

# Musical and Dramatic.

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

There is literally nothing of interest in the musical line to mention this week, beyond reference to the very superior music supplied in the various churches last Sunday and on Christmas day; all peculiarly appropriate to the season. Reports from a number of the churches indicate that the music was rendered in a manner quite in keeping with its excellence. Apropos of the church music the response to the request for the programmes of music in the different churches was larger than in previous seasons, though as it was not intended to omit any church, one might fairly conclude that the labor of a courteous response to a courteously proffered request of this character was too great for some of the organists. I trust in future their physical strength will be so improved during the interim that, when they are next called upon in this way, they will be equal to the effort required. However the present is the season of "Peace, good will to men" and I entertain no feeling of an adverse nature on account of what may be mildly designated their remissness.

The present is the last issue of PROGRESS for the year 1894. Ere it is again issued all trace of this goodly year will have passed from our ken. While it is yet with us however, I desire to say to all its readers for whom this department may have had any interest, that in the discharge of my duty I have honestly endeavored to view, from a just standpoint, all musical matters that have come under my notice, and so treat them. I have endeavored also to be fair to all and to keep out of the criticisms all harshness and acerbity. The amateur, I treated of as such, and, where there were indications of merit I have always preferred a word of encouragement. Some there are, no doubt, who may have felt aggrieved at times. It so—while I fully realize that all cannot be pleased—I may say that while duty is the first consideration it has been my desire to discharge that duty in a spirit of fairness and justice. If, in observing this line of conduct, I have made no new friends for myself I earnestly trust I have made no enemies. However, be that as it may, I now extend to all alike my sincere wishes for a happy New Year.

### Tones and Undertones.

Beethoven was renowned as a pianist at the age of 11 years.

Patti sang before the Queen at Windsor Castle quite recently.

Rubenstein received an ovation in concert when he was but eight years old.

The Bostonians will resume their tour on January 14th next at Pittsburg, Pa.

Mendelssohn had composed several symphonies and operas when he was eleven years of age.

"Pagliacci" (Leoncavallo's opera) will be given in twenty-three French theatres during the winter.

Madame Materna, who is singing Wagner's music in Paris, has literally carried that city by storm.

Louise Beaudet and her Opera bouffe company are giving what is called the Mexican opera "Jacinta" at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, this week.

Caesar Thomson, the famous Belgian violinist now on tour in the United States, played in concert recently in Chicago. In octave playing he is said to be "a phenomenon."

The 80th season of the Handel and Hayden society of Boston was inaugurated last Sunday evening when the "Messiah" was given in Music hall. Carl Zerrahan was conductor.

"Predator" is the title given to an opera written by Sir William Robinson, governor of West Australia. It was recently produced at Melbourne and is said to have been well received.

Of Mr. Mills the English baritone, who made his debut in Boston in the "Messiah" last Sunday evening it is said he "is recognized as one of the best exponents of oratorio in England."

A full dress rehearsal of "The Chieftain," the new opera by Burnand and Sir Arthur Sullivan and elaborated from "La Contrabandista" produced in 1867, was heard week before last at the Savoy theatre, London.

Miss Libia Drog, who broke down on the occasion of her first appearance in opera in New York, has overcome her nervousness and proves to be a competent artist. She is credited with having an excellent voice.

Fannie Johnston is said to have an excellent part in the cast of Woolf and Ware's new opera, "Westward, Ho!" which will receive its first production on any stage at the Boston Museum on the 31st inst. The scene is laid in Wyoming.

In "The Little Trooper" Della Fox has scored another personal triumph in Boston. "In song, in dance, in the shy retirement of female apparel or in the candid revelations of the masculine habit she was equally applauded and admired."

At the Boston Symphony concert last Saturday evening Miss Gertrude Franklin was the soloist and she was accompanied by Mr. Mole with flute obligato. The scene from Handel's Cantata "L'Allegro, Il Penseroso ed il Moderato" beginning

with "Sweet bird that shun't the noise of folly" was sung with exquisite grace. A critic says "Her voice was clear as a lute at times, her trilling was sweet and her phrasing charming."

