

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

While the absence of musical entertainment in this city at the present time may be a matter of regret there remains a certain amount of comfort in the belief that this condition is only temporary. The Lenten season in St. John, invariably suggests and is attended by a suspension of public entertainment. But, as in the spring time nature awakes from her sleep of winter and dons her vernal garb, so will our people whose souls delight in music, after the season of self-denial is over, again rejoice in concert giving and other musical occasions. Oratorical and glee and operetta will be heard in the land, to the satisfaction of the people generally who will be glad in the opportunity to patronize one and all of them. These remarks, I admit, have a somewhat provincial flavor so to speak, in view of the particular fact that beginning last Monday there opened a much anticipated season of grand opera in the almost neighboring city of Boston. The provincial flavor however is none the less the correct taste in the premises.

I have heard with much pleasure that a new musical club is being organized here under the management of a lady of excellent taste and judgment who has not heretofore permitted herself any prominence in musical circles.

The annual meeting of the St. John Oratorio Society will be held on the 12th inst. In this connection I learn that Mr. Alfred Porter, the present efficient and energetic secretary of that corporation, will not allow himself to be again nominated for that position. Whatever the reason or reasons that have caused Mr. Porter to decline re-election (this would follow re-nomination), it is a pity in view of the society's best interests that he has so decided. It must be admitted that Mr. Porter has given a great deal of time and a great deal of hard work to the society and, while everyone will not always approve his methods, yet every person who is disposed to be fair, will concede the fact that to Mr. Porter's active energy is due in no small measure, the present approved condition of the society.

"Trial by Jury" will be given in Fredericton soon after Easter under the conductorship of Herr Carl Walther. The ladies and gentlemen taking part will be Frederictonians, with the single exception of Miss Stockton, daughter of Mr. R. O. Stockton of this city. Captain Wadmore, K. R. C. L., will be stage manager.

I have heard that several of our musical folk will visit Boston during the present Grand Opera season there.

I was not present at the concert in the Stone church school room, Tuesday night, but understand it was quite a successful affair of its kind.

Tones and Undertones.

Madame Melba receives the sum of \$1200 per night for singing in Opera.

Adelina Patti celebrated her fifty first birthday at Hartford, Conn., on the 18th ult.

The Grau Opera Company was in Texas last week, and are reported doing good business.

Jean de Reszke it is claimed, has no superior among living tenors. He gets \$1,500 per night.

Paderewski says he has made money enough and will devote himself to musical composition henceforth.

Cyril Taylor, the boy soprano, who has been singing in England, will return to this continent about the middle of March.

Camille D'Arville's opera company giving "Prince Kam," or "Venus" will start on another tour through the New England States on 3rd inst.

"Brownies in Fairyland" is the title of a new operetta recently produced in the West. It is by Palmer Cox and is said to contain very pretty music.

Handel's spinet (clavichord) was advertised for sale in the London newspapers two weeks ago, the vendor being a resident of Halle-on-Salle, Germany.

Siegfried Wagner, son of Richard, made a successful debut as a conductor at the Liszt society's concert in Leipzig. He is small of stature, very thin, very blonde, very pale.

Rubinstein has often expressed his desire to retire from the profession of a pianist, but he has (it is understood at the request of the Czar) agreed to give recitals at St. Petersburg this month.

Katherine Germaine, is another most beautiful woman who failed to come to St. John as announced. She was recently singing the role of Serena in Said Pasha at the Star theatre, Philadelphia.

"Lillian Durell, the opera singer and wife of Charles F. Atkinson, of the Bowdoin Square theatre, Boston, died in the Hotel Marlborough, New York, on the 23rd ult. She was born in Boston, in 1870.

The composer of "The Ogallallas," the opera which was dropped after its first production in New York recently, is Henry Waller, the adopted son of Mrs. Scott-Siddons. He was with his mamma when she last visited this city.

The management of the Grand Opera Season recently closed in New York have reason to congratulate themselves. The

season has been a success, artistic and financial. The season lasted 13 weeks and during that time they have taken in the comfortable sum of \$550,000.

Josephine Knapp, the beautiful woman, who was so extensively advertised in our daily press, as one of the leading ladies of the Opera company, engaged for the last Christmas season here and did not materialize, is now a member of Pauline Hall's company.

The late Hans von Bulow was exceedingly vain. When fits of vanity would seize him on the stage it was his custom to have the stage hands shift the piano between the numbers, so that with each new piece a different profile of his face would be presented.

