

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The week ending today has been somewhat eventful in a musical sense, compared with a number of weeks proceeding.

The first and in a local sense, perhaps the most important, event of the week was the annual meeting of the St. John Oratorio Society. The report of the year's business as read by Secretary Pickett indicated that the society's affairs were in a highly satisfactory condition and the prospects for the coming year most favorable. The officers for the year were elected and Mr. J. F. Robertson was again chosen as president with the Rev. Mr. Mathers, vice-president. One very important matter in this connection was the resignation by Mr. H. H. Pickett of his position as secretary of the society. This young gentleman finds it impossible in view of his business duties to retain the secretaryship although urgently requested to continue. He has been always punctual, energetic and painstaking, courteous and careful and he retires from office with the good will, esteem and respect of every member of the society. He is succeeded by Mr. F. O. Allison.

A material loss has been suffered by the society—and incidentally a number of private musical circles in the city have experienced similar deprivation in the fact that Mr. A. M. Smith, the basso, has left St. John with a view to taking up his residence in the United States. "Fred" was one of the very best and most consistent and loyal among the active members of the Oratorio. He always was a hard working member too and a source of much encouragement to new members both by precept and example. He will be much missed on all sides, but we will hope his material hopes, and aspirations in another land will be abundantly realized.

The fact that Mrs. C. W. Harrison sang at Exmouth street church last Monday evening was the reason why that edifice was crowded to its capacity, and by an exceptionally representative audience. This remark it may be said is without prejudice to the well known good work of Harrison's Orchestra which, with Mr. A. C. Ritchie supported the programme outside of Mrs. Harrison's solos, and here I might say I think I never knew the orchestra to do better work than on the occasion under consideration. Mrs. Harrison had not previously

been heard here for some time and much anticipation had been indulged in as to the extent of improvement in her singing in the interval, supplemented by the press notices of her extended compass. Her every number was of course encored but to my mind her first solo "Let the bright Seraphim" with cornet obligato was not so good at first as towards the close of the piece and though an occasional "jump" was made it was not generally observed. For this the singer was not directly responsible, perhaps, as the motrumentation the result of evident nervousness. There is no doubt of the lady's compass of voice, because in "Lo Hear the Gentle Lark" she sang E. in alt, with the greatest apparent ease and it was a full, true, tone, which in a previous cadenza she touched G. in alt. Many of her tones are good in quality but, in my opinion the register is quite uneven, the lower tones as sung at this concert suggesting a closed throat and producing a somewhat strident effect. There will be a good deal to unlearn as well as learn when this lady becomes a pupil of Madame Murchesi. So delighted was the large audience, however, with "Lo Hear the Gentle Lark" that applause was continued until she yielded to the unanimous demand by singing "The Song of Trust." This piece was given with a reverence and an expression that caused many present to consider it the best piece of the evening. It matters not very much what critics may say so long as audiences are pleased and majorities rule.

The "Hispania" club from Halifax will give two productions of the burlesque opera from which they take their name, at the Opera house here today, a matinee and an evening performance. The press notices commend the club for their productions in Halifax and there is no doubt that these comments have been merited. The advent of this club is a new thing in St. John musical circles and on that account apart from a question of merit they will doubtless receive liberal patronage. Indeed I think it is a good idea for St. John and Halifax to develop this idea, and each city in turn give the other any choice thing they have in the musical line.

Mr. J. W. Titus promises a fine concert in the opera house April 16th

The soloists will be Miss Ida King Tarbox, unquestionably the most artistic soprano heard here in the last two years, and Mr. Arthur B. Hitchcock of Boston,

one of America's finest concert Baritones. Tones and Undertones.

Rosenthal, the great pianist who has been such a pronounced success in England last year, has been engaged for a series of fifty concerts in the United States. The tour will begin about next November.

Pachmann played in Berlin last month and much fault was found with his work. He is said to have deteriorated very much. Dr. Dvorak on the 19th inst. will conduct one of his new orchestral pieces at the London Philharmonic.

