

# Musical and Dramatic

## IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Now that the summer days and nights are near at hand the time is not inopportune for making a suggestion in the interest of the public at large. That suggestion is that free band concerts be given at regular intervals during the summer evenings. It is not the idea of this remark that the expense attendant upon these concerts should be borne by any individual. That would be generous no doubt but it would be unfair to the one person. It appears to me and I doubt not there are many others who hold similar opinions, that among our merchants are many who would like to contribute towards an object of this nature and thus endeavor to procure recreation and instruction as well, for many who otherwise would be and are deprived of many delights in their every day existence. All classes could find pleasure and profit, if concerts, as suggested, were supplied. The wealthy could participate in no more commendable work than providing such entertainment for that very large number who have so little to brighten their lives. To the working man and his family, who ordinarily are shut out from recreation: to all those in stores and offices during the day, these concerts would be a veritable treat. This suggestion is thrown out with the hope that some of our public spirited citizens to whom it has not yet occurred, may give it consideration, while the season is yet in its infancy.

The many friends of Prof. Fisher late organist of St. Andrew's church and conductor of the Oratorio society will be pleased to hear that he recently gave a very successful organ recital at Ipswich, Mass. It was given on the fine organ of the First church in that town.

A notice of the concert says "Prof. Fisher has been known to us only a few weeks, but he has won an enviable name as an accomplished organist." He played "O Sanctissima" (Lax) and "The Storm" (Lemmens) with other pieces. It was one of the most delightful occasions known to Ipswich lovers of music."

The concert and recital in St. Andrew's church on Friday evening by Prof. Athé, assisted by some of the talented vocalists of the city, which is too late for notice this week, will doubtless be a delightful affair.

The fact that in this concert opportunity will be given to hear Miss Forbes, will materially enhance the pleasure of the occasion.

I have heard that our former fellow townsman, A. M. Smith has been singing in a quartette with professionals in Philadelphia recently, and that his work was much commended. In writing to a friend here Fred says he has been hearing several church choirs in that city, and, so far, gives the preference to St. James church the choir of which is surpassed and numbers over 75 men and boys. The conductor of this choir is Lucy Baker, an Englishman, and the organist, whose name I have not heard, is a Canadian. His many friends here will doubtless be as glad to read this note about Fred as it gives me pleasure to make it.

### Tone and Undertones.

Madame Nordica will pass the summer in Europe and will sail towards the end of this month.

The vested choir of men and boys in Grace Episcopal church at Newton, Mass. sang "The Creation" last week. They numbered fifty-five voices, and were assisted by George J. Parker, the well known tenor and Arthur B. Hitchcock as basso. The leading soprano on the occasion was a lad named William Dana Poole.

Madame Scalchi the world famous prima donna, has become infected with the bicycle fever or craze and has joined one of the leagues.

It is said the Bostonians are really considering a trip to London. A paper noting the fact says "Don't."

Lady minstrels gave a performance "for sweet charity's sake" in Brighton, Mass. last week, and it was a distinct success. A description of the stage at opening is given thus "When the curtain rose it showed about thirty five dusky belles. The end women, in new women costumes of black and yellow, the rest of the circle in red white and blue, and the interlocutor in a handsome gown of white with a court wig of white."

The "Pops" concerts at Music Hall, Boston continue with their accustomed popularity. The following programme was given last Monday evening

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|--|----------------|
| Swedish Wedding March                          | Soedermann     |
| Overture, "Mignon"                             | A. Thomas      |
| Waltz, "Fische Geister"                        | Strauss        |
| Selection, "Gondoliers"                        | Sullivan       |
| Scherzo, Notturmo, and Wedding March           | Mendelssohn    |
| Intermezzo from "Natta"                        | Delibes        |
| Entrée Triomphale des Boyards                  | Joh. Halvorsen |
| (First Time)                                   |                |
| Mazourka from "Halka"                          | Moniuszko      |
| (First Time)                                   |                |
| Overture, "Le Brasseur de Preston"             | Adam           |
| Waltz, "O Schoner Ma" from "Prince Methusalem" | Strauss        |
| Jockey Galop                                   | Bayer          |
| (First Time)                                   |                |
| March, "Under the Double Eagle"                | Wagner         |

The Damrosch and Abbey and Grau differences have been settled. The hatchet is buried.

The Castle Square theatre opera Company has returned to light opera. Grand opera is considered to heavy for warm weather. "The Beggar Student" was the bill for this week.

Miss Edith Mason (Mrs. Thomas Persee) who has been out of the cast of a number of recent productions at the Castle Square, has returned to active work in her profession. She sang the role of Michaela in "Carmen" at this house last week.

Miss Clara Lane sang the title role in "Carmen" at the Castle Square opera house, Boston, last week. "She could not be very wicked if she wished to, and the audience seemed just as pleased to have her with the wickedness left out" says a Boston paper.

The summer season at the Boston museum will be inaugurated on June 1st next, with the production of a new comic opera.

Miss Anna Lichter, is the name of a young girl, barely out of her teens, and whose operatic experience has been limited to a single season with the Tavery Opera Company, made a most favorable impression in Boston last week.

Gilmore's Band is playing at Washington Park, a short distance from Philadelphia, this summer.

