

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Price Webber finished his season on New Year's night. He had bumper houses, and the praise I have heard for the performances by a great many others only strengthens my own opinion, which is, that Webber gives the best value for the money of any company that comes here.

Here is a true incident which has never yet appeared in print and which shows Webber's nature a great deal better than any words can.

When the company were playing in North Sydney, a short time ago, the play of "Jessie Brown" was performed. Webber was at the wing waiting for his cue to go on, when a gun was discharged by one of the company close to where he was standing, the powder blackening the front of his red turban, the whole charge of a loaded cartridge just passing over his head, and lodging in the plastering of the wall behind, tearing a hole as large as a man's two fists. Webber's self control never deserted him, although he was stunned by the noise of the explosion; he went on calmly with his part, and the company never knew, until the curtain went down that the gun was loaded, for he kept that knowledge to himself. He did not want the incident spoken of in the papers at the time, and probably does not now. However, I learned of this incident from one of the company, and could not forbear speaking of it, as showing the nature of the man.

One of the city dailies credited the authorship of the opera of the "Bohemian Girl" to Gilbert & Sullivan! Shades of Balte!—this, indeed, fame!

This leads to the enquiry, "What is fame?" Getting killed, and having your name spelt wrong in the newspaper—a true saying.

Tuesday's Telegraph, in speaking of the production of the "Bohemian Girl," at the opera house, said: "It is doubtful if it has been better heard by a St. John audience."

If this means that the opera was given any way near equal to what it has been, in this city, the writer of that notice did not know the opera has been sung here with Brignoli, Isabella McCulloch and Adelaide Phillip, in the principal characters, and a support worthy of them. It was also done by the Richings English opera company, the Holman opera company, the Carleton company, and coming down to the past two years by the Baker company.

I do not think Monday night's performance any improvement on any of these companies I have mentioned, and the Telegraph critic is a little astray. However, in the language of Manager McCaffrey, when speaking of the ability of the divine Patti: "Opinions differ!"

I think Miss Meredith should have been cast for the character of Arline. With all due respect to the lady who essayed the part, she was altogether too large, and her cutting of the second part of "Come with the Gipsy Bride" utterly inexcusable.

There may have been reasons for taking Miss Meredith out of the sextette from Lucia on Monday night, but the change was no improvement.

Miss Meredith and Mr. Gurville were the two people, who, by their fine performances in Fra Diavolo, saved the company from utter mediocrity, and it showed either bad management or spite to change the voices in the sextette.

Perhaps my remarks last week may have had something to do with the change, as prima donnas brook no rival near the throne.

I must say a word in favor of the tenor of the opera company. This gentleman's voice is pure, and he has full control of it; besides this he is a good actor, and knows what to do with his hands and feet. He has a fine figure and a handsome face, and these are of great advantage to him. Above all, he is modest and unassuming and does not think he owns the earth.

Local hits always take in St. John, but I question the wisdom of allowing such hits as the one in Perichole, where a dollar is given by one performer to the other and the receiver remarks: "A whole dollar! I did not know there was so much money in St. John!"

This may be allowable perhaps when the house is filled; but when the audience is as sparse as it was Saturday night, it looks as if the public had said: "There are very few dollars for this performance."

I understand the opera company are engaged for three weeks, and have contracts to that effect. Still, I saw a notice in the Moncton Transcript that they are to be there the 9th and 10th of January. If this is true, it does not look like three weeks here.

It looks as if the opera house management are going to have the company "farmed out."

I have not heard any more of the three weeks engagement for the opera company in Halifax, so I conclude that Manager Clarke has not complied with Manager McCaffrey's ultimatum: "The whole amount in advance, sir, or my company does not go!"

The Cosgrove family of Toronto, a very good musical organization, will ap-

pear in St. John soon, so I hear. From reports, I conclude they give an entertainment worthy of large patronage.

Madame Bernhardt has expressed her opinion regarding several of her fellow players. Mary Anderson she considers very beautiful and graceful, and a—good actress, but not great. Mrs. Langtry is beautiful, beautiful! "But Ellen Terry is the artist I love. Oh, she is a great, a grand artist—so graceful, so bewitching; and Mr. Irving is an artist too—more artist, however, than actor."

Mignon is one of the most touching impersonations of the faithful and guileless girl in adversity, which Goethe, the great master of song and romance, has created in the world-famed duet between the blind harpist and his companion. Cast at a tender age on the cruel streets to lead her father, on his dismal rounds, Mignon bewails her hard fate and expresses her intense longing for those who love and know her, the harper responding in sympathetic strains.

The subjoined is a literal translation of a theatrical notice of the year 1734, preserved in the Brunswick museum: "In order to secure the comfort of the public in every way, the management of the theatre have decided that the spectators in the front row should lie down on the ground, those in the second should kneel, while those in the third and fourth rows should sit and stand respectively, so that all should have an equal opportunity of seeing the actors on the stage. N. B.—The audience are absolutely forbidden to laugh during the performance of a tragedy."

