

# Musical and Dramatic.

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Amateur musical talent in some circles is just now somewhat busily engaged in rehearsal and in preparation for coming public appearances. The Bicycle Club Minstrels are hard at work and they are determined to make their next concert something, in excellence, quite beyond their past most ambitious effort. Every satisfaction was given to their hosts of patrons when they last appeared but it serious attention to business and hard work can do it they will beat their own record.

Another entertainment is being prepared for the early spring somewhat different from minstrelsy but such as minstrels have attempted in burlesque and such as has been given before in this city. I refer to a production of "Pinafore." Some years have elapsed since this opera was done here by quite young people, but, the "girls of the operetta," as they are musically known, and the St. Peter's junior cadets are rehearsing for a production of Pinafore to be given in Easter week. These young folks are now being tutored by Mrs. Alex. McMullin, jr., who is known to be so efficient and the opera will be given under her management.

Our sister city of Halifax has been enjoying a musical treat in the organ recital and sacred concert given in St. Paul's church in that city on the 10th inst. The organist on the occasion was Professor W. J. Hutchins, organist of the church and conductor of the Choral society, of Halifax. Mr. Hutchins was assisted by Mrs. Hagarty and Mrs. Taylor, soloists, as well as by the choir of St. Paul's and the Harmonic quartette. The work of all has been most highly commended by the critics and press of that city. It is more than probable that Professor Hutchins will be heard in this city in the near future and, as he has filled the important position, among others, of private organist to the Marquis and Marchioness of Breadalbane, Taymouth Castle, Scotland, there is little doubt our musical public will flock to hear him whenever he gives a recital here.

## Tones and Under-tones.

The Fisk Jubilee singers sang in Music hall, Boston, last Monday evening.

"Rob Roy" has been sung over a hundred times at the Herald Square (N. Y.) theatre.

Watkins Mills, the English basso, will remain in America until March in order to fulfil engagements.

William Wolfe, a basso, made a distinct hit as the Baron in the new opera "The Dragon's Daughter."

"Westward Ho!" has caught musical Boston. This is its third week at the museum in that city and its popularity continues unabated.

Lillian Russell has two new operas in preparation. One of them is by DeKoven and Smith, and the story of the other is taken from Rider Haggard's "Cleopatra."

Mrs. Jennie Patrick Walker sang the soprano solos in "The Creation" which was given at the First Baptist church, Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, last Sunday evening.

Signorina Rosina Penco, the great singer for whom Verdi wrote "Il Trovatore," died at Porretta, a bathing place near Bologna, Italy, a few days ago. She was 71 years old.

The Globe (London) Critic, speaking of the young Hoffman's ability says, "At present he lacks breadth and dignity, but in other respects he may challenge comparison with the most finished artists in Europe."

Bemberg, the composer of "Elaine" is at work on a two-act opera for Calve. The libretto is "extraordinarily modern," rumor says, and it is also whispered that Calve has invented for it "an absolutely original stage device."

Louise Beaudet's new opera "The Dragon's daughter" was given its first production on any stage at the Castle Square theatre last week. The music is vigorous and bright, it is said, and the ensembles particularly effective.

Madame Materna has announced her retirement from the Vienna opera next month, and a grand farewell performance has been arranged for her. She has acquired much wealth since 1876 when her reputation as Wagner singer was established at Bayreuth.

Eugene Riab, harper, in Munich, has invented a new kind of harp, which he claims is more beautiful in form and of more musical effect, as "there is a more intimate association of melody with accompaniment." He calls the instrument "the poetic harp."

Another important musical enterprise filed articles of incorporation in San Francisco, Cal., in the early part of December last under the title of the American Concert Company, with a capital stock of \$10,000, of which \$8,400 had been paid up. The object of the organization is to establish a magnificent concert band of 100 pieces under the leadership of Alfred Roncovieri for a series of thirty-five grand promenade concerts at the Mechanics' Pavilion, commencing March 2nd and continuing to

March 31st, inclusive. The concerts will present the best works of modern composers as well as the standard classics, and a vein of popular productions will be judiciously worked. It is proposed to present additional attractions in the way of novelties not strictly musical, making, in all, an entertainment lasting three hours. Admission, with reserved seats, will be 25 cents, and a most admirable feature is the setting aside of two evenings in the week when the proceeds will be devoted to some deserving charity, and the free admission of the pupils of the public schools Saturday afternoons.

