

Musical and Dramatic

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

As the date of the Albany Concert is rapidly approaching, the interest develops, in reference to those who are to assist the famous prima donna, in supplying to the citizens an entertainment that ought to be and doubtless will be historic in musical circles here. The sketch-to-day is of Mr. Lempiere Pringle, the basso of the company, and, apart from the fact that he is an Australian and was born in Hobart town, Tasmania, in 1869 and that in 1887 he landed in London, Eng., a total stranger, relates to his musical training. He is now the principal basso of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company with which he has been associated for the past five years. He received his English training at the Royal College of Music, having had Vicetto as tutor. He studied in 1889 under Stockhausen. He studied counterpoint under Humperdinck the greatest living master of that science, and to day is himself a composer of much merit. Mr. Pringle's voice is described as being very powerful, rich in tone and of very extensive compass. In addition to this he is a good actor of the romantic school and his impersonation of Mephistopheles in the scenes from "Faust" ought to prove a veritable treat to everyone who is fortunate enough to be present when these scenes are presented. Mr. Pringle, it will be seen is quite a young man, but nevertheless during the five years he has been with the Carl Rosa Company he has sung no less than fifty seven different roles, thus demonstrating that he is a student and entitled to the high position he occupies in the esteem of the London patrons of the opera, and of musicians wherever he has been heard. Whatever tribute of recognition of his talent and cleverness he has heretofore received it is probable that none has surpassed in importance the compliment paid him in being selected personally by Madame Albani, as one of those who will accompany her on her great tour. The date of the Albany concert, it is pretty generally known, is fixed for the 27th inst. and the sale of tickets will begin on Monday next.

The oratorio society is gradually increasing its active membership and a strong factor in that direction is the lecture on music delivered a few days ago by one of the most talented among the clergymen of St. John. I regret I did not hear this lecture but it all reports of its matter be correct, the result ought to be an awaken-

ing of persons with musical taste to the desirability and advantage of identifying themselves with the oratorio society, the rehearsals of which body are excellent drill and at which valuable information is acquired. The music of "The Rose Maiden" has not yet arrived but the voices have the exercise of rehearsing other excellent compositions pending its receipt.

Miss Farmer who is organist in St. Luke's church and who possesses much musical taste and ability, I learn has been appointed pianist of the oratorio society, to succeed Miss Vail who has filled that position most acceptably for some time past and who is about to take up her residence outside of St. John. I congratulate the society on the selection of a pianist its board of management has made and I congratulate Miss Farmer on the fact of this recognition of her merit as a musician.

Circumstances in the nature of another engagement, I regret to say, prevented my attendance at the organ recital by Mr. Fred Blair, and concert in St. Andrew's church last week. The young organist has just returned to New Brunswick after a somewhat prolonged absence in England, where he went to prosecute his studies in organ work. A musical friend, upon whose taste and judgment, I am disposed to place not a little reliance, assures me that Mr. Blair has improved his time, that he has studied to some purpose and as an instrumentalist he is today, if not, actually the best organist in St. John at least such a performer as enables him to take the highest rank among the best we have. His judgment is not so warmly commended. Neither was much special compliment paid to Mrs. Worden's rendition of "Judith," which is a piece brilliant with dramatic essence and fire but it is evidently misinterpreted. This lady's second solo was highly praised. It is said to have been sung with admirable taste and expression.

Tones and Undertones.

Col. Mapleson's great opera company is coming to Boston about the end of the current month. Many St. John lovers of the opera will probably make it convenient to visit Boston about that time.

Alberti Franchette the composer of "Christoforo Colombo" is working at present on a comic opera which is to bear the name "Poureaugnac."

Sybil Sanderson, the prima donna of California birth who made such an unfavorable impression on her visit to the United States two or three seasons ago, is

now singing in French at the Theatre Sirico in Milan under Souzegno's management.

Madame Melba was the special attraction at the Symphony concert last week, her first appearance since her return from Europe. She sang an aria from Mozart's opera "Il Re Pastore" and "S. Villana" from Massenet's "Don Cesar." The latter number was arranged for the Madame.

"Fra Diavolo" is the opera which has been given at the Castle Square theatre this week. It is designated the model of the French opera Comique. The first London production of this opera was in 1833. This will be followed by "Carmen" next week.

Miss Florence Monteith, a young English prima donna, has been engaged to appear in grand opera in Rome the coming winter. Miss Monteith is credited with much success in Naples last year.

Raffaele Paravicini, the composer, who died at Milan a short time ago has made a bequest of \$2000 as an annual income to be used for the production of an opera composed by pupils of Italian Conservatories.

On next Tuesday evening Inez Sprague will appear in concert with the Symphony orchestra in Music Hall, Boston. As stated previously in this department, this lady is the wife of Ex Governor Sprague of Rhode Island. Madame Sprague has been absent from America for three years and the approaching concert will be her first appearance since her return.

