

# Musical and Dramatic

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The week just closing has been noticeable for the number of items of interest in local musical circles that it has supplied and which are noticed here because of their public import and public nature. The Oratorio society it is announced has entered upon its summer vacation and although the date upon which work will be resumed is not given—perhaps not yet even definitely determined—there is little doubt it will be early in September if not the middle of August. This is based upon the supposition that the Society will put into practical form its purpose of giving an Oratorio concert during the coming exhibition week.

Some of the church choirs have experienced changes too, some have gained, and some have lost, valuable material in membership by the changes. One particular change is found in the fact that Miss Nettie Pidgeon has been engaged as leading soprano in German street baptist church for the coming year. The standard of singing at this church is always kept commendably high. The fact that Mr. L. W. Titus assists this choir not infrequently is not a little evidence of its general excellence. It is so supplied now that it has a mixed quartette and a male quartette as well.

In St. Andrew's church, I learn that no organist in succession to Prof. Athoe has yet been secured. Last Sunday a Mr. Harrison who is a "Sackville graduate of the pipe organ" played in that church as a sort of trial or sample of his skill. I have not heard that there has been any engagement closed in consequence.

Speaking of this church organ, suggests mention of the fact, that Miss Louise Skinner has discontinued her membership as one of the choir of St. Andrews.

Much sympathy is expressed for the accident to Miss Hea, organist of Centenary church which has caused a broken arm to the lady, and has deprived the church, for the time, of her valuable services. In the meantime Mrs. Daniel has kindly supplied her place for the past two Sundays, but whether this lady will be enabled to continue during whole of the time Miss Hea is absent, is problematical.

Rumor has it that a new musical society has been formed in connection with St. Mary's Episcopal church, Waterloo St. It is said that the well known basso Mr. J. N. Rogers is director of the new organization. Under this management the society should and doubtless will rapidly develop strength and excellence.

## Tones and Undertones.

"Martha" is the opera selected for production this week at the Castle Square theatre, Boston. At this house last week "Boccaccio" was the bill and Miss Lane, who was to sing the title role, fainted within five minutes after her appearance. Miss Maud D'Arcy took Miss Lane's place, and was very acceptable to the patrons.

Mr. Frank David, sang at the Castle Square last week instead of Mr. William Wolf. This change was made in order that Mr. Wolf might obtain a much needed rest.

Miss Jorie Intropidi, who will be remembered as having appeared in opera in this city, has recently been appearing in variety in New York.

The new comic opera "The Yankee Cruiser", is still running at the Boston Museum.

The friends of Miss Clara Lane who fainted in "Boccaccio" at the Castle Square last week, have arrived at the conclusion that "an actress and singer has a limit to her endurance," and that a rest should be taken in this lady's case.

Miss Clara Thropp who sings in "The Yankee Cruiser" has written a novel entitled "A Few Little Lives". The book tells of "a self-willed woman whose husband's thoughts are devoted to business and another man's wife."

The "Pops" concerts closed in Boston last Thursday evening. The closing concert was a complimentary testimonial to the leader Mr. Max Zach. The following was the programme last Monday evening which was American composers night.

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|---------------------------------|-----------|
| March, "Washington Post"        | Sousa     |
| Overture "Sphinx"               | Thompson  |
| Waltz, "Waves of the Danube"    | Ivanovic  |
| Selection, "Fencing Master"     | DeKoven   |
| Suite                           | MacDowell |
| On Tiptoe                       | Hosmer    |
| Minnet, "Pearl of Orr's Island" | Ryan      |
| Dance and March of the Gnomes   | DeKoven   |
| Cradle Song                     | Bendix    |
| Butterflies                     |           |
| Waltz, "Obispo"                 | Atkinson  |
| Folks, "Tou a Jolie"            | Waldeufel |
| March, "Up the Street"          | Morse     |

Miss Lucy Clarke, an admirable contralto, whose vocal gifts have heretofore been lavished chiefly upon London music hall audiences, has joined the Carl Rosa Opera Company. She has been singing the title part in "Carmen" at Newcastle, England with much success.

