

Musical and Dramatic

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

As is customary at this particular time of year all the church choirs in the city are busily engaged in preparations for the Christmas season services.

Local lovers of music will be all pleased to learn that Prof. White who was so well known as a violinist and who on so many occasions gave his valuable services, without charge, to the entertainments in connection with different churches, as well as to other projects none the less speculative, has obtained a position in a symphony orchestra in Buffalo, New York State.

A concert given in the Queen square Methodist church on Thursday evening in which it is said, some of our best local talent took part, was held too late for notice this week.

The writer of the society news for PROGRESS, from Halifax last week notices a production of "Lara" by the Hispania club and indulges in some comments thereon that ought to be of much utility.

Tones and Undertones.

The Bostonians are rehearsing a new opera by Victor Herbert and Henry R. Smith. It is called "The Queen of the Buccaneers" and next month, will be produced in Washington.

The comic opera "The Mandarin" will follow "The Geisha" at Daly's theatre, London. The libretto and music were sent over last week.

Madame Lillian Nordica has engaged Mr. W. J. Lavin a well known tenor, for her western tour.

Jessie Bartlett Davis started out her stage career determined to appear in nothing but grand opera, but she has gradually become converted. Her favorite role is Teresa, in, In Mexico. It is a very trying part, but the character is full of moods so intense and dramatic that she has fairly fallen in love with it.

Peter Tschaiikowsky, the Russian composer, had peculiar views about Wagner. During his visit to the United States he discussed the subject with W. H. Batchelor, the erudite musical director of the Francis Wilson opera company.

Wilson's colored minstrels, with W. S. Harkin's as manager, appeared at the Bangor, Me., Opera House on last Tuesday evening.

Xavier Scharwenka's opera "Motarsunta" has been brought out at Wemiar under the direction of Stavenhagen, the pianist. The principal woman's parts were taken by Stavenhagen's wife and by the daughter of Joachim the violinist.

The final public funeral exercises of the late William Steniway were held in Liederkranz Hall New York. The following was the programme:

Funeral March by Beethoven. Address by Mr. Julius Hofferman. Movement from the Requiem by H. Zothner. Liederkranz Male Chorus.

Address by Mr. Carl Schurz. Quartett by leading artists of the Metropolitan Opera House. Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Eaton. Da unter ist Frieden. Liederkranz Male chorus.

There were fourteen pall bearers, among whom were: Mayor Strong of New York, the German Consul General and other prominent citizens.

Verdi became organist of the little sixteenth century church of Roncole when he was eleven years old. The salary was at first 36 francs a year which was afterwards increased to 40 francs. Verdi remained at the post six years.

Mme. Vanderveer-Green, who will shortly start on a tour of Canada as announced

last week, sang at the jubilee performance in Toronto held recently. She made a marked impression—Madame Vanderveer—Green is a contralto.

Mr. Leo Stern, a distinguished London violinist and who was an intimate friend of the late Prince Henry of Battenberg is coming to Chicago under engagement to the orchestra of that city. He will play at several social functions in New York before he goes west. Mr. Stern intends sailing for the United States on the 30th inst.

Madame Fela Litvinne appeared as Valentia in "Les Huguenots" with the Mapleson Company recently. It was not the lady's debut because she sang there with Mapleson over a decade ago. She is an artist of sound training and sings with authority and skill. Her voice is powerful and has a tendency to wobble and her lower tones are rich and pleasing.

Valborg Anderson, the young Danish singer, who is credited with a phenomenal voice, was for four years a nurse in a Copenhagen hospital where she used to sing to her patients.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

It is said to be a well known fact that when Virginia Harned first met E. H. Sothern she was a divorcee, but who her first husband was and when the plea of divorce was granted are matters of speculation.

A late Musical Courier tells the following good thing: at the Lamb's club the other night Maurice Barrymore was asked what he thought of the Barrisons.

"Nude, crude and rude," he carelessly replied.

Caroline Miskel Hoyt, who is designated 'one of the loveliest types of American womanhood on the stage today' has so far recovered from her recent severe illness as to be about again.

W. H. Crane has another winner it is said in 'The Pool of Fortune.' The play is by Martha Morton and is adapted from a German source.

