

# Musical and Dramatic.

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The choir at the various churches on Sunday last (Easter) was of a very high order and rendered in a manner and with a spirit in consonance with the joyous occasion then celebrated. The various choirs had been rehearsing steadily for some time previous and their labors have been in the main attended with special success. Some of the choirs were supplemented and aided by outside musical talent as in the case of Centenary church where the congregation had the pleasure during the day of hearing Mrs. C. W. Harrison sing no less than five times. In the evening she sang the "Song of Trust" in addition to two other solos.

The choir of Garman street baptist church had the benefit of Miss Nettie Pidgeon's vocal skill. She sang her music in very happy style and demonstrated that her musical study in the United States has not been without resultant good.

Apropos of Mrs. Harrison, I have learned from a recognized lover of music (meaning of course what is meant by good music) that that lady gave a concert in Yarmouth on Monday evening last and that she sang there with very much better effect than at any of the concerts at which she had previously appeared in this city. I was not present myself, at this Yarmouth concert. Mrs. Harrison was assisted by St. John talent such as Prof. White, Miss Goddard and others.

Musical people generally will be glad to learn that the popular basso and good fellow Fred Smith has not been disappointed in his anticipations in "Uncle Sam's farm." Writing to a friend in this city the other day he says he has met a number of musical people where he is located, has sang with them and been offered a position in one of the choirs there. He misses his old friends down here by the sea though very much. Fred will always be a lover of his native city and I doubt not will ever sing her praises. Success attend him.

The St. John Orotorio society will make its next public appearance in Germain street baptist church on the 14th inst. when "The Daughter of Jairus," will be sung. This pretty church is well adapted for a production because every sitting is not only comfortable but permits a view of the platform or exterior of the choir gallery. The organ is quite a good one too and coupled with the fact that an opportunity—probably the last one—will be given to hear Mrs. Harrison sing it is fair to assume that the church will be crowded on the occasion. Mr. Will Starr who has a nice tenor voice, as every one knows, will sing in a duet with Mrs. Harrison. At all events that is the idea as arranged at this writing. Mr. Jas. S. Ford will be the conductor and that fact in itself is assuring.

Amid all the coming musical events, perhaps none merits greater consideration than the concert to be given by Prof. L. W. Titus on the 16th inst at the Opera house. This gentleman has done much for the improvement of music and the development of musical taste in this city. He certainly deserves that he should receive the most liberal and generous patronage not only on his own account, but because of his efforts in bringing here new talent of a very high order for the entertainment of our citizens. For this occasion he will be assisted by Miss Ida King Tarbox, an admirable soprano, who, since she delighted audiences in this city before has been a diligent and consistent student of music. Good singer as she undoubtedly was before, she must be better now. Mr. Hitchcock, a baritone, of excellent repute who is personally certified by Mr. Titus, will be another feature of the programme. Other features on the programme of a concert that indicates unusual excellence, will be supplied from local sources. It is Mr. Titus' intention that his concert shall be an annual affair. Every one who loves music should make it a point to be present and give him an overflowing house.

Regarding Mr. Hitchcock, the Worcester Gazette of a recent date says: "Mr. Arthur B. Hitchcock sang 'It is Enough' from 'Elijah' receiving well merited applause. It is seldom that we are privileged to hear a voice of such richness of tone and such rare musical quality as that possessed by him. This, combined with an intelligent interpretation of the music at hand makes his singing most enjoyable. He was encored again and again."

### Tones and Undertones.

Dr. Bridge, the famous London organist lives in the Lillington tower of the abbey cloister and sleeps in the old prior's bedroom which bears the date 1364.

Costumes musicales are the social fad of the moment in London. If the evening is to be devoted to Russian music, for example, all the guests are invited to come in Russian costumes.

The Wilkie comic opera company under the management of W. S. Harkins opened a season at the Academy of music, Halifax last Monday evening. They will appear in this city at the close of the Halifax engagement, whenever that may be.

The Bostonians produced their new work "A war time wedding" in Philadelphia, last week. The scene is laid in Mexico in 1847. Jessie Bartlett Davis as Teresa, the peasant girl, so sung and acted her part as to render the role "a dramatic creation to be remembered."

Chevalier has refused an offer of Charles Frohman and another, of \$1000 per week. It is reported his London average is \$150 per week.

Barnabee of the Bostonians is singing "The Cork Leg" in the new opera "A war time wedding." He used to sing it frequently long ago.

The Whitney opera company will produce a new Irish opera next season. It is written by Stange and Edwards. These gentlemen are writing another opera to be entitled "The Birth of Yankee Doodle."

The comic opera "The Wizard of the Nile" is said to be coming to Boston shortly. The work is much commended.

