

# Musical and Dramatic.

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

One more week of Lent remains and already the advance signal of public musical entertainment is given in the announcement of a concert for Easter Monday evening at the Opera House. It will be given by Mrs. Porteous, who will be assisted by some of the best talent in the city. It is perhaps a measure of policy to state that one is assisted by "the best talent" of the city; it tickles the vanity of those assisting and it pleases their friends that they are so mentioned in the newspapers, but at the same time the statement is often lamentably far from the fact, and, in the case under notice while I do not desire at all to detract from the just meed of merit that belongs to any individual, yet I have used the expression "some of the best talent" advisedly, and solely because I do not believe that all the best musical talent of this city is centred in the ladies and gentlemen who will participate in the programme referred to.

Another musical club has recently been established here and is known, among its members, as the "Thirty" club. This name is significant of the limitation of its membership. It will be seen that a small expansion of this limit would make it the "forty" club. It was perhaps as wise to draw the line where it has been placed. The fundamental object of this club is the musical advancement of its members by means of selections from the masters (vocal and instrumental) and by essays on appropriate subjects. Social enjoyment of course will always be a factor. The club meets on Friday evenings at the house of some of its members. At the last meeting held at the residence of Mr. James Harrison, a very clever and concise paper on Mendelssohn was read by Miss Emma Harrison. Solos from St. Paul and the Elijah were given by Messrs. Titus, A. M. Smith and Chip, Ritchie. For the next week the night of meeting of this club will be changed to Thursday.

The Oratorio of the Messiah or rather those portions of that work appropriate to the season were given in Trinity Church on Thursday evening. There was no orchestra. The organ accompaniment was played by Mr. R. P. Strand who is the organist of the church, with Miss Goddard as piano accompanist. I regret this production was too late in the week for special notice.

The annual meeting of the St. John Oratorio society was held last Monday evening and resulted in the choice of an excellent list of officers. Rev. R. Mathers received a well merited compliment by being elected president, having been most devoted to the society in his former capacity of vice president. Mr. J. Twining Hartt is the new secretary, and supported, as these officials will be by an energetic board of young men, an era of distinct prosperity should now open for the society.

The music in St. John's church Sunday evening was in the nature of a memorial service, in recognition of the death of Mr. Geo. F. Smith and other members of the congregation, who had died the previous week. One novel and impressive feature was Mr. Ford's arrangement of the Dead March in Saul for the Nunc Dimittis.

Herr Carl Walther says that the viola made for him by Mr. John Gibbs, of this city, is already a wonderful instrument, though it is only four weeks old. In some respects, he says, it is superior to a Stradivarius. It has more wood in it, for one thing, and will stand a higher pitch.

The Amateur minstrels are rehearsing "Pinafore," which, it is now said, will be given early in May. Some of the members have been adverse to Lenten rehearsals, but as time appears to press they have found it necessary to get to work, and they will therefore utilize Holy Week. There has been some talk of getting up the "Pirates of Penzance," but there is not now time enough to prepare for it.

## Tones and Undertones.

"Eurydice" is said to be the first opera ever sung in public in New York.

The Ariel quartette which is well known in St. John, has just finished a very successful trip through the Southern and Middle States.

"Robin Hood" is being given in good style by the Bostonians at the Broadway theatre (N. Y.). Jessie Bartlett Davis is the Allan-a-Dale in this opera.

"Princess Nicotine" a comic opera with a continuous and well sustained plot is being given as the Hollis street theatre this week by Lillian Russell and her clever company.

Mr. Aynesley Cook, senior member of the Carl Rosa company and one of the oldest English operatic artists, died of jaundice at Liverpool, Eng., on the 16th ult. He was born in 1831.

Mrs. Louis Laine Blackmore has been selected as principal soprano for the coming season of the North Avenue congregational church in Cambridge, Mass. This lady has been heard in the city.

Corinne and the Kimball opera company are at the Columbus (N. Y.) theatre with "Hendrik Hudson" this week. The "Little

Corinne" of other days has grown into a full grown actress and her dancing is a specialty with her.

