

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The musical events of the week in point of magnitude at least, were the concerts given by the organization designated the City Cornet Band Minstrels. The attendance varied very much between the first and second concerts though it is but just to say that the unfavorable weather on Tuesday evening may have contributed not a little to the somewhat light house of that occasion. The audience on Monday evening was a large one but not a crowded house, and it seemed good natured and enthusiastic throughout. There was no special originality indicated in the stage setting when the curtains gave up disclosing the circle, arranged at the time honored custom. Here it might be consistent to remark that it would be a strong feature in a minstrel performance and it would compensate for other possible deficiencies, if something new was presented at opening. The musical director was Prof. White. He had the choruses well in hand and on the whole they were well rendered, although it is probable some persons would differ from his idea of some of the interpretations. The solos also were creditably sung even more than creditably, when it is considered that a number of the performers were making a first appearance as vocalists for such I am informed was the case. Singing out of tune appears to be a privilege always accorded to end men in an amateur minstrel troupe, and the end men on this occasion availed themselves abundantly of this right. The best solo was "The Old, Old Farm" by Mr. J. Kelly who has a sweet, pleasing tenor voice that has already won him recognition in many local musical circles. His voice was true and his articulation was quite good, showing marked contrast to that of the other soloists except perhaps the veteran vocalist and erstwhile professional minstrel Hugh Campbell. Of this latter soloist it might well be said that, "Age cannot wither nor custom stale, His infinite variety. The orchestral accompaniments were quite satisfactory in some instances but decidedly off in others. The orchestra required much more work together. They were literally bad at times and enough to disconcert a singer who, on occasion, could be independent of their playing. It was a wonder that disaster did not attend some of the solo work.

As usual in minstrel shows there was an olio, which began with a quartette "Sweet and Low" of which the individual voices were good and fairly well balanced. The pitch, however, changed considerably during its rendition and not all the parts could be heard to advantage. The portion of the programme terminated with what purported to be an illustration of character and was called "The Colored Waiter's Ball." In this piece the Cornet Band furnished the dance music, and the fun was caused chiefly by the laughable antics of Jim McPeake. He received good support in this piece from the others in the cast, but while the picture may have been true to life so far as I am aware, the thought occurred that it would have been more acceptable had there been less rough and tumble work at the close.

In the afterpiece "A Dutchman's Troubles" Mr. J. E. McGrath sang very nicely "Me and my Leetle Louise." His dialect and acting generally would do credit to many professionals.

The rest of the burden of fun making in this piece was borne by Mr. T. Fitzgerald as the tobaccoists indian figure sign, and by Mr. Kelly as Sambo.

The audience as I have remarked was out for an evening's enjoyment and the young men of this troupe gave them all the pleasure anticipated, if abundant and enthusiastic applause be a reliable sign. Every solo was encored and in every instance the demand for more was courteously complied with.

I have heard the minstrels are to appear in Fredericton on the 25th inst. in the City Hall and there is no doubt they will, on that occasion, give a performance second perhaps to none ever given by amateurs in that city in the same line. I anticipate for them a bumper house when they visit our 'celestial' neighbors.

The postponed concert in the school room of St. Andrew's church was held on Thursday evening too late for any special notice this week. In view of the talent participating in the programme—among the lady singers being Miss Belle Stockton and Miss Louise Skinner—a successful entertainment ought to be assured.

Miss Helen Furlong of this city who is already known as a clever violinist, has for some time past been studying her favorite instrument in Boston, Mass., under the direction of Prof. Chas. Loeffler. This young lady has returned to her home here and local lovers of this superlative instrument will rejoice in the intimation that Miss Furlong will take a limited number of pupils.

Tones and Undertones.

Miss Sigrid Lunde has gone to Norway. M. W. Whitney jr., who has been prosecuting his musical studies in Italy during the past year will visit his home in July. He will return to Italy.

Adelina Patti's baptismal certificate re-

cently printed in a Roman paper says she was born Feb. 19, 1843. This document also settles the question of the nationality of her parents. Her father was born at Catania in Sicily and her mother was born at Rome. The previous statement of the date of Patti's birth in this column is thus confirmed.

Mrs. Blackmore (Louise Laine) sailed for Europe last week. She will devote her time abroad principally to her study of music. London, Paris and other foreign cities will be visited by her.

Miss Hilda Clark has been engaged as prima donna for "The Bostonians," for next season.

The Black Patti will begin an engagement at Keith's theatre Boston, on the 18 inst.

