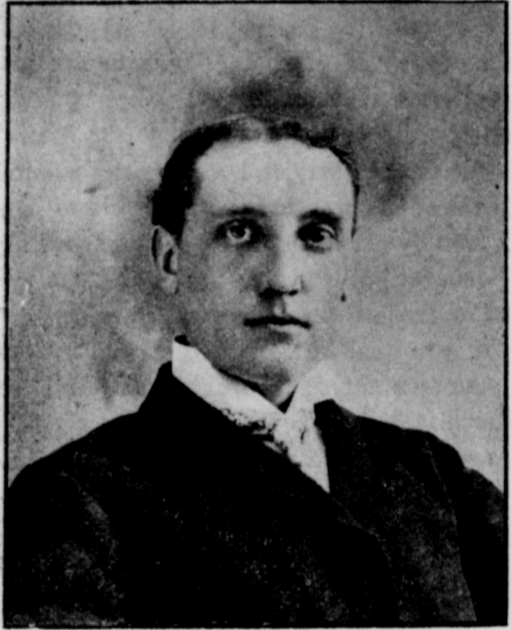


Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The visit of the Hispania club of Halifax and their productions of their operetta "Hispania" at the opera house here on Saturday last was a musical event of more than ordinary interest. It will undoubtedly mark an epoch in interprovincial musical history and will probably result in the realization of the idea suggested in this department last week, that St. John and Halifax endeavor, annually at least, to give each to the other the choicest they have in music. It would establish an entente cordiale that politicians of no complexion could disturb. Of course this remark is intended to apply only to amateurs.

The Hispania club is composed of amateurs and they are justly entitled to the credit of putting on two performances of more than ordinary excellence.



MR. W. F. COMPTON.

The Operetta is a variation of the "Christopher Columbus" "1492" order, and it is so pleasing throughout that nothing but words of praise can be fairly bestowed upon it. The libretto is by Mr. R. P. Greenwood and the music by Mr. W. F. Compton, both of Halifax, the latter gentleman I believe being organist of St. Mary's Cathedral in Halifax. A number of not unfamiliar airs are introduced and "Pinafore," "Chimes of Normandy" etc., have contributed more or less to the musical make up.

The company producing Hispania numbers about 40 members and while the solo

voices generally are not remarkable, the work of the chorus is entitled to abundant credit. The young gentleman, Mr. A. S. Wyde, who sang the role of Columbus has a pleasing baritone voice which in the near future, with care, will secure for its possessor high rank among provincial vocalists. We have however in this city though a few voices not unlike it in quality.

Mr. C. W. Everitt is another of the best soloists and his solo was vociferously endorsed, although it was not in perfect tune throughout. This gentleman's acting demonstrated that he has quite a sense of comedy. He certainly made a funny picture when in the garb of the Royal Cook, Isabella sang her lovely solo, "Oh, Whisper and I Shall Hear." He may not have intended it but he was very funny then. The Solo "Brown October Ale" by W. E. Mitchell was not as good as it would have been had the singer not been suffering from an evidently heavy cold.

The centre of attraction in the operetta was Isabella, a role admirably well sung and gracefully acted by Mrs. Haggerty who came with the club from Halifax. This lady takes high place in musical circles in our sister city but had never before been heard here. The single remark "She has a lovely voice" would tell the whole story. Its quality is sweet yet powerful, its register is very even and every tone is melodious and, while the solo did not call for any special effect, it was noticed that she sang all her high notes with consummate ease and always well within her powers. There was a suggestion that she could, if required, do very much more brilliant work. The solo previously referred to and the duett with Columbus were the gems of the evening and the lady in addition to enthusiastic applause, was presented with two beautiful bouquets. Isabella's maid (A. C. Salter) won many admirers among the audience, but the delusion would have been more complete had his moustache been less in evidence. It may be the first he has cultivated however and it would be scarcely fair to insist upon its sacrifice. I hope the club will visit this city again. They have another work "Lara the Corsair" which they could give us and the audience of Saturday night last might be taken as an assurance that they would receive a cordial welcome. I would suggest

though that when they come again they should arrange to appear earlier in the week.

