

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Amateur performances of the well known Comic Opera "The Mikado", given in the Mechanic's Institute last week were occasions of much local musical interest. The events were important only in a local sense. It was not the initial of the opera. It had been heard in other places say New York and Boston before and perhaps that is the reason the press of these cities was unrepresented. Moreover, and in all seriousness, I think that the amateurs gave a performance that, all things considered reflected credit upon all concerned. The audience on Friday evening was quite encouraging and enthusiastic, frequent and earnest applause was bestowed (by the way amateurs like somewhat of this, it helps them; it makes them feel more comfortable,) and as frequently merited. The chorus merits special reference, and it was an excellent, reliable solid support, (as it were) for the principals. The volume and the balance and the confidence of the very first chorus on Friday evening was a delight and pleasant surprise and far exceeded the anticipations of this department last week. Every member seemed to be inspired by the generous audience, and I doubt not a little if better amateur work with like number of voices has been given here before.

Of the principals in the cast of "The Mikado" the ladies sang well and acted naturally, (I admit I have not been to Japan); that they looked charming goes without saying. Mrs. Taylor who sang the part of Yum Yum made her first public appearance among our local singers and the impression she made is most favorable. Her voice is somewhat light in quality but it is true and she sings in tune which is a most important factor in the success of even amateur musical performances. Her solo "The moon and I" was an exquisite bit and most sweetly rendered. The phrasing was good, and there was a naivete about its rendition that was most pleasing. The enthusiastic encore bestowed upon it was well merited. I fancy not a little demand will be made to hear this lady again.

The role of Pitti Sing (Miss Furlong) and Peep Bo (Miss Vail) were rendered in the accepted manner and gave no special opportunity for the interpreters of these roles. Miss Furlong's voice was heard to advantage however in "He is Going to Marry Yum Yum" and later in the scene with the Mikado. In both instances the singer was heartily encored. Miss Manning in the role of Katisha was a surprise to every one who had previously heard this young lady in concert. In the part of Katisha the love-lorn maiden, she manifested a dramatic force and power that was admirable and her song "O Living Eye" was sung with such regard to interpretation and coloring that a correct idea of the role was indicated and it was far beyond the work of the average amateur. She shared the honor of the evening with the principal.

Of the gentlemen Mr. Robert Seely was easily the best. He has a nice round voice and his articulation whether in speaking or singing was admirably distinct. Mr. Ritchie had not much to do, but he did it in such a manner as to leave no room for complaint. The other gentlemen soloists were—but I must not forget they are amateurs, and perhaps it would be just as well in view of that fact to refrain from other comment than that Mr. Harrison's work (and some of it I should say was rather fatiguing) caused much merriment among the audience. The house seemed delighted. It is to be hoped these ladies and gentlemen having made such a success of "The Mikado" will not rest at that but will in the near future give the citizens another similar entertainment. There is not a little talent among the members of the company and they can do even better work the next time.

Sousa's Band, with Mr. Northrup's soprano, and Miss Martina Johnstone, violinist were at the opera house yesterday afternoon and last evening. That they were enabled to appear there was due to the courtesy of Mr. Thomas E. Shea the clever actor whose company is playing an engagement at that house.

Tones and Undertones.

"Captain Fracassa" is the name of a German comic opera recently presented to the San Francisco public. It is by Rudolph Dellinger, the composer of "Lorraine" and "The Palace of Truth" and has been running in Vienna for upwards of two years past. The book is by Messrs. Genee and Jell and has been adapted into English by Harry B. Smith, author of "Robin Hood."



Emma Eames has decided not to sing the principal role in Mancinelli's opera, "Hero and Leander."

The Greek national hymn taken from Dionis Salonic's "Hymn to Liberty," was first written and published in London.

The 100th anniversary of the birthday of Donizetti will be commemorated next summer at Bergamo, when, in the cathedral there, will be sung a mass written by Donizetti for the funeral of Bellini in 1839, and which had been lost for many years.

Ysaye the violinist is coming to America again next season.

A chorus of one hundred girls is practicing the patriotic airs of England and United States, to be sung in Mechanic building Boston during the Victoria jubilee, on 21th inst.

The Handel and Haydn society of Boston will have a new conductor next season. The name has not yet transpired.

Madame Nordica has not awakened in Paris the enthusiasm she had expected, and the coldness has resulted in her cancelling her engagement at the opera where she was to sing Valentine in "Les Huguenots."

The New York Dramatic Mirror is authority for the statement that the Nlkisch concerts given by the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra at the Cirque d'Hiver, Paris, have proved a great success.

The promenade concerts in Music Hall Boston continue to be as popular as ever. "The Geisha" has been given in Berlin with much satisfactory result. It is the first of the English farces to be given in that city.

"Music is the basis of all human development" was said by one of the philosophers of a past age.

Miss Susan Strong, the Brooklyn prima

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Baroness Blanc is going into vandeille in short skirts as an up to date circus girl.

Sol Smith Russel has an eye to the attractive generally and usually surround, himself with a number of good looking girls in his productions. Blance Walsh, Nannette Comstock, Annie Russell and Fanny Addison Pitt have been signed to go out with him next season in "A Bachelor's Romance." The season will open September 20th, next, at the Garden theatre New York.

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several years since Ellen Terry became a grandmother.

Roland Keed will again open the Boston museum, next season on 23rd. August next.

"Tom" Wise goes out with Stuart Robson next season.

It seems that Augustin Daly will be forced to open his London season this year at the Grand theatre Islington, because his own house is occupied.

Theresa Vaughan and her brother Joe Ott are two more of "the profession" who have stellar ambitions which they will attempt to realize next season.

"A round of pleasure" is the name of a new piece by Sidney Rosenfeld and Ludwig Englaender recently put on at the Knickerbocker, N. Y.

"Cumberland 61," is the name of a new play by Franklyn Fyles which will be produced by Augustus Pitou at the 14th, street theatre N. Y., on 18th, October next.

"Le Petit Faust" will shortly be revived in New York. It was given at the Boston theatre the 29th of May 1871. Adele Ritchie has been engaged to appear in the revival.

"Marriage a la Mode" a new version of a novel by Dumas Pere, follows "Under the Red Robe" at the Haymarket theatre, London. The change takes place this evening.

Denman Thompson, it is said, will return to the stage next season and again appear as Joshua Whitcomb in "The Old Homestead." This will be the only company presenting the piece the coming year.

"Alabama" a 'war' play is being given at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, this week by the summer company at the house. It will be followed by a production of "Caste".

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