

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

For this week the musical events have been the concerts given by Mr. and Mrs. Durward Lely at the Mechanics Institute beginning last Monday and ending on Wednesday evening. I had opportunity to be present at the first of these concerts which offered a varied programme, the rendition of which involved a large amount of hard work. I do not think Mr. Lely's voice has improved at all during the interval of his absence from this city, nevertheless he sings well and very much better than many so called tenors. He is before the public as a singer and an interpreter of Scotch songs especially, but with all due deference to his skill as a vocalist and his judgment in respect to these songs I must take exception to the manner in which he gives some of them. Take "Annie Laurie" for example. Who is there among his audience hearing no part of the song but the last two lines would ever recognize it? He embellishes the piece with vocal gymnastics, as might be said, and in a manner wholly foreign to the idea of the composer and wholly unauthorized. The beauty of the music of this sweet old song is in its simplicity. All those sweet old ballads should be sung just as they are written. No one has any license to alter a measure in one of them. They are beautiful in their native garb, so to speak, and do not require any decorations. "Flow gently sweet Afton" at this same concert was admirable; so was "The Minstrel Boy" and "By the Fountain." They were all good, but Savourneen Dhealish "Sally in our Alley" and others have been done better—the latter by Pepper, and the former was faulty in respect to the pronunciation of the word "oggs" which he gave as it spelled "odge." In the singing of French words the carrying forward of the final vowels is the rule, but even there not when it is a final vowel in a final word and unaccented.

I do not make these remarks with any idea of offending or wounding Mr. Lely's feelings or undervaluing his talents which are of a very high order, but inasmuch as I believe the majority of his audience hold the view I have here expressed, with the hope that he will take these few hints into earnest consideration, and that doing so they will be of direct benefit to his work, which will thus become less artificial. The great success of Kennedy, the Scotch vocalist, was due to his naturalness.

Mrs Lely played her piano solos in a manner seldom excelled. Her delightful ladylike demeanour lent additional charm to her numbers in the programme, which all the accompaniments received at her just value.

The Centenary church orchestra gave a concert at Rothesay on Thursday evening. A feature of the programme was a cornet solo "The Palms" by Mr. E. J. Harrison, choir master of the Exmouth St. church.

The repairs being made to the organ of the Mission church are extensive. There is a chamber prepared especially for the instrument. A new foundation is built quite independent of the supports or walls of the church. The double floors tongued and grooved, with double tarred paper between them, rest upon three tiers of large square timbers each set in Portland cement and pinned together so as to be absolutely immovable. They are two feet below the level of the old floor so as to give room for the bellows. The chamber is double sheathed and rendered damp proof by tarred and felt papers between the sheathings. Another small chamber between the floors of the organ has also been made to receive a storage battery. This is lined with lead. The electricians will put in the electro magnets for Mr. Strand's new patent, apropos of which, it is said to be "by far the simplest adoption of electricity to organ action yet invented." A new patent pneumatic stop action of Messrs. Woodberry & Co., of Boston has been put in place. The repairs are under the superintendence of Mr. Edwin E. Smallman one of the best of men in the employ of this Boston firm.

Tones and Undertones.

A competitive prize for the best English opera has been decided in favor of a setting of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew." The composer's name is yet unknown. The prize was offered by Mme. Fanny Moody.

Helene Stoezel, is the maiden name of the widow of Vincent Wallace, the composer of "Maritana." The lady is now living in great poverty in England and she is over 80 years of age. She was in early life well known as a brilliant pianist.

"Il Trovatore" was first heard in Vienna in 1854, and it has recently been given in that city for the 300th time. No other opera, it is said, by any living composer, has obtained such recognition at the Opera House there.

Miss Laura Burnham, an American soprano and a pupil of Marchesi, has recently made a successful debut in London. "Her voice was praised for its sweetness and her execution for its clearness and brilliancy" says a recent paper.

