budapest, under the direction of Mr. Nikisch.

It is said to be likely that William Pruette will originate the title role in DeCoven & Smith's latest opera, "Rob Roy."

"The Pirates of Penzance" is on at the Tremont Theatre, Boston, this week. Jack Mason will be the major-general.

Emma Juch announces her retirement from the opera and concert stage with her coming marriage, though she may be heard in oratorio.

Miss Marion Ogden, a popular violinist, well and favorably remembered here, played at a concert in the Walnut avenue, church chapel, Boston, last week.

"Davy Jones," Miller's new opera, will be produced at the Boston museum, July 2. Mr. H. Gittus Lonsdale has been engaged for the principal baritone role.

Giuseppe Campanari, the baritone, will be heard in London this season. He has signed a three year's contract with Abbey and Grau for their metropolitan opera season.

Mrs. Emma Seiler is the scientist who discovered in the human larynx the anatomical reason why woman has a soprano voice and man a bass voice. She was born in Wurzburg and died in 1886.

A. M. Palmer and E. E. Rice are said to have bought the American rights to "The Queen of Brilliants," the comic opera by Jakobowski, composer of "Erminie." This was a great success in Vienna.

William Woolf, the operatic comedian, has made a great success of his season at the Schiller theatre, Chicago. Thus far "The Beggar Student" and "The Black Hazzar" have drawn bumper houses.

Mrs. Jennie Patrick Walker and Mr. George J. Parker sang at a concert in Boston, last evening, which was a testimonial to the family of the late John J. McClusky, who was a well-known, popular and capable musician, whose death occurred a short time ago.

Mrs. Margaret Von Hovenburg-Morrill, of Boston, was a member of the ladies' quartette, first brought to this city by Miss Hitchens. The lady was then Miss Von Hovenburg, and had a splendid voice. She sang at a concert in Boston last week, and "her superb voice has gained much in volume and finish in the past year, and her charming manners add greatly to the enjoyment of listening." She sang the difficult cavatina, "Bel Raggio," and later in the evening, Oscar Weil's "Spring Songs,"

A new thing in comic opera is called the "hop." It is introduced in "Patience," now on at the Tremont theatre, Boston. It is done by the chorus girls. It is described thus: "Twenty maidens are seen standing, apparently unconcerned at anything. Suddenly there is a flash of color, the air turns blue with the noise of material rappings of joints and limbs striking the stage, and in the twinkling of an eye the pretty things are seen prone upon the stage in all conceivable positions, as though a regiment of artillery had ruthlessly mown them down or a cyclone swept the place."

The Mendelssohn Quintet club penetrated the Northwest as far as Vancouver, B. C., in the tour from which they have just returned, and its members are a bit puzzled over the estimate put upon their work up in that distant metropolis by some casuals, whose comments upon their concert found expression as follows: "It didn't amount to much, Billy, did it?" said one, when the performance was over. "Naw," was the reply, "they didn't know any toons, it was all just playin'. There wasn't 'Daisy Bell,' nor 'Johnny Doogan,' nor anything like that." "Yer right," said the first speaker, "but that playin' made yer feel sort of quare sometimes; there wuz wunst when they wuz all aplayin' together I felt it sort of all goin' through me, like the time we took hold o' the battery over at Westminster fair; only it wuz nicer, kind of like waves of feel good movin' up and down from your head to your heels." "Yes, it was sort o' that way, and them fellers wern't much used to playin' fiddles, either, they kind o' forgot themselves two or three times and thought they was playin' banjos."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Hoyt's latest comedy is called "A Black Sheep."

Bernhardt's new play written by Sardou will be ready by July 1st.

Mrs. Rachel Cantor, the oldest living actress in America, is now visiting Boston.

"The Idler" is the play Zeffie Tilbury and Arthur Lewis will start out with next season.

"The Candidate," by Mr. Wyndham, was revived at the Criterion, London, last week.

Modjeska now says she hopes to return to the United States and play one or two seasons more.

Thomas F. Shea and Mrs. Shea are

resting in Belfast, Me. Mr. Shea will produce "The Man-o-War's-Man" next season.

A. M. Palmer has disposed of his rights in "Morocco Bound" to an English purchaser.

Langtry wants to come to America next season and an American critic says "Please don't."

There is no probability of Monnet-Sully, the great French tragedian, ever being seen in America again.

Sardou has been succeeded by Alexander Dumas as president of the society of French dramatists.

Music and Drama (San Francisco) says, "There will be three 'Sowing the Wind' companies on the road next season."

And now Mrs. James Brown-Potter and Kyrie Bellew want to produce a play founded on "Charlotte Cordray." Next?

Lotta says she will play next season and so does Maggie Mitchell. In her day Maggie Mitchell was the great "Fanchon."

Joseph Jefferson gave an informal talk on "The Stage or Dramatic Art" before the Boston art club last week. A reception followed.

Ellen Terry has become a grandmother by the birth of a child to her son, Mr. Gordon Craig. She still plays "Juliet," "Marguerite" etc.

E. S. Willard closed his tour of 85 weeks at Montreal on 2nd inst. He and his company are due to appear at the comedy theatre, London, on 16th inst.

"Shore Acres," Herne's popular play, has closed at Daly's (New York) theatre after a run of 180 consecutive performances. Next season the play will go on the road.

Kitty Cheatham, once a popular member of Augustin Daly's theatre company, has married an Englishman, and will retire from the stage. She is a southern girl by birth.

Aileen Burke, who is the plumper and darker of the twin princesses in "Utopia, limited," remains in America and will play Rosalie in "Rosedale" with Joseph Haworth next season.

Wilson Barrett will add three new plays to his repertory before he returns to this country next fall. These will be "The Sign of the Cross," "The Muaxenua" and "The Amende Honorable."

The wife of Stuart Robson has a mania for collecting fans. She already has about 300. The fan she uses in the second act of the "Henrietta" cost about \$750. Robson is now playing on the Pacific coast.

Charles Frohman has obtained a new society drama in three acts, by Victorien Sardou, and it will receive its initial production in New York. Fifteen days later it will be seen at the Gymnase, Paris.

"Wife for Wife," it is said will be produced next season with an effect "absolutely novel and shockingly sensational." The effect will be patented. This play was seen here last season without this new feature.

The San Francisco Music and Drama, speaking of the W. R. Daily (May Nannery) company at Honolulu says: "Their success has been phenomenal, and nothing like the business done by the organization is on record for the past twenty years."

Miss Alice Graeme, a lady well known in St. John, played an important part in a certain rouser called, "A Class-day Conspiracy" in the Boston Grand Opera House last Wednesday evening. The occasion was a testimonial to a popular young actor named Frank J. Keenan.

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