

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Lovers of instrumental music particularly in the form of band music, are anticipating much delight in the forthcoming visit to this city of the Chicago Marin Band, as it is called, and the name by which it is known at least throughout North America. A good deal has been said in the United States press from time to time during past years, testifying to the excellence of this organization and there is probably little exaggeration in the praise bestowed. Of that however the musical portion of this community will have opportunity of judging later on.

Much enjoyment was had at St. John (Stone) church last Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the musical and other selections provided for the entertainment of those present. The consensus of opinion is that nothing more successful or of more intrinsic merit had previously been given there.

The concert given at Trinity Church school room last week was quite the artistic success anticipated.

The weather was very unfavorable on the first occasion and the concert was repeated in consequence. The local talent employed in furnishing the programme is undoubtedly among some of our best and the unusual feature of a "shanty" by a number of sailors, lent a variety to the entertainment that was very pleasing.

The concerts were for the benefit of the Seamen's Mission.

Tones and Underlines.

The Damosch opera season opened at the Boston Theatre last Monday evening. Of the 12 performances to be given 11 will be in German and one in Italian. In this latter the regular company will be augmented by leading artists of the Metropolitan Opera Company from New York. The leading tenor is Herr Ernst Krauss, age 30 years and more than six feet in height.

Mrs. Jennie Patrick Walker will be leading soprano soloist at the production of "Elijah" by the Handel and Haydn society of Boston in Music Hall Boston tomorrow evening. Miss Grace Damien "the Great English alto" Evan Williams, tenor of New York, and Francon Davies, basses take care of their respective parts. It will be the fiftieth anniversary.

Madame Calve will sing in several concerts at the close of the Abbey, Schoeffe and Grau season.

The voice of a cantatrice such as Patti, Melba or Eames has been recently analyzed from a mathematical standpoint and the results are rather surprising. In the human voice there are said to be but nine perfect tones yet there are actually no less than 17,592,186,344,516 sounds. There are produced by fourteen direct muscles which give about 16,393 different sounds and thirty indirect muscles which produce 78,741,823 sounds.

It is now more definitely stated that Rosenthal has so far recovered as to be able to play again about the 1st March next.

There is to be what is designated a May Festival of Music at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Madame Calve will be the star.

At the next Worcester Mass., festival the works that will be given are; Gounod's "Redemption," Parker's "Hora Novissima," Goring Thomas' posthumous cantata, "The Swan and The Skylark," choral selections from Wagner's operas; Saint Saens' "Samson and Delilah." Mr. Carl Zerrahn will be the conductor.

Sardon has consented that Umberto Giordano may turn "Fedora" into an opera, the text of which is to be written by Alberto Collanti.

Mille. Szumowska's recital in Stewart Hall, Boston, last week was largely patronized the stalls and boxes being filled by the musical elite of the city.

"Lohengrin" is the opera being by the Castle Square Opera Company in Boston, this week. As it is only to be given for a single week the demand for seats has been unusually large.

Miss Madge Lessing, one of the ladies of the "Jack and the Beanstalk" company, is a great favorite with the audiences and since she has adopted blue tights that color is more popular with Harvard students than it ever was before. They exhibit it frequently at the theatre although it is their rival's emblem.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

It is reported that a very large spectacular production will be put on at the Opera House here, towards the end of the current month. The production is called "Parada".

Vernona Jarbeau will assume the title role in a new burlesque entitled "Little Miss Chicago" which will be produced on 22nd. inst. at the Gaiety theatre in the "windy city."

Julia Marlowe Tabor it is said has decided to drop the "Taber" part of her name hereafter and return to the use of her stage name, plain Julia Marlowe. The "Taber" part does not draw.

Another dramatic debutante—Miss Violette Hardy—made her first professional appearance in "A Celebrated Case" during the recent production of that play in the Bowdoin square theatre, Boston.

"Liberty Hall" H. Cavton's piece recently met with success when produced in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Adelaide Ristori, the famous tragedienne celebrated her 71st birthday anniversary on Friday of last week.

"My Friend from India" will be produced in London, Eng, later on, but its name will then be changed to "Mr Tweedles."

Madame Sarah Bernhardt's version of the play entitled "Lorenzaccio" by De Musset, is to be put into English by Herman Merivale, who has been commissioned for that purpose. The work will be produced at the St. James Theatre. London, in the near future.

"A Proper Impropriety" is the title of a new comedietta by Augustus Thomas author of "Alabama." It will shortly be presented by Frederic Bryton and Grace Filkins at Keith's theatre, Boston.

The play "Goblin Castle," which is one of those included in the repertoire of Georgia Cayvan was written by Miss Elizabeth Bisland. The authoress will be recalled by many readers as the young lady who made a fast trip around the world some few years ago.