Miss Bebe Vining, favorably remembered here as an important member of the Randall opera company, was in Atlanta, Ga., recently. She is a member of "The New South" company, is popular in the Southern States and has the kindest feelings for St. John and St. John people.

"History of the Song" was the title of Mr. B. L. Shapleigh's illustrated lecture in closing his series of musical coteries in Boston, on the 21st ult. Vocal music was traced from the most primitive utterances of savage tribes through the times of Hebrew, Grecian and German history.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The English rights of "A Trip to Chinatown" have been purchased by William Terriss of Irving's Company.

Modjeska recently obtained the identical prayer book that Mary, Queen of Scots, carried on her way to the scaffold.

Mary Hampton, so well remembered here, was recently given the role in "Aristocracy" formerly played by Viola Allen.

Sadie Martinot, who denies that her right name is Sallie Martin and that her mother is a washerwoman, is engaged to support Charles Coghlan.

T. D. Frawley will be a member of "The Sleep-Walker" Co. He was recently playing his conspicuous role of Lieut. Schuyler in "The Senator."

Owing to a blizzard in Chicago, on the 12th ult., the combined attendance at all the theatres did not exceed three hundred dollars in cash sales.

Miss Maud Ellicott, the daughter of an English officer in Calcutta, will soon appear on the London stage. Miss Ellicott is distinguished in India as an actress and singer.

So great is the London success of the Augustin Daly Company's presentation of "Twelfth Night," that extra Wednesday matinees are given to accommodate the demand.

Buffalo Bill (Col. Cody) is said to be the monied man who is backing Katherine Clemmons in her venture as a star in "A Lady of Venice." The venture has caused a loss of \$60,000 already.

Wash. Melville, the comedian of Harkin's company some few years ago, in this city, and who made such an immense hit as "Bixby" in "The Golden Giant," is now in the company of which Eleanor Barry is leading lady.

Miss Maud Haslam, a beautiful girl and an excellent actress is now with "The Sleep-Walker" Company. She is well remembered here as playing in 7-20-S. at the Mechanic's Institute in Rehan's Company some years ago.

Steele Mackaye the well known dramatist died on Sunday last at Timpas, Col., while en route to San Diego, California, for his health. His wife and his physician left New York with him. Mr. Mackaye was 58 years of age.

Lewis Morrison who is becoming a heavy real estate holder on the Hudson river, recently purchased the handsome residence, stables, grounds, etc., at Irvington, adjoining the old home of Washington Irving, \$18,000 was the price paid.

"Sowing the wind" a four act play by Sydney Grundy is a great success at the Empire (N. Y.) theatre. An eminent critic says of this play "although the situations are familiar, the play is notable by reason of the fine writing it contains."

Among the few dramatic successes of the season "The Amazons" at the Lyceum theatre is one of the best. Every performance is attended by large audiences, and this generous patronage is due not a little to the fact that Miss Georgia Cayvan, leading lady of the company appears dressed as a boy, in coat and trousers, in two of the acts. Miss Bessie Tyree and Katherine Florence are similarly clothed.

Nearly every one has heard of Sarah Bernhardt, but every one does not know that the certificates of the birth and vaccination of Sarah Bernhardt, on the file at the conservatory, state that Rosina Bernhardt was born in Paris, No. 5, rue Ecole de Medicin, Oct. 22, 1844. Her mother is described as Julie Bernhardt, native of Berlin, dressmaker, aged 23, residing at No. 22 rue Michodiere. The father's name is not given.

The body of May Brookyn, leading lady of the Palmer Company and who committed suicide recently in San Francisco, is be-

ing brought east for interment. Miss Brookyn was the daughter of a clergyman in the South of England. She was about thirty-five years of age. When a mere girl she married a Captain King of the British army, with whom she lived unhappily and from whom she soon separated. She afterwards married an actor named Walter Bentley.

M. Sardou, the eminent dramatist, spends his money chiefly in building himself handsome homes. His villa at Nice is splendid. His chateau at Marly-le-Roi, built by Mansard and given by Louis XIV to his first valet de chambre, Blouin, is a palatial residence, to which the visitor arrives by the legendary Avenue of Sphinxes. These stone colossi, which keep guard over the tombs of the Pharaohs and the temples of Isis and Osiris, drew down upon Sardou bitter sarcasm from his neighbour, Alexandre Dumas, separated from him materially by a country road, but morally by a strong antipathy. The chateau is filled with antique furniture, faïences, porcelain, tapestries, and with marvels of art and industry which would require a volume to describe. As for the library, it would be easier to say what it does not contain than what it does.