"Pauline Hall and her company are giving Offenbach's, "The Princess of Trebizonde" in New York "in a go-as-they-please fashion that might well make the Frenchman turn face downward in his grave."

Liszt's "Faust" symphony with a grand chorus and with the Damrosch orchestra will be given on the 27th inst. at Music hall for the first time in twelve years. The proceeds will be for the Actor's Fund, N. Y.

Madame Materna, Schott, Fischer and other noted singers, with Damrosch's orchestra will give two performances of German opera in Boston, April 11 and 12. The operas selected are "Die Walkure" and "Gottterdammerung."

Ernest Camille Sivori died in Genoa on the 19th ult., aged 79 years. He was the favorite, if not the only pupil of Paganini and the inheritor of that musician's Stradivarius violin. His tone was said to be thin, but his execution was of a marvellous character. He is said to have been the only violinist capable of the wonderful double-stopping of his master.

"Zephra" is the title of what is called a musical spectacular opera which will be given at the Grand Opera House, Boston on the 19th inst. It is the work of R. W. Averill of Chicago. The choruses are selected from the light operas, "The Merry Milkmaids," "Trial by Jury," "Wang," "Pirates of Penzance," "The Red Hussar" and others equally bright and tuneful.

The season of Grand Opera in Boston has closed and the good people of that city can now turn their attention to other things. What a delight it must have been for those who could attend! Melba, Calve, Eames, Nordica, Arnoldson, each in her particular department perhaps unrivalled; the Reszke brothers, Franion, etc., have left an impression which will never be effaced from the memories of those who have listened to them.

The Birmingham Festival this year will be from October 2nd to 5th inclusive, under the conductorship of Dr. Richter, who will come over from Vienna expressly for that purpose. In regard to the novelties to be then produced the chief of the new work will be an Oratorio entitled "King Saul," by Dr. Hubert Passy. The general programme will include Berlioz, Te Deum, Cherubini's mass in D minor, one of Palestrina's Masses, the Elijah and Messiah, the latter conducted by the chorus-master, Mr. Stockley.

The piano made for Napoleon in 1810 has reached Boston. In shape it is a grand, with silver keys, and it has pedals, two of which work a drum and cymbals placed on the bass side of the keyboard, doubtless as a compliment to the military tastes of the emperor. The piano is in an excellent state of preservation.

Probably no man living has written the words to so many songs as Mr. Frederick Weatherly, yet he is only forty-five years old. Mr. Weatherly was born at Portishead, a little place at the mouth of the Avon, not very far from Bristol, and not long after leaving Oxford University he was called to the bar.

## TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Thomas W. Keene the tragedian will rest until after Easter at his home on Staten Island.

Charles Frohman is reported to have cleared an average of \$2,400 a week, above expenses, on his productions of "Charley's Aunt."

Sarah Bernhardt will appear at Daly's theatre London, on June 18, with a season of French plays including the latest novelties from the lady's theatre in Paris.

James O'Neill is credited with a success in his new play "The O'Neill, or the Prince of Ulster." It received its first production in San Francisco early this month.

Keith's new theatre which has been in process of construction for the past three years will be formally opened on Easter Monday 26th inst. It has cost \$600,000.

It has been decided not to send out a No. 2 "Shore Acres" company. Mr. Herne and his present support will remain at the Fifth Avenue the rest of the season, and in November next will begin a tour of the country.

"Rosedale, or the Rifle Ball," in which Lester Wallack the author of the piece played the role of Elliott Grey was first produced September 30th, 1863. It then had a run of one hundred and twenty-five performances.

The Adelphi, London, opened 3rd inst. with a new romantic play entitled "The Scales of Justice" by Mr. Sutton Vane. It is a story of life in the manufacturing districts. Miss Marion Terry plays the heroine.

"Sowing the wind" continues its success at the Empire (N. Y.) theatre. Its 100th performance will be given on 29th inst. It is said to be "picturesque in its scenic and raimental adornment and strong in its dramatic treatment."