The London ballad concerts are in full swing at Queen's Hall. They have been given in St. James hall for the past 28 years. They will take place generally on Saturday afternoons. Whitney Mockridge, the Canadian tenor, has appeared in some of them.

Della Fox's opera, "The Little Trooper," is said to be made over from a four act "vaudeville operetta" by Raymond and Mars, called "Les Vingt-huit Jours de Clairette," a work which in the land of its birth permitted itself the utmost looseness of speech and action.

The new scheme for the London ballad concerts differs somewhat from its old rival. The leading vocalists are to be engaged, and in the announcements these names among others already appear—Sims Reeves, Santley, Ella Russell, Mary Davies, Antoinette Sterling, Alice Gomez, Foll and Lady Halle.

Madame Nordica is receiving unlimited encomium for her work in the role of "Elsa," at the Metropolitan recently. One writer says: "Those versed in musical lore and Wagnerian traditions declare that Mme. Nordica, taken all in all, has given us an 'Elsa' armed at every point above all rivals, past and present."

"The Huguenots" was sung at the Metropolitan opera house last Wednesday, with Nordica as Valentine, Scalchi as Urbain, and the brothers de Reszke as Ravul and Marcel, respectively. For the rest, Piancon replaced Lassalle as St. Bris, Melba sang the part of Marguerite de Valois, and Maurel that of De Nevers.

Miss Aileen Burke, who plays the part of Panilla in "Jacinta," now in Boston, began studying vocal music under Mr. Edwin Holland of the Royal academy of music, London, when she was 15 years of age. Her first appearance in Paris was at Mme. Marchesi's pupils' concert. Later Mr. D'Oyle Carte engaged her to play the part of one of the little princesses in "Utopia." She appeared in that role in the Boston engagement of the opera, and was last seen in Boston in the part of Yum-Yum in J. C. Duff's production of the "Mikado." Miss Burke is petite in figure and is the happy possessor of a wealth of raven black hair and a pair of jet black eyes.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The many friends of the popular "Price Webber" turned out en masse to welcome him and his Company on Christmas day. This welcome was the warmer and the more complimentary when the unfavorable condition of the weather is taken into account. The plays were "The Sailor's Wife" at the matinee, and "Fanchon" in the evening. I saw the evening performance and at eight o'clock standing room was only to be had. The Opera House was simply crowded.

Miss Edwina Grey as Fanchon gave a very pleasing performance of her difficult role and one that satisfied all but the hypercritical. The company seems to me to be much improved since they were last here. Mr. Webber is most painstaking and energetic and though as "he himself has said it," he does not profess to give performances on the standard of the swell New York companies he does claim at the same time that his company gives a good smooth performance of any and all the plays in their repertoire, without long tedious waits between acts and, the price of admission being considered, he furnishes an ample equivalent. I think Mr. Webber is literally right in this claim. He and his company put on their pieces infinitely better than a large percentage of the road companies that have given performances in this city from time to time. There may have been something inspiring in the big house on Christmas evening, but I thought the company played "Fanchon" better than I have ever known them to do it before. I believe this is due to general improvement and that it is the outcome of study of the role by each individual in the cast. Miss Edwina Grey received a most cordial greeting on her appearance and was evidently in touch with her immense audience from that moment, and, as Fanchon tells the story of her life, every one present sympathized with her deeply. This lady is a special favorite in this city. The wardrobe of the company is all new and elegant and a prosperous season attend them. The company will return to the city for New Year's Day, when they will give "East Lynne" for the matinee and "Under the Gaslight" in the evening.

The Wallace Hopper company also played to immense business at the Mechanics' Institute on Christmas day. "The Little Ferret" was the matinee piece at this theatre, and, in the evening, "The Danites" was the bill. Miss Nella Robinson the bright and clever little leading lady of this company, gave a very satisfactory interpretation of the role of Billy Piper in the evening performance. Mr. Hopper and his company are in the city for a season, of three weeks and, as the talent is being so readily added to, besides a change

of bill nightly, there ought to be satisfactory business done by them during their stay. This is quite apart from a feature connected with every performance that must be an important factor in securing liberal patronage. I refer to the giving away of a certain number of prizes at each performance. Mr. Hopper is indefatigable in his endeavors to please and so is every member of his company. The Xmas season is not generally considered a good time for theatricals but, with the industry shown by Mr. Hopper, and the earnest work of every one of his company, there is no doubt he will secure a fair proportion of business. The patronage extended to Mr. Hopper en route to this city is reported as very large and I have no doubt it is directly due to his having pleased his audiences.