A Boston girl, who wears the name of, Miss Rossi Gish, now in Brussels as a pupil of the celebrated Ysaye, has been selected, from among fifty pupils on the violin, to be one of fifteen to compete for a

medal given by the conservatory in which she is studying.

Messrs. Abbey, Solafiele and Grau will continue business next season in the Metropolitan opera house, N. Y., and at the Tremont theatre, Boston.

Walter Damrosch has engaged Lili Lehman, Paul Kalisch, and Ernest Kraus for a winter season of German opera in the United States. He has also reengaged Gadsby, Stehman, Lange, Fischer, Mertens, and Eibenschutz.

Inez Sprague, wife of Ex Governor Sprague of Rhode Island, has been studying abroad during the last two years, for the operatic stage. Her repertoire includes nine of the popular operas. She will begin a concert tour—her first one—during next December, and will continue until the following May. She will then sail for Milan where she is under engagement to appear in the Italian Opera.

A tourist in Cornwall recently met some members of a village church choir returning from rehearsal. He asked one of them what music they had been singing. The answer was "Handel." "Well" said he "but don't you find Handel rather difficult?" "Why, no Sir" replied the Cornishman, "not very. You see, we alters him."

## TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The "War of Wealth" with which the Harkin's company opened its reengagement last Thursday evening, was too late for notice last week and therefore a word now about this production may not be inopportune. As before remarked the play is by the author of "In Old Kentucky" and it is the medium of introducing to the lovers of the drama in our city some members of the company in other and more advantageous roles than "In Old Kentucky" permitted. The cast had in it in prominent places of course, Messrs. Wise, Deyo, French, and Lee, also Joseph Kilgour a new member, but, while Wise was inimitable as Col. Pinckney Pointexter in his fun making, and all the others sustained their roles satisfactorily as would be expected, in Malcolm Bradley's work as Raymond, the night watchman of the bank, there was a surprise of a pronounced character and won for him much well merited applause. Of the ladies Miss Whitty was admirable as the wealthy heiress and has always a true conception of the part she plays. Miss Tabor as the Western girl, presented her role very naturally and retained the favorable impression she had made as "Madge," in the opening play. Miss Magill played the role of Helen Raymond in such a powerful manner that her work was a revelation. No one had suspected that this young lady possessed such qualities as an emotional actress as her work in this play demonstrated, and the impression she made was most flattering and one that any young artist should be proud of. This lady is handsome as well as youthful and of good stage presence, qualities which, united with study and devotion to her profession, in the near future will result in giving her high place in her chosen profession. The "War of Wealth" as a play however has many inconsistencies.

"Too Much Johnson" a comedy was selected for the opening nights of this week. It has many laughable situations but my impression was that the play was not such as the company would appear in to the best advantage.

"Love or Money" was put on Dominion day and for the rest of the week.

Mrs. W. J. Florence, widow of the comedian, has sold the rights to "Our Governor" and "The Mighty Dollar" to Harry Davenport.

Fritz Williams was married to Katherine Florence on the 26th ult. Mr. Williams is one of the most popular and clever young men on the stage today. As previously mentioned, he was in this city with Arthur Rehan's company at the Mechanics' Institute, some eight or ten years ago. His bride is a daughter of Katherine Rogers.

David Belasco has obtained a verdict of \$16,000 in his suit against N. K. Fairbanks, the Chicago "Angel" of Mrs. Lealie Carter. Belasco sued for \$65,000, for teaching Mrs. Carter how to be an actress. The jury seemed to adjudge that he had not accomplished his undertaking and allowed him in proportion.

Thomas E. Shea, it is said will have extra financial backing in the "Man O War's-Man" next season.

A "warm weather" company has been organized for a short season in Boston and is giving performances at the Park theatre. Among the talent engaged, and appearing there, is Alice Shaw and Raymcn Moore, the song writer.

Rosa Rand, who once was a member of the Boston theatre stock company, is now in Philadelphia preparing pupils for the stage. She was not less known as the wife of L. R. Shewell who for years was leading man at the Boston museum.

The death of J. W. Kelly, one of the best and brightest in the Vaudeville ranks, was announced last week. Mr. Kelly's real name was Shields. He was known

most favorably, from one end of the Northern continent to the other. A man full of generous impulses. Requiescat in pace.