Getting Paganini's Portrait.

It is often difficult for a portrait-painter to obtain a man's best or, at least his most natural, expression. On one occasion, when an artist was painting Paganini's portrait, he found the musician strangely destitute of animation, and realised that he must find some method of rousing him. He began humming the tune of a little air in one of Paganini's concertos. The musician looked up alert.

"You have been in Strasburg?" asked he.

"Never."

"Then how did you hear that air?"

"I heard you play it."

"No; if you have not been in Strasburg?"

"Yes; in London."

"That concerto I composed for my first appearance in Strasburg, and I never played it in London."

"It was the night you played an obligato accompaniment to Pasta."

"Ah, Pasta!" he exclaimed, and his beautiful eyes brightened at the remembrance of the night. He seemed to glow at the recollection of the memorable occasion when two such artists stood together and were mutually inspired by each other's excellence.

"Pasta!" he repeated. "How she sang that night!"

"Yes, and how you played!"

"Ah!" he exclaimed, with a shrug of satisfaction; "but the air you hummed? Yes, I did play it then, but only that once in London."

The painter's object was attained. Paganini's animation had been roused, and was easily maintained to the end of the sitting.

It Was Easy Enough For Him.

Mademoiselle Salle was, during the last century, the most accomplished and fascinating danseuse at the Paris Opera House. In addition to her other qualifications, she played and sang with extraordinary artistic skill and depth of expression. She once confided to Rameau, the celebrated musician, that her most ardent wish was to be able to compose, and asked him to give her a few lessons in the art.

"Nothing easier in the world," Rameau gallantly replied. He handed her a sheet of paper ruled for music, and asked her to take her valuable breastpin and prick holes in the lines wherever she thought proper.

After the lady had completed her task, Rameau took the sheet of paper, turned each puncture into a note, determined its length, selected a suitable key, and the thing was done.

This remarkable composition turned out a lively piece of dance music, which was afterwards named "Les Sauvages dans les Indes Galantes," and was for a long time very popular in France.

Richard Without His Sword.

"I will never forget the time that I saw Tom Keene play Richard III, in Macon, Ga.," said a southerner who is stopping at the Windsor. "He had come from Atlanta and had checked his baggage, which in some way had been carried on. There was no possibility of its being returned in time for the performance, and at first it was thought that his date would have to be cancelled, but the actor was finally persuaded to play without the costumes and special scenery. Butcher knives were used instead of swords, and the actors were all dressed in citizens' clothes. Roars of laughter greeted them when they first appeared on the stage, but when an explanation was made by the manager of the opera house the people took it in good humor and enjoyed it better on account of its novelty. For my part, I do not believe that I have ever seen Keene act as well as he did that night, with his citizens' clothes and butcher knife. At the closing of the performance he received a genuine ovation."

Struck Him Softly With An Axe.

Actors do not usually get into the spirit of their parts enough to forget themselves and hurt one another with edged tools, even at regular performances, and at rehearsals there is every reason why they should be careful. But an actor at the Irving Place Theatre yesterday afternoon became so intent on committing a stage murder that he forgot he had a real axe in his hands. The German company was rehearsing "The Guilty," which is to be played on Monday night. An actor named Pleill has to kill Adolph Link. A property axe is to be used for the deed, but it was not ready yesterday, and the murderer had to use a real one. As his victim knelt before him he forgot how real it was; he thought only of his part and made a savage chop, quite neglecting to miss his aim. Happily he did miss it partly, and the head of the axe fell beyond the man's shoulder, but the handle struck him heavily on the shoulder, near the neck. He was knocked down, and for a few minutes was not able to get up. He was badly bruised, but not seriously injured.

Bagpipe Music Analyzed.

"Big dies on window, 72 per cent.; cats on the midnight tiles, 11½ per cent.; voices of infant puppies, 6 per cent.; grunting of hungry pigs in the morning, 5½ per cent.; steam whistles, 3 per cent.; chant of the cricket, 2 per cent."

SHAKESPEARE NOT SO SMART.

There Are a Great Many Things He Knew Nothing About.

When we come to think of it, Shakespeare could not have known much, not even how it feels to wear a set of artificial teeth. He never even saw a lucifer match or a steel pen, and his ignorance of the art of photography was only equalled by the lack of knowledge he possessed about the typewriter. If he went to a fire it was probably only to stand in a line and pass buckets of water, the fire engine being something he was entirely unacquainted with.