The last Sunday in March at a certain baptist church at the South end Boston, the choir were all discharged. Evidently there had been friction between the one who preaches and the those who sing. The last hymn was "Hallelujah 'tis done," but the choir in their state of mind were evidently thinking of something else than the meaning of the hymn, for they all sang lustily "Hallelujah We're done."

Onderick, the Bohemian violinist, will return to Europe during this month.

Miss Ellen Gray, young, fair haired handsome and English, who lately was a member of the Wilkie Opera Company which is now playing in Halifax, was married in New York recently. Her spouse is Burkhardt Hanlon, of the Customs, who is the son of a wealthy Bostonian.

Madame Albani did not sing with the Handel and Hayden society of Boston in their production of "The Creation" last Sunday evening.

"Lucia di Lammermoor" made such a hit at the Castle Square theatre, Boston last week that it is continued this week. Miss Fatmah Diard sung the title role. A critical notice of the work after saying that an ideal fulfillment of the difficult role of Lucia is almost without precedent says Miss Diard's "performance was one which would not suffer severely in its comparison with others we have seen and heard, yet it was not without its shortcomings. Miss Diard's voice is not of a particularly rich quality, and there is an unpleasant shrillness to the very high tones which she seems to delight in taking, while more warmth and abandon in her acting would add to the interest of her work."

The twenty-first rehearsal and concert of the Boston Symphony orchestra was given in Music hall, Boston yesterday afternoon, April 10, at 2 30 o'clock, and this evening, April 11, at 8 o'clock. Programme:

- Overture, "Jessonda" Spohr
- Recitative and Aria, "Deeper and Deeper Still" and "Waft Her, Angels," from "Jephthah." Handel
- Quartet in C sharp minor Beethoven
- (Orchestrated by Muller-Berghaus)
- (First time)
- "Walther's Preisleid," from "Die Meistersinger" Wagner
- Academic Overture Brahms
- Soloist, Mr. Ben Davies.

Quite a number of the members of the English House of Commons are popular singers. Specially prominent among them is William Abraham, otherwise known as "Mabou." Of this gentleman there is an excellent story told of his exchange of compliments with Madame Patti. At a concert in Wales, Mabou and the great prima donna were performers. When the concert was over Madame Patti stepped up to the M. P. and, with a pleasant smile, observed "You sing really well Mr. Abraham." "Yes, Madame" responded Mabou gallantly "and so do you."

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

At the Girard Avenue theatre in Philadelphia last week there was revived an old time farce comedy entitled "Dreams, or Fun in a photograph gallery." It was in fact the forerunner of the skits written by Hoyt. A number of specialties were introduced with a view to bring it up to date. Miss Mollison of this city and who is a member of the stock company at this theatre, was in the cast. A notice of this lady's work says "Miss Mollison, as Kitty, in the first act, should also be mentioned as contributing a dainty little bit in a manner peculiarly her own."

Madame Duse is at the Boston museum this week in a repertoire which includes "Magda" "Camille" "La Locandiera" "Cavalleria Rusticana" etc. She will appear at the Broad in Philadelphia on the 13th inst.

Miss Genevieve Nannery, as she was known to the stage world (now Mrs. Blinn of Los Angeles, California) has had additional honor and distinction conferred on her this week. It is a son. All fair wishes attend all the interested parties.

W. H. Lytell, who is well remembered as an actor and manager, is playing in support of Jack Mason and Marion Manola Mason, this season. He recently did Pete the old darkey in "Zoe the Octoroon" in Boston.

Harry Dixey has sued Augustin Daly of New York for \$15,000 for an alleged slander.

Elita Proctor Otis is thinking of starring as Carmen. A notice says she ought to make a success of it.

W. H. (Senator) Crane is at the Hollis theatre, Boston, this week in his play "His Wife's Father" by Dorothy Morton. He will also put on "The Governor of Kentucky."

At the benefit entertainment arranged for Miss Rachel Noah on the 30th inst. "Pygmalion and Galatea" will be the principal feature. The title roles will be played by Dr. Fenderson and Miss Gwendoline Sandham. Miss Noah will also be in the cast.

Miss Julia Arthur, now of Henry Irving's company, will give readings at the Boston Press club's eleven annual entertainment at the Boston theatre on the 23rd inst.

Cissy Fitzgerald is coming to the Park theatre next Monday evening.

Madame Modjeska is now rapidly regaining health and strength at her rancho in California.

"Charly's Aunt," which nearly every theatre goer knows to be exceedingly funny, is on at the Park theatre, Boston, this week. Etienne Girardot plays the title role. This play is now in its third year in London, Eng.