The following is the programme for the Symphony concerts in Boston, last evening and this evening. The selections are Wagnerian:

Rienzi.....Overture  
Tannhauser.....Act II. Elizabeth's Aria  
Act III. Prelude  
The Flying Dutchman.....Overture  
Lohengrin.....Act II. Balmey Scene  
Act III. Prelude  
Die Meistersinger.....Act III. Prelude  
Rheingold.....Act I. Walthere's Praelud  
Die Walkure.....Spring Song  
Siegfried.....Waldweben  
Die Gotterdammerung.....Siegfried's  
Passage to Brunnhilde's Rock, Morn-  
ing Dawn, and Rhine Journey (Rich-  
ter arrangement).

## TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Ellen Terry's health has been fully restored.

Lillian Lawrence, who is leading lady with tragedian Thomas W. Keene, is a California girl.

W. H. Crane will produce a new play shortly, entitled "Father versus Son." It is written by Miss Martha Morton.

Henry James' new play, "Guy Dormville" was received with jeers and howls in London. The gallery called it "rotten."

Charles Macklin, author of "Love a La Mode," and other plays, was born in Ireland, May 4th, 1690, and died July 11th, 1797, aged 107 years.

W. D. Blakemore, well known in this city, is a member of T. D. Frawley's company still playing to good business at the Grand Opera House, Salt Lake City.

The famous theatre known as "The Prince of Wales" on Tottenham street, London, but commonly called the "Dust hole" will probably be reopened.

Joseph Haworth will begin an engagement at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, next Monday evening (21st inst.) during which he will make his first appearance on any stage as "Riabelieu" and in "The Bells" and "Hamlet."

The author of "Richard, the Lion-hearted" the play which Robert Downing the tragedian has been giving in San Francisco lately, is a newspaper man living in Washington. His name is A. D. Hall.

Anna Boyd, Frankie M. Raymond, Allene Cater and Irene Verona are said by San Francisco music and drama to be "the four handsomest and cleverest actresses and singers engaged in extravaganza work in this country."

C. W. Coudock, who years ago played a star engagement in the old Lyceum under the management of the late J. W. Laneragan, and who made a speciality of the character of Dunstan Kirke, is now about 80 years of age. It is said he will shortly enter the Forrest home.

Sarah Bernhardt's bed is like no other seen in France or elsewhere. It is nearly fifteen feet broad, and when the fascinating Sarah is indisposed and receives her intimate friends reposing on a couch, she looks like a red plumaged bird floating on a great sea of white satin. Sarah has room to turn in it.

Cecil Clay, the husband of Rosina Vokes, has brought out a volume with this inscription: "Some tributes to the Memory of Rosina Vokes, collected by her sorrowing husband, to commemorate a life of infinite love and patience, of rare unselfishness, industry and genius, dedicated to her friends—that is, to all that knew her!"

"Slaves of the Ring," a new play by Sydney Grundy, produced at the Garrick theatre, London, on 30th ult., is said to end "without result of any kind. It shows poverty of treatment and is altogether feeble." The play is an old one but was only produced after being rewritten. Miss Calhoun, an American actress, however, who appeared in it, is credited with a success.

Miss Florence Girard, a young actress, said to possess abundant means, was caught stealing a diamond ring in a Broadway, N. Y., jewelry store and arrested. She was filled with shame and fright when brought into the Jefferson market police court. She pleaded earnestly for dismissal, claiming she must have been out of her mind. She never did such a thing before and never would again. She was allowed to go.

Oscar Wilde's new play "An Ideal Husband" was put on at the Haymarket theatre, London, on the 6th inst. A notice of the production says "the plot must be classified as of the tawdriest character, unworthy of a playwright claiming originality. The action takes place in London, but the story is told by unreal characters who excite no sympathy. The play is distinctly feebler than "Lady Windermere's Fan" and the leading critics condemn it."

