

Musical and Dramatic

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Nothing has as yet developed a new suggestion some time since made in this department, that public band concerts be supplied to the citizens from time to time during the summer months. No plan beyond a philanthropic possibility in the interest of the worn and weary, and also of the educational influences such concerts have upon mankind generally, was outlined. It is quite recognized that some of the more progressive and public spirited among our hotel proprietors do furnish a number of band concerts at intervals in the season, and for so doing they deserve the popularity such a step merits, but that is not enough. Something more should be done for public entertainment and instruction. When this suggestion was first made, early in the season, the idea that the Mayor should bear the expense connected with the plan, was wholly deprecated. It would not be just to that worthy gentleman; but there are others to whom there are large sums paid annually who could reciprocate in this way without any realizing sense of material expenditure. In another part of this paper today will be seen an item which tells that the city of Boston has managed to provide free public concerts for its citizens. What is there in the proposition to prevent the city of St. John doing in like manner?

Tones and Undertones.

A new comic opera, written jointly by G. Warren Currier of Boston and "Wally" Reeves of Providence, R. I., will receive its initial at Providence on the 29th, inst. It will be a society event because of its authorship and because it will serve as the first appearance in the professional ranks of Mr. Frederick C. Knights, a tenor of much promise. The title of the opera is "The Mandarin Yune."

Chevalier, the English singer of Coster songs, is coming to Boston, and the people of that city are wondering if he will be anything like his imitators.

"Pinafore" still continues to entertain and please people in the United States.

Melba will begin her season in this country next fall in concert. Schalchi it is said, will be in her company. Fore-warned is forearmed and some of our enterprising and speculative citizens should govern themselves accordingly. Last season Halifax had Albani why not let St. John have Melba.

The six hundredth performance of the "Pops" concerts, was given in Music Hall, Boston, last Monday evening. The following was the programme:

March, "Queen of Sheba"	Gounod
Overture, "William Tell"	Rossini
Waltz, "Grubenlichter"	Zeller
Selection "Robin Hood"	De Koven
Narcissus	Nevin
Suite, "Peer Gyn"	Grieg
Love's Dream After the Ball	Czibulka
Introduction to Act III, "Lohengrin"	Wagner
Overture, "Stradella"	Flotow
Waltz, "Arlequin en Voyage"	Zach
Polka, "Gypsy Baron"	Strauss
Boccaccio March	Suppe

Next week will be the last week of the "Pops" in Boston for this year. Last Thursday was French Composers night and last evening (Friday) was Italian Composers night.

"Evangeline" has been revived and is being given at Manhattan Beach with much success. Manager E. E. Rice conducts the orchestra in its playing of a new march.

Sousa's Band is playing in concert at Manhattan Beach.

A new Strauss opera "Waldmeister" is playing at the Terrace Garden, N. Y. It possesses one of the most tuneful and rhythmic scores heard in that city for years. Next season it will be given by an English speaking company.

"Boccaccio" is the bill given at the Castle Square opera house, Boston, this week. Misses Lane, Mason and Diard are in the cast.

A Boston paper of recent date says that "Lottie Mae MacKay, the promising young soprano singer of this city, made her debut in operatic work at Halifax N. S. last week and scored an emphatic success. Miss MacKay was engaged some time ago by the Orpheus club, the leading musical organization of Halifax, to take the star part in the opera "Mattha" and the result, demonstrated at the Academy of Music last Tuesday night, proved that it displayed excellent judgment in its selection.

A series of free public concerts on Boston Common has been inaugurated. They are given under the auspices of the city, by Baldwin's Cadet band.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

On Thursday evening last Mr. W. S. Harkins and his capable company opened their return engagement at the Opera House, with the production of the "War of Wealth" a play by C. T. Dazy, the author of "In Old Kentucky." The play is considered much stronger than the one depicting life in the blue grass region, which was so popular when produced here some three weeks ago. The "War of Wealth" has never been put on in this city before. It is a melodrama, full of thrilling situations and in the hands of the several competent and talented members of the company, it is safe to assume, although too late in the week for fuller notice, that it

will prove a complete financial and artistic success. Mr. Ralph Bechtel as scenic artist has already demonstrated his skill "In Old Kentucky" and, with his assistants, some of whom are St. John men, may be relied upon for superior work in his line. Nowadays not a little of the success of any theatrical production is due to the talent and ability of the quiet worker known as the scenic artist.

The Harry Markham company closed its engagement at the Mechanic's Institute last Saturday evening. They have since been playing in Calais and will return here next month.

Sir Augustus Harris, the first member of the theatrical profession to receive the honor of knighthood, died in England on Tuesday last. He was especially successful as a manager of theatrical enterprises.

The Augustin Daly company will open at the Comedy theatre London on July 6th next.

William Redmond who is favorably remembered here as an actor of much merit will be with Salvini next season.

Roland Reed will open the next season of the Boston Museum on the 24th of August next. He will produce a new play the name of which is not yet announced.