Melba will sail for Europe on the 26th April to enter upon her Paris engagement. She will afterwards go to Covent Garden for the London season.

Here are the official dates of the performances which are to be given at Bayreuth this year: The "Anneau du Nibelung" will be performed five times during the following days: First performance, July 19, 20, 21, and 22; second performance, July 25, 27, 28 and 29; third performance, August 2, 3, 4, and 5; fourth performance, August 9, 10, 11, and 12; fifth performance, August 16, 17, 18, and 19. It will be remembered that this work is composed of four dramas, the "O du Rhin," the "Valkyrie," "Siegfried," and the "Crepuscule des Dieux."

The eighteenth rehearsal and concert of the Boston Symphony orchestra was given in Music hall Boston yesterday afternoon, March 13, at 2.30 o'clock, and this evening, March 14, at 8 o'clock:

"Melpomene" Overture Chadowick
Concerto for Piano, in G minor, Saint-Saens
Symphony, "Austrian" Brahms

Academic Overture Brahms
Solist, Miss Antoinette Szumowska

Sarasate once found his memory deserting him at a recital; but he discovered the reason of the mishap in time to prevent a failure. A lady was fanning herself in the front row of the stalls. The violinist stopped playing. "Madam," he said, "how can I play in two-four time when you are beating six-eight?" The lady shut up her fan and the recital was concluded successfully.

Josef Hofman, the pianist is coming to the United States this year again. His season will open in New York on the 10th of November at the Metropolitan Opera House. He will have with him on that occasion an orchestra numbering about one hundred persons.

Violet Dene who is a member of "His Excellency" company is a sister of Cissy Fitzgerald. She was a member of "The Gaiety Girl" company last year.

It is said the libretto of Damrosch's opera

"The Scarlet letter" has been published with illustrations and is worth owning for its literary and artistic merit. It would make a fine souvenir.

Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera is called "The Grand Duke, or the Statuary Duet." It was given at the Savoy theatre London last week. It is said to be by no means the best of their productions.

A series of grand operas will be given at the Castle Square theatre Boston. The first of them "Mignon" was given last Monday evening. The title role Mignon was cast to Miss Edith Mason and Miss Lane.

The Black Patti is singing at Keith's theatre, Boston, this week. So also at this same house has been playing the Italian violiniste, Miss Giacinta de la Rocca. Of this latter it is said that in her playing of the intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana," "there was" a delicacy and feeling that showed here an artist of rare ability."

Boston, Mass., will have the distinction of seeing the first production of D. J. Wolf Hopper's new opera "El Capitaine."

A recent Boston paper says that "Next to Lydia Pinkham's, Ellen Beach Yaw's portrait is most often in evidence."

Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger will next season produce Barnet's newest burlesque "Jack and the Beanstalk" which was the annual offering of the Caletts this year. It will be staged sumptuously.

Madames Duse, Bernhardt, and Davenport, will all be playing an engagement in Boston at the same time. Their work in the same roles can then easily be contrasted.

Augustin Daly has left the home theatre and started on his spring tour with Ada Rehan and company. They travel South first, then back to Boston and in May next they go to the Pacific coast. In August next they sail for London.

It is said of Fanny Davenport that she began her starring career in St. Louis, Jan. 6, 1879, opening in London Assurance and playing that first week "Frou Frou," "School for Scandal" and "Oliver Twist." At that time she was supported by the stock company of the Olympia theatre and was under the management of Augustin Daly.

Neil Burgess has been presenting "The County Fair" at the Park theatre, Boston to crowded houses.

Allan Dale, the well known dramatic critic speaking of Mrs. Potter as Juliet says that she made "a very up-to-date first decade Juliet who had seen life and was not

to be taken in,—a Juliet who could smuggle French novels into her room and then explain to her mommer that she was studying "Pilgrim's Progress." "When she told Romeo that 'parting is such sweet sorrow,' you were disappointed because she put it that way, instead of saying, 'Well, old boy, I'll be off. Awtully sorry to leave you, but the old gooseberry inside is getting fidgety.'"