["Local Theatre Talk" will be found on 4th page.]

## AN ACTIVE LEADER GONE.

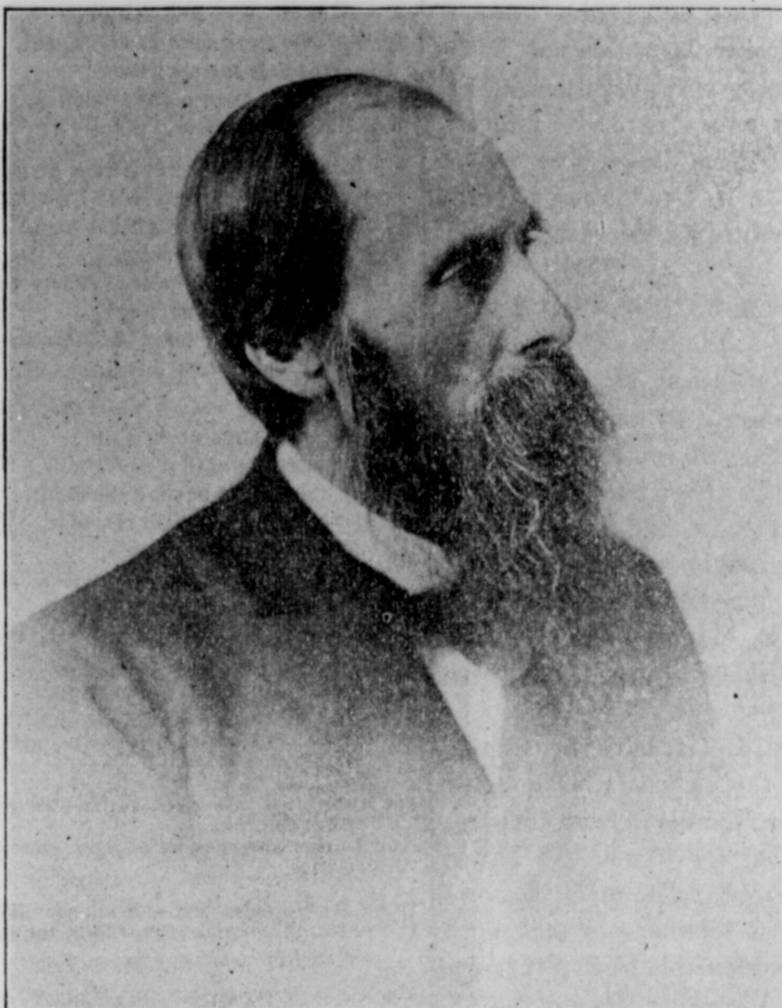
The Baptist Denomination a Great Loser in the Death of Dr. Hopper.

This week the chief protestant denomination of the maritime provinces lost a man who was described as having been its leader in the days of his greatest activity. When that veteran in the ranks of the ministry, Rev. Dr. Bill, retired to a well earned rest after his years of faithful service then Dr. Hopper stood forth as the man to take his place and for years he was a sturdy exponent of baptist principles and a leader of baptist thought in the pulpit, in the press and in educational bills.

He was a man of great versatility. He showed high talents as minister, teacher, editor and author, and was able to stand among the first in the province in all these lines. His spoken and written styles were marked by culture and refinement. He was a student, and the subtleties of his thought were clothed with the beauties of

him and his classmates. It does not take long to decide. He is started on his term's work, but one day he consults the catalogue of Madison University of New York state and the next day he is off for there with his chum, Charlie E. Harris, who by the way, studied medicine in New York, but died the same year he received his degree. At this institution he and his chum upheld the honor of Acadia well for they were chosen for parts at the commencement exercises in the spring, Harris as valedictorian and Hopper as one of the speakers. Next year the late Professor DeMille was appointed to the English chair at Acadia and Dr. Hopper returned and took his senior year then.

After leaving college the man of affairs has little time to devote to his diary and there are big gaps of many years. The entries now tell the pathetic story of many vicissitudes due to his sickness, the frequent changes of residence and occupation. And



the litterateur and the grace of the rhetorician.