Bronislaw Huberman, a young violinist from abroad, will make his first American appearance at Carnegie hall, New York on the 21st inst in connection with Anton Reidl's orchestra. Although but 13 years of age Huberman has made a pronounced sensation in Europe. He is endorsed by Rubinstein, Ambrose Thomas and other famous musicians.

Madame Camille Urso, the great violinist and whose work is well remembered in this city, will shortly complete arrangements for a tour round the world.

A notice of Madame Melba's rendering of the Mozart selection in her first concert appearance this season says it was sung with dramatic expression and tenderness. The phrasing was perfect, the tones nearly faultless, and the blending of the voice with the violin obligato (which was superbly played by Mr. Kneisel) was beautiful in effect and execution. The enraptured audience recalled the fair singer half a dozen times at the close.

The success of Auber, the author of "Fra Diavolo" came somewhat late in life

and only after he had changed his habit of living to compose to that of composing to live. His father was wealthy and his earlier works were failures.

In the Parisian theatres at the present time five of Auber's operettas are being given.

The "Black Patti" (Sissirietta Jones) is singing in Boston now at the head of an organization called "Black Patti's Toubidours."

The programme for this week's Symphony Concert at which Mr. Moritz Rosenthal was soloist, was as follows:

Overture....."Barber of Bagdad".....
.....Peter Cornelius
Concerto for Piano in E minor No. 1.....Chopin
Entr'acte....."Heinrich nam Heerd".....Goldmark
Symphony....."From the New World".....Dvorak

Lillian Blauvelt, who was recently prominent in seeking a divorce, is now announced as intending to spend the coming twelve months in Europe in studying music, etc. and that during that time she will not sing in concert.

M. W. H. Clarke, the Boston basso, who will be remembered here, made a pronounced hit in the "Mikado" at the Castle Square theatre last week. He played Pooh-bah.

"Did you have any trouble in learning to play the flute?" "Two gun shot wounds and a law suit"—Life.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

After being dark all this week, the Opera House will reopen on Monday evening next to enable lovers of the drama to again bid a welcome to Miss Ethel Tucker and Mr. Meldon and Company. When Miss Tucker first appeared in this city in, I think, "La Belle Marie" she created such a favourable impression and the production, in view of the prices, was so far beyond and above anything that had been anticipated, the audience was treated to a surprise. The effect of that surprise has not been effaced and the superiority of Miss Tucker's work and her productions to put it mildly, have at least not suffered when compared with the attractions that have since visited this city. This remark applies to dramatic attractions playing at the same prices. The coming engagement of this lady, I learn, takes in Thanksgiving day and citizens generally will appreciate the fact that no better attraction could we be secured that would permit general attendance on that day than this talented lady and her supporting company. The Company is said to have been materially strengthened recently, and its specialties have been added to in several particulars notably by the securing of a prominent terpsichorean

artiste who will appear with the company during the St. John engagement only. What with Miss Tucker as the central attraction, and Mr. Meldon, new plays and new people, there ought to be very large business.

Olga Nethersole is said to be the youngest of the great actresses playing "Camille." She is quoted at 27 years of age.

Elsie D. Wolfe first appeared as an amateur at the Criterion theatre London, before the Prince and Princess of Wales. She was then 14 years of age. What her age is now is quite another matter.

"Virginia of Virginia" a novel by Amelia River, is being dramatised for Minnie Madern Fiske.

"My Lady Greyburn" is the name of a

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FAUST,.....MR. BRAXTON SMITH

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new society drama that was produced in Hartford, Conn. this week. It is the work of Leighton Baker, a well known Bostonian.

"Schloss Konberg" a historical drama by King Oscar II of Sweden and Norway, has been translated into German and will be given at the Berlin theatre by the king's permission. This drama was written many years ago.

The new play on which Elwyn A. Barron and Wilson Barrett have collaborated is called "The Wishing Cup."

M. d. m. Duse is studying three new characters—the heroine in Pinero's, "The Second Wife," in "Les Tennesilles" (The Tongs) by Hervieu, and in "The Rights of the Soul" by Giacosa.

Miss Ray Rena Rockman is the name of the daughter of a Montana physician who is to appear as a typical American girl in a play being written for the Renaissance de Paris, by Sarah Bernhardt. Miss Rockman is a protege of the great Sarah.

Miss Katherine Rober who is remembered for her visit to St. John last year, and who is coming here again next January, has added "The Ciennecou Case" to her repertoire. Miss Rober plays the role of "Izi." The role is said to be suited to her talents whatever that may mean. Miss Rober is now playing in Boston. A uniformed band and living pictures are featured.

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