The anti-tights bill has been killed in the New York legislature.

Rose Coghlan will star in a new play written for her by her brother Charles.

Madame Duse has signed a contract to return to the United States next season.

"The Artist's Model," which play was put on at the Hollis theatre, Boston, last week is described by a critic of that city as follows: "A rather bright play, with no complicated plot to follow, but still a little one and very nice when you find it; rather broad in its speeches at times, but all right to the innocent who know no evil; pretty girls, pretty music; good actors, who are at times comical; handsome and tasteful costumes. In a way it is superior," to the average English production of its kind that reaches Boston."

"And then there is Marie Studholme."

Richard Mansfield is to lecture the coming summer. July and August. His subject will be "The Modern Stage." He expects to be \$25,000 richer in consequence.

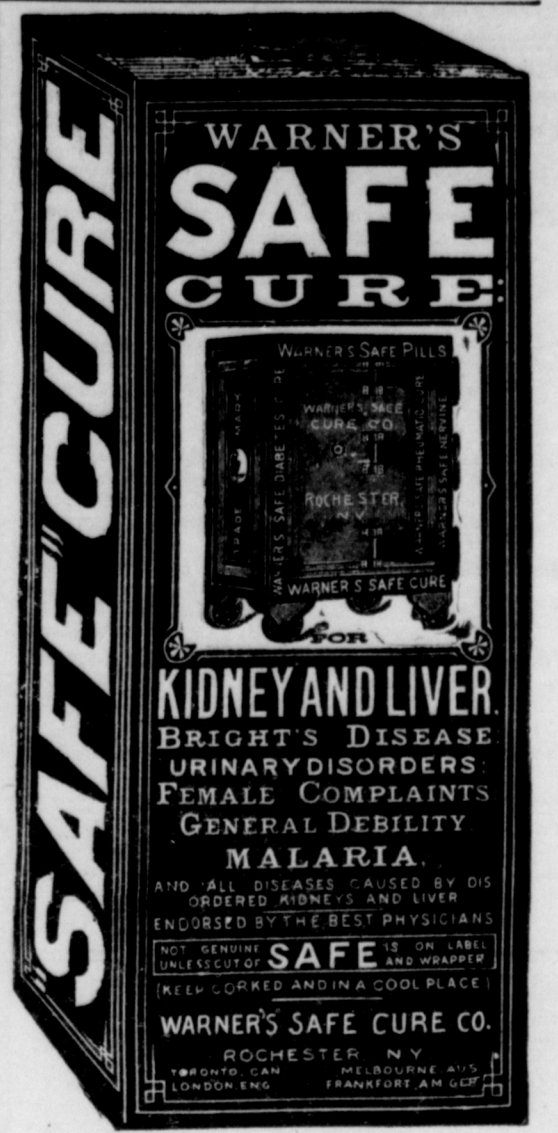
Miss Johnstone Bennett nearly lost her life by fire, in Omaha last Saturday. Miss Bennett, who is a member of Richard Mansfield's company was cleaning a dress with gasoline, in her room at the hotel when the accident occurred through the careless handling of the fluid in connection with a lamp. Friends came to the rescue and prevented the flames from reaching her face. The lady was seriously burned however.

Wadsworth Harris gave a dramatic and poetic recital in Chicago recently which was largely attended. Among the patrons and patronesses on the occasion were Count Bozenta, Madame Mojeska and Miss Ellen Terry. On the programme were many important selections from Shakespeare.

Just Filed the Bill.

Critic—That villain in your story is a perfect masterpiece. Where did you get the character?

Novelist—I imagined a man possessed of all the forms of wickedness my wife attributes to me when she is angry.



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A LA DANSE.

LE FORI.

Moderato.
Musical score for piano, consisting of 12 staves of music. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *fz*, and *rit.* The piece concludes with the instruction *rit. D. C. al Fine.*

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Musical score for piano, consisting of 12 staves of music. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *fz*, and *rit.* The piece concludes with the instruction *rit. D. C. al Fine.*

A la Danse—2.