

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Professor Fisher late organist of St. Andrew's church has gone to spend his vacation in England. He goes via Toronto where he will pass a week or ten days with a friend, finally taking passage on the Sardinian for the mother country. There is some little uncertainty I believe about his return to this city, though he will come back to this country. It is not yet known publicly whether or no he has resigned his position as conductor of the Oratorio Society.

Mrs. Spencer's solo "Come unto Me" at Exmouth street church last Sunday evening was beautifully sung and was listened to with much delight by one of the largest congregations ever assembled in the church.

It was rumored during the week that Miss Farmer who has been organist of St. Luke's church, had been engaged to take charge of the organ in St. Andrew's in succession to Prof. Fisher. It was also rumored that Miss Nettie Pidgeon of the North End had been engaged as principal soprano, and that Mr. A. H. Lindsay of St. John's (stone) church choir had been engaged as leading tenor. This rumor has since then been alternately contradicted and verified.

Mr. Wilson, late organist of the Mission church, has joined the "noble army of Benedicts," and in his new relations I extend to him and his bride hearty wishes for a life of perpetual harmony. In the home of a man with such musical taste as his it is safe to presume that discord can never find place.

Tones and Undertones

Some years ago a certain musician was engaged to "catch" a popular German soprano in Haydn's oratorio "The Creation." She staggered him at the fifth lesson by saying, "You will let me know when I am to look arch?"

M. Adolph Brodsky, the well-known Russian violinist, has accepted from September next, the post of conductor of the orchestra of the Royal Manchester College of Music, where he succeeds Mr. Willy Hies.

The German opera season of the Coburg company in London, opened with Zellner's comic opera "The Birdseller," followed two days later with Smetana's "Barter of a Bride." The company is 150 strong, and brings over its own costumes and some scenery.

A new lyric drama in three acts has been given at the Opera Comique in Paris. It is the musical work of Paul Vidal, and the words were furnished by Pedro Gailhard, director of the Opera, and C. B. Ghensi. The reception of the opera was not favorable for a lasting place in the repertory of the Opera Comique. The story is lugubrious and the music a succession of recitatives.

The opera "Eros," which was recently given at the Teatro Pagliano, at Florence was an inspiration of the prima donna Gemma Bellincioni, though Enrico Goliciani made the verses, and Nicolo Massa composed the music. A local paper says of it: "In its music, science and technique are preponderant over inspiration; it is a uniform and melancholic music, which produces depression of feelings; there is much richness and variety in the instrumentation; in fact, it is a work which will be received with much applause at all theatres where they judge more with the head than the heart."

Mr. Makower pays a tribute to the real kindness which underlay a rather brusque manner, and he tells us that Von Bulow all his life long did many acts of unostentatious charity, such as the helping of old and poverty-stricken musicians. Of his memory many stories are told, some of them doubtless apocryphal, but there is no question but he did have a most marvelous memory for music. Here is one example: "On one occasion he visited me in Berlin just before the beginning of one of the Philharmonic concerts, which, through his energy, have become the most famous events in Berlin music. He had only a few minutes to spare. His droschke was at the door. 'Just give me Bach's forty-eight Preludes and Fugues,' he said; 'the F-sharp major fugue is running in my head, and I am not clear upon one passage. Is there to the D-sharp in the upper voice? It seems to sound a little violent.' He looked up the passage in question. 'Yes, it is so. You see it is a transitional note.'"

day possess instruments that are very highly valued. The violoncello upon which Signor Piatti plays is worth £400. It is a Ruggieri instrument. Ysaye has a Guardagnini worth £240, and Jean Gerardy plays upon a Guarnerius valued at £800. Joachim has a number of valuable violins. The Stradivarius that belonged to Ernst, and said to be worth £2,000, has come into the possession of Lady Halle.

The Emperor of Germany has a pleasant baritone and is especially a devotee of Wagner. The Empress is a fairly skilful violinist. The Crown Prince and Prince Albert have inherited musical taste and are admirable violinists.

The Queen of Italy is a composer of some merit. She is very fond of the piano and, it is said, will sit for hours improvising sweet little melodies.

The Princess of Monaco (Alice Heine) is a brilliant pianoforte player.

In Verdi's "Il Trovatore" there are 42 themes, 20 airs of tunes of a striking character, and at least 16 of these melodies were in everyone's mouth about 20 years ago. In the street or in the concert room, or the theatre, it was equally impossible to escape them.

Manager—But if I pay you \$1,000 a night, in addition to all other expenses, what will there be left for me to live on?

Prima Donna—Well, if you treat us nicely, we will no doubt give you a benefit performance at the end of the season.

