

Musical and Dramatic

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

There is little to refer to in musical circles this week, if I except the work of the Oratorio society. The members of this society are not idle by any means, as they are preparing for a concert of miscellaneous music at any early date. It has already been mentioned that they purpose giving one of the Oratorios in the fall—probably during the exhibition. In this department miscellaneous concerts or concerts of miscellaneous music by a certain number of the active members of the society have been commended for a variety of reasons, some of which were given at the time of notice. There is another good and sufficient reason, it appears to me—that by means of such concerts, given even as chamber concerts in the rooms of the society—a number of new singers would be introduced to a portion of the public at least and would be benefitted and of increased usefulness in the future purposes and aims of the society. A series of such concerts could be given and new material might be offered in turn if necessary. They would be attended with no expense to the society, and even though the financial returns were small for each concert the aggregate might not be unsatisfactory. In this idea of course a small fee would be charged to patrons. The principal desiderata in connection with them, in a society sense, would seem to be the development of new voices in all the parts, who would individually have the advantage of the conductor's skillful advice and instruction before making a debut.

A rumor is abroad this week to the effect that the management of the Opera House in this city is arranging for another orchestra instead of that of which Mr. Morton L. Harrison is leader. The rumor further says that the new orchestra is to contain eight members and that the charge for their services will not exceed that now paid to the four or five members of Harrison's orchestra that generally do duty at theatrical performances in the Opera House. When the matter takes more definite shape it will be in order to say something more about it.

Tones and Undertones.

Walter Dymrosch's next season of opera will begin in Philadelphia in January next. Other cities will be visited. Operas will be given in French as well as German. By arrangement with Messrs Abbey, Schoeffel and Grau, Madame Calve and Madame Melba will sing at his Philadelphia performances.

Miss Ella Chamberlain, the famous waltzer is appearing in concert in some of the New England towns.

Madame Calve's engagement in London begins of the 19th of June instant.

Mrs. Wm. T. Clark, a contralto of Roxbury has sailed for Europe to study with Pauline Lucien in Vienna.

Before she joins the Covent Garden (London) company this season, Madame Melba will give a series of performances at the Paris Opera. Madame Melba, it is said has been engaged for a revival of "Hamlet" in that city.

Jacques Hoffman the violinist, will spend his summer in Europe.

It is said that Mascagni has just finished an opera which he has called "Vestitia." He is working on another whose subject is "Nero."

Damosch returns to the United States next month. He will visit Bar Harbor Me., for a time.

"Cavalleria Rusticana" is said to be Mascagni's one great success though he has written a great deal since it was produced.

"An American Beauty" is the name given to Lillian Russell's new opera.

The Castle Square Opera Company of Boston, gave their patrons, grand opera last week. "Aida" was the work and it does not appear to have been an unqualified success. A return to light opera is in order.

Miss Mary Link, the new contralto who sang the part of Anne in "Aida" at the Castle Square theatre last week made a very favorable impression. A critical notice of her work says "her voice was at times too light and weak for the music, but she put a good deal of dramatic fire into her work and her efforts were appreciated by the audience.

"My lodging is on the cold ground" is a very old song and not unpopular even yet but there is an incident connected with its early production that not everybody has heard of. The Cornhill Magazine dealing with it says "We are not told whether it was composed especially for the play in which the actress Moll Davis, a rival of Nell Gwynne's sang it so effectively: history only records that her exquisite rendering of this plaintive air attracted the attention of his majesty King Charles II, on a visit to the play house, and resulted in royal favor for the singer who was not in future so hardly lodged."

R. A. Barret's latest burlesque "The Merry-Go-Round" recently produced at the Tremont, theatre Boston, is said to be

a success. It is said to be "an entertainment without plot, one that requires no use of brain energy on the part of the audience to understand it and one that keeps the audience in good humor all the evening. No one asks what it is all about; no one cares. It entertains, it amuses; that is sufficient."

The Bostonians have bought a new opera called "Captain Kidd, Coin Collector."

Last Monday evening was called "Novelty night" in the "Pops" concerts at Music hall, Boston, and the following was the programme.

March from "Puppenfee" (First time)	Bayer
French comedy overture	Keler-Bela
Waltz, "Tales from the Orient" (First time)	Strauss
Selection, "The Hugenots" (First time)	Meyerbeer
Reitrite Croate (First time)	Gabriel-Marie
Two Slavonic dances	Dvorak
Ronde D'armour	Westerbout
Overture, "Martha"	Flotow
Selection, "Grand Duchess"	Offenbach
Waltz, "España"	Waldteufel
Mazourka, "La Messange" (First time)	Muller
"Jack" March from "Jack and the Beanstalk" (First time)	Sioane

The following narrative in connection with an early production of "Beggars Opera" and instancing the first marriage of an actress with the English nobility may prove not without interest to many Progress readers. It is a brief sketch of Lavinia Fenton's operatic career.