The New England Women's Press Association has abandoned their proposed week of standard modern and classic plays to be given next year under their auspices.

The dramatic papers or their correspondents still have something to say of the late Sir Augustus Harris. A recent Boston paper says that in his death "Melodrama has lost its greatest friend" and adds that some of the most noted of plays of this class in America came from his theatre.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bouchier, who will visit the United States next season, have just given in London an English version of Sardou's "Divorcous" with all the characters made over into honest English men and women, and of course all the French elements removed. When in the United States they will appear in "The Chili Widow."

Yvette Guilbert has confided to an interviewer a brief chapter of her experiences in America. Her visit was a flying one, and so her impressions are terse and briefly put. Like most people who visit the Windy City, she is not complimentary to Chicago, the foul condition of the streets of which, she describes, in strong but picturesque terms, Boston's "superior intellectuality" struck her, but she found the people somewhat "collet monte et bas bleu." Philadelphia did not impress her at all, which shows her to be a woman of perceptive discrimination. New York—which another eminent artist summed up as being all "spit and splendor"—she found quite without personalite—no individuality. The New Yorkers do not create; they are too busy money-getting. To the New York women she is complimentary, though they do be-jewel, be-ribbon, and be-feather themselves too much and too early in the day.

In China, the stage is said to be the lowest of the professions. Actors share with barbers the pain of exclusion from competition at literary examinations. Every other man in the empire can compete, and every successful candidate is a probable mandarin. Actors and barbers alone can never attain to the privilege.

Miss Olga Nethersole's "Carmen" which was so sensational in the United States last season, has not made any favorable impression in England. Of a recent production of the play at the Gaiety theatre, London, Sketch, has the following: "It is enough to say that the coarseness of Miss Nethersole is neither needful nor pleasing. "Carmen," after all, presents a creature of some charm and the noticeable feature of Miss Nethersole's work is lack of charm. It showed great cleverness without genius. It was all very well having portrayed Carmen as a kind of beast, trying to make her die as a brute, but the effort as a whole reminded one too much of pig sticking. I have always had a hearty belief in the ability of Miss Olga Nethersole but begin to feel that the craving for notoriety at any price, will render her gifts of small value."

## A LARGE WHISKEY DEAL.

McDougal's V. O. Rye Goes to Montreal. (Hullax Herald, June 16th.)

One of the largest whiskey transactions ever operated by a distillery in this country has just been completed between the Eastern Trust Company, acting for the Bank of British North America, and Messrs. Lawrence A. Wilson & Co., the large wine merchants of Montreal. The whiskey purchased by this firm comprises the whole of McDougal's Old Rye Whiskey, vatted in oak barrels in the year 1890, and upon which heavy advances were obtained from the Bank of British North America. It is claimed to be very superior owing to its age, and the fact that a great percentage of malt was used in its manufacture, and the purchasers are, consequently, called upon to pay a government duty of \$1.72 per proof gallon, owing to the malt having been used in total. F. J. Clarke, who negotiated the sale, states that it aggregates over one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) duty paid, and that the Montreal firm have secured a snap, when it is considered that a large portion is going to be bottled for their regular trade and the balance in wood will be sold to their customers only. It is not definitely decided what is to become of the rest estate and plant of the McDougal Distilling Company, but it is to be hoped that the business will be resumed by a new company.

## A Bird Sneak Trapped.

A feathered tough met its death curiously the other day at Kingsington, South Devon, England, according to Gerald Waller in the London Field. The English cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of other birds nearly after the fashion of the American cowbird, so that the birds imposed upon bring up the cuckoo's young along with its own. One cuckoo discovered the nest of a pair of pied wagtails, or "dishwashers," in a clay pit near Kingsington, and, as it seemed in every way a favorable place to deposit one of her eggs, she started to enter the nest for that purpose.

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The nest was peculiarly situated between a Scotch fir pole, which had the bark still on, and the wall. There was plenty of space for the pied wagtails, but it was a tight squeeze for the cuckoo. She got into the nest, though, but there she found herself in trouble.

She couldn't tack out, because her feathers pointed the wrong way, and she couldn't go forward. She was still alive when one of the workmen found her, but dead after being extricated.

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