

# Musical and Dramatic.

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Oratorio Society is doing good work at the rehearsals under the baton of Mr. Ford. Selected parts of the "Messiah" are being worked upon with a view to a public appearance of the society at a comparatively early date. The idea of public concert by the Oratorio—or oratorio magnitude—at fixed periods is undoubtedly a good one and it is one the public expects and has a right to expect; but it seems feasible that yet more frequently; musicales could be given as well at no expense, in the rooms of the society. These little occasions could readily be popularised. They would be of good quality as a matter of course and in a financial sense would surely make a good exhibit in the aggregate.

The Gilbert Opera company after a successful engagement in Fredericton for the first three days of this week, returned to the city and began their return engagement on Thursday (Thanksgiving day).

They opened with a matinee performance at which the sprightly and very charming opera of "Olivette" was given to a large audience. Miss Balch sang the title role as she has done on its previous production by the company during their former recent visit. The other operas selected for the balance of this week were Billie Taylor on Thursday evening, Iolanthe (in which Miss Zahn appears to advantage) on Friday evening and the Pirates of Penzance for this afternoon and evening. Mr. and Miss Florence Gilbert as well as every member of the company enjoyed the trip to Fredericton.

### The Company at Fredericton.

FREDERICTON, Nov. 20.—The Gilbert Opera Company had two good audiences—for Fredericton—Monday and Tuesday, and their presentations of Billee Taylor and the Chimes of Normandy, pleased the people wonderfully. In Billee Taylor, the leading roles were taken by Miss Florence Gilbert, Miss Balch, Miss Powers and Messrs Nelson, Ranney, Edwards, Couch and Callahan. This part taken by Miss Gilbert is not as well suited to her as those in other operas in which she has appeared in St. John, but the really happy portion of her role was the song "There's Only One Girl in the World for Me." In this she is exceedingly pleasing and graceful and was enthusiastically encored.

Miss Balch was well received and did her work well. But in Serpolette in "The Chimes" she surpassed herself. Certainly she was an ideal, rollicking, pretty, ambitious and mischievous maiden. I have been told this is one of Miss Balch's happiest roles, and to suggest any improvement in her work would be a difficult task.

To return to Billie Taylor. Miss Power made much of the part of Eliza Dabry and was natural and amusing. Mr. Callahan, too, as "Ben" kept the audience in excellent humor and made a hit with "All on Account of Eliza." Mr. Dodd, in spite of his injured hand, took the roll of Captain Flapper in an admirable manner. Mr. Nelson can sing the part of Billee Taylor, but he is not at home when acting it. This applies as well to his work in "The Chimes" as Grenicheux.

Mr. Gilbert's work as "Gaspard" in "The Chimes" excited more enthusiasm than anything else during the engagement. In spite of the absence of suitable scenery, the calcium light and other properties necessary for effect, the character was admirably presented. There is no rant in Mr. Gilbert's performance, nothing superfluous or unnatural. He is equally at home in the different phases of his character,—as the old man, fearful that his retreat will be discovered or the miser gloating over his hoard, but when impersonating the ghost of the chateau and during his subsequent discovery his work is of a thrilling character.

Miss Power is painstaking in the part of Germaine and it is not her fault that it appears ridiculous to hear her called "Little Germaine," but it marks the fact that she is not well suited to the part.

Mr. Ranney as the notary, Mr. Callahan as the Bailie, and Mr. Edwards as the Marquis both did very acceptable work.

### Tones and Undertones.

"The Lily of Killarney" the opera at the Castle Garden theatre, Boston this week is a musical setting of Boucicault's drama "The Colleen Bawn."

"Carmen" is in rehearsal for production at the Castle Square theatre. Lillian Russell has been appearing in tights in Chicago and the people of that western city are enthusiastic over the circumstance. When in the east Miss Russell would not wear them.

Mrs. Jenny Lind Lewis is meeting with fine success in the West, and the Western papers are quite enthusiastic in speaking of her. A prominent Texas paper says: "She is a young and beautiful brunette, has a magnificent stage presence, and a soprano voice that carried us to Iliad fields of songbirds." The writer of that notice must have been hard hit.

The fifth rehearsal and concert of the Boston Symphony orchestra was given yesterday afternoon, November 22 at 2.30

o'clock, and this evening, November 23, at 8 o'clock. The following is the Programme:  
Overture, "Oberon" Weber.  
Monologue from "Die Goetterdämmerung" Wagner.  
Scottish Symphony Mendelssohn.  
Songs. Brahms.  
Tragic Overture. Brahms.  
Soloist, Marie Brema.

Mr. Archie Crawford, the English baritone, has been engaged to sing the solo parts in Mr. G. W. Chadwick's new cantata, "The Lily Nymph," at its production in Carnegie hall, New York, Nov. 30.

The author of a recent publication entitled "Masters of contemporary music" says that "music in Italy means opera."

"Zaire" is the name of an opera by De la Nux, recently given at Stuttgart in which Emma Eames created the role of the heroine.

A quasi musical and millinery item of not a little interest is the statement that the dresses which Madame Melba takes with her on her American concert tour cost \$20,000.

Alvarez the French tenor is to receive \$7,500 a month in 1896, from Sir Augustus Harris and the following year \$8,750.