The "Ireland forgeries" were forged manuscripts, the work of William Henry Ireland, who ascribed them to Shakespeare. Ireland was born in 1777, his father being a dealer in old books and manuscripts. In 1794 he produced to his father a paper purporting to be a lease signed by Shakespeare, and thereafter exhibited many other valuable relics and memoranda of the poet, a confession of faith, a love letter to Anna Hathaway, and other writings. Finally he produced a play, "Vortigern," which John Kemble and Sheridan were persuaded to perform at Drury Lane. It was a complete failure. Then Edward Malone began to investigate the relics scientifically, and speedily discovered their fraudulent character. Ireland confessed in 1796, and in 1805 edited his "Confessions" with great glee. The completeness of the disclosure drove him out of his home and his profession, and he became a bookseller's hack writer, dying in great poverty in 1855.

Tones and Undertones.

An ordinary piano contains a mile of wire string.

Zither playing is quite popular in the Boston smart set. The music of the instrument is so delicate it is much better suited to the parlor than the concert hall, and as it is not difficult to master the art of playing on it acceptably, at least, its popularity is not surprising.

The Baroness de Wartegg (Minnie Hauk) lives with her husband in Wagner's old house, Tribtschen, on the Lake of the Four Forest Cantons. This is the house occupied by Wagner when he was a political exile in Switzerland, and there he composed—"Siegfried."

To restore piano keys to their original color requires very careful handling. Dilute one ounce of nitric acid in ten ounces of soft water. Apply this liquid to the ivory with a brush, taking care that none of it goes on the wood to which the ivory is veneered, nor into the joint. Wash off the liquid carefully with a piece of flannel dipped in clean water.

Mascagni, when conducting, puzzles his orchestra by beating up and down, not from left to right. Interviewed on his style, Mascagni says he endeavors to give a distinctive color to all of his music. For example, he makes his peasants sing differently from his farmers. He likes to be called an innovator, but objects to be called the head of a school. School means imitation, and nothing is more injurious to art.—Musical Record.

Signor Paolo Tosti, the composer of "For Ever and for Ever," lives in London, having a house in Finchley Road. He carries about with him a little pocket-book ruled with musical lines, in which he jots down themes as they occur to him: for they are apt to get lost if not promptly secured. Each song is now worth to him about £400. Tosti smokes a number of cigars every day, and he is a clever amateur upholsterer. Some of the chair shapes which he has invented are very curious.

It is told of little Raoul Koczalski, the eight-year-old boy pianist that he has a repertoire of 1000 pieces. This is many hundred more than any one of the great master performers of piano music has ever claimed as the extent of his acquirement. If all the stories told about these musical prodigies were true, humanity might well be pardoned for giving them wide spread circulation. But in most cases they demand a large share of credulity to make them acceptable to musically intelligent people.

Prof. F. Nichols Crouch, the aged composer, presents a quaint appearance when he stands up in the orchestra to direct them during the singing of "Kathleen Mavourneen" of which he is the composer. Professor Crouch is nearly ninety years old, but he swings his gold tipped baton as easily as if he were much younger. He wears a dress suit that is old fashioned in the extreme, yet thoroughly in keeping with the venerable appearance of the man, and his bow in response to an encore is the one gentleman used sixty years ago.

Miss Nancy McIntosh, the prima donna in the new Gilbert and Sullivan opera, is a young and handsome woman. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and has to the full the qualifications of an up-to-date young lady. She is an expert horse-woman, and has on more than one occasion done her fifty miles in the saddle. She can row, and in proof thereof can show you a beautiful gold medal, the prize of a ladies' sculling match. She can shoot and fence, and play baseball and cricket. She can swim and dive, and would rather begin a day without her breakfast than forego her cold tub and dumb-bells.

AN OLD SETTLER'S STORY.

A PERTH COUNTY PIONEER'S EXPERIENCE.

A Sufferer for Nearly Twenty Years—Had Not Done a Month's Work in Ten Years—He Regains Health and Strength—His Neighbors Discuss the Remarkable Cure. (From the Listowel Banner).