Mrs. Katherine Fisk, the American contralto, has been engaged as one of the vo-

calists for the forthcoming Three Choirs festival to be held at Gloucester, Eng., next September. This will be the artist's first appearance at any of the festivals of the choirs of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester.

Victor Masse's "Les Noces de Jeanette" has been performed at the Paris Opera Comique for the 1000th time.

The Imperial opera in Vienna is only closed from July 1st to July 22nd in each year.

Tamagno continues to be a great favorite with opera goers in London, England.

A young American violinist, Miss Rossi Gish Garwood, will shortly go to Belgium, to become a pupil of Ysaye. This lady, for some years past, has been studying with Mr. Loebler, of the Boston Symphony orchestra.

It is said that Paderewski has nearly finished his four-act opera. The book is built on a modern subject, and the scene is located in the Carpathian mountains, on the border line of Hungary and Galicia. Sir Augustus Harris is to produce the work at Covent Garden. It will be sung in French, but at Budapest it will be given in Hungarian, and at Dresden in German.

The New York Press thus moralizes on Lillian Russell in "The Tzigane"; She is a gypsy. She tells fortunes for next door to nothing, and is glad enough to discover the secrets of the future for a sum in Russian money that does not exceed a quarter in our own. Judging by the proceedings of the first act of the opera, when she is busy at her trade, Miss Russell's income cannot amount to over a dollar a day. Yet she wears diamonds that eclipse the supplementary proceedings of Sadie Martinot. Her gowns are cut by the spiritual scissors of the late Mr. Worth. Her fingers are cared for by a manicure whose time is costly, and her coiffure is arranged by a hairdresser who is not deterred by the beauty of his client from sending in large bill. Taking her fingers, her millinery, her costume, her diamonds, her lingerie and her shoes into careful consideration we should estimate Miss Russell's material value at \$5000, which amount does not, of course, include the valuation of the lovely creature half hidden from view. Now the problem is, how a gypsy can wear \$5000 of manure, cloths and jewelry on a dollar a day. Further than this anomaly, Miss Russell has a blonde wig of great length and costliness, in spite of the fact that Tziganes from the earliest Tzigani era have been what Addison termed "black women." Reason totters on her throne at the thought of a blonde gypsy, but comic opera allows Lillian Russell to wear what she pleases, and her golden hair is hanging down her back!

Miss Ellen Beach Yaw, the soprano singer with the voice of phenomenal compass, has gone to London to study for a year with M. G. Henschel.

M. Vladimir de Pachmann, who has not played in London for several seasons, will give a series of three pianoforte recitals toward the end of the present summer.

It is said that the Sultan of Turkey has a fine tenor voice that he can use with considerable skill.

A complimentary benefit was given at the grand Opera house, Boston, last Sunday evening, to Mrs. Harriet C. Lewis who for 20 years has been leading soprano in the church of the Immaculate conception in that city. Mrs. Lewis is suffering from paralysis.

The Dramatic and Sporting News of London proves that other cities are with the Boston kickers at grand opera at times: It says it does not seem as if we could get a real—shall I say a Rialto?—performance of "Falstaff" at Covent Garden. So far the audience can form no opinion as to what the parts of Mrs. Ford, Meg, Nanetta, and Mrs. Quickly really are. Last year we had a very interior ladies' quartet, and though this time a pretty efficient Nanetta was provided in the person of Mile. Zelle de Lussan, the other three ladies—Mmes. Joran, Ravogli and Kitzu—are not a whit better than the incompetent singers of a season ago. It is absolutely useless to go into details, for the whole thing is hopelessly wrong. I have seldom seen so little managerial care bestowed on a work. How it is possible, for example, to allow that four female characters in the play should all appear with raven-black hair? And, in an English play, too! The only redeeming feature of the Covent Garden performance was the orchestra, and for this Signor Mancinelli deserves infinite credit.

She is by no means as extravagant a damsel this year, as usual, if the fashion reports are to be believed, and she depends largely upon the style and number of her muslin dresses, flowers and shirt waists, for the impression she creates in society, an appearance of freshness and daintiness is what she especially strives for, and her crepe musine box plaited blouse, and simple washing silks are invaluable aids in attaining this end.

