

# Musical and Dramatic

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

There is absolutely nothing of direct public musical importance to mention this week. What with the Halifax Carnival taking so many of our people away from home and other specious reasons, the city has in a measure been left barren of musical entertainment.

The happy incident in the life of Prof. Chas. R. Fisher alluded to in this department last week materialized on Wednesday last. The many friends of Prof. Fisher wish him and his bride full measure of domestic delight and happiness on their journey through life. As stated last week Prof. Fisher shortly leaves for Roanoke Va.

One item of musical interest is found in the fact that Calvin church has become the possessor of a fine two manual pipe organ which is now being placed in position. The instrument was built by Messrs. Waring of Toronto.

## Tones and Under-ones.

A new comic opera by Gaston Meyer and Andre Leneka, entitled "Juliet's Horos-

cope" has been contracted for on behalf of Francis Wilson. The work will be given in Paris during the early fall months.

Della Fox will appear next season in a new opera which she is said to have purchased in France.

R. A. Barnett, who is responsible for "1492" is said to be working on a new piece which will be called "Simpl: Simon."

Yvette Guilbert, the French chanteuse, is coming to America again next season. She will be at Koster and Bials on the 14th of December.

Oscar Hammerstein is busily at work on a new comic opera which he calls "Santa Maria." It is to be produced in the fall with Camille D'Arville in the leading role. The plot is said to be very ingeniously constructed.

A new comic opera entitled "The Little Genius" has recently been produced at the Shaftesbury theatre, London, Eng. The critics do not evince any pronounced enthusiasm over it and say "it is by no means one of the best of its class."

Col. Mapleson, the impresario, has arranged to give a season of Italian opera in New York, beginning October 20th, at the Academy of Music. "Aida" will be the first opera presented. Lucia, Traviata, Il Trovatore, Tell etc., will also be given. The New York season will last for four weeks.

Mlle Huguet, a young French singer, who has been under engagement at Lisbon and Mlle Darcee, a Roumanian by birth, at present singing in Buenos Ayres, will be the principal soprani of the Mapleson Italian opera company of next season.

London, Eng., says a paper issued in that city, has pronounced that Melba is the operatic star. The De Rezkes are no longer the great cards. When Melba sings the stalls are full and her notes are cashed in gold.

Madame Emma Nevada is at present filling a successful engagement in Italy.

Sibyl Sanderson, prima donna, is visiting in Switzerland. She has been engaged by Sonzogno for a season of six appearances in Milan. "Phryns" and "Manon" are to be given. The engagement will begin 15 Sept.

A great musical festival has been arranged for August, 12, 13, and 14 at Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Walter Damrosch will be the conductor. "The Creation" will be sung the first night and

company. It is the merest act of justice to say that Miss Tucker is one of the cleverest emotional actresses that has ever visited this city and although in the plays produced at this writing, this lady's impersonations have been quite varied, yet the same strength, the same intensity and power is apparent in each. She has one attribute that is noticeable and that is a very distinct articulation, that is manifested whether she is speaking rapidly or slowly, whether forcibly or in subdued tones. Every word is heard distinctly and without any strain of listening on the part of her audiences. In the opening play "La Belle Marie" Miss Tucker in the dual role of Jean Carleton and Marie Dubois, merits distinct commendation for her work in the latter character. She was, as she is called in the play; a veritable tigress; her sinuous movements strongly suggested the liness of the striped and savage beauty. She was most forcible in every feature of this impersonation. Among the ladies in support of Miss Tucker, are Miss Muir, a provincialist who plays the ingenu p rts, and Miss Harmon, a young lady from the eastern part of Maine. They acquit themselves of their respective duties in a mann r that gives

Modjeska is living in quiet seclusion on her ranche in California. She is rapidly getting strength and health. She will play next season under the management of Frank L. Perley.

Miss Bertha Creighton has been engaged by Sol Smith Russell to play the leading female role in the new play which he will produce next season.

D. H. Harkins who is spoken of as "one of the best known actors of the old school" has been engaged by Charles Frohman, to play a leading part in "Rosemary."

Miss Minnie Radcliffe has been engaged as leading lady for the Holland Bros. company of next season. The beautiful Olive Oliver is also a member of the company.

"The benefit of the doubt" by Pinero will be presented at the Empire (N. Y.) theatre next season.

Richard Mansfield it is said will revive "Richard III." next season and also "The Merchant of Venice."

Annie Lewis, the popular soubrette, is reported as being quite ill.

Am lia Barr's novel "A Knot of Orange Ribbon" is being dramatized by the author for E. H. Sothern.

It is now said that young Henry Irving and his bride will not visit the United States next season.

William Faversham will be the leading man of the Empire N. Y. theatre Stock Company next season in succession to Henry Miller. Mr. Faversham is an Englishman and is only in the United States for five or six years past.

Mrs. John Hoey died at Long Branch on Tuesday of last week and was formerly a well known actress. She was Miss Josephine Shaw, and made her first appearance on the stage in 1843, and later played leading parts with Junius Brutus Booth, Macready, Charlotte Cushman and Lester Wallack. She became famous in Shakespearean roles. Her last appearance was at Wallack's theatre, April 20, 1864, as Lady Florence May in "Rosedale."

"The Social Trust" the new play by Messrs Morris and Bell, will be given at the Columbia theatre, San Francisco, on the 3rd of August. This play was originally called "The Final Judgment."

The death of Mrs. William Barry, the wife of the Irish actor is announced from Brooklyn last week. She had been a dancer. Fanny Fordham was her stage name.

## GREAT REDUCTION IN MILLINERY!



Hats, Toques and Bonnets, TRIMMED and UNTRIMMED, at greatly reduced prices.