The only new play put on in New York last week, was a farcical comedy from the French entitled "Loves' Extract." In its American form it gives the experience of a New England family in a New York house

which already has a tenant in the lively person of an actress who refuses to be dispossessed.

Signora Duse, with a company from the theatre at Genoa will take possession of Daly's (London) theatre on or about May 7th, and there is talk of a version of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" in which the great Italian actress will assume the title role.

Revolutions of old plays and change of theatre for modern productions seem to be the only variety of theatrical character in the Metropolis. Scenes from "The Contrast," said to be the first American play ever professionally acted were given last week.

A new farce in 3 acts entitled "The Little Widow" has been recently put on at the Royalty theatre, London. A critic remarks, "There is not much to be said about it, except that it presents a mild variation upon the familiar theme of marital disingenuousness without an atom of plausibility in its story." It served as a medium for the re-appearance of Miss Minnie Palmer.

Augustin Daly has been selected as the recipient of the "Laetare" medal for the year. With this medal, each year, is honored some prominent American Catholic. The distinction is coveted by all who stand eminent as laymen in the Catholic church. Only nine have received this decoration. The presentation of the jewel will be made in Chicago next June, when Mr. Daly will be in that city with his company. The president and faculty of Notre Dame have selected Mr. Daly for the honor in recognition of his efforts in favor of clean morals in dramatic literature, and for his devotion to the Catholic church.

Kate Claxton is preparing for a spring tour of the larger eastern cities, beginning March 19. She has engaged Mme Janauschek for the tour, and promises one of the finest productions of "The Two Orphans" that has been seen in years.

Theresa Vaughan, who plays the Wait in "1492" recently received a marked compliment from Madame Melba. The Australian diva witnessed the performance of "1492" at the Garden theatre the other evening and was especially enthusiastic in her appreciation of the popular Wait. At the conclusion of Miss Vaughan's singing of "Annie Rooney," Madame Melba stood up in her box, applauded most vigorously, and then having kissed a lovely bouquet of pink orchids, threw the flowers to Miss Vaughan.

Sarah Bernhart says that after playing in American theatres the Paris playhouses seem too small for her. She took away some good ideas from the states, and will soon introduce them in her own theatre in Paris. She will not charge extra for seats secured in advance, she will abolish the prompter's box, and she will dispense with the customary claque. This latter nuisance was invented by Queen Marie Antoinette to help a wretched play of her own which she compelled the Comedie Francaise to give.

## DR. PRINCE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A Few Facts About An Old St. John Boy in a Foreign Land.

The following sketch from South Africa, a natal publication gives some facts of Dr. Prince, a brother of Mr. W. L. Prince of this city. Dr. Prince studies here with Dr. Beatty and was a pupil at the Kingston Grammar school.

What Natalian fails to recognize the well-known face of Dr. Prince as he is bowled along in his little landau, with the smart European coachman (English style) on the box seat, in the streets of Durban, and who does not turn to nod in answer to the pleasant smile and courtly bow which the popular medico has for all? A sad accident quite recently robbed the sprightly gentleman of his accustomed activity; but he is none the less cheerful and cordial. He is and always has been a clubbable man, a social favorite, and a raconteur whose travelled experience has provided him with a vast fund of anecdotes and romance. The doctor was a Canadian born, and has had a strange and eventful life's history. His early training was American, and later he studied in England and in France. He served during the war in the United States and was a prisoner in the famous Libby Mill, in 1862. After leaving America, he went to South Africa, where he settled at Kimberley. There he built up the chief medical practice, being popular with "all sorts and conditions of men," and in his day there were certainly all sorts and Diamondopolis. It will be of special interest to recall just now, that in Kimberly Dr. Prince took Dr. Jamson,

the present administrator of Mashonaland, into partnership. When in England on a visit Dr. Prince—royally named himself—was summoned to attend on royalty. A fee of a thousand guineas tempted him to go to Madagascar to attend the Queen of that country, in which, as it afterwards transpired, he was destined to stay on business of another character. About this time the worthy doctor fell in with General Willoughby, the "old chap," with whom our readers are now well acquainted, and with him performed sundry services for the Hovas, for which they were rewarded with silver literally weighed out by the cartload and afterwards brought to natal. After these adventures Dr. Prince settled in Durban, where he is now a resident, and, if we may be allowed to do so phrase it, is one of the ornaments of the community as well as of the number of its most practical men and useful members. His popularity is, therefore, as established as his practice.

