

**Music and
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Mrs Fred Spencer, of this city, is prosecuting her musical studies in New York with much success, and it is highly improbable that she will return to St. John before next May. There will be a general desire to hear her splendid voice when she does return. Mr. Spencer left here on Thursday last for New York.

Just at present, outside of the study and regular work of the Oratorio society, there seems to be reached a period of musical stagnation, exception being had in respect to the City Cornet Band Minstrels as they are called. This organization is in active rehearsal just now, as I imagine it should be, when one considers that the date of their appearance, as I learn, is fixed for the 25th prox.

The music of the quartette in the choir of Germain street baptist church is always highly appreciated by the congregation.

Tones and Undertones.

The opera "The Wizard of the Nile" is credited with a decided success in Vienna.

It seems incredible, but Victor Herbert and Harry B. Smith are said to have heard "The Bohemian Girl" for the first time when they visited the Bostonians recently to consult about their new opera.

Signor Giordano, composer of "Andrea Chenier" was recently married to Signorina Spatz, the daughter of a rich hotel keeper in Milan. King Humbert sent him the order of the crown of Italy on the event and Verdi presented a diamond mounted fan to the bride.

Lilli Lehman may sing Ortrud with the Damrosch Opera company and Isolde to the Tristan of her husband Kalish, who was expected to arrive in New York last week.

Miss Mary H. Mansfield, is the name of a gifted young lady who, is soprano soloist of the First Presbyterian church, 5th. avenue New York and also Temple Emanuel. This latter church choir she was engaged for in October 1894, and she has since remained there. Mrs. Josephine S. Jacoby, whose beautiful contralto voice gives her high position in the New York musical world, sings in conjunction with Miss Mansfield at the Temple. Their duets are delights to all who hear them.

In Boston two days after the Mapleson benefit concert at the Boston theatre, two policemen asked for a warrant for Mr. Tompkins, proprietor of the house, and others who took a prominent part in the concert. The warrant was refused by Judge Burke.

The announced death of Ellen Beach Yaw, last week caused special sensation in the world of music. The lady possessed a voice of wonderful compass, it being claimed that she was able to sing a higher tone than any other living singer. Her death if it is a fact was caused it is said by this very gift as in the effort to sing so high she injured a vein, and she fell to the stage and died in sight of the audience. The account of her death as received says that her physician frequently warned her against these efforts assuring her they were dangerous. Their warnings were unheeded. The character of this note indicates that the report requires verification.

The editor of the Musical Courier is still waging war against the DeRszkes, especially Jean D. Rzeszke and against the importation of foreign opera singers to the exclusion of lady vocalists of the United States.

Jean DeRzeszke recently was paid \$6000, for two performances of Siegfried, in one week. A notice of this incident adds "no wonder Grand opera in America is always doomed to failure."

Fanny Bloomfield Ziesler has been quite ill with an attack of la grippe but is again on the way to restored health.

Much regret is felt among the musical people of New York at the announcement of the probability that Madame Melba the prima donna, may not be heard singing again this season. Melba is suffering from a somewhat severe attack of influenza, and her attendant physician has emphatically forbidden any attempt at singing, at least for the present.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Miss Katherine Rober closes her fortnight's engagement at the Opera House tonight presenting 'Esmeralda.' The business done by this lady's company has been not bad and the evening houses have been chiefly of the 'top heavy' character. Miss Rober has had the distinction of introducing to our public the play 'Carmen,' made more notable perhaps, in dramatic circles,

by the osculatory extravagances of Miss Olga Nethersole, the English actress, during her last year's season in the United States. Happily for Miss Rober no charge of that kind attaches to her in 'Carmen.' But Miss Rober is responsible for the introduction of another play new to this city viz 'The Clemenceau Case' with its studio scene which brought down on the heads of those who first played the role of Iriz, severe disapprobation by the authorities in some cities of the United States, and of some at least of the dramatic papers of that country. Art, it is true, is ennobling and there is something in the saying that "nature is never vulgar except to the vulgar" but that depends on many things—on custom it may be—for instance, as in studies from the nude in art schools where only the genius of art is considered and invoked. On the stage however, it is different. No doubt a shapely female form is a thing of beauty and is admired by every beholder. My own impression however, is that it would have been just as well if the production of "The Clemenceau Case" had been omitted.

W. S. Harkins is playing at the Empire theatre New York in "Under the Red Robe."

Miss Frances Drake has severed her connection with the Isham-Lytell Co. at Montreal, and has returned to New York.

Miss Mabel Duncan, an actress and a member of the "Geisha" company in London, Eng., has recently obtained, by consent, a verdict in a breach of promise case against one Captain Arthur Benghal Crabbe. The lady sued for \$50,000 damages.

It is said that Virginia Harned will play Sarah Bernhardt's role in Charles Frohman's production of "Spiritusm" on 17th February next at the Knickerbocker (N. Y.) theatre.

This is the last week of "Rosemary" with John Drew and Maud Adams as his leading lady, at the Hollis theatre, Boston. Miss Adams who will star next season will be succeeded by Miss Ethel Barrymore.

Wash Melville, the well known comedian, and Miss Helen Creswick, also well known in this city, are playing in Gunter's "A Florida Enchantment" which was on at the Park theatre N. Y. last week.

Mr. P. A. Nannery, another well known actor and graphic writer,—a St. John boy too—is still playing a prominent role in the "Coon Hollow" company. This popular play was in Hartford, Conn., this week.

It is said that E. S. Willard, will soon appear as "Robespierre" in a new play by William Young. It is also said he will appear as Tom Pinch in an adaptation of "Martin Chuzzlewit." Neither the time or place of his appearance in these roles is yet fixed.