CHAS. K. CAMERON & CO. 77 King Street.



GRANDPA'S BIRTHDAY.

"The Messiah" the third night. The solo singers will be Clementine de Vere-Sapio, Lillian Blauvelt, Gertrude May Stein, Emil Fischer, Evan Williams and J. Armour Galloway. The New York Symphony orchestra and a large part of the chorus of the oratorio society, will be supplemented by a local chorus made up largely of summer visitors, will participate. In the miscellaneous concert for the second day a chorus of 1,000 childrens voices will be heard.

## TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Not a little surprise has been given theatre goers this week in the altogether full and superior programmes and performances given by Miss Ethel Tucker, Mr. Meldon and company, at the Opera house. The prices of admission being what is called "popular prices" or (10, 20 and 30 cents) to the majority of the lovers of the drama would suggest perhaps inferiority of material and production. This idea may be correct in ordinary cases, but it is faulty in the extreme, if held by anyone, regarding the company now playing in this city. The startling fact is that St. John has seldom been visited by a higher priced company that puts on better or stronger plays, that pays more attention to details, that gives more finished performances throughout than Miss Ethel Tucker and

one the idea either that they have not been on the stage for any length of time or that they were not as thoroughly imbued with their lines as was possible. An evident nervousness seemed to attend both on the opening night, but in view of the immense and strange audience this is perhaps not so much to be wondered at. In "The Lost Paradise" however both young ladies—the former as Polly and the latter as Nell—Blenzel gave very satisfactory performance. Miss Westcott as Cinderella in the same play was weak not so much in the part as in the fact that she was not perfect in her lines. All the pieces given thus far have furnished opportunity for excellent work by the male members of the company of which Mr. Meldon is the capable leading man, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Kranz, Mr. Brennan, and others. Although there are weak spots in this end of the company the presence of Mr. Miles in the cast of Wednesday evening contributed a material strengthening effect to the production of that occasion. The company gives a matinee this afternoon playing "An Unequal Match." They will stay in St. John all of next week.

The New York Comedy company closed their engagement at the Opera House here last Saturday Evening. Manager Brooks left behind him in this city a favorable impression and a creditable prompt business record.

"The Right to Happiness" is the title of the play in which Minnie Maddern Fiske will appear next season. It is taken from the German and A. M. Palmer has the American rights to the work. Her season will begin towards the end of November next.

The Hollis street theatre, Boston, will be reopened on the 5th. September. The "Lady Slavey" will be the opening attraction.

Miss Annie Russell will play the role of the heroine in Bret Harte's new play to be produced at the Broad street theatre, Philadelphia on 14th Sept. next.

Miss Effie Shannon at the Fifth avenue theatre, New York will have the title roll in "Flower Moyne."

Isabelle Evesson returns to the stage next season. She will appear in an adaptation of Pierre Decourcelle's "Les Deux Gosses," at the Academy of Music, New York.

John Drew's engagement for next season will begin at the Empire theatre, N. Y. in "Rosemary." The play is by Louis Parker and Murray Carson. Several new plays will probably be produced and among them will be one by Edward E. Rose.

The Boston Museum will be reopened on the 14th August. Roland Reed will furnish the attraction.

## BICYCLING IN FRANCE.

Statistics from the Tax Books—The Valley of the Seine the Paradise of Cyclers.

It is four years now since the French Government has levied a direct tax on bicycles. This has made it possible to procure trustworthy statistics as to the number and distribution of bicycles throughout the country. In 1892 the number of velocipedes that paid the Government tax was 119,000. This had increased in 1893 to 182,276, an increase of 13,000; in 1894 to 149,080, an increase of 17,000, and in 1895 to just under 160,000, an increase of 11,000. It seems clear that so long as the fashion lasts the number of bicyclists will increase from 10,000 to 150,000 a year in France. At present, it is calculated that there are 400 bicycles in the country to every 100,000 inhabitants but that is a general mean; bicycles are not spread evenly over the whole territory. It might be supposed that the place where bicycles are densest is Paris, where there are 25,000 velocipedes, a number exactly equal to that of the wine shops. But there are other departments which surpass the Seine in the proportion of machines to population. The proportion to 100,000 inhabitants is, for the Marne, 925; for the Aube, 873; for Seine-et-Marne, 860; for Seine-et-Oise, 845. The Seine has 728, the Eure 711, the Oise 685, the Eure-et-Loire 654, the Loiret 640. In these departments the proportions of machines to inhabitants is

the highest; they form a compact body around Paris, and may be described, roughly, as forming the basin of the Seine, the district in which the roads are the easiest, the landscape most pleasant and best known, and the hotels the most comfortable. Marne and Aube together form the old province of Champagne, the other departments the suburban district of Paris. next in importance are the departments toward the east, the neighborhoods of Besancon and Dijon. It is in the east of France that the great bicycle factories are situated. The mountainous departments are those, naturally, where the fewest bicycles are to be found. There are only twenty-five in the whole of Corsica; seven, that is, to 100,000 inhabitants. One curious statistical coincidence is that the geographical distribution of the bicycle in France is identical with the distribution of divorces. Aside from these official statistics, the Touring Club has published some interesting figures. There are 8,000 women cyclists in France, one in twenty of the whole number, and the number of women is increasing. The professions that take to bicycling are, first, clerks, then merchants and persons living on their income, followed by doctors, civil servants, lawyers, engineers, &c., Deputies and Senators winding up the list.

## A Story of the Heart.

Alberta—He must be in earnest and those places where his letter sticks together must be tears.

Alethea—They're not tears, but they prove positively that he loves me—they are where he dipped his pen in the muck-lage.