It was expected that the play "The first gentleman of Europe" by Mrs Francis Hodgson Burnett would create a sensation when produced at the Lyceum theatre, New York last Monday evening. In that play Mr Charles Walcott and Mrs Thomas Whiffen made their first appearance for the season at the theatre. The play is said to be founded on an episode in the life of the last of the "Four Georges" when he was the gay and profligate Prince of Wales about 1785 and the costumes are of the period of "The school for scandal."

The attempt to do business at the Lyceum theatre, London, without either Henry Irving or Ellen Terry, after a two weeks trial, was abandoned and the theatre was closed.

The production of a new five act play by Pinero at the St James (London) theatre, is considered an event of the season. The piece was written for George Alexander and both Julia Neilson and Fay Davis have good parts in it. The play will attempt to prove "that romance is not the exclusive possession of the costume play, nor strong human interests the monopoly of the problem play."

Richard Mansfield's season in Boston begins on 15th inst at the Tremont theatre. His repertoire will include Beau Brummel, "Castle Sombras," "Prince Karl," "A Parisian Romance," "Dr Jeekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Richard III" and "The Merchant of Venice."

Miss Georgia Cayvan's engagement at the Tremont theatre closes this evening. She was always an especial favourite of the Boston people who affect the theatre and her season had been financially as well as artistically successful. She began her last week with the comedy "Mary Pennington, Spinster," written by W. R. Walker. The play is "a sharp satire upon that type of woman which seems to doubt the necessity of men as factors in the progress of the world." This play was given for the four first nights of this week.

The Ethel Tucker company is playing in Salem, Mass. this week. Their engagement there is said to cover a period of nine weeks. This is pretty strong evidence of the popularity of this clever actress.

JEALOUS RIVALS

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A Possibility.

"The little mermaids and merboys never have any snow under the ocean, do they, mamma?" asked Johnny.

"No, dear."

"I suppose instead of snowballs fights they have fishball fights, eh?" said Johnnie.

CASTOR OIL GLAD SHOES.

A Commuting Suburbanite's Invention for Waterproofing His Footgear.

It was still snowing and the sidewalks were covered ankle deep with snow when two commuters met on their way from the ferry.

"Whew!" said one. "This is a corker, isn't it? Let's go in and have something to drink."

They went into a place that was handy, and while the bartender was preparing their portions the genial heat of the place was melting down the snow they had brought in with them. Glancing down at companion's feet, one of them evinced surprise and exclaimed:

"My! I should think you would catch your death of cold with such thin shoes on and no overshoes."

"Oh, no!" said the other. "I have worn these same shoes right along through all the snow, slush and mud of the past two months, and haven't had my feet wet even, except the first time I got caught in a rain with them on, and the most curious part of that is that the soles are made of some sort of stuff that in its natural state absorbs water like a sponge."

"That first time I got caught in the wet with those shoes on gave me a remarkable experience. I had worn the shoes only a couple of days, and as they came from a reputable dealer I supposed they were of good quality and would withstand at least a little water. My first surprise was caused by the fact that I had not walked a block in the rain before I felt that the water had soaked right up through the soles, and that the bottoms of my feet were as wet as if I had been barefooted. Then I found another peculiarity develop, and this was a source of great danger to me. The soles grew as soft and flexible as wet parchment, and the heels of the shoes and the soles also felt as if they were greased. My feet went slipping and sliding from under me, and I had to walk with more care over the plain wet pavement than would have been necessary on smooth ice. I had to keep every muscle of my legs tense and never let my centre of gravity get beyond my heels or toes or I should have fallen. I had about a dozen blocks to walk, and at the end I was all tired out by the tension."

"The next day I examined these soles. They looked like leather, but were so soft and of such weak material that I could gouge pieces out of them with my thumbnail. I felt so much interested in them that I went down into the Swamp about the Brooklyn Bridge to find out what they were. The dealers told me they were leather, but of a kind that is generally discarded for soles or any other important purpose. They were cuts from the belly or neck of the hides, and the dealers assured me that I was not mistaken about their ability to absorb water or to slide. Then I determined to experiment with them and see if I couldn't make good water-proof and non-slipable soles of them, and I have succeeded. I made a mixture of real beeswax—not paraffine—and castor oil, salt and half, melted it, and put it on the soles hot and dried it in over the stove until the soles would absorb no more of it. I treated the others with castor oil alone. I can walk through slush all day now and the soles won't even get wet to the touch, and they are wearing as well as the best oak-tanned leather, and a little touch of castor oil on the uppers now and then keeps them waterproof also. I have since met quite a number of people who have been swindled with these kind of sponge-soled shoes and recommended them to try my remedy."—N. Y. Sun

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THE ABSURDITY OF WAR.