Kathryn Kidder, fainted on the stage during a performance last week, and the probabilities are she will not be able to act again for many weeks. Overwork and nervous prostration is the alleged cause.

Even Shakespeare is not universal in charm—in Chicago. An individual last week, who had witnessed the Marlowe—Taber production of "Romeo and Juliet" there, threw out the weighty opinion that "Marlowe was good, but the play was bum." And this is the enlightened nineteenth century!

It is stated that twelve thousand copies of Ibsen's new drama "John Gabriel Borkman" have been printed in Norwegian. This is the largest edition known in Scandinavia.

Olga Nethersole it appears has succeeded in acquiring the role of Clorinda in Mrs. Barnett's "Lady of Quality." Mrs. Burnett wanted the part to be given to Eleanor Calhoun but she has receded from that position.

A play by George Broadhurst and entitled "A Domestic Kirmish" was recently withdrawn from the stage in Detroit. When produced again it will be under a new name and it will have been rewritten.

Rumor has it that Blanche Walsh a handsome woman who recently has been doing "Tribby" will shortly appear with the Hollands in Marion Crawford's dramatization of his own novel "Dr. Caudius."

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RAILROAD KIDNEY.
I, WILLIAM WALKER, of the City of Hamilton, do solemnly declare that I reside at 84 Colborne Street, and am employed as passenger brakeman on the G. T. R. I suffered intensely with what is called Railway Kidneys and also had Sciatica, which became so severe that I had to leave my work. I had medical treatment, was fly blistered and had hot irons applied, but without success. I took a great quantity of medicine and when I began the use of Ryckman's Kootenay Cure I thought it was only another experiment and could hardly trust my own senses when I began to get better. The pain gradually left me, my kidneys began to act with regularity and promptness, my appetite returned, and now I am cured. I am forty years of age, have been with the G. T. R. for twelve years, and am now able to work every day, thanks to Kootenay Cure, which I have pleasure in recommending to everyone suffering with Rheumatism or Kidney Trouble, and especially to railroad men, who are all more or less subject to disordered Kidneys. Sworn to before J. W. SEYMOUR CORLEY, Notary Public. HAMILTON, 30th Dec., 1896.

WELL EDUCATED, BUT CAN'T READ
A Brooklyn Woman Who Has Learned Entirely by Listening.
The wonderful development of certain faculties in the cases of persons who have lost the use of some of their natural functions, or of others whose faculties have not been fully developed, has long been a matter of remark, but it is not alone the outside observers who appreciate the provisions of nature for the benefit of unfortunate. The sufferers themselves often appreciate this fully, and in some instances, after years, grow to depend so much upon their acquired faculties as to be afraid of a change, even if they have the chance of one. An illustration of this is given by a woman in Brooklyn who never has learned to read or write. In no way could one discover this except by her own admission, by putting her to a direct test, for she is one of the best educated women in the country, conversant with languages, art, literature, and all the current topics of the day. She is rich, too, and could afford all the services of the best teachers if she but chose to learn to read, but she refuses to do so.
When this woman was a child, her parents lived far from schools, so she had no chance then to learn to read or write. As a mere child she began to earn her own living, and again the chance for schooling slipped away. Then she married and the cares of a family took up her time. By the time the babies were off her hands, her husband had grown rich, and then she began her real education, and now, as a widow, she continues it. Her companions read to her and talk with her about all the topics which interest her. Years of such work have stored her mind with a rich treasure of knowledge, and there is not a page of a book that has been read to her that she is not familiar with; Her stores of knowledge are at her instant command. Why will she not learn to read? Because, she says, she fears that this wonderful memory, which is now such a treasure house to her, might be impaired if she were to do anything to weaken the demands upon it.
What such a memory can do is well illustrated in the case of a tailor of this city who cannot read or write. He is probably the most widely known man in his business here, as for many years he has done business with New York's firemen and policemen. Almost every man of these two bodies has dealings with this tailor, and each month between the 1st and 10th days he visits every station house and engine and truck house in this city to collect his dues. He has acquired considerable wealth, and it is said of him that in all the years he has dealt with the firemen and policemen he never was known to make a mistake of a cent in any man's account, although all his records of transactions have been kept in his head. N. Y. Sun.

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GREAT VOYAGERS.
As a General Rule They Came From the Smaller Countries.
Portugal is a small country, with a land area one-third less than that of the state of New York and with a population of 500,000 less than that of the state of Pennsylvania, but it has turned out in its time celebrated navigators, Cabral and Da Souza among them.
It is a somewhat peculiar circumstance in the history of ocean navigation that the chief navigators of Europe have usually been natives of minor kingdoms and without the advantages which would naturally accrue to a representative of one of the larger governments.

Christopher Columbus, as every school boy knows, was a native of Genoa at the time when the Italian peninsula was subdivided among numerous petty governments. John Cabot was a Venetian, who sailed in the service of England, as Columbus had sailed in the service of Spain. Amerigo Vespucci was a Florentine, who sailed originally in the service of Spain and afterward transferred himself to the Portuguese service, and then went back to the Spanish service for a second time.

Vitus Bering, after whom Bering strait was called, was a Dane by birth, who served under the naval flag of Russia. Magellan, after whom Magellan strait was named, was a native of Alentejo, in Portugal, and was the first to complete the circumnavigation of the globe, in 1522. Verazzani was a Florentine, whose voyages of discovery were undertaken under the protection of the flag of France. Hendrick Hudson was an Englishman, and it seems surprising to many persons in this day familiar with the pre-eminence of England as a maritime nation that he should have been in the service of the government of Holland when he discovered Manhattan Island.—San Francisco Chronicle.

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