On the 1st, prox there will be produced at the Boston theatre a new comic opera entitled "The Liberty Bell."

A season of summer opera at the Boston theatre is announced. The early days of the revolution it is said will be the theme of libretto and scenery. This is quite a new departure for that house.

"Les Huguenots" is the opera selected for this week at the Castle Square theatre Boston. On last Monday evening was given at this house its 409th, consecutive performance.

On next Monday evening (11th inst.) will begin at Music hall, Boston, the eleventh season of the promenade concerts generally known as "The Pops." Mr. Max Zich will be the conductor.

Mesdames Melba and Calve sailed for Europe on the American liner St. Paul's on her last trip eastward.

Paula, the French singer has been engaged at Proctors N. Y. at a salary of \$1500 per week.

William Wolff's work in the role of "Rip Van Winkle" is considered by Boston critics to be the best thing he does, even superior to his "Gaspard, the miser" in "The Chimes of Normandy." St. John opera patrons have seen him in this latter great role.

Melba has been before the public singing for seven years past.

It is announced that Pauline Hall will revive "Erminie" next season on a large scale. Her husband George B. McLellan, who was recently made a happy father, is now managing Nat Goodwin.

A testimonial in New York recently to Messrs Abbey and Grau netted \$20,000. This sum was divided between the two gentlemen. Everybody taking part in the programme volunteered.

Jean de Reszke's receipts for this season just closing have amounted to \$80,000. Yet he is not altogether satisfied. This season is considered the worst in general theatricals ever known.

Fay Templeton will soon join the vaudiville ranks and will then enjoy a salary of \$500 per week.

The latest description of Ellen Beach Yaw's voice calls her the "Altitudious Soprano." That's Californian.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Miss Annie O'Neill's place in Crane's (The Senator) company has been filled by the engagement of Margaret Robinson. Miss O'Neill is now Mrs. Henry C. Miner.

It is said that during the last twenty years Henry C. Dixey has earned \$300,000 and yet he has nothing laid by for a rainy day.

Loie Fuller (La Loie) was a failure in Chicago, where she used to appear in song and dance at 10-20-30 prices. A Chicago paper says the difference between Loie and La Loie is just \$1 10. Despite this it is said her profits on this season in America will exceed \$50,000.

A New York paper says that Augustin Daly has lost a lot of money on his theatre this season.

Helen Dauvray, the actress has again ventured on the sea of matrimony. She was recently married to Lieut. Albert G. Winterhalter of the U. S. S. Bennington. He is number three on this lady's list of husbands. The hubby's name in this instance is somewhat suggestive of possibilities.

Theresa Vaughan, of E. E. Rice's company could not have the "Star" dressing room and she left the company. She thinks Willie Collier, who was occupying the room and Mr. Rice also "real mean."

T. D. Frawley has been fortunate enough to secure the stately and handsome Miss Maxine Elliott of Augustin Daly's company, for his stock company in San Francisco.

It is proposed to abolish the paid claque in the Parisian theatres.

Quite a batch of theatrical people appeared as litigants in a New York court last week. The theatrical docket was as follows: Elvia Croix appeared against her husband, who, she claims is a bad man; Rose Etysinge appeared against Kate Claxton for breach of contract; Sidney Rosenfeld appeared against Francis Wilson for royalties, and Mrs Marguelies appeared against Sophie Traubman to recover \$50 for services.

In the cast of Archibald Clavering Gun-

SWEETHEART'S NOCTURNO.

ÁRPÁD LÁSZLO.

ter's new play "A Florida Enchantment," are two members well known, admired and popular in this city viz. Miss Grace Huntington and Wash D. Melville. Mr. Melville's "Bixby" in "The Golden Giant" was a great bit of work and will never be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to see it.

Miss Elita Procter Otis is credited with a pronounced success in the role of "Carmen" and Miss Catherine Goode, as anticipated last week, "gave the small part of Zara prominence by her good acting."

Annie Clarke, who was leading lady at the Boston Museum for many years, has been engaged by Charles Frohman for a part in a play called "The Liar," which he intends to produce next September.

Charles Hoyt is said to be the richest of American dramatists. He is reputed to be worth \$750,000 and is growing richer at the rate of \$100,000 per year. His skit "A Trip to Chinatown" has earned for him a quarter of a million dollars.

Miss Jane May has succeeded in her suit for slander against the Rev. Dr. Pullman of Bridgeport. The clergyman made a public apology and paid a sum of money to end the suit.

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