But his chief characteristic was his wonderful activity, and for years it has been the remark of every one that knew him that he kept up so long and battled so successfully with that dread sickness which had its grip upon him. He was an exemplification of the strong mind that is able by pure force of will to make the weak body do its bidding. Whilst mind supported body he lived, but at length, his work ended, his last words written, the will ceased to exert itself and the indomitable spirit left its weak house.

Perhaps the thing dearest to the heart of the dead worker was the Union Baptist Seminary. With this seminary he had been identified for years. In the first period of its existence, when it was at Fredericton, he was at school there, and later he was vice-principal and then principal. Then when it was re-organized at St. John and was later removed to St. Martins he gave much of his energies to its interests, and its difficulties caused him much anxiety and worry. One of the last acts of his declining strength was the raising of a \$15,000 subscription to pay off its debts. But now the school doors are closed and with the closing of those doors closed the book of the life of Dr. Hopper. The school and he who was its watchful guardian had careers of trouble, but now they are ended.

Right up to his last days Dr. Hopper was active. During the last year, though he had much suffering to endure, he wrote three books which will live after him and preserve his memory. "Life in the Hereafter World" and "1492-1892" were able little works, bearing the impress of his scholarship and spirituality. The last time he went out of the house it was to attend the Monday morning conference of his Baptist brethren when plans were being discussed for the educational conference held at Christmas time. The last article which he wrote appeared in the Messenger and Visitor, the paper which he once so ably edited. It called upon baptists to take a deep concern in matters of state and not to hold themselves aloof from those things which concerned their country's welfare. His versatile pen could be seen in it and his principle of taking a healthy interest in the concerns of the day. And there one of his last things was an historical sketch which he wrote for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the St. Stephen baptist church, which was celebrated this month. This church is one of the many monuments to his memory that remain, for he built it and started it on its prosperous career. The writer had the privilege of looking through a small manuscript book, entitled "Res Mei", in which Dr. Hopper told of the concerns of his life. It was opened in the fall of 1859 when he entered Acadia college as a sophomore. At first it was used as a daily diary and the entries told of the student and preacher. The week days were filled with study and the Sabbaths with preaching; at the mission stations about Wolfville.

He was a man of firm convictions and ready decision, facts that are suggested strongly in one or two of the entries made in the fall of 1860. A thing happens which he does not like. A man is appointed to the English department who does not suit

at the last time comes when the poor weak hand writes with much labor the piteous chronicle of fleeing strength, yet brightened by the resigned and undaunted spirit.

## A STEALTHY FOE.

Bright's Disease may Exist a Long While before it is Suspected.

Bright's disease has no symptoms of its own, and may long exist without the knowledge of the patient or practitioner, as no pain may be felt in the kidneys or their vicinity. There may be no albumen in the water and no tube-casts, yet Bright's disease may be present. It often develops suddenly and may run a fatal course before it is recognized. Bright's disease is thus recognized as a mysterious, every day malady, which is increasing at an alarming rate. Before Dodd's kidney pills were placed within reach of the public, these diseases were considered by medical men and the public to be incurable. Thanks to this popular remedy, thousands are enjoying perfect health who, without it, would today be laid away in their graves.

## Four Generations of Royalty.

"Four generations of the House of England" is the title and subject of the illustration on the cover page of a new book issued by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., who will send a copy free of charge to any address. Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and the baby Prince Edward of Wales are represented on the cover, together with the royal arms. The interior of the book sets forth the merits of the various medicines manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

## Fine Toilet Preparations.

We try to call the attention of our readers, especially ladies to the advertisement in another column of "Complexion Purifier" manufactured and for sale at the Gervaise Graham Institute, Toronto. All the preparations manufactured or for sale at this institute are unequalled in purity, and the lady proprietors have a reputation throughout Canada for conscientious and reliable dealing. A stamp to this address will give you many particulars.



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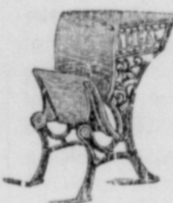
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