The Misses Hilda and Maud Hollins, who are with the Camille D'Arville Company will have an operetta written for them by their uncle Julian Edwards. Mr. Edward, by the way, wrote the music of Camille D'Arville's opera "Madelaine"

Sousas' Band gave concerts in Philadelphia on Friday and Saturday evenings of last week.

Mons. A. L. Guille who is a member of the Hinrich Grand Opera Company is said to be one of the best tenors in Amer-

ica. Such is the testimony of a St. John man whose musical taste is admitted. Mons. Guille is a Frenchman.

Lasalle, the baritone, has set up a cement manufactory at Chantemelle on the Seine. He has been made mayor of the town.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

At the Opera house on Monday next (Queen's birthday) afternoon and evening, and until Friday evening next, W. S. Harkin's company will give productions of "In Old Kentucky" one of the greatest of dramatic successes since its first production some three or four years ago. The advanced notices give full assurance that the play will be mounted and produced here with every attention to detail. This assurance is strengthened by the fact that several members of the original company are with Harkins this summer. At the head of these is Miss Lulu Tabor, who is the original "Madge" and Mr. George Deyo, who is the original "Joe." Tom Wise is here of course and in his great impersonation of "The Colonel;" and with him is his fair young English wife Miss Gertrude Whitty. The production will have the veritable horse race scene in which Miss Tabor will ride the winner.

As every theatre goer is rather glad when Harkins company reaches St. John, there is no doubt this very strong play and company will be greeted with crowded houses. In this connection it would be fair to say that the play "In Old Kentucky" is not in any way identified with or similar to a play called "The Kentucky Home" which was put on by one Bubb some time ago, and as pointed out at the time that name was a fraud because the real name of the play was "Lynwood."

The Webbing sisters under the management of the St. John A. A. club appeared at the opera house last Monday evening in one of their unique programmes. There are three of the sisters and their entertainment, is so unusual in its general character, so varied along lines remote from Vaudeville and yet not altogether quite out of the region of Vaudeville that the classification "unique" is about the best that can be bestowed upon it. The audience on the opening night was quite large and while disposed to be somewhat critical, it was a truly kind audience. The Webbing sisters are English born, and in the selection from the Hunchback with which their part of the programme opened gave the audience an idea of "English as she is spoke." So far at least as the lines for Helen were rendered.

and Miss Peggy later on indulged in from "shoah to shoah" evidently intended for "shore to shore" words, which in this country, are pronounced as their orthography indicates. The work of these ladies generally pleased however and before the evening closed Miss Lucy was established as a prime favorite. She did a nice bit of pantomime as an encore to her song and in "An April Jest" was very happy.

The Opera house management does not appear to be receiving the "congratulations of the theatre going public for their enterprise in bringing to this city that clever comedienne" Celie Ellis, in "Captain Kate" one of the most laughable pieces and one of the most successful of comedies." Miss Ellis was to open her engagement on last Wednesday. She did not. She will not appear in her "huzzar uniform" She will not appear at all. She, like Modjeska and other promised attractions, has cancelled her dates here.

Mamie Gilroy announces she will star next season. She is small in stature but she is bright and her ambition is large.

Madame Janauschek will star again next season. Those who saw her here in "Meg Merrilies" and in "Marie Stuart" will endorse the remark that she is great.

Hilary Bell the dramatic critic of the New York Home Journal has written a play. It will be produced shortly.

It has been estimated that nearly three million dollars has been taken out of the United States this season by foreign actors and actresses. The estimates are as follows: New Yorkers have paid \$400,000 to witness Irving's performances; \$240,000 to hear Paderewski; \$250,000 to study Duse; \$350,000 as a tribute to Bernhard's genius; probably a million dollars for Italian opera; about \$400,000 for German opera and for John Hare \$100,000. Nearly three million dollars have been carried abroad by foreign actors and singers.

Jessie Boustelle, a clever comedienne, has joined the Aubrey Boucault Company, succeeding Sadie Martinot.

The success that has attended the all star cast of "The Rivals" with Joe Jefferson in his great role of "Bob Acres," has induced the formation of another company to play the same piece. The new combination is as follows:

Mr. Willie Collier will be the Bob Acres; Mr. Dan Daly, the Sir Anthony Absolute; Mr. Andrew Mack the Sir Lucius O'Trigger; Mr. John C. Rice the Capt. Absolute; Mr. Otis Harlan, the David; Mr. Mark Sullivan the Falkland;

Mr. Peter F. Daley, the Fag; and Mr. James Russell the Lucy, Miss Marie Dressler will in all likelihood be the Mrs. Malaprop, and Miss Maggie Cline the Lydia Languish. The comedy is not to be burlesqued.

Mary Hampton left the T. D. Frawley stock company in San Francisco because of the advent of the stately Maxine Elliott to the company. Miss Hampton was jealous or feared a rival near the throne. She returned to New York and later became good and wrote to Mr. Frawley asking him to take her back. It is said she is still waiting for an answer.

The late Edwin Booth had no sympathy it is said, with the naturalistic school of acting and believed that the future of the drama lay in its romantic school, where something is left to the imagination.

Henry Irving's engagement in the United States closed last Saturday night.

One Stephen Brodie has written a play to which he has given the classic title "Strangled on Sunday." Possibly it has some connection with the Sunday closing movement in New York.

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## ECCOSAISE. (Scotch Dance.)

S. MYERS.

Moderato.

*ff* *mf*