Miss Ada Rehan has been appearing as Lady Gay in a revival of "London Assurance" at Daly's (N. Y.) theatre.

Fannie Davenport, at the American theatre New York is playing this week in the role of "Fedora." This is the role that first brought her into prominence. Fedora has not been played in New York for a number of years past. This is the last season Miss Davenport will play Sardon's "Fedora."

President Elect McKinley takes a great personal interest in the people of the stage.

It is stated that W. A. Brady has been offered large inducements to produce "Tribby" in South Africa.

Henry V. Esmond the young actor and author of "The Courtship of Leonie" was the Little Billee in H. Beerbohm Tree's production of "Tribby" in London.

"The Cherry Pickers", the play in which Miss Ethel Mollison of this city takes the part of an Indian girl, reached its sixtieth performance last Monday night.

"Tribby" is said to be the greatest financial success in the history of the theatrical world and since its production in Boston Mass, about sixteen months ago, its gross receipts are estimated at over \$1,000,000.

Loie Fuller (La Loie) has purchased a raisin plantation near Fresno. Her receipts in San Francisco for three nights and one matinee exceeded \$7,000.

Madame Modjeska will, under the management of Al Hayman and Charles Frohman play but five weeks this season. Three weeks at the Baldwin theatre, San Francisco and the other two weeks among other cities in California. Her season will begin 21 January next.

'Mr. Lightfoot' is the name of a new farce by Louis de Lange which received its initial at the Bijou, N. Y., theatre last Monday evening and in which Wright Huntington appeared in a light comedy role.

W. H. Lytell an actor who is well known in this city is coming to the Opera house here during the holiday season. His special piece is a production of 'My Friend from India' a somewhat new play.

Miss Ethel Tucker and company were at the Norombega hall, Bangor Me, this week.

At the 50th anniversary of the French school at Athens, next year, a performance of 'Oedipe Roi' will be given in the theatre of Dionysos, by Mounet Sully and the Comedie Francaise company.

Coquelin Cadet has put through a new rule at the Comedie Francaise, Paris, by which each part in a play will be performed by every societaire entitled to act in it in turn. Hitherto only parts in classical plays were changed about, but henceforth the practice will apply to modern plays as well.

Sothern and Miss Virginia Harned erstwhile his leading lady were quietly married in Philadelphia last week it is said. He rather stole a march on his friends.

He is playing 'An Enemy of the King' in the Quaker city to continuous large business.

In the play 'The Lady of Quality' the principal role of Clorinda a part much desired by several prominent American actresses, has been given to Miss Eleanor Calhoun to create. Miss Calhoun is a Californian by birth and is now about 35 years of age. She was born in 1862 and is related to the famous Calhoun family of the South. She is said to have a mixture of Spanish, Dutch and Irish blood in her veins. In having allotted to her this role of Clorinda in Mrs. Burnett's impossible tale she is much envied. Miss Calhoun went to Europe 15 years ago and has had many engagements in England.

The Canadian Home Journal for the current month has a portrait of Miss Margaret Anglin now leading lady with James O'Neil. Everyone in St. John will be interested in this young lady's success—although she was born in Ottawa while her father was speaker of the Parliament—for the reason that her mother is a native of this city, and her father was the well known journalist and editor of the "Freeman." The young lady has much talent and her ultimate distinction is fully believed in. The Journal says "Miss Anglin is a remarkably pretty girl of twenty years. She has hazel eyes, a proud, expressive little face and a manner to which the Irish blood she inherits from her father gives attractive poignancy. In private life she is of sweet and lovable disposition."

CZARS IN ENGLAND.

A Lapse in Their Visits Between the Years 1844 and 1896.

Queen Victoria was only 23 years old, although already the mother of two children, when last she received the visit of a Czar, says a writer in the New York Sun.

The news that the terrible Nicholas was coming, and that only two days hence, produced an extraordinary fluttering in the tame dove-cote of Windsor. For nearly twenty years this Emperor of Russia had been the most striking figure among the princes of Europe. The account of him still fascinates the imagination. Taller by half a head than most of his own picked guard, a powerful and well-rounded form, and strait as a pine, no other man of our century has so looked the part of an autocrat. His face, particularly in profile, was as exceptional in its regularity of beauty as Napoleon's, albeit of a wholly different order.