When she starts off on her summer

campaign to the mountains, or the seaside, she no longer considers it necessary to take six saratoga trunks along. One, or at most two, will be quite sufficient, and the girl whose parents are not rich, and can only afford her a limited allowance for dress has reason to rejoice over the summer fashions which permit her to appear to equal advantage with more affluent friends.

Three blazers suits, one of fine storm serge, another of white and a third of colored duck or linen, a variety of blouses and two or three simple evening dresses, of either crepon, mull, or the summer silk which is so inexpensive, and so pretty this year and she is quiet ready to compete with the heiress, who has more gowns, but less style than she.

Madame Nansen, the wife of the famous Arctic explorer now seeking to discover the North Pole, is said to be one of the most popular ballad singers in Norway.

"Fra Diavolo" was on at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, last week, and William Wolff and Mr. Scribner were the comedians—a notice of their work as the brigands says "They made all and more of the parts than the writer intended, much of it was so overdone as to put probability out of sight." And speaking of the disrobing scene the notice further says and truly it Wolff's work in the same opera here, be any criterion. "Much is excused in an opera, but the scene in Zerlina's chamber was made so noisy, and the brigands were so bold, that she would have had to be deaf, dumb and blind not to have detected their presence."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

W. S. Harkins, the popular actor and genial man, with his selected Dramatic Company, opens a three weeks season in this city next Monday evening. Mr. Harkins' popularity in this city is due not only to his personal qualities but to the fact that he always endeavors to bring with him actors and actresses, in every respect capable and competent to produce in a superior manner any and all plays in his season's repertoire. These plays too are usually among the best and latest successes of the United States. His desire is always to keep his word with our people and retain their favor and esteem. His record has been made honorable in the past and he tries always to keep up to his present standard. If at times the productions do not receive the patronage he and his friends anticipate, the fault, if any, can scarcely be called his and it is but what probably any manager might experience. The list of this season's company contain several names well-known and well-liked in this city and some not yet so well known; but I for one am willing to believe them capable also because of their professional associates. Of their work it will be possible to judge later. Messrs. Wise, Whitecar, Courtleigh, Brennan, of the gentleman, and Misses Radcliffe, and Myrdern of the ladies will each be welcomed. The play selected for the opening performance on Monday evening is "The Lost Paradise." It is not known here but has been very successful in the States. There is little doubt Mr. Harkins and his company will receive a right warm welcome.

Miss Annie Eva Fay, who has been delighting and mystifying large numbers of the citizens this week, does not appear to have the monopoly of the "White Mahatma" business. It is noticed that a Prof. and Mrs. Baldwin have been giving similar entertainment in Boston all last week at the Bowdoin Square theatre. Prof. Baldwin claims to have "baffled even the wonder workers of the far East with his dexterity and skill to such an extent that he has been hailed as "The great White Mahatma." Of Mrs. Baldwin, among other things it says "she looks into the brains of her audience and tells their innermost thoughts without a clue of any kind for a beginning. She answers questions that have never left their minds, and then repeats the query accurately."

N. S. Hart, who has been Rhea's leading man for the past three seasons, has been engaged as leading man for Modjeska next season. It was once reported that Mme. Rhea had married Mr. Hart. It is announced that Daniel Bandmann will return to the stage. A recent Boston paper says "This news will shock many people."

Julia Arthur is residing at 2 Luke street, Portland Place, London, awaiting her rehearsals with the Irving company for her visit with them to America. Luke street is not without its theatrical associations, for it was there that Richard Cumberland lived after his marriage.

Seventeen years ago last Saturday (8th inst.) Irving first played Vanderdecken in the Lyceum version of "The Flying Dutchman," but the success of the play was not sufficient to keep it in the Lyceum repertoire. It has never been revived since.