The eighty fourth anniversary of Liszt's birth was recently celebrated in Dresden by a grand performance of his oratorio of "St. Elizabeth."

It is reported that Leoncavallo is writing the music for a piece called "The Street Singers," based on a poem by a young Viennese girl, who writes under the nom de plume of Paul Althoff.

William Furst is said to have turned out the score of one comic opera a year for the last five years. The pieces have been produced by Thomas Q. Seabrooke, Pauline Hall, Lillian Russell, and Della Fox.

Suppe's posthumous operetta, "The Model," has been given at the Carl Theater, Vienna, but did not amount to much. He had only finished the first act.

Yvette Guilbert is worth at out \$250,000; \$30,000 of this was made by a gold mine speculation, but the greater part was earned on the stage. Her nightly income from this source is said to be about \$125.

A lady visitor to Mme. Adeline Patti took with her the album of a friend for the favor of the peerless singer's autograph. The great diva, in addition to the signature, wrote across the page: "A beautiful voice is the gift of God."

A workman in the arsenal at Venice, Cocolo by name, has written the score of an opera, to aid in the production of which the newspapers of the city have opened subscription lists. It may be added that Bertolini, well known today for his "Canzoni," was also a workman in the arsenal.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Lewis Morrison opened a short season at the Opera house in "Faust" on Monday last. Miss Florence Roberts is the leading lady of the company, and of course appeared in the role of Marguerite. Mr. Morrison's Mephistopheles is a great piece of work well remembered since his former visit here, and his impersonation of the role is all it pretends to be viz. "devilish." Analytic description of his work would be useless since the result would be the description I have given it. For one who had seen him for the first time it must be considered a great play, and the opinion might be that Morrison stood superior to all others in this part. They do not perceive at first the extent of the spectacular introduced into the production. It is however very interesting. Mr. Morrison has made some changes in the play and its setting thus relieving it of some apparent inconsistencies. The engagement closed on Wednesday evening, a play entitled "Yorick's Love" purchased from the late Lawrence Barrett, being given at the Wednesday matinee.

Arthur Lewis of the Tremont theatre Boston, is a brother of Julia Arthur.

Arthur Forrest, who is remembered here as a member of W. S. Harkins company a couple of seasons ago, is now playing in the Stock company at the Grand Opera House, Boston. He was recently given the role of Henry Sar'orie in "Frou Frou."

Next season Jennie Yeamans, James T. Powers, Grace Henderson, R. D. M. Lean, it is said will be among the "stars." There are others.

Charlotte Behrens who has been very ill for a few months past is so far convalescent that she will shortly resume her work as leading lady for Robert Mantell.

The stage pictures in Olga Nethersole's production of Romeo and Juliet, this season are said to be of wonderful effectiveness. The production partakes of the spectacular.

Arthur Dacre, an English actor who was the original "Jim the Penman" when that play was produced at the Haymarket theatre, London, has recently committed suicide at Sydney, Australia. His wife who was with him also suicided by shooting herself with a revolver. They had both appeared in the United States.

Miss Jessie West, the clever sobrette, who played the role of Bess Fairfax in "The Golden Giant" when that play was first produced by Harkins here some few years ago, is playing this season in a piece

## SERENADE MIGNONNE.

B. V. GIANNINI.

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called "A Light on the Point." The company was at Fall River, Mass., last week.

Catherine F. Goodwin, a sister of the late Myra Goodwin the actress, suicided in New York on the 14th inst. Her stage name was Marjorie Bonner. She had taken an overdose of morphine. She retired from the stage three years ago. She was thirty-three years of age, and had played second leads to Margaret Mather.

The Lyceum Stock Company, N. Y., will open the regular season Nov. 25 with "The Home Secretary," by R. C. Carron. Love, politics, and society are the foundations of the action of the play, which will be interpreted by Herbert C. Kelcey, W. J. Le Moyné, Charles Walcott, Fritz Williams, James K. Hackett, Ferdinand Gottschalk, Ernest Tarleton, Jameson Lee Flaney, Edward P. Wilks, Isabel Irving, Katherine Florence, Elizabeth Tyroe, and Mrs. Thomas Whiffen. The play in four acts, and the events occur in one evening.

David Henderson, the Chicago theatrical manager, who sued in the Cook County (Ill.) Superior Court for \$25,000 on a judgment recently obtained against him in this city. The plaintiff is Ada Dow

Carrier, who about four years ago was a member of Julia Marlowe's company. During an engagement in the Chicago Opera House four years ago a piece of wood fell on Miss Carrier and seriously injured her. She obtained a verdict here for \$19,140.

The regular season at Daly's N. Y. Theatre will be opened Nov. 26, when Miss Ada Rehan will make her first appearance in a new comedy adapted by Mr. Daly from the German. Its title is "The Transit of Leo." Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. Worthing, Miss Elliot, Mr. Gresham, and Mr. Herbert will create the comedy parts.

W. H. Crane (Senator) celebrated his silver wedding last week, and was presented with a loving cup by his company. The theatre orchestra serenaded him.

"The Case of Rebellious Susan" has been laid on the shelf. Dealing with this play a critic has recently said "it is neither fish, flesh nor fowl; neither comedy, tragedy, farcical-comedy, historical comedy, or any one of the many divisions or combinations of our good friend Polonius but it is certainly one thing and that is inequational."

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