This face had a strange peculiarity. The eyelashes were curiously undeveloped, and of so pale a color that his big, bold, piercing eyes had the effect of no relief whatever. They frightened people who met their gaze. Still more did the tales that were told of him, of his colossal ambitions, his wild outbursts of savagery, his iron-handed grip upon the lives and thoughts and very souls of uncounted millions of subjects, impress the popular fancy of his time. It had been given out that he was to visit England some time in 1845, but now suddenly at the close of May, 1844, word came that he was to appear in London in two days' time. He liked to descend upon people in this abrupt and unexpected way; it was in keeping with his own conception of his character, and produced just the impression of irresponsible omnipotence which it pleased him to create, in small matters not less than in large affairs.

The girlish Queen and those about her were greatly excited by this unlooked-for apparition. Victoria filled her diary with wonder-struck exclamations points each day of his stay, and wrote long letters to her relative, King Leopold of Belgium, detailing her emotions during the eventful ten days. "He is certainly a very striking man," she wrote; "still very handsome; his profile is beautiful and his manners most dignified and graceful, extremely civil, quite alarmingly so, as he is so full of attentions and politeness. But the expression of the eyes, and unlike anything I ever saw before. He gives Albert and myself the impression of a man who is not happy, and on whom the burden of his immense power and position weighs heavily and painfully. He seldom smiles, and when he does the expression is not a happy one." Again, in her journal, the

Queen writes, a day or two later! 'I don't know why, but I can't help pitying him. I think his immense power weighs heavily on his head.'

I have been interested in recalling this impression of grave unhappiness which the first Nicholas produced upon the Queen. The strongest and most robust of men, with a giant's will and nerve of steel, he still found his burden too great. Now fifty-two years later, the Queen welcomes as a guest the great-grandson of that splendid, sombre first Nicholas, whom she 'could not help pitying.' How infinitely greater must be the impulse to pity the second Nicholas, himself a frail, timid little fellow, and bowed under the weight of responsibility which from any point of view is manifold heavier than that which was carried by his ancestor in 1844!

REGULATED BY A STAR.

A Simple Way of Telling When a Time-piece Runs Accurately.

Some very old paintings that was brought to light the other day contains curious suggestions for making certain calculations that will interest many people.

An easy method of correctly regulating a timepiece by the stars is as follows:

As the motion of the earth with regard to the fixed stars (those that twinkle) is uniform, timepieces can in a most simple manner be correctly regulated by the stars with greater facility than by the sun.

Choose a south window, from which any fixed point, such as a chimney, side of a building, &c. may be seen. To the side of the window, attach a piece of card-board having a small hole in it such a manner that by looking through the hole toward the edge of the elevated object, some fixed star may be seen. The progress of the star must be watched and the instant it vanishes behind the fixed point, the observer must note the exact time it disappears. The following night the same star will vanish behind the same object three minutes and fifty-six seconds sooner. If a timepiece mark 9 o'clock when the star vanished one night the following night it will indicate three minutes and fifty-six seconds less than 9.

If the timepiece be faster or slower than the indication of the star, then it has gained or lost the indicated difference. If several cloudy nights follow the first observation of the star, it is only necessary to multiply three minutes fifty-six seconds by the number of days that have elapsed since the observation, and the product deducted from the hour of the clock indicates the first night clear enough the second observation and gives the time the clock or watch ought to show. The same star can only be observed during a few weeks, for as it gains nearly an hour in a fortnight, it will in a short time come to the meridian in broad daylight, and become invisible.

In marking the observation care must be taken that a planet is not chosen instead of a star. Additional to the fact that the light of fixed stars twinkles, while that of planets is steady because reflected, a sure means of distinguishing between them is to first watch a certain star attentively for a few nights. If it changes its place with regard to the other stars, it is a planet, since the fixed stars appear to maintain the same relative positions with regard to each other.

The First of these Monthly Competitions will commence January 1st, 1897, and will be continued each month during 1897. \$1,625 IN BICYCLES AND WATCHES GIVEN FREE EACH MONTH FOR Sunlight SOAP WRAPPERS

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