Little Alice Pierce with Hoyts "A Black Sheep," is earning much favor by giving clever imitations of Duse, Irving, Davenport as Gismonda, and others. She is the daughter of May Pierce, who will be remembered as a member of one of Lytell's companies of a few years ago.

It seems that Olga Nethersole refused to see Mrs. Patrick Campbell play Agnes Ebb-smith. Her reason is obvious enough,

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for the fear of imitating, unconsciously another actress, is gall and wormwood to most players of the gentler sex, but the result appears to be disastrous. Miss Nethersole's work, in this role was a great success, and in the character many London critics consider her superior to Mrs. Campbell. This, however, is somewhat improbable.

This is a verbatim copy of a playbill distributed in a San Francisco theatre not long ago: "Hamlet," a play by William Shakespeare; revised and re-written by Abram Abrams, Esq."

Julia Marlowe and her husband will begin their next season on Sept. 2nd in Milwaukee and for the first time will there present "Henry IV."

Lotta is credited with the remark that she "is the only prominent professional that has retired without a farewell engagement."

Stuart Robson has a new play entitled "Underground." It is said to be on business lines.

Victorien Sardou, when staging one of his plays, has an eagle's eye for details. At a recent dress rehearsal in Paris, he stopped a scene and compelled an actor to leave the stage until a frayed button on his coat was replaced by a new one.

The great production of "the Rivals" in which Joe Jefferson appeared, and which was given for the complimentary benefit tendered to the veteran actor C. W. Coudock, was a pronounced success in every way. After the comedy, Mr. Coudock came forward and spoke. He thanked everybody concerned in the affair—the people who had paid over \$6,000 to be present, Mr. Miner for giving the use of the theatre, Mr. Brooks for the adroit management of the enterprise, the newspapers for their courtesies, and the actors for their services. The old man's voice broke into a sob once, and tears trickled freely down the hearer's faces. Mr. Jefferson made a few remarks, too. The audience was a composite of New Yorkers, no one sort being dominant. The dramatic profession was numerously represented, and so was the fashion of the town, but all kinds of men and women able to pay the prices of admission were there. It was a widely representative gathering.

HAD THE DROP ON HIM.

The Story of a Judge Who Wanted to Preserve Order in His Court.

The Judge of a Western court, in order to secure a safer and more civilized condition of affairs in the court room, asked the twelve jurymen and the ten attorneys present to place their pistols in a pile in the corner of the room, but there seemed to be some hesitancy in complying with the request, and the Judge insisted.

"If your Honor will put his down first," suggested the foreman of the jury, "I guess the balance of us will follow suit." "Certainly, gentles," replied his Honor, and laid his gun down in the corner.

In a few minutes the others had done the same, excepting the Sheriff and his deputy, who were not included, and twenty-three pistols were reposing peacefully on the floor.

"Now, gentles," said his Honor, suddenly whipping out a gun, "the first man that goes near that pile gets it in the neck."

In an instant every man's hand went to his other hip pocket, and as his Honor dived behind the desk twenty-two bullets went through the window back of where he had been sitting, and twenty-two men were waiting for him to stick his head up, but he did nothing so rash.

"Put up them guns," he yelled; "put up them guns, or I'll fine every d— one of you for contempt of court."

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Pronunciation of Names of Places.

The ordinance passed by the Joliet City Council defining the pronunciation of the town's name has plunged the western press into a sea of orthopedical discussion and controversy. Perhaps the east will be the gainer if the discussion ends by fixing a definite orthoepy for the names St. Louis, Louisville, New Orleans, Cairo, Missouri, Terre Haute, etc., which at present are stumbling-blocks for easterners. Should we say Saint Louis or Sent Lewy, Louisville or Lewyville, New Orleans or New Orleans, Kiro or Cayro, Mizouourah or Mizouore, Shecawgo or Shecago, Ferry Hut or Terry Hut, I-ouah or Ioh-uh? Usage is so divided in these towns and States themselves that nonresidents are very much at sea.—New York Tribune.

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