

# Musical and Dramatic.

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

In the notice of Mr. Titus concerts which appeared in *PROGRESS* last week, the types made me twice use the word "time" when I wrote the word "tune." An error of this kind does sometimes occur but happily in this instance, and for musical readers, it was a self-evident error of the types. The word "makes" was also omitted where the success of the concert was alluded to, near the beginning of the notice.

On Monday evening last I had the pleasure of attending the song recital given at the Opera house by the musically distinguished Rosa D'Erina, assisted by Mr. Vantom. I had heard this lady and her varied musical accomplishments frequently mentioned but it was somewhat difficult to realize that all could be united in any individual. Such was the fact however. Spanish, French and Italian words were sung with the same readiness as English and the organ was played as cleverly as the piano.

Madame D'Erina has a pleasant speaking voice that, in its accent, embodies, to a large extent, the musical sounds of the refined Dublin accent, which to me seems to be the elegance of English pronunciation. It is music in itself, and there is therefore the less wonder that a musical person possessing it should sing English words well. But when the possessor sings the music of foreign languages with similar facility, then there is reason for both admiration and wonderment. The lady's voice has much volume and sweetness, and evidences much careful training, but as I listened to her I could not avoid the thought that the excellence of her vocal effort was somewhat impaired by the fact that she was her own accompanist. Of her solos perhaps the best was "La Calasera" a Spanish Hunting song which was sung with a spirit and an interpretation that left no doubt of its significance. Strange to say "The harp that once through Tara's halls" which in view of its national character would be supposed to be the best of the lady's selections, caused a sense of disappointment. Her manner of singing this song is peculiar and unlike any rendering I had ever previously heard. She almost ignores the presence of such words as "The," "that," "through" while as a matter of fact all these words have their relative use in the song. Mr. Vantom contributed to the entertainment several songs and humorous recitations. One of the songs was "The light house keeper," a song first given here, if I am not mistaken, by the Rev. Fr. Davenport, whose rendering of it has not since been equalled. Mr. Vantom's singing was most effective in the duets with Madame D'Erina.

Not alone the musical among the citizens but the whole community was shocked beyond description, on learning of the death of Prof. Joseph Heine, so well and so favorably known as "the blind violinist." The details of his sudden illness and death published in our daily papers, supply us with facts showing that he "died in harness" as it were. Preparing for a concert last Tuesday evening in which he was to be assisted by his devoted wife and daughter, and while in the act of tuning his violin he was suddenly stricken down, lingering in an unconscious condition till death finally relieved him from all his sufferings and all anxieties, at an early hour next morning.

The deceased violinist had manifested much talent at a very early age and during his life had been recipient of much honor from those occupying high positions, having played before Queen Victoria, and being warmly complimented on his skill. His face gave token of a benign disposition and kindly nature, not warped by his infirmity. He loved his music and revelled in the delight it afforded him. His world was his own. He could people it at will with such companions as he might have a predilection for, and commune with them through their works. In the death of Professor Heine the musical world has suffered material loss and it is doubtful if any one remains to fill his particular place. He was an Englishman by birth but for some time his home is in one of the western states. To the widow and daughter thus so suddenly bereaved the heartfelt sympathy of every one in this city, goes out spontaneously, and many prayers will be offered that they may be sustained in their affliction and that they may be comforted in the belief that he is dwelling in bliss, hearing strains of celestial music for all eternity.

## Tones and Undertones.

M. Zeidenhurst, a Dutch pianist, is causing a sensation in Paris. He will shortly appear in America. He is being compared to Rubinstein.

It is rumored in London, Eng., that W. S. Gilbert has arranged to re-write "The Grand Duchess" and other famous comic operas of the olden time.

Miss Rosalind Rissi has been engaged for the summer season of opera at the Castle Square theatre, Boston. The season will open next Monday evening, 18th May, and the opening piece will be "The Beggar Student."

Following the example of the manager of the Castle Square theatre, Boston, the manager of the Tremont theatre in that city has arranged for a summer season of comic opera at his house, and has secured Miss Marie Millard as prima donna. This lady is the daughter of the late Harrison Millard, so well known as a song writer. The opening piece will be "The Sphinx."

