

Musical and Dramatic

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

In a public respect there is prevailing just at present a sort of reaction or hiatus in musical affairs generally, though the management of the St. John Oratorio society is contemplating the resuming of work at rehearsal. A good rest ought to have some beneficial effect on the several members that when rehearsals are again in order some excellent work will be done.

I have heard there is a movement on foot to have a musical society organized among a number of gentlemen of the city. I have not yet heard the plan of the proposed organization but fancy it will be semi private and social in character, and largely for the entertainment of its members. It would be much better if all the musical organizations in the city unite for specific study of the higher order of music and the central body, such as the Oratorio Society for example, be entirely representative. There would be nothing in this to prevent social musical enjoyment or even combination. It may be indeed that some of the movers in this new musical club are already members of the Oratorio Society.

Tones and Under-ones.

"The Gondoliers" will be the opera at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, next week. "Erminia" was the opening bill of the season. There have been some changes made in the company but the old favorites remain. "Erminia" was continued this week.

"Mexico in 1848" is the title of a new opera which the Bostonians will produce on 19th. Oct., on the occasion of the dedication of the new theatre at Murry Hill, New York.

A New York musical critic, writing of "The Caliph" by Ludwig Engländer, says that "Aside from two numbers—the criminal chorus in the first act and the whistling chorus in the third act—every phase that is sung starts out with either a bar or two of absolute transcription or a paraphrase." The critic says "also the lyric numbers lack consideration for the human voice."

More than 14,000 singers took part in the last Stuttgart Sangerbundfest. A special hall was erected with 8250 seats and standing room for 4000.

Lillian Russell's tour for this season began at Altoona last Monday. "An American Beauty" had its first performance on that occasion. In this opera she makes her entrance on the back of an elephant and one writer suggests that a Percheron dray horse be substituted.

Sousa has recently completed another opera entitled "The Bride Elect." He has written the libretto as well as the score.

Miss Zeli De Lussan has made such a success throughout England, in the French opera "La Nivandiere," that arrangements are being made for a short London season of opera by the Carl Rosa company with "La Nivandiere" as the special attraction. Mr. Myron Whitney jr. who has been spending a vacation at home in Boston, will return to his vocal studies in Boston this month.

The first concert of the Sixteenth season of the Boston Symphony Orchestra will take place on the 17 October next.

The auction sale of tickets for the musical festival at Worcester Mass., netted in premiums \$1550, being the largest amount received in that way since 1892.

Jean De Reszke, the famous tenor, says he prefers to sing in mystic roles. The role from which he has derived the most pleasure, is that of Tristan in the third act of "Tristan and Isolde."

Miss Alice Carle, whose voice was heard here with much pleasure in "Ship Ahoy" and other works, is now prima donna contralto with the Grau Opera Company.

A favorite member of the Carl Rosa Opera Company is Miss Alice Estey, a Boston lady. Two other American ladies are members of that Company this season. They are Miss Rita Elande and Miss McDonald.

Armand Fortin, a young graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, is going to Florence to study for two years there, under Vanucini.

Frank Daniels' comic opera company began its season for 1896-97 in Brooklyn N. Y. last Monday evening. The bill was "The Wizard of the Nile." It is said that for the role of Cleopatra he has secured "a new prima donna, a recent graduate of the best vocal teachers in Europe." The lady's name is not given.

Max Eugene, who was for five or six years the leading barytone of the Carl Rosa opera company, and who is over six feet in height, has been engaged in England to play the title role in "Brian Boru."

It is said that the Greek composer Spiro Samara intends to form an orchestra of 100 performers at Athens.

Humperdinck, the composer of "Hansel and Gretel," has been honored by the Emperor of Germany with the title "Royal Professor of Music." This is a distinction seldom conferred.

The guarantee fund and the subscription to the next season of opera in London amount to \$225,000; so that, as "Truth" remarks, the enterprise is safe enough "unless Mr. Grau is tempted to go to American extremes."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The production of "The Wife" by Miss Ethel Tucker and supporting company on Friday evening of last week was to my mind one of the best, if not the very best things the company has done while here. I mean this in a company sense, because each member seemed to be fitted to his or her part and they knew their lines well. Of course Miss Tucker has done in "La Belle Marie," "Queens" and "Camille" much stronger and heavier work than falls to her in the role of Helen Trueman, but she has seldom or never done nicer work than she did in "The Wife." I think this role ought to be added to the list of the lady's best impersonations. Mr. Meldon played the part of Senator Rutherford a noble, distinguished, dignified, honorable man, with evident true conception of the character. The support generally was as I have said admirable throughout, particularly Miss Westcott who played the ingenue role. But a word of special notice is due to the cleverness of Miss Annie Marshall in the minor part of Agnes. The company is playing in Yarmouth, N. S. this week.

The Mora-Williams Company comes to the Opera House next week and will play at popular prices I believe. The house has been dark this week.

Tom Wise is playing this season his well known part of Major Poindecker in "The War of Wealth" and his wife, Miss Gertrude Whitty, is now playing in the same piece under her real name Gertrude Wise.