Speaking of the concert in Exmouth St. church last week the types read that Mrs. Harrison sang E in alt. It should have been F in alt. As I have said this tone was sung with ease.

Harrison's Orchestra announce their annual concert at the Opera House on Monday evening next. The merits of this

numbers that this lady will sing at the coming concert will specially illustrate her powers and methods. Among them will be "Lo, Hear the Gentle Lark," with flute obligato, the selection in which she created such excitement at the recent concert in Exmouth street church. This is the piece in which she sings the 'F' in Alt. so admirably and with apparent ease. It certainly is a revelation, and to hear this piece is some-



MRS. HAGGERTY AS ISABELLA.

organization and their claims to public recognition and patronage are too well known to require any specially extended notice. But in the programs of this year's concert they offer unusual attraction in the person of Mrs. Harrison the phenomenal soprano, whose voice is said to surpass, in its compass, that of any other singer known to the musical world. The

thing every musical person should desire. In St. John, Mrs. Harrison, it is not likely will be heard again for some time, as she is shortly going to Paris to continue her musical study, and every one will be desirous of hearing her and by a bumper house manifest appreciation of her skill and her wonderful voice.

Another attraction the orchestra offers

is in the person of Miss Blanche Hudson, a southern lady, who possesses much physical beauty, and who will illustrate the latest society fad of Boston and New York. This fad is impersonating classic posings and the young lady is said to be very successful. She is a pupil of Madame Randall-Diehl of New York. With these special attractions and the other good features of the programme the forthcoming concert of Harrison's orchestra should be the banner concert in the history of the organization.

The "Boston Transcript" says of Mr. Arthur B. Hitchcock, who appears in the Opera house, April 16, under the management of Mr. L. W. Titus.—"Mr. Hitchcock's voice is without doubt one of the most beautiful baritones ever heard in Boston, and his use of it is skilful and honest." Miss Ida King Tarbox, who also appears, is so favorably known that the mention of her name is sufficient guarantee that the concert will be in all respects first class.

Tones and Underones.

George C. Boniface, jr., has left the Camille D'Auville operatic company.

At last week's Symphonies concert, Miss Antoinette Szumowska was the soloist.

Marie Engel will be the prima donna of the opera company Messrs. Abbey and Grau are now organizing.

New York critics have many complimentary things to say about Walter Damrosch's opera "The Scarlet Letter."

DeWolf Hopper's new comic opera "El Capitan" will be given its first production in the Tremont theatre, Boston very shortly.

Marie Stone will return to the stage next season and will sing in her old roles with the Bostonians. This lady has been heard here, but it was some years ago.

Thomas' "Hamlet" will be revived at the Paris Opera House in May next. The cast has Melba as Ophelia, Renand as Hamlet, Gresse as the King, Vagnet as Laertes and Mme. Hegion as the queen.

It is said that Calves present season in this country has not been any happier for her than the preceding one. It is not at all likely she will return to the United States for several years to come.

Mrs. Rudolph Aronson, whose professional name is Alma Almira Dalma, and who for the past three years has been studying with Mme. Laborde in Paris, has

embarked on an operatic career in Europe. For the present she will appear in a new role in a new opera, "Andre Chenier," by Gordinio, at the Scala in Milan.

The personnel of a number of Boston church choirs has undergone material change recently. There appears to be a recognized leading quartette in each of these choirs whatever may be the number of choristers.

Mme. Antoinette Sterling is said to have told an interviewer that her coming to America was "a psychic necessity" and had to be obeyed though "thousands of pounds in English engagements were sacrificed." Poor Antoinette!

Grand opera is now in vogue at the Castle Square theatre, Boston. "Mignon" was given last week and is continued this week. "The Magic Flute" "Lucia di Lammermoor" and "Traviata" are in preparation. Miss Edith Mason was not in the cast last week.

The nineteenth rehearsal and concert of the Boston Symphony orchestra was given in Music hall yesterday afternoon, March 20, at 2.30 o'clock and this evening, March 21, at 8 o'clock.—Programme: Symphony No. 4, "Dramatic" Rubinstein.

Three Hungarian Dances, Nos. 19, 15, and 21 Brahms-Dvorak Adante from Second Symphony Weber Overture, "Abu Hassan" Weber

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