Miss Elsie Irving the English actress who has become a Boston favorite, is said to have "a mezzo soprano voice of good quality and sings popular songs and ballads in a very charming and cultivated manner." This is her first year in America.

Camille D'Arville's new opera written for her by Messrs. Gordon and Englander is called "Marton." It will receive a New York production on the 20th inst.

The Boston, Music hall "Pops" will be given on the 11th inst. This will be the 10th season of these promenade concerts.

The 14th season of the concerts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra was brought to an end last Saturday evening with the following programme, viz:

Passacaglia for organ, in C minor  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
Symphony No. 3, in E flat major, Eroica, op. 55  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
Overture to The Fair Melusina, op. 32

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy  
(a) Minuet of Will-o-the-Wisps Hector Berlioz  
(b) Waltz of Sylvia Hector Berlioz  
From The Damnation of Faust, op. 24.  
Overture to Tannhauser Richard Wagner

Cyril Tyler, a boy soprano no longer, says that while he was visiting Patti in Wales she promised to sing Juliette to his Romeo when his voice shall have changed to a tenor, and it probably will; and as she seems truly perennial, perhaps her promise will be fulfilled. But, whatever his future may be, he can look back upon a career more brilliant than comes to many a mature artist. To have sung in the same concerts and shared honors with Melba, Jean de Reszke and Paderewski is no small matter, and this young boy has done this.

Signor A. de Novellis, has been engaged as conductor for the Music Hall "pops" in Boston. This gentleman came from Naples in 1876 under engagement to Max Strakosch, his first appearance being during the Centennial. He remained with Strakosch for eight years, during which he conducted performance of companies which included contests like Pappenheim, Marie Rozes, Clara Louise Kellogg, Annie Louise Cary, Brignoli, &c. His most notable work was as director of an Italian opera season with a company headed by Gerster and Campanini.

Mrs. Harrison, the wife of Principal Harrison, formerly of Sackville, who has on several occasions sang in concert in this city, has suddenly acquired a prominence in musical circles that is unusual, but after all not so very much of a surprise to her musical admirers. A recent Boston paper says of this lady: "And now a voice overtopping the wonderful organ of Miss Yaw has been discovered. It is possessed by a Mrs. Marie Harrison, a Canadian singer, and is said to extend from D, on the third line in the bass, to D, the sixth line above the treble. The typical soprano, even a Melba, has but three D's in her voice. Mrs. Harrison has five, one of them an octave lower than Melba's lowest D, and another an octave higher than her ghest. This exceeds any other vocal compass on record." There must be some mistake about Miss Yaw's compass, at least, because an article descriptive of that young lady says her compass extends to E in the altissimo. This would give her a tone higher than is credited to Mrs. Harrison in the article quoted.

## TALK OF THE THEATRE.

"Tribly" has been in Saint John. She was at the Opera house last week, or rather a dramatised version of Du Maurier's book, by W. V. Ranous it is said. In the drama produced here the author, Mr. Ranous, played the role of Svengali. Just why the drama was not called Svengali instead of Tribly is almost a matter of wonder, because there was something more of the former than the latter in the production. While there was occasional "feeling for lines" by some of the cast, and not infrequent departures from dialect, as well as some gross mispronunciations, the performance, as a whole, was pleasing. There are only a few instances where language is used that could be dispensed with, but in justice to the dramatist let us suppose that fidelity to the story of the book compelled their use. Be this as it may in my opinion other words could have been substituted for them, that would have the merit at all events, of being less objectionable. With these exceptions there is little fault to be found with the play, assuming at the outset its unreality. The last act however might be designated as absurd, for the reason that it shows "Tribly" after the death of Svengali, seated among her English friends entirely freed from the hypnotic influence of her tormentor. All that transpired while with Svengali is a blank to her. She is ill-dying—yet, restored as she is to consciousness and to her friends, when the mere portrait of Svengali is shown her she almost immediately becomes hypnotised again and

similarly enjoined in Denver. Mr. Palmer has also begun proceedings against various parties in Buffalo, Spokane, Sioux City, Davenport, Ia., and St. John, N. B." The W. V. Ranous mentioned in this extract is the man who recently played the role of Svengali at the opera house here, in the version of "Tribly" produced at that house last week, and which version Mr. Ranous claimed was his own adaptation. The directors of this house ought to be well satisfied that managers have full lawful rights to all plays they undertake to produce. In other words they should protect the reputation of their house against pirating.