The new play "Rosemary" in which John Drew and Maud Adams have again scored a success is said to be essentially "Dickensy," being in subject, treatment and action reminiscent of that great novelist.

Mary Hampton, will be playing at the Boston Museum next week in "The Hand of Destiny." She is popular in that city.

Our fellow townsman and genial man Mr. P. A. Nannery is playing in the Western Circuit as a leading member of "Coon Hollow" Company. He was in Indianapolis last week. The company is doing good business.

Carl Haswin, who was the excellent Earl of Dorincourt when "Little Lord Fauntleroy" was first given in St. John, is playing at the Bowdoin Square theatre this week, a piece new to Boston, entitled "A Lion's Heart."

"The Lady Slavey" with Marie Dressler in the leading role, has been a distinct success at the Hollis theatre, Boston. Her role is Flo Honeydew, a part that does not call for fineness. The piece was originally written by George Dance, an Englishman. It was Americanized by one George Lederer. As a play it is said to be "neither fish, fowl or good red herring."

"Madame Sans-Gene" is credited with having made \$39,000 last season. Larger financial results are anticipated for this season.

Fanny Davenport denies that she will produce any new plays this season. She has determined to devote her time entirely to the Sardou repertoire, and she says this is positively her farewell to "Fedora," "La Tosca," "Cleopatra" and "Gismonda."

"The Sunshine of Paradise Alley" has finished its third successive week at the Tremont theatre, Boston, to night. It will continue for several weeks yet. The electrical effects are said to be very fine.

Owing to unavoidable change of plans in Charles Frohman's companies, Miss Olga Nethersole will not come to New York until February next, when she will be seen at the Knickerbocker theatre.

It has been discovered that out in Wisconsin a marriage ceremony performed in a play is just as binding as if performed by a minister in a church. If a man and woman acknowledge themselves to be man and wife before competent witnesses that settles it according to law, and, therefore, if two players during a performance refer to each other as husband and wife they are legally married—unless business is bad and there is no one in the audience.

Mr. James Lewis, the veteran comedian, so long a member of Augustin Daly's company, died at five o'clock Thursday morning, Sept. 10, at West Hampton, L. I. He only recently returned from London with the Daly company, and appeared to be in good health when he returned. Mr. Lewis was born in Troy in 1840. Next to Mrs. Gilbert, who has just celebrated her seventy-sixth birthday, he was the oldest member of the Daly company. He was for many years engaged in mercantile work. His adopting the stage as a profession was an accident. A friend of his who was acting in a small stock company fell ill, and Lewis

at the last moment was persuaded to go on in his part. He made a hit and was so pleased with the stage that he took to it permanently. In the annals of the American stage Lewis's name will also be indelibly associated in an artistic sense with Mrs. Gilbert. For nearly twenty years these two have been playing opposite parts in the Daly productions. Their work in "Nancy and Company," "A Night Off," the "Railroad of Love," "The Taming of the Shrew," and many other productions which have seen the light at Daly's theatre will never be forgotten. In their own line they have no equals anywhere. In London Lewis was, if anything, even a greater favorite than in New York. Years ago when the Daly company was at the zenith of its success, the London critics used to refer to them as the Great Four—Rehan, Drew, Gilbert and Lewis. Lewis's death will create a gap in the Daly Company which can never be filled. To Mrs. Gilbert, to Miss Rehan and to Mr. Daly, his death will be a bitter blow.

The play "Rosemary," in which John Drew has made such a success at the Empire Theatre New York, is absolutely free from the eroticism or Frenchness which some managers deem essential to the success of a play. "Rosemary" shows that there is a profitable demand for plays that are free from any taint of uncleanness, and which portray the sentiment of the old fashioned love affair combined with refined humor.

The life-size model of Sarah Siddons executed by M. Chavalland whose design was the selection of the late Lord Leighton and the Siddons Memorial Committee, has been sent to Italy, where the work will be chiseled in Sicilian marble. It represents Mrs. Siddons seated draped in Grecian costume, and in a tragic pose. The portrait is mainly derived from Sir Joshua Reynolds' famous painting of "The Tragic Muse." The memorial will be erected on Piddington Green, within a few yards of the tomb of the actress.

BIG GOLD NUGGETS.

Many of Them Have Been Found in California.

The history of the great California nuggets is in many respects interesting and romantic. The discovery of one of the greatest ever found was under singular circumstances. It is known as the Oliver Martin nugget, and a gilded cast of it is now an interesting object to all visitors at the California Mining Bureau. This nugget was found near Camd Corona in Tuolumne county, and weighed 151 pounds and 6 ounces. Oliver Martin and a companion named Flower were camped in a canyon when a terrible rainstorm came on in the night and the water in the stream suddenly rose to a great height. The miners attempted to climb the hill, but the flood overtook them and both were carried down the stream. Flower was drowned, but Martin, though severely injured, escaped. Afterward, while trying to bury his companion's body in a grave at the foot of a tree, Martin discovered the nugget which bears his name. He was too exhausted to remove it. He attempted to

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GUESS

Canada's International Exhibition,

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Sept. 22 to Oct. 2, 1896.

MONDAY, 21st.