The following instance of the remarkable memory of William Florence is cited by E. R. Byram in Donohoe's: In 1867, while Mr. Florence was in England, he saw Tom Robertson's comedy of "Caste" at the Prince of Wales Theatre. Thinking it would be a good piece for America, he secured a copy, and upon his return home offered it to his brother-in-law, who was at that time manager of the Broadway Theatre. The distribution of characters was a strong one, and it is worth mentioning that besides Mr. and Mrs. Florence, Mrs. Chantrau, Mrs. G. H. Gilbert, Effie Germon, George Honey, Owen Marlowe and Edward Lamb were in the cast. The play was a great success, though it created a lawsuit with the Wallacks, who had it in rehearsal at the time and claimed a permitted authority from its English owners for American production. The defence of Mr. Florence was that he

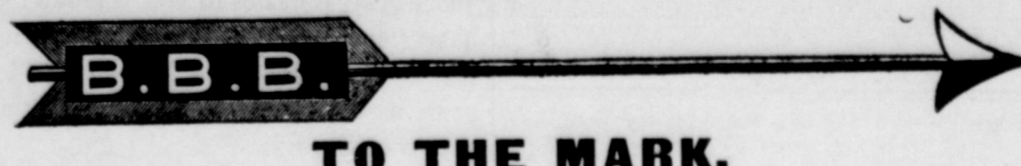
committed the play to memory by seeing it acted in London; and there being no international copyright law, or any law to prevent his production of the piece, it was so ruled and the suit resulted in his favor. In this connection it can be stated that to an actor, no natural gift or accomplishment is so essential to success as the possession of a good memory, or as it is termed in stage parlance, a "quick study." Some actors possess this faculty to a remarkable degree, and few were more endowed in this respect than Mr. Florence. He could in his younger days "wing a part" in a most astonishing manner, and many are the parts he has played with but a few hours' study and without a rehearsal. The achievement of his memorizing "Caste," referred to above, was not accomplished in one sitting, as has been stated by some, but was the result of four or five visits. In discussing this faculty with the writer he expressed a belief that it would be possible for him, or any actor of good study, to memorize a comedy sufficient to write it out in two or three visits. He stated that he committed the whole of the lines of Bob Brierly in one day from the manuscript.

### His Fish Story Was True.

"One afternoon, when we were in the Indian Ocean," said the Captain, "I noticed a shark swimming round the ship, and I didn't like it a bit. You know the superstition to the effect that a following shark presages the death of one of the ship's company. He sailed round us all the next day, and the next after that, and I determined to catch him and quell my uneasiness. We baited a hook, and, after a short time, captured and killed him. Then we cut him up. Do you know what we found in that shark's inside? No? Well, a newspaper, unopened, and it will surprise you, as it did me, when I tell you that it was addressed to me."

A shout of great laughter went up from the captain's audiences, who winked at each other unblushingly. He, however, took all the bantering in good part, and when the jests were ended he said: "New, gentlemen, I'll tell you how it happened. I found that my children had been skylarking the day before in the cabin. They found among the mass of reading that had been brought aboard some

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unopened newspapers addressed to me. They had been throwing these newspapers at each other, and one of them went out of the porthole. The shark saw it of course, and gobbled it down, and that was how it happened. Now, gentlemen, judge for yourself the truth of my story."

## Grand Concert.

### OPERA HOUSE,

Thursday Evening, April 16.  
Under the management of Mr. L. W. Titus.

Miss IDA KING TARBOX, Soprano,  
Mr. ARTHUR B. HITCHCOCK, Baritone

—assisted by—  
Miss INA S. BROWN, Mr. N. N. H. ATHOR  
and the Mendelssohn Quartette.

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at E. G. Nelson's,  
Barbours street, April 11.

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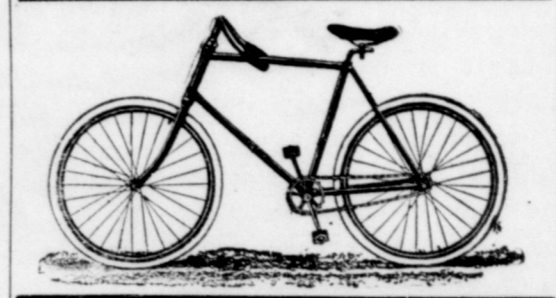
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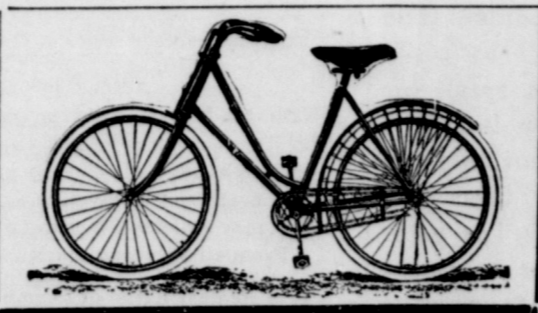
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