Miss Julia Arthur, who is well remembered in this city as a member of the Will Harkins company of a few years ago, is now a member of Henry Irving's company in London, England. Irving will take Miss Arthur with his company in his forthcoming tour. She has been chosen to play second parts to Ellen Terry, or as the statement says, "leading parts that are not important enough for Miss Terry." She has already been put down for the parts of Hero in "Much Ado about Nothing" and Rosamond in "Becket."

The 850th performance of "Charley Aunt" took place at the Globe theatre, London, on the 22nd ult.

The Garrick theatre, London, will be taken by E. S. Willard, as soon as John Hare, of that theatre, starts on his tour in America.

The partnership between A. M. Palmer and E. E. Rice has terminated.

"The Politician" has been a money winner for Roland Reed. This play is David Lloyd's old play "For Congress" revised and partly re-written by Sydney Rosenfeld.

It is said that next season, Lewis Morrison will produce in New York a new play by Harrison G. Fiske, called "The Privateer."

Katherine Clemmons, who will be remembered as having a very big starring bee in her bonnet a year or two ago, and who persisted in keeping her play "A Lady of Venice" before the public after it proved a frost, and in so doing lightened the purse of Buffalo Bill very materially, is again in New York. She is trying to get a release from her contract with the aforesaid Bill. She wants to go to London and try a new play there next fall. The play, it is said, is now being written for her.

Lily Langtry has returned to England. She will come back to America next October and play under T. Henry French's management. She is to make a tour of Australia in 1896-97.

Mrs. G. H. Gilbert ever since the year 1869 has been a member of Augustin Daly's company.

Mollie Fuller, who has been replaced Bettina Gerard in "The Twentieth Century Girl," has introduced into the piece a dance in bare feet, a la Tribly.

It is stated as a fact that "Tribly" is making a profit amounting to nearly \$5000 per week for manager A. M. Palmer.

Miss Ethel Mollison, of this city, is now a member of the company that is supporting Miss Ada Rehan during her starring engagement of a week's duration in Boston which opened last Monday evening with the "Two Gentlemen of Verona." Tyrone Power, who is remembered in St. John as the author and producer of a play called "The Texan," is also a member of this company.

"A Dog in the Manger" is the title given by Charles H. Hoyt to his new play in which his handsome wife, Caroline Miskel, will be the central attraction next season.

In the production of "The Orient Express" by Augustin Daly's company at the Hollis street theatre, Boston, last week, large cuts were made in the lines of the other characters owing to the fact that Mr. Francis Carlyle was suffering from a severe cold and after struggling through the first act was obliged to give up the battle. One of the parts that suffered most, by this slashing, was that of Luisa, played by Miss Percy Haswell, a little lady who is, and always will be, favorably remembered here. A critical notice of the play says "Miss Haswell in the few scenes left by the slashing alterations in the play was sweetly ingenious and natural."

Otis Skinner, the well known actor was recently married to his leading lady Miss Maud Durbin.

On the 28th inst the celebrated actor C. W. Couldock was eighty years old. He is not in affluent circumstances but his many friends and admirers have arranged a benefit for him and will see to it that he does not suffer.

Sadie Martinot was to produce "The Passport" at the Park theatre, Boston this week and her role is that of a widow, a volatile, forgetful, flighty and irresponsible creature, full of whims and fancies." A writer noting the fact of her engagement says "We wonder how many years it is since we saw Sadie Martinot in tight, sing and dance "Pretty as a picture" at the old Boylston museum.

The rights to a summer season of "Tribly" in Boston has just cost W. A. Brady the sum of \$15,000. Manager Palmer had reserved the city for himself. The season will begin on the 13th inst.