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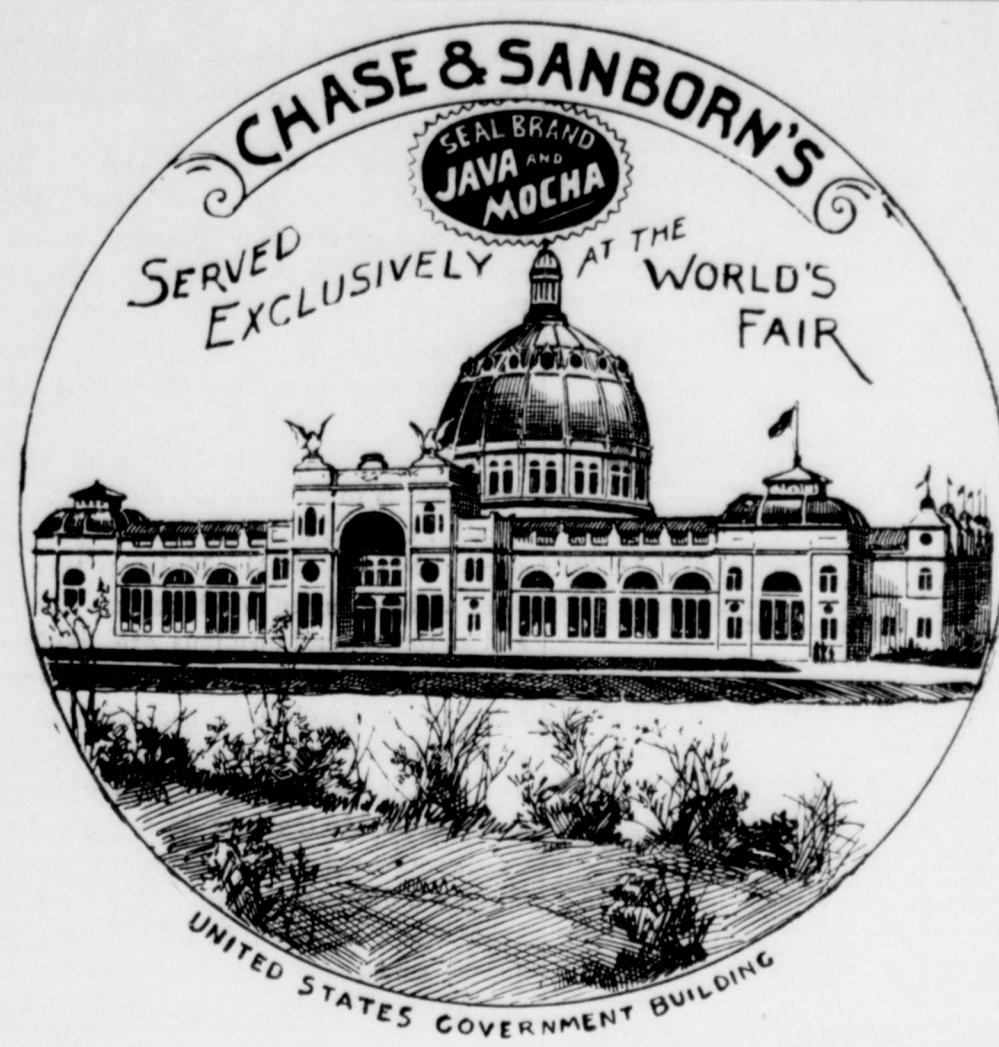
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