Jack Mason is reported as being "in hot water" again. This time with manager Brady.

Carmencita has gone to Europe to be absent several years. She will appear at the Alhambra, London.

Wilson Barrett was the first to produce a play by Henry A. Jones the dramatist. The title of the play is "The Clerical Error."

The play entitled "The Ballad Monger" which will be given in this country by Mr. Beerbohm Tree during his forthcoming tour, is already known as "Gringoire."

Miss Isabel Irving, who succeeded Georgia Cayvan as leading lady of Daniel Frohman's Lyceum company, will create the leading role in "The Case of Rebellious Susan."

"The plays on the New York boards at present," says a writer from that city, "are tame in local and contemporaneous interest when compared with the sessions of the Lexow committee."

Legal proceedings have been commenced against Coquelin in consequence of his engaging with Sarah Bernhardt at the Porte St. Martin theatre, Paris. The complainant is Jules Claretie.

There is an Australian actor, who was no good in his prime of health, but since he has been afflicted with a good deal of pain, he has developed a rich vein of comedy, which keeps him in engagements.

Misses Elaine Ellison, Maud Odell and Johnstone Bennet, will take the parts in the "Amazons" formerly taken by Georgia Cayvan, Bessie Tyce and Miss Florence. The play is on in Boston this week.

Mrs. Keeley, the English actress, recently celebrated her nineteenth birthday. She first appeared in London in 1825 as Rosina in "Love in a Village." Her famous parts were Sanka in "Nicholas Nickleby," and Mrs. Peery-bingle.

Miss Florence Leclercq, who is a member of Mrs. Langtry's company this season, is the niece of the late Carlotta Leclercq, a once distinguished actress and well remembered in this city, as having played engagements in the Academy of Music here "before the fire." She was as popular as she was clever.

Henry Arthur Jones is the author of "The Case of Rebellious Susan" which is in rehearsal for an early production at the Lyceum theatre, New York. It has taken fourteen years for Mr. Jones to scale the ladder of fame, just the same time it took Mr. Pinero to do it. His income is now said to be as great, if not greater than that of any actor-manager or manager, the world over.

Dealing with the work of Mrs. Langtry, a Chicago critic in the Herald of recent date says of it: "Returning after an absence of four years this engaging Diana demonstrates very clearly that she has mellowed not into a great actress to be sure, but into a good one, capable of interesting an audience without any appeal to vulgar curiosity or to the appetite for mere sensationalism."

Miss Olga Nethersole, the English actress, who recently began her first tour of America in Boston, and whose work was criticized somewhat unfavorably, is playing in Toronto this week. She is giving "Camille." The critics say "she has everything in her favor, face, figure and voice are alike captivating. She somewhat resembles Jane Hading, who is one of the most beautiful women on the French stage. She is accomplished in the technicalities of her art and her voice is vibrant, strong, sympathetic and perfectly modulated."

### MEDICAL MEN.

Are Interested in the Discovery of a Remedy for Bright's Disease.

MONTREAL, Dec. 21.—The subject of kidney disorders and diseases is one receiving special attention from the medical profession just now, probably owing to the fact that a disease of these organs caused the death of Russia's Czar. Among other points attractive to the profession is the case of Dr. McCormick, of Richmond, Que., a practitioner well known throughout Quebec and Ontario. He has lately published a letter announcing that he was cured of Bright's disease by Doid's Kidney Pills. This case has a peculiar interest for medical men, because, until these pills were offered for sale, this disease was universally considered incurable. That belief is now thoroughly exploded by the success of this remedy, to which numerous victims of the disease owe their lives and sound health.

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