The grounds and buildings will be open to exhibitors and their employes, who will prepare and place their exhibits. It is hoped that the work will be fully completed and that all will be ready for the

OPENING DAY, Tuesday, 22nd.

When the buildings and grounds will be opened to the public at 9 a. m. At 10 a. m. Hon James Mitchell, Premier of New Brunswick, accompanied by the members of his Government, militia and city officials and prominent ladies and gentlemen, will formally open the Exhibition. After the machinery has been put in motion the Premier with his associates will visit all the departments of the Exhibition.

SPECIAL FEATURES.

Besides the wealth of Agricultural, Live Stock, Industrial and Fine Arts exhibits the Exhibition Association has provided the following:

1. THE WONDERFUL CAPRINE PARADOX, consisting of six Performing Goats, which give an exhibition of Tight Rope Walking, Balancing, Buck Dancing and various other almost incredible feats. They will be seen in front of the Grand Stand upon the grounds at 10.30 a. m. and 2.30 p. m. daily.
2. SIX NIGHTS OF FIREWORKS, supplied by Messrs. Hand & Co., the famous Pyrotechnic Artists, of Hamilton, Ont., on each night, presenting the most magnificent spectacular effects ever seen in St. John.

Some of the features are of a most intricate character, reflecting the highest skill in pyrotechnic art. The first display will begin at 7.30 p. m. on Wednesday, 23rd, weather permitting, and on each suitable night thereafter.

3. A GRAND COMEDY AND ACROBATIC COMBINATION, furnished by the International Vaudeville Exchange, New York, will give a most interesting and entertaining programme of two hours' duration, at 3 and 8 p. m. every day, in Amusement Hall.

The services of the following well-known bands of music have been secured, namely, the Artillery, the Fusiliers, the City Cornet, the Carleton Cornet and the Temple of Honor. Specially prepared music will be furnished every afternoon and evening during the Exhibition.

Harrison's Orchestra will furnish music every day and evening in the Amusement Hall.

JUDGING will commence on Wednesday morning the 23rd.

A GRAND PARADE of the prize Horses and Cattle will take place at 2.30 p. m. on Tuesday, 29th, and will be reviewed from the Grand Stand.

EXCURSION RATES have been secured on all lines of travel.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO STOCK OWNERS.

Entries will be received up to Monday night, 21st inst. Live Stock may be brought in on Monday, 21st, and up to Tuesday night, 22nd. They can be removed at any time after the auction sale on the 30th.

Hay will be provided free by the Exhibition Association on and after Saturday, 26th inst.

The Government, not having made any importation, will have no Live Stock on exhibition or for sale, so that an excellent opportunity will be afforded for the sale of pure bred stock.

Admission will be by Ticket. Adults 25c, Children 15c

On Saturday, 26th, (Children's Day) special children's tickets will be sold for 10 cents.

Admission to the performance in Amusement Hall will be by special 10 cent ticket.

The Performing Goats and the Fireworks will be on open parade and will be free to all visitors to the Exhibition. Seats on the Grand Stand, 10 cents.

CHARLES A. EVERETT, Secretary.

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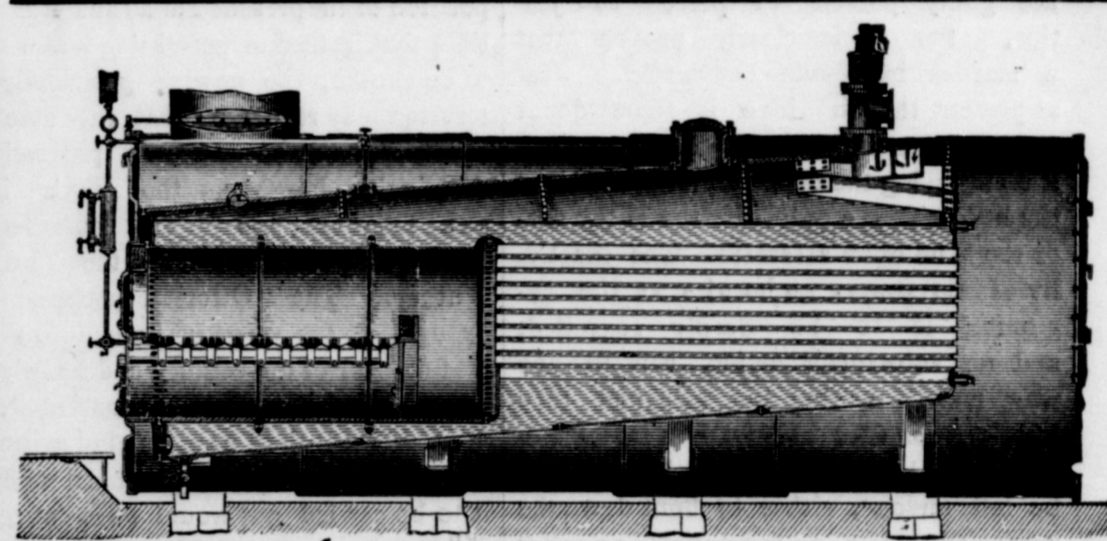
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