Miss Minnie Radcliffe who will be recalled as the leading lady of Harkins' company last year and who is a very estimable lady as well as a clever actress, will be a member of the Holland Brothers company next season.

Georgia Cayvan is still purchasing plays. She got a few more last week. At least it is so announced on her behalf. The starring bee is buzzing in her bonnet.

"The Last Stroke" is the title of a play with which the next season of the Boston theatre will be opened on the 17th August.

It is now authoritatively stated that Messrs. Abbey, Schofield and Grau will not relinquish control of the Tremont theatre, Boston.

Lizzie Derious Daly, an actress who has an American reputation for cleverness; was recently married to a wealthy manufacturer named Samuel L. Tuck.

The theatre souvenir craze is so general that a prize is now expected with every ticket purchased.

W. F. Owen (Billy) thinks that Joe Jefferson should be nominated for President of the United States.

What is called a "religious craze" in plays exists in England just now. The titles of the two latest are "Honor thy Father and thy Mother" and "Forgive us our Trespases." Wilson Barrett led and others followed.

Barnum's "greatest show on earth" was delighting the Bostonians last week.

CHAT WITH ANTHONY HOPE.

Was a Lawyer When I Thought I'd try my Luck at Writing."

"I think I must be a great disappointment to interviewers," Hope genially remarked. "They are always asking me about the eventual episodes in my life, and I have so few to tell them that I am beginning to be ashamed of not being more interesting. As a matter of fact, it has been merely the ordinary life of the English school and college, with a little work and good luck to follow. Was I born in London? No; in the country, in Hackney. My father was a clergyman there. I wasn't in the least a 'precocious child.' I may have been the reverse, because I didn't learn to read till after the usual age. My first love as an author was Ballantine, who wrote 'The three Middies.' I thought that a most wonderful book. Adventure, you see! When it was time for me to be packed off to one of the big public schools I had the good fortune to win a scholarship at Marlborough, which ranks among the

biggest of the schools. So to Marlborough I went, and there I stayed till I was fitted for Oxford. The only event to break the monotony of my career there was my winning a prize for an English essay. I didn't have to work very hard there, and I had a pretty good time at sports. But the best time of all was the four years that I passed at Balliol College, Oxford. There I played football and tennis. Cricket? No, not much. I'm not as great an enthusiast over cricket as many of my countrymen are. As for intellectual activity, I suppose I got a good deal of that at the 'Union.' You've heard of the 'Union' at Oxford, haven't you? It's the great debating society, with a fine history. Many men in English statesmanship have received their preliminary training in politics at the 'Union.' I came out there as a hearty supporter of the Liberal party, and many a fight have I fought in defence of Mr. Gladstone. I look back now on those years at Oxford as the happiest years of my life."

So much for Anthony Hope's training for his work in the world. "But how about literature?" I asked. "I suppose that while in college you were preparing for a literary career."

He smiled and shook his head. "Far from it. I never even thought of literature as my profession. At that time I looked forward to a long and prosaic existence as a barrister."

"What made you change your mind?" "The public," he replied, with a laugh.

"I studied for the bar and was admitted in two years. Then I passed several years in trying to work up a practice. This was so slow in developing that just for the fun of the thing I thought I'd try my luck at story writing. I found it easy, and in a pretty short time I had filled several hundred sheets of paper and finished a novel, which I called 'A man of Mark.' I despaired of finding a publisher willing to risk money on an untried writer, so I determined to bring out the book myself on what is called the commission plan. In other words, I paid a publisher for printing and putting the book on the market. Of course, I lost money on it; but now that the tide has turned in my favor I've brought the story out a second time, and it looks as if I were going to recoup my losses."

"Then, after leaving Oxford, you had gone seriously into politics?" "Oh, yes. Very seriously; so seriously that I went down to South Bucks and stood as a candidate for Parliament against Lord Curzon was a power and had a great following in the district. But the liberals did well by me though I was defeated by a thousand votes. I really enjoyed the fun of campaigning immensely."

"And did you still keep up your interest in politics?"

"My interest—yes. But I've ceased to be active. Since the 'Prisoner of Zenda' made a bit, more than two years ago. I have devoted myself wholly to literature. My law practice had grown to be fairly large, and I found that I couldn't keep it up and write too. Later I think I may try political

work again, for I really enjoy it. What are my methods of work? They are very simple. I don't wait for moods, but I try to do a regular day's work six days out of seven, just as I should do if I were still in the law. I sit down at my desk at about 10 o'clock, and I stay there till luncheon. After luncheon I go to my task again, and I keep at it till about 4. Then I go about in society a little, and in the season for outdoor sports I try to play a little tennis. My father is the pastor of a church here, and I live with him. I am a bachelor."

—Leslie's Weekly.

It is Different in the Country.

City people don't begin to know all the discomforts a long cold winter brings to people in the country. There is no hardship in leaving a warm house merely to step into a heated street car and be rapidly conveyed in comfort to wherever one's business takes one.

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