The musical season of 1895-96 will not be lacking in pianists. Among others, Martinus Sieveking is to be here. Sieveking is a Hollander by birth, coming from an old and aristocratic family which dates its ancestry back in the fifteenth century. From his earliest infancy he displayed characteristics indicative of his future career. He is a man of magnetic temperament and striking personality, being over six feet in height and magnificently proportioned. Mr. Sieveking will come to the States in the fall, and play throughout the country. He will make his debut in New York city.

Lillian Russell is wearing short skirts on her bicycling trips. A recent Boston paper noting this fact says; 'We hope she won't catch cold, for she once broke a contract because she was afraid, or claimed to be, of catching cold if she wore tights on the stage.'

This is the last week of the "Pops" concert at Music Hall, Boston. The season closes tonight with a grand testimonial benefit to Sig. A. de Novellis, the efficient leader of the orchestra. The following programme was given last Monday evening:

Polonaise	Chopin
Overture, "Rosamunde"	Schubert
Waltz, path of flowers"	Waldteufel
Selection, "Lucia di Lammermoor"	Donizetti
Overture, "Martha"	Flotow
"La Villanelle"	Alard
Prelude, "Racine"	Mascagni
Selection "The Brigands"	Oberbach
Overture, "Sphinx"	Thomson
"Thousand and One Nights"	Strauss
Polka, "Blanche"	Waltworth
March, "Excelsior, Jr."	Tracy

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Since my last notes "Joseph," a comedy The Shaughran, another comedy or burlesque as one may view it as produced last week a couple of curtain raisers, and "Lend me Your Wife" with "Lost in New York" filled out the bills at the Opera house until Wednesday night of this week inclusive. I did not see "Joseph" but I did witness the production of the next named play, "The Shaughran," and as produced by the Harkins company it proved the absolute correctness of what I said in my notes last week in substance that because the company individually gave a great performance of "Men and Women" it did not follow they would be equally good in every other play. In "The Shaughran" most of the players seemed utterly to fail in the conception of their characters. Mr. Brennan was quite good I thought, so was Mr. Heron yet in some respects he was not quite so excellent as others I have seen in the role but Mr. Whitecar entirely failed to appreciate the character of the Irish land agent. This is the more remarkable as this gentleman is so unquestionably clever and powerful in so many other roles. Mr. Barnum as Harvey Duff acted his role really well although he was at times very indistinct particularly in the earlier portion of the play.

Of the ladies Miss May made a good Moya and Miss Maddern as Conn's mother was excellent, as she always is; but the accent of the cultivated and refined Irish lady was noticeable by its absence in respect to the work of the young ladies who impersonated Arte O'Neale and Claire Fiolliott. As to their manner and acting in the roles there is little fault to find nor do I desire to find fault—but something else is necessary for those who attempt to play Irish drama. "Lost in New York" delighted immense audiences on Dominion day and played to fair business thereafter while it held the boards. In this play special mention and credit is due to the work of Mr. Bechtel the scenic artist of the company. He produced some admirable effects.

"Men and Women" was the bill for Thursday evening in compliance with

a very general request and it served as a medium for introducing to a St. John audience, Miss Ethel Knight Mollison as a regular member of the profession. In "Men and Women" Miss Mollison was cast for the part of Dora recently played by Miss Helen Cross. I regret the play was put on so late in the week as to prevent notice in this issue, but while knowing nothing of Miss Mollison's present skill or culture, professionally speaking I am disposed to believe she is handicapped not a little by the clever and consistent work of Miss Cross in this role. Miss Mollison is also in the cast of Uncle Tom's Cabin which to-night closes the engagement of the company for this season.

There are about twelve thousand people regularly employed in the London theatres. The dramatic editor of The Spirit of The Times, in commenting upon Shakespeare's last birthday, tells of a book-peddler who endeavored to sell Shakespeare's plays on that day to the Germans on the east side of New York. His first attempt at a sale discouraged him. "Vell," said the possible customer, "Ich habe heard about New York beer, und Yuengling's beer, und Ehret's beer, und Milwaukee beer, und bock beer, und Budweiser; but Ich didn't never heard about dot Shaks's beer."

Sarah Bernhardt is beginning to show a slight indication that age is creeping upon her. She used to be fond of travelling, but it is hard now to get her to leave Paris, and she shudders at the thought of again leaving France on a long tour.

Joe Jefferson has been the recipient of the M. A. degree from Harvard college.

Henry E. Dixey has decided to reappear as a burlesque star next season. His engagement begins with the Stockwell Stock company in San Francisco on 12 August. His tour will open with a revival of "The Gentle Savage."

Thomas Q. Seabrooke will leave comic opera and next season will star in a new comedy which is now being written for him by Messrs Paul M. Potter and Leander Richardson.

Maurice Barrymore will be a member of the Stockwell, (San Francisco) theatre stock company next season.

Falstaff will be played by DeWolf Hopper in an open air performance at Saratoga shortly.

