

Musical and Dramatic

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Mr. Charles R. Fisher, who has demonstrated that St. John possessed for him more than ordinary interest and who is specially and favorably remembered in musical circles in this city, is still actively engaged in the pursuit of his profession. He is, as has been previously noted in this department, still connected with the Hollins Institute, Virginia. On the 29 inst. Mr. Fisher gave an organ recital in St. John's church, Roanoke, Va., and one feature of the programme on that occasion was an instrumental trio composed by Mr. Fisher. It is for organ, violin and violoncello and is entitled "Twilight." Thanks for the 'invite.'

The many friends of Mr. A. M. Smith (Fred) will be pleased to learn that he is now living in New York city where he is meeting the success such a lover of music and such a real good fellow deserves. This department tenders him all the best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Rumors are in the air as to preparations for local musical entertainment but they are all too vague to deal with at present.

A fine programme of Christmas music was given by the choir in Exmouth St. Church last Sunday evening. A feature of the music on that occasion was a solo by Miss Lake which was admirably rendered and which gave much pleasure to the large congregation.

Tones and Undertones.

"The Bohemian Girl" is the opera at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, this week. The opening production of the "Lily of Killarney" on Monday evening of last week at this theatre was characterized in that the "action was hitching and the spoken parts not always ready, but the singing was all good."

Lillian Blauvelt has been engaged by Mr. Damrosch to replace Madame Nordica for the soprano solos of "The Messiah" which will be given in New York on the 28 inst.

The highest paid choir singers in the world were two American ladies, Miss Clementina De Vere, at the Paxton church in New York, who received \$4,500 a year, and Miss Dutton, at a Baptist church in the same city, who received \$3,000 for her services. The men in the choir at Westminster Abbey receive salaries ranging from \$400 to \$500.

Madame Camilla Urso, the world famous violinist, is giving concerts in Massachusetts. She will appear at Natick on the 8 inst.

At the first of the four concerts recently given by Madame Carreno, the famous pianist in Helsingfors, Russia last month, the enthusiasm of the audience was unbounded, the stage was literally strewn with flowers and wreaths and when Carreno entered her carriage a number of students unharnessed the horses and triumphantly pulled the vehicle through the streets of Helsingfors.

Miss Ella Chamberlain the whistling soloist, took an important part in the concert of the Boston Association course on Thursday evening of last week. "Her solos are always a delight," says a critic "and her selections on this occasion were particularly good."

A benefit concert was tendered Col. Mapleson at the Boston Theatre last Sunday evening and taking part in the programme on the occasion was Signor Ruggero Rondacio, who is one of the few artists of the Colonel's company who yet remains in the United States. Signor Rondacio is a Sicilian and he has a tenor voice of rare purity, flexibility and power. He has a repertoire of fifty two operas.

Myron W. Whitney jr., who is studying music in Europe has started a club in