Belief Lingers That God is on the Side of Him who Does Most Injury.

War is the last remnant of man's mode of deciding disputes in the animal or savage state. As soon as he started on the road to civilization he set up judges or courts to settle controversies. Before that, when two men differed about anything, they tore or mutilated each other's bodies, and it was tacitly agreed that the man who was most mutilated, if not killed, should give way. But he abode by the decisions of courts very reluctantly. The hardest battle of the reformers of the race was to get him to submit to the judges. He always preferred in his heart some kind of mutilation of his adversary's body, and in order to give a certain dignity to this mode of settling quarrels he got up the theory that God presided over it, and always gave the victory to the man who was in the right. In England this notion lasted in the 'trial by battle,' or 'wager of battle,' almost down to our time. It was held that the Deity was on the side of the man who gave most cuts and stabs.

When the wager of battle as a settlement of disputes of any kind became too absurd, the turbulent classes were driven into starting the duel. They felt that there must be some mode reserved of getting at an adversary's body with some weapon. So they established the rule that all offenses against what they called their 'honor'—that is, their sense of personal dignity—must be avenged by cutting, stabbing or shooting, and that each man must decide when his 'honor' was injured, and when cutting, stabbing or shooting was necessary. This was a very cunning arrangement for if it were left to other people to say when your 'honor' was injured, you might never, or very rarely, get a chance to cut or stab or shoot at all, because they might say your honor was not injured. But there was even a better device than this; for it was arranged that the man who you said had injured your honor could not deny it or apologize with out disgrace. He was held bound, no matter how trifling the injury, to give you a chance to cut or stab him, and to do his best to cut or stab him, and to do his best to cut or stab you. In what manner this mended your honor was never explained. To all outward appearance, after the theory of the interest of the Deity in the matter had died out, your honor remained after the fight exactly what it was before the fight. The cutting and stabbing had neither proved nor disproved anything; it had simply gratified an animal instinct of the primeval time. Dueling, however, has disappeared here and in England. It flourishes still, in the old barbarous, absurd form, on the continent.

Disputes between nations, for obvious reasons, have not come as rapidly under human methods of decision as disputes between individuals. Nations have never agreed to have judges and arguments a individuals have. The result is that there mode of deciding differences of opinion has always remained the old animal one of doing as much material injury as possible to the other side; and there still lingers the belief that God is on the side of the one which does most injury; that he counts up the number of killed and wounded, and decides that the one which has most killed and wounded is in the wrong. During war he is prayed to see that the number of killed and wounded on the other side may be the larger, and after what is called a "victory"—that is the killing and wounding of a larger number of your enemies than they have managed to kill and wound on your side—people hurry to church and sing hymns of thanks. This belief is very strong still in our day, and the enemy's dead are counted joyfully. The human plan of deciding differences of opinion by judges, proofs, and argumentative persuasion, as distinguished, from the animal or feline plan of deciding by the tearing and rending of bodies, has in fact not made much progress, though it has begun to receive attention.—"The Absurdity of War," by E. L. Godkin, in the Century.

A Real Fight With a Grizzly.

The people of the State of Washington, who still have the grizzly bear with them, manage so well to keep out of hand-to-hand struggles with that formidable animal that contests are seldom heard of except in fiction. But now and then some unwary settler comes in contact with the grizzly, with terrible results.

The Wallawalla Statesman records such an experience on the part of Mr. John Doud, of Promised Land, in Wallawalla County. Mr. Doud was hunting in Walla-

pa Canon, when he ventured to fire his only shot at a large grizzly, and was immediately pursued by the animal, one of whose legs had been broken by the shot.

The hunter ran, but not so fast as the bear, notwithstanding the animal's crippled condition. Mr. Doud relied, however, on the bear's broken leg to make the limb of a small pine-tree a safe refuge for him, and perched himself on this with some confidence. The bear stood up on his hind legs beneath the little tree, and just at that moment the branch broke, precipitating Mr. Doud into the bear's extended paws.

Then came a rough-and-tumble fight, in which the chances seemed to be altogether on the side of the bear. But a human being is a formidable antagonist after all. Mr. Doud succeeded in getting hold of his knife, and with a few happily directed blows killed the bear.

But it is possible his knife-blows came too late. The hunter was so badly injured that he could not move. He lay upon the ground by the bear's side until a searching party found him next day, badly torn and very far gone. Nevertheless, at the moment of the Wallawalla paper's publication hopes were entertained of his recovery.

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