Trowbridge is a pretty little village in the county of Perth. It is five miles from a railway, and gains in rural quietness a compensation for the loss of the bustle of larger towns. One of the best known residents of the village is Mr. Isaac Deleyea, who has lived there for upward of forty years, in fact ever since the "blazed" road through the woods led to the site of what was then laid out as the district metropolis. As far back as the writer's memory goes, Mr. Deleyea, has been sick nearly all the time, and unable to work, and when it was reported last spring that he was cured and claimed to be cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, the Banner kept an eye on the case, letting it run on until a few days ago to see whether the improvement would last, and then set out to investigate for ourselves. We found Mr. Deleyea looking both well and active to say the least. In reply to our enquiries as to his health he said he felt young again, and felt that he was fully cured, and was quite willing to tell his story as he had no room to doubt the efficacy of the remedy in his case. "I have been sick," said he, "for twenty years and I have not done a month's work in ten years. I became all bloated out and my legs swelled very much. From this trouble I could get no relief. The medicines I got from the doctor helped me but did not cure me. Nothing would take the swelling away and I was beginning to feel that my condition was desperate. I could hardly be about and could do no work, not even of the lightest description. A year ago I read of the wonders done by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and bought a couple of boxes. The first box and a half gave me the sensation of having my flesh prodded all over with pins, but I began to feel better and determined to keep on taking the pills. I have taken twenty-eight boxes in all, and although it seems a large number, I would willingly take twice that quantity rather than be in my old condition of almost helplessness and suffering. All the swelling has entirely disappeared and I feel a well man again, and better than I have been for a great many years." In reply to a question Mr. Deleyea said he was sixty-six years of age and had been ill for fully twenty years, and he added earnestly, "nothing else in the world but Pink Pills cured me, and I believe they will cure anyone who gives them a fair chance. Ask any of my old neighbors how sick I was, and how I have been cured. Why, I not only feel like a new man but look like one. I can do all my work that I formerly had to have hired done, and I do not feel the least fatigue. With me it is no guess work, but a case of demonstration, and everybody who knows me knows that I have been cured and by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I cannot speak too highly of them."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain in a condensed form all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are an unfailing specific for such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headache, the after effects of the grippe, palpitation of the heart, the tired feeling resulting from nervous prostration; all diseases depending upon vitiated humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppressions, irregularities and all forms of weakness. They build up the blood and restore the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. In the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of any nature.

These pills are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ontario, and Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold in boxes (never in loose form) by the dozen or hundred and the public are cautioned against numerous imitations sold in this shape) at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, and may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company from either address. The price at which these pills are sold makes a course of treatment comparatively inexpensive as compared with other remedies or medical treatment.

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SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

GRAND MANAN.

GRAND MANAN, JAN. 1.—Miss Claire Cheney, who has been attending the Morley conservatory, is spending her holidays with her parents, Captain and Mrs. Warren Cheney.

Mr. and Mrs. Lakeman, of Jonesport, is visiting friends here.

Mr. Hamilton Bancroft of this place, was married to Miss E. May Simpson at Wollaston, Mass., on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Before coming to their home here, they will visit Boston and Bangor and other cities. Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft will be at home to their friends on Wednesdays, Jan. 24th and 31st.

The teachers of St. Paul's church Sunday school entertained their scholars and friends very pleasantly on Wednesday evening. Supper was served at seven, after which music and games of various kinds were enjoyed until a late hour.

A social dance is to be given at North Head, in the public hall to-night. Music will be supplied by Prof. Randall and Mr. H. Stevenson.

Rev. W. S. Covert leaves by to-day's boat for St. John.

Mr. W. Newton goes by the same boat for St. John, where he will attend the business college.

HAMPTON.

JAN. 3.—Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Whitehead of Fredericton arrived in town on New Year's day and visited her sister, Mrs. F. E. Whippley. Mr. Whitehead returned home on Tuesday, Mrs. Whitehead remaining the guest of her sister, Mrs. N. M. Barnes, Linden Heights, where her father, Mr. Geo. Crawford, senior, is seriously ill.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Palmer and Mr. Joseph T. Knight of St. John, spent the holiday with friends here.

Mrs. Geo. Frost, Miss Mamie Frost and Miss Currie are ill with la grippe.

Mrs. F. M. Spronl, is visiting her parents in Cumberland Co., N. S.

Mr. D. J. Bruce left for his home at Campbellton, on Monday evening.

Mrs. Cecil S. March has been quite ill for the past few weeks.

Mr. A. S. White and Mr. Geo. W. Fowler of Sussex and Mr. F. A. McCully of Moncton, were in town on Tuesday, in attendance at the county court.

Mr. T. William Barnes is improving.

KINGSTON, KINGS CO.

JAN. 2.—Last evening a New Year's ball was given in Kingston hall under the management of Messrs. G. Bruce, J. Cosman, and R. Sheldrake. About forty couples were present.

At the house of Mr. Hennessey last Wednesday evening Mr. Albert McAlary and Miss C. Hennessey were united in marriage, by Rev. B. I. Wetmore. About forty guests were invited and the bride and groom received many handsome presents.

Another event of the same nature took place at Clifton where the contracting parties were Mr. H. Northrup and Miss L. Fawcett. The ceremony was performed by Mr. H. S. Wainwright.

Great Bargains in MILLINERY. CHAS. K. CAMERON & CO., 77 King St.

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THE Directors beg to announce that the old Victoria Skating Rink will be reopened for the season to subscribers just as soon as the weather will permit of making ice. The building is now undergoing extensive repairs, and after being repainted and newly furnished throughout will present an inviting and attractive appearance. One of our leading local bands will furnish music on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday afternoons. Carnivals, Hockey Matches, Skating Races, and Fancy Skating Competitions will be held during this season, and extra novelties and attractions have been arranged for, as the directors intend to spare neither trouble nor expense to retain the popularity of the old Victoria. Large sleighs will be provided every band night to convey subscribers from the rink, equipped with FUEL, starting every 5 minutes between 7.30 and 8.15 p. m.

Tickets for the season have been placed at the following low rates: MEN'S TICKETS.....\$5.00 LADIES' DO.....3.00 CHILDREN'S DO.....2.00 Family Tickets admitting two, \$7; each additional ticket \$1.

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