He never held his ear to a telephone and listened to his wife while she read out a list of little articles she wished him to bring home; he never rode in a tramcar or in a railway train, and as for an electric railway, why, he never heard of such a thing. He never knew the feelings which a boy experiences when wearing long trousers for the first time, because he never wore such things in his life.

He never tried to ride a bicycle, never used roller skates, never saw a stove, knew nothing about such well-known things as steam ploughs and reaping machines. He never knew what it was to swallow a postage stamp by mistake while moistening it (not because he could not swallow, but because he had never seen a postage stamp), and we have yet to learn that he could tell the difference between an eighty-one-ton gun and a repeating rifle. The question is, what did he know?

When Faust Was First Produced.

Among the interesting memories evoked by the death of Gounod are some recollections given by a Paris manager of the first production of Faust in Paris. The minister of fine arts proposed to eliminate the cathedral scene, fearing that it might lead to difficulties with Rome. But the Papal Nuncio happened to be a friend of Gounod, and he was invited to the rehearsals. The prelate was blind, but he warmly praised the music, and the scene was saved. At the first few performances of the opera the audience was hostile, and the garden scene was hissed. The famous soldiers' chorus was an afterthought, suggested to Gounod at a dinner party and written by him to replace a baritone song.

Must Have Seen the "Telegraph"

"I never knew a man who was as vain over his personal appearance as Bunkins is."

"Humph; we'll soon cure him of that."

"How?"

"We'll arrange to have his picture printed in the newspapers."

Why he was Running.

In the midst of a battle Gen. Gordon saw a man running from a very close situation.

"What are you running for?" demanded the disgusted general in a stern voice.

"Golly, general," said the fleeing man, "I'm running because I can't fly."

Hearts Already Melting.

Jinks—No use laying in any more coal. We are going to have an early spring.

Mrs. Jinks—Have you noticed any signs?

Jinks—Yes; I saw a society belle politely bowing to a dry goods clerk that she flirted with last summer.

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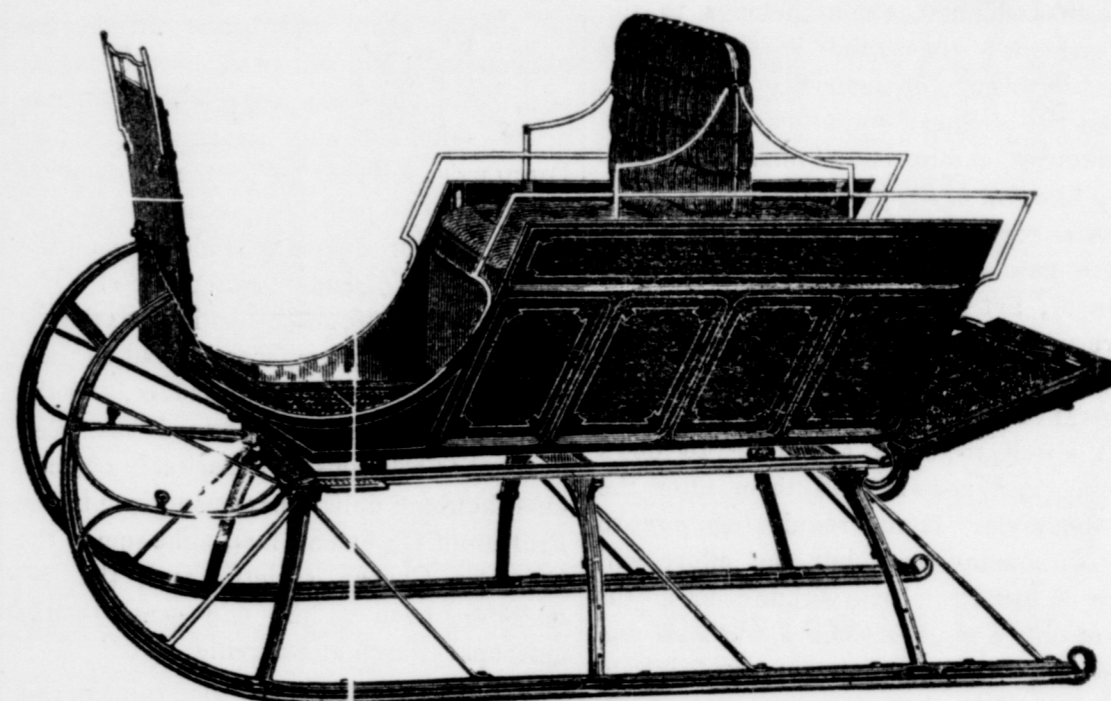
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