Mr. A. M. Palmer says he "is having plenty of trouble protecting his rights to the dramatization of "Tribly." More than a week ago Judge Lacombe granted an injunction restraining W. V. Ranous from presenting a play founded on Du Maurier's novel, and yesterday McKee Rankins was

similarly enjoined in Denver. Mr. Palmer has also begun proceedings against various parties in Buffalo, Spokane, Sioux City, Davenport, Ia., and St. John, N. B." The W. V. Ranous mentioned in this extract is the man who recently played the role of Svengali at the opera house here, in the version of "Tribly" produced at that house last week, and which version Mr. Ranous claimed was his own adaptation. The directors of this house ought to be well satisfied that managers have full lawful rights to all plays they undertake to produce. In other words they should protect the reputation of their house against pirating.

## WITH HIS CLOTHES ON.

Why a Gentleman was Wont to Tumble Into the Water.

General Thiebault, a well-known French officer, in recounting the story of his life, dwells at some length upon his experience in the swimming-school on the bank of the Seine. Among the habitues of the place was one man who had opinions of his own, and a mind to exercise them. He came to the school three times a week, and General Thiebault thus describes him: He was about forty years old, tall, thin, serious looking, and carried himself like an aristocrat. He always came straight into the school in his street dress, his hat on his head, his coat buttoned up to his chin, gloves on, and cane in hand. Without paying attention to anyone he walked along the platform, drawing nearer and nearer to the edge, and then suddenly, and to all appearance as much to his surprise as to anyone else's, his foot slipped, and into the river he tumbled. The first time I saw this performance I supposed it was an accident, and was preparing to go to the man's rescue, when I saw him pick up his hat, put it on his head, put his cane between his teeth, and strike out for the platform. Having reached the platform, he retired to a dressing-room, out of which he presently emerged wearing a bathing-suit like the rest of us. By this time I was half disposed to believe him crazy, but when I ventured to ask an explanation of his strange behavior, he replied, "Sir, we learn to swim in order to be able to save ourselves if we should ever fall into the river. Now, then it such an accident should happen to you, do you imagine that you would be dressed in swimming-drawers? No, sir, you would have on your clothes, your boots, your hat, and being taken all by surprise, you would most likely be drowned. As for me, if I were in such a position, I should, as you see, save myself easily."

## Princesses as Nurses.

A love for nursing seems inherent in the Queen's daughter, Princess Alice of Hesse was a splendid nurse, the Empress Frederick ran her very close in the Franco-German war, and Princess Christian has been and ever will be a positive enthusiast on the subject of hospital nursing. Princess Beatrice, too, when her little daughter's accident caused such anxiety, proved herself scarcely less proficient. The Queen herself at one time had no taste for nursing, and it is told that, owing entirely to her influence, the Duchess of Teck gave up her most cherished wish in her maiden days—that of becoming a professional nurse.

## A House Built on a Tree.

A Louisiana planter of scientific tastes has lately adopted an unusual residence on the banks of the Rama River, where his house is built after the fashion of a bird's nest, literally on a tree, some 50ft. above the ground. The house consists of three stories built round the tree, which runs through the rooms like the masts which penetrate a ship's cabin. The structure is properly protected by props of timber, and also by guide-ropes. Access to the rooms is obtained by means of an elevator placed behind the supporting tree. Living above the limits of malaria, the inhabitants are said to preserve excellent health in their unique dwelling-place.

## Density of Mahogany.

There is a remarkable difference in the density of mahogany as it comes to the cabinetmaker. A square foot of Cuban mahogany, one inch thick, weighs on the average six pounds; a like piece of Santo Domingo mahogany weighs four pounds, and a like piece of Mexican mahogany weighs two and a half pounds. The difference in weight between old pieces of Santo Domingo mahogany taken from the wreck of antique furniture and a piece of seasoned new Santo Domingo mahogany is much less than might be expected.

## A Lady's Last Request.

Lady Goss was the widow of Sir John Goss, for thirty years organist at St. Paul's cathedral. They were married in 1821. Her last request was that her love-letters should be placed in her coffin, and it is interesting to notice that the first was written when both she and her future husband were only sixteen years old.

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