Very attractive lithograph portraits of the clever young artist Miss May Nannery, have been received by a number of that lady's admirers and friends in this city. The receipt of one at this office is acknowledged with thanks. Miss Nannery, who, as is well known, is a native of this city, is one of the cleverest and most popular actresses on the Pacific coast. The portrait represents the young lady as possessing a bright intellectual face with much physical charm.

Miss Ullie Akerstrom, the winning little actress, and her manager Mr. Bernard, were visitors at the Opera House last Friday evening. Miss Akerstrom is enjoying at Loch Lomond, for some days, a portion of her well earned vacation.

Nat Goodwin sailed for Europe last week.

Leading Lady (at the tragedy theatre). I don't like the new lover a bit; he is such an ugly brute; and his playing! So clumsy and awkward. Second Lady. Yes; and he is married into the bargain.

MUSIC HALL SONGS.

How They Came to the Front and What is Usually Paid for Them.

Many of the popular songs are the composition of men who have not the slightest knowledge of music says Tit-Bits. In the original form their songs and pater are ungrammatical and badly spelt, but they contain good germs of comedy, and when polished up a little are rendered suitable to sing. If they are intended for publication the songs undergo another polishing, in order to make them more presentable than it simply intended for music-hall use.

A song is never published until it has been proved to be a success on the stage. The singing right of a music-hall song is usually one guinea, though at times two, three, and even five guineas are paid; but this latter sum is a very exceptional one.

As a rule, music publishers pay from £5 to £15 for a song, the average being about £8, and when the author of a song which has been published is also the composer of the music, he shares the sum received from the publisher equally with the vocalist. The songs most readily taken up by publishers are those of a comic nature; but those are not always correct in their judgment, as was proved by the success of "Ask a Policeman," which was refused by five well known firms, and finally issued by the house to which it was first offered, £10 securing the entire publishing rights.

The Circus is Coming.

Sell's Brother's circus will exhibit in St. John on Monday and Tuesday, July 22 and 23. Their combination includes the Grand Roman Hippodrome Races, Three Ring Circus, Elevated Theatre Stages, Performing Animals of all descriptions, Tropical Aquarium, Australian Aviary, Fifty Cage Menagerie, Arabian Caravan and The Gala-day Street Parade. Among the many rare and attractive features exclusively presented by them will be found the only pair of living giant Hippopotami; the remarkable Educated Seals and Sea Lions, Rooster Orchestra, Tribby the Riding Peacock, Giant Kangaroos, a whole flock of Ostriches and hundreds of novel features.

stones rear their heads from a flourishing potato patch, while a bed of onions marks a dividing line between the various garbs. Phila., Record.

An Englishman's Morning Dress.

Sir Frederick Pollock, the Oxford law professor, when he lectured before the Harvard Law Association on Tuesday, was doubtless surprised by the occasion wearing evening clothes at high noon. The marshals must have been also surprised at his garb. He wore a white high hat, blue shirt, lavender cravat, black frock coat, and light trousers. A red flower was in the lapel of his coat. Gold glasses completed his costume. He wore the same garb at the Harvard commencement the next day.

As Good as Some Modern Ones.

The oldest prescription in existence has been found. It was given as a wash for promoting the growth of the hair of the mother of King Chata, second king of the first dynasty, who reigned about 4,000 B. C. This is the translation: "Pad of a dog, foot, 1; fruit of a date palm, 1; ass's hoof, 1. Boil together in oil in a saucapan Directions for use: Rub thoroughly in."

Where Sam May Get Left.

Rev. Sam Jones says: "Wake up the church, preachers, if you have to lick an old deacon every Sunday morning. For every deacon you throw through the window 3,000 people will come to hear you. Some day Sam will wake up the wrong deacon and will know personally how it feels as he goes 'out through the window.'" —Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Two Kinds of Statesmanship

"A statesman's motto," said the earnest patriot, "should always be, 'be sure you're right, and then go ahead.'" "Maybe so," replied Senator Sorghum, thoughtfully. "But that's not my platform."

"What is it?"

"Go right ahead and square it afterward."

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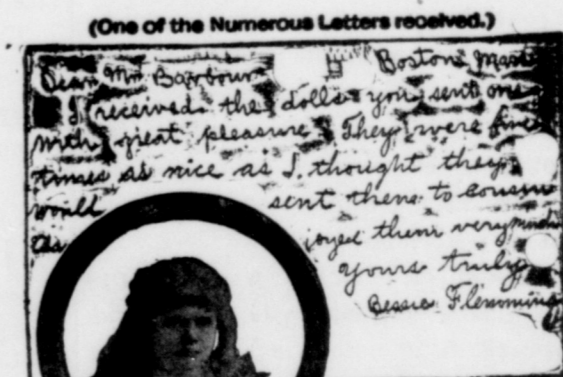
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