

Musical and Dramatic

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

It is a primary duty, and a sad one as well, to be obliged this week, to make record of the death of Miss Mabel Gibbs, a young lady most favorably known in this city and as highly esteemed as she was well known. Miss Gibbs was an ardent lover of the violin and was not infrequently heard in concert in this city—always modest and retiring she was not before the public as often as she otherwise would have been—and her improvement in her work was strongly marked within the past year or two. She was ever ready to respond to the call of suffering and charity and sympathy has often obtained her services when more material considerations would fail to do so. St. John can ill afford in a worldly sense, to lose any of her young musicians and the loss is the more severe when the one taken from our midst gives so much promise of excellence and musical distinction as may be consistently said of this young lady.

Miss Gibbs has been in ill health for some months past the result of a severe cold, but though she and her family and friends were sustained with the hope of her ultimate recovery, it was ordered otherwise. He "who doeth all things well" has taken her to himself, and though the sense of loss to her family is now overpowering almost, yet with them all must be the consolation that with her who has been removed from their midst "all things are well" and she dwells in "a realm of sweet sounds" for all eternity.

Since last week's reference to the projected visit of Madame Albani to St. John in her tour through Canada, the indications are still stronger that the conjecture then made as to the character of the entertainment she will give here, was correct. It was said that her agent represented she would give a night of opera in St. John, but the remark was made in this department, that her entertainment would rather be in the form of an operatic concert as it might be called, and the reasons for that opinion were given. It appears now, that Miss Beatrice Langley a Mr. Braxton Smith and a Mr. Lempriere Pringle have been engaged to accompany her on her tour.

Tones and Under-ones.

Madame Melora Henson, the soprano, and widow of the late Walter Emerson now in Chicago, will shortly return to Europe.

On the monument to be erected in memory of the late Ambrose Thomas there will be a statue of Ophelia which will be a reproduction of the features of Christina Nilsson.

Sims Reeves has gone to South Africa and will start his 79th year by singing in that country.

Nordica has been engaged for twenty performances at the Royal opera Covent Garden next year. She will appear in all the Wagner repertoire. Madame Nordica in private life is now Madame Zoltan Doems.

Sardou has given permission to Umberto Giurdano to make an opera from "Fedora."

Judic, the French Comic Opera Singer, will be heard at Hammerstein's Olympia in New York, next November.

Flora Finlayson, a successful comic opera prima donna contralto died recently in San Francisco whither she had gone a few weeks ago, to join the Tivoli company in a season of grand opera. She was to sing the role of Ancena in "Il Novatore". Her unexpected death was a great shock and a great cause of regret in musical circles in the east where she was well known and highly esteemed. A New York paper says of her, "she was an artist through and through." Miss Finlayson had been a member of "The Bostonians" and also of Lillian Russell's company.

It is said that no French musician was found worthy to wear the red ribbon at the distribution of decorations on 14 July last.

Camille D'Arville, the prima donna, has recently won another distinction. She rescued a boy from drowning at Sheephead bay a few days ago. To do this brave act she, though fully dressed, waded up to her neck.

Marie Halton has been engaged to play theoubrette role in Hammerstein's new romantic comic opera "Santa Maria."

A London, Eng., letter to a Boston paper of recent date says that Mrs. Richard Blackmore, Jr., of Boston, has received much praise for her singing over there. Some of the London critics says "She is the most finished singer America has yet sent over."

Mrs. Kate B. de Noel, of New York, has also created quite a stir in London musical circles. A dinner was given in her honor at the Savoy hotel by the composer of "The Maid of Plymouth." Madame de Noel was not known in New York as a singer, but she is now booked for an autumn tour of England, singing at the musical festival at Birmingham and Manchester in "The Messiah."

Miss Beatrice Langley and Messrs.

Braxton Smith and Lempriere Pringle will accompany Madame Albani on her approaching tour through Canada en route to Australia.

Victor Maurel will sing next season at Paris. Monte Carlo and St. Petersburg. He will sing the title role in the approaching revival of "Don Juan" at the Opera Comique, Paris; and will appear in Lara's "Moyna" and Goldmark's "Queen of Sheba" at Monte Carlo. He is much annoyed at having failed to secure another engagement in the United States.

Mlle. Marie Brema has been engaged to sing in opera at the Theatre de la Monnaie in Brussels in November and January next. Among the roles she will sing will be Amneris in "Aida," Orfeo Dalila and Ortrud.

A Roman correspondent of the Dramatic Mirror says "The newest star in the Italian opera world is Madame Alva, an Anglo Saxon by birth." Her musical education was obtained in Italy and her first appearance was in the role of Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana." Madame Alva is married and her husband is an Irishman not unknown in the political world.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Theatre goers will be pleased at the reminder that Miss Ethel Tucker, and Mr. Meldon and their popular supporting company, begin a return engagement at the Opera house next Monday afternoon, when I believe a play entitled "The Pearl of Savoy" will be given, with a change of bill for the evening performance. The engagement continues throughout the week.

On Monday evening of this week the first instance of a Hoyt production in this city occurs at the opera house. The play thus as it may be said, initiating this line of work, is "A Trip to Chinatown" in the United States is perhaps the most popular of Hoyt's works. The company is headed by Miss Laura Bigger and Mr. Bert Haverly well known names in the world of fun makers. The company gives a matinee today and the last opportunity for seeing the piece this season, will be had this evening when the engagement in this city closes. If this venture proves successful, I am told there is strong probability that all of Hoyt's pieces will be seen here during early future seasons.

Lois Fuller has returned to New York. The Hollis street theatre, Boston, will open its season this evening.

Madame Janauschek is said to be re-engaged for the coming season in "The great Diamond Robbery."

