

# Musical and Dramatic

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

That the North end of the city has set an example to the old city this year cannot be denied, in view of the fact that the initiative has been taken there for providing musical entertainment for the immediate residents and all others who can make it convenient to attend. This is a good example to follow.

This department had the pleasure, a short time ago, of calling the attention of somebody in authority—say one or more of the philanthropists among us—to the fact that the "pleasant summer days" and nights were almost with us and that the citizens are entirely without free entertainment of any kind.

Reflection will show that this is not as it should be. A city with the pretensions of Canada's winter port, should have free public musical entertainment for its people, from time to time, regularly placed on its curriculum as it were, because of the refining and educational influences that attend these little affairs. The moral effect also must be good because many young men would cheerfully listen to a good programme of music, eventually well rendered, in preference to spending the time in billiard hall or bar room or other places where a desire for pleasure or mild excitement, or relaxation—call it what one chooses—prompts them to visit. Another feature of the proposition, not to be disregarded perhaps, is the comparatively small expense that would attend such concerts. There are numerous plans whereby public band concerts could be given weekly, affording the maximum of delight—at a minimum of cost. A committee from among the members of the several bands no doubt could easily arrange the matter so as to make it practically workable, and on reasonable terms. There is a bandstand on the west side I believe, and one is being provided for the north end, by a number of young men of that section. Central St. John, where the bulk of the population is found, is without one now, but let us hope when the excitement of the pending election passes away and the bias of the political trumpet is no longer heard in the land, considerations affecting the good of the toil-worn and weary at home, may result in something being done.

The new orchestra at the Opera house in succession to Harrison's has been on duty since last Monday evening. They have yet to experience dramatic productions. The only new idea I have heard propounded regarding the change is that it was made directly for reasons of economy as the management now secures six or eight pieces for the same price as paid to four of Harrison's men. Are the new men cheaper material or how?

## Tones and Undertones.

Miss Esme Beringer who has been singing the part of Romeo in "Romeo and Juliette" in England is pronounced as "one of the most charming and one of the ablest seen on the English stage in late years."

Miss Marie Engle, who sang in New York the part of Marguerite de Valois instead of Madame Melba, who was indisposed, has been engaged to sing at Covent Garden, London, Eng.

The opera season at Covent Garden opened with "Romeo and Juliette," Jean Desrezke being Romeo and Madame Emma Eames in the role of Juliet. M. Plancon was also in the cast, and Mancinelli was conductor.

Sybil Sanderson, the prima donna who failed to make the musical hit in New York her friends anticipated and who returned to Paris in high indignation with the people of her native land, has recently received the second largest vote at a beauty contest in the French capital.

The Bostonians, when their season is over, will spend their vacation in different ways. Jessie Bartlett Davis, who is such a general favorite, will go to her farm near Chicago; Henry Clay Barnabee will go to Europe, W. H. McDonald will whip the Maine waters for trout and Eugene Cowles will visit Japan.

The Bostonians will open the new Metropolitan hill theatre in New York during October next.

Madame Sigrid Arnoldson who was in grand opera in New York is now singing in Moscow Russia, where it is said she draws \$1000 per night. Uncertain things are very doubtful, and while this payment may possibly be correct yet there is somewhat of uncertainty about it.

Sig. Tamgoc is singing in Russia with Madame Arnoldson. Of this operatic hero, it was said in some United States papers, he used to sell at the box office in New York, the complimentary tickets given him.

Lady Sholto Douglas receives \$350 per week salary for singing in Vaudeville in New York. When she dwelt in the west her salary was \$15.00 per week.

Miss Marie St. Johns is the name of a young New York lady of good family and who is distinguished as an important member of a superior uptown New York

choir. Her taste for the stage was very pronounced and she has joined Daly's company.

There are some individuals in our sister city of Halifax who are very much agitated just now over the recent amateur production of "Pinafore" in that city. The services of the local press have been called into requisition and opinions pro and con are therein ventilated. The discussion of the merits of the production appears of a secondary consideration; the more important question being whether Miss A. or B. stood in just the correct pose. Whether she had her kerchief in her hand or not, whether her train flowed just right at any particular moment or whether Mr. C. or Mr. D. had his toes turned in improperly in this or that act, and points of other weighty moment. It is funny for those outside who care to read the correspondence.

One of the most popular operas of the present day, "Carmen," achieved success too late, alas! to console the disappointed composer, whose death was accelerated, it is said, by the ill reception accorded to his chief d'oeuvre. "Carmen" was, in fact, actually hissed off the stage on its first performance, (in Paris, 1875) and poor Bizet died shortly after, unable to foresee the great success in store for his latest and best work, whose stirring music so admirably fits the thrilling Spanish libretto it illustrates.

The editing of the libretto of the "Stabat Mater" for performance at Lincoln, Eng., is excused, in a letter from Dr. George Bennett, organist at the cathedral, on the ground that, as the performance is to take place in the cathedral, the work could not be performed without some alteration of the words, "as the text of the 'Stabat Mater' is at certain places opposed to the doctrine of the Church of England." Dr. Bennett goes on to say that the alterations are few in number, and have been made by the Dean of Lincoln.

In number they are few, but in significance they are most extensive, the effect being to deprive the second part of the cantata of the character of a prayer to the Virgin. If it is necessary to do this before the work could be performed in an English cathedral, then it seems to me that it would have been better to have chosen some composition which is not at variance with the doctrines of the Church of England.

## TALK OF THE THEATRE.

A portrait not the very best likeness however—of our fair young representative actress Miss Ethel Mollison, appears in the latest *Munsey*. A sketch of the young lady's stage career accompanies the picture. She possesses not a little talent and a bright future in her chosen profession ought to be hers.

Mr. Frederic Robinson, an English actor who starred in this city more than one season under the management of the late J. W. Lanigan, at the old Lyceum, has been engaged by Sir Henry Irving for his home company. Mr. Robinson used to play leading Shakespearean roles with much ability, but one of his best impersonations was Farmer Allen in "Dora" (a dramatization of Tennyson's poem). Many young readers may be interested in knowing that the Lyceum stood opposite the middle walk on the south side of King square.

An Australian manager advertises for "100 extra men for convicts in 'His Natural Life.' Those used to jail life preferred." There ought not to be any difficulty in filling that order in his country.

While Joe Jefferson was playing in "The Rivals" in Buffalo N. Y. recently, Sir Henry Irving sent him a present of a handsome walking stick, probably one hundred years old. The stick had been handsomely mounted and inscribed. It was the daily companion of Thomas King, the creator of the role of Sir Peter Teazle, in Sheridan's "School for Scandal," which was first presented at Drury Lane Theatre in May, 1777.

Miss Marie Shotwell, a young and wealthy society lady of San Francisco has surprised her friends by abandoning social attractions and going on the stage. She is said to be now "a competent member of E. H. Sothens' Prisoner of Zenda" company.

Miss La Therrie who is now retiring after thirty years experience on the stage was in the original cast of Bonicault's "Hunted Down." She was especially distinguished as an interpreter of old women's parts in the Bancroft regime at the old Prince of Wales theatre and Haymarket, London.

Chevalier, the singer of coster songs who created such a success in New York last season has decided to remain in America for a time at least. He will spend the summer in the Adirondacks.

The death of Frank Mayo the well known actor was reported during this week. He was travelling west to keep an engagement and died in the train. He leaves a son and daughter, the latter having made a

successful debut as a prima donna is now the wife of a Mr. Elverson of Philadelphia. Mrs. John Drew is connected in the minds of everyone nowadays, with the character of Mrs. Malaprop. The first time she played the part was but seventeen years ago it is said viz on February 22, 1879.

A Parisian journalist has translated into French "The Sidewalks of New York" and the play will receive its European initial in Paris early next season.

It is remarked that Madame Modjeska is now busy studying new roles for next season.

The desire to see "In Old Kentucky" in Halifax performed by Harkins' capable company was so great that the management was compelled to continue for the whole week. The play was only billed for three nights.

## Such Good Manners.

Parson Gloomer (of the Blackville tabernacle with withering sarcasm)—Dis yere congre'gashun am composed ob de polites set ob pussons I ever run across. When I catches de church do 'Sunda' mo'nins I allus smiles an' bows to de peep' heah. An' to neck up for mah goo, man'nahs seberal sinnahs 'unaginez it dere duty to keep a-noddin' to me all endurin' de shmon.

## A BIRD'S QUEER DEATH.

Impaled on a Weather Vane, It Swings With the Wind.

One of the strangest monuments in existence is situated near Cold Spring, N. Y. It is slowly disappearing and in a short time will have entirely vanished, but it tells a marvellously true tale of the life and death of the being which caused it to be erected.

It is composed of the bones of a swallow which met its death on the weather vane of a barn while in full flight. Every one has noticed the peculiar diving motion which swallows make while on the wing. It was this method of flying that caused the bird's death. In making its quick dive it evidently miscalculated, or else did not see the vane, which was arrow-shaped, pointing directly toward the swallow.

The farmer who owned the barn noticed a bird perched on his weather vane. The bird was swinging in the wind, but did not trouble the bird, which apparently refused to be unseated. The next day the bird was still there, and the day after as well. The farmer determined to investigate. He found the bird impaled on the vane. He left it where it was and it swung there for months. Why it did not fall to the ground seemed a mystery, until when only the skeleton remained it was found that the sharp point of the vane had penetrated the breast bone. Then the

bones dropped apart one by one, and now nothing but the breast bone remains, swinging with the vane, like the gibbeted form of a malefactor in olden times.

## The Duty of Parents.

The best and most enduring principles of religion can never be left to the Sabbath school to impart they must be the personal concern of parents to instill. The home has always been the real school, with daily object lessons in faith, virtue and reverence. When the home ceases to be an altar, with parents as priests and priestesses; when prayer is banished from the household and the Sabbath atmosphere is no longer visible, the process of degeneracy may be retarded by the Sabbath school, but it can never wholly be checked.

## To Make Strawberry Jelly.

Boil three-quarters of a pound of sugar in half a pint of water, pour boiling hot over three pints of strawberries placed in an earthen vessel, add the juice of two lemons, cover closely, and let it stand twelve hours. Then strain through a cloth (flannel is the best thing); mix the juice which has run through with two and a half ounces of gelatin, which has been dissolved in a little warm water, and add sufficient cold water to make the mixture one quart. Pour into a mould and set on the ice to cool.—May Ladies' Home Journal.

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# A QUESTION.

HUGH DARLINGTON.

*Andantino.*

1. Why did we meet as strangers, That once were dearest friends? Or reckless woo the

*molto.*

dan - gers That give, love, no a-mends? Why should our hearts be grieving The absence of each mate, When they should be re-triev - ing The fol - ly of their

*rit.*

state? No more we'll meet as strangers, The er - rors of the past Shall show us where the dan - gers Of our young love are cast; Show us where the

dan - gers Of our young love are cast.

2. Nor will we be re - pin - ing For the sad hours are fol - ly to be strangers, When you were once mine

*rit. a tempo.*

fed, A bright - er sun is shin - ing, And gloom a - way hath sped: And there for - ev - er bask - ing With - in its mellow light, Re - member that the own, No joy can greet the ran - gers, No place they call their home; Their hearts a - like are sad - den'd By ev - 'ry painful tho't, And nev - er can be

chast'ning Dispell'd our sorrow's night. No more we'll meet as strangers, The er - rors of the past Shall show us where the dan - gers Of our young love are gladden'd, Till they to - geth - er brought. No more, etc.

cast; Show us where the dan - gers Of our young love are cast.

3. 'Tis

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