"Lavinia Fenton, who had undertaken the character of Polly in the "Beggars Opera" for the modest remuneration of 15s. per week, suddenly found herself the most celebrated person in London. Her portraits were sold everywhere, her opera costumes copied by fashionable ladies; when she went nightly to and from the theatre a bodyguard of strong friends had to be formed to escort her, lest the fair damsel should be carried off by one of her many importunate admirers. Lavinia's musical success ended with the run of the opera, (after which she retired from the stage,) but not so the good fortune it had won for her. The Duke of Bolton was so fascinated by her charms as the saucy Polly that he made her his Duchess after the death of his wife, from whom he had long been separated; whereby Lavinia became the first of the actresses connected by marriage with English nobility."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

W. S. Harkins and company after a week of excellent business with "In Old Kentucky" opened a fortnight season in Halifax, at the academy of Music, last Monday evening. In this City, while the old favorites were all warmly welcomed, the new members of the company individually created most favorable impressions by their really clever and consistent work, notwithstanding the fact that some of these, for instance Miss Magill and Mr. Malcolm Bradley were playing "thankless," that is unpopular roles. The Company I understand will be increased in its membership and will return here on the 24th inst. when they will produce "The War of Wealth" another strong play, by C. T. Dazzy the author of "In Old Kentucky". Mr. Harkins has several plays in his repertoire entirely new to St. John theatre goes all of them pronounced successes. Among them I learn is "The New Boy" "Blue Jeans," "The Danger Signal" etc.

Mr. Rufus Somerby, so well known here as a provider of special entertainment will soon be here with a show of unusual character, which will comprise trained dogs, trained monkeys etc. No doubt as has been customary with this gentleman he will do a large business.

W. L. Main's circus will be in the city and give two exhibitions next Friday the 12th inst. There is a free exhibition of startling character in connection with this show, and the usual forenoon parade.

A new departure caused by the prevalence of bicycles is that a Boston theatre announces they have arranged to check these machines during the performance.

Bianche Walsh it is now said will be Nat Goodwin's leading lady in Australia. Miss Walsh has been doing "Trilby" in one of the companies that was out.

The Boston theatre was so crowded last Friday (29th, May) on the occasion of the all star production of "The Rivals" that many ladies were standing. The audience was quite enthusiastic, but a criticism of the performance says "some of the parts could have been played as well, others better by actors who do not shine as stars.

Many of the theatres closed their regular season last week.

Rumor has it that Rose Coghlan will appear in "Carmen" next season.

During his trip to Europe Alex Salvini will visit his father.

The following good story is told of the late eminent tragedian Edwin Booth. "I once saw Edwin Booth have a very trying experience," said James E. Wilson, a leading American actor. "It befell him while he was having a quiet little stroll all by himself in one of the smaller cities

where he was acting. Seeing some particularly delightful looking cream puffs in a conspicuous part of a restaurant, he stepped in and purchased one. Without stopping to ponder upon the peculiarities of cream puffs, Mr. Booth, in the most calculating and enthusiastic manner, bit exactly in the centre of the spongy delicacy. Of course a small stream of the cream oozed out at each side of the bite and gathered itself together on Mr. Booth's cheeks. Just at this juncture some one in the shop recognized the tragedian and cried out: "Why, that's Mr. Booth!" "Hail a score of people crowded about and eyed the figure with interest. It was a trying position for a great tragedian, who was conscious of being in anything but a tragic role. But he went calmly on with his refreshment, eating with as much unconcern and enjoyment apparently as if he were far from the maddening crowd."

"But," he said afterward, with a twinkle in his eye, "I never did a better bit of acting in my life."

Ready and Willing.

He—Will you marry me?
She—Certainly.
He—Thanks. I was afraid you were going to say it was too sudden.
She—It couldn't be.

NEW SERPENTINE RACE.

Latest Game That Has Been Adopted for Amateur Exhibitions.

For a race of one hundred yards, place ten flagstaves in line, the first ten feet from the starting point and the others ten feet apart, the last being ten feet from the goal. Each pole should be surmounted by a small flag, which will add to the beauty and interest of the scene.

Now for the manner of running. Supposing the runners to have toed the starting line with their left foot, the left knee should be bent, the body inclined forward, and the right hand raised above the level of the right shoulder. When the start is given, bring the right arm smartly downward; it will give you an impetus to make off. Pass the first staff on your left side, the second on your right, the third on your left, the fourth on your right, the fifth on your left, the sixth on your right, the seventh on your left, the eighth on your right, the ninth on your left, and, finally, the tenth on your right. From here make the best of your time in getting to the winning post. This finishes the ordinary serpentine race.

A variation of the game is known as the

rotary serpentine race, the object of which is to make a complete circle around each flagstaff. This, performed in an ordinary way, would make you giddy—a thing to be avoided. Observe, therefore, the directions laid down, and the result will be, instead, a pleasurable one.

Start as before, passing the first staff on the left, encircle it by passing to the front of it, retreating backward, pass it on the left again.

Running diagonally across, pass the second staff on the right, encircle it by retreating backward when at the front again. Run across to the third staff and pass it on the left, encircling the staff backward as before and then run across to the fourth staff. Pass it on the right. Follow out these directions with the remaining flagstaves, taking care to encircle each backward and, in addition to the above directions, passing the fifth staff of the left side, the sixth on the right, the seventh on the left, the eighth on the right, the ninth on the left, the tenth and last on the right. Then sprint to the winning post.

Too Inquisitive.

At a village in Worcestershire recently the clergyman asked the bridegroom the usual question whether he was willing to take the woman to be his wedded wife, and, the rustic, scratching his head for a moment or two, replied, "Ay, I'm willing, but I'd rather have her sister."

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Tempo di Polka. *grazioso. ten. ten.*

f

Ped.

con spirito.

cresc. *f* *p*

Ped. ** Ped.*

1. *2.* (TRIO) *f* *p*

D. S.

brillante. *p*

1. *2.* *Spa.*

f *rit.*

rit. molto. *f presto.* **FINE.**