Roland Reed's new play "The Wrong Mr. Wright." with which he opened the season of the fifty sixth year of the Boston museum on the 24th August, made a decided hit although, a critic says "there are spots in it that want toning up."

Rumors being prevalent in New York that Augustin Daly would give a revival of Shakespeare's plays this season, Mr. Daly has found it necessary to say "our plans are not developed yet for next year and it is too early to make predictions."

The Bowdoin square theatre, Boston, was re-opened last Saturday evening with the production of a new melodrama by Frank Harvey. The play is called "A House of mystery" and was received with enthusiasm. It is said to be a worthy successor of "Woman against Woman" a strong play by the same author.

Of Mary Hampton, well remembered by patrons of the drama in this city, the latest news is that she will play the role of Jane Armoyd in the condensed version of "The Long Strike" by Boucicault which is to be used as a curtain raiser to "The Liar," the new play in which Fritz Williams plays a leading role. "The Long Strike" in its entirety was played here many years ago in the old Lyceum (Lanernan's theatre) with Mr. Fuller as Money-penny. Later in the season Miss Hampton is to play the leading role in Charles Frohman's play "Les Deux Gosses."

Olga Nethersole's next American tour will begin on 2nd, November in Brooklyn Sae will be seen in "The wife of Scarli 'Camilla' and 'Frou Frou.' Sae will also produce a new play entitled "My Lady Virtue" by Henry V. Esmond.

Georgia Cayvan will, during the coming season, produce the play entitled "Mr. Witt's Widow," by Anthony Hope. Miss Cayvan says "It was very merry reading and ought to make good acting. Miss Cayvan will be managed by Arthur Lewis, a brother of Julia Arthur.

Eddy's Squib says that Augustin Daly will have a recruit this season, who, in beauty may claim to rival Maxine Elliott. The lady comes from San Francisco where she is well known in social circles. Her name is Pauline French. She is a tall graceful girl, inclining to brunette and with magnificent eyes. She has more than average intelligence also.

A recent Boston paper announces "the early production for the first time in that city of "The Great Train Robbery" a new

romantic Western play by Scott Marble. The play appears to be owned by Thomas H. Davis and William T. Keogh. This would seem to conflict somewhat forcibly with the announcement of Mr. Greene of McAniff and Green in the opera house here lately and prior to the production of "The Great Train Robbery" by that company, that the play was the latest work from the pen of E. E. Rose and that Mr. Rose had personally superintended the rehearsals of the company in this play for four weeks before it was produced by the McAniff and Greene combination, for whom it was written. There is a marked discrepancy between the statements. If the name of the play is a coincidence it is marvelous the description of Mr. Marble's play contains many features quite like unto those written for McAniff and Greene's actors.

Gustavus Levick has been engaged as leading man for Joe Jefferson.

Until after the presidential election Aubrey Boucicault will go on the Vaudeville stage.

John H. Bunny ("Jack' Bunny) who was last here with Harkins when he produced "The Still Alarm" is with Roland Reed's Company this season and plays "David Clews" in the cast of "The Wrong Mr. Wright."

Edward S. Kidder has written a play entitled "Shannon of the Sixth" a romantic reflex of life in India during the mutiny of 1857. The story of the play is said to be one of absorbing interest.

Joe Jefferson will play only a short season of ten weeks and will confine himself to "Rip Van Winkle".

Alexander Salvini is said to be very ill at Florence, Italy, and his physicians have ordered him to remain quiet for a few months. His illness is said to be of a nervous character caused by overwork.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier of the London Royalty theatre and Mrs. Bourchier (Violet Vanburgh) after their tour in America will return to London by next Easter. While in America Mr. Bourchier will produce the new comedy written for him by

Sardou and also "Charlotte Corday" written for Mrs. Bourchier by Herman Merivale.

Mrs. Louise Thorndyke Boucicault has recently been playing in San Francisco as a member of T. D. Frawley's Stock Company. The play was the "The Social Trust."

Edith Crane will be seen as "Trilby" at the Columbia theatre San Francisco after the Frawley Season closes.

Miss May Nannery has been specially engaged to play the dual role of Billy Piper and Nancy Williams in "The Danites" at the Grand Opera House San Francisco, in support of Jas. M. Bropley, the Californian actor playing a star engagement at that house.

Evangelistic Tour.

Evangelist Leyben, who has just closed his series of lectures in Mechanics Institute, has gone to Fredericton, where he will lecture on Romanism Sunday and Monday, in the City Hall. On the 11th and 12th inst. he will address the Baptist provincial convention at Springfield, N. B., and on the 13th and 14th he will lecture in the Opera House, Moncton.

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TELL ME WHY?

Words by JESSIE VILLARD.

Music by A. FRENCCELLI.

Musical score for "Tell Me Why?" by Jessie Villard and A. Frencelli. The score includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment with various musical markings such as *Moderato*, *Ad lib.*, *Alto*, *Andante*, *foco meno*, *grandioso*, *Con Sca.*, *stet*, *accl.*, and *cresc.*

Lyrics: Ah! moth-er, tell me why my fool-ish heart throbs fast-er, dear, when he is near, when he..... is near? And why the birds more sweetly sing, The flow-ers bloom more fair, more fair, The glist-ning dew-drops on the leaves Shine with a bright-er sheen, And all the world new as-pect wears? Say, moth-er, is it a dream? Ah! tell me, moth-er, tell me why, When he is near, my lips de-ny To speak the word, to speak the word my heart does sigh? Ah! tell me, moth-er, why? Ah! heart does sigh? Ah! tell me, moth-er, tell me why? Tell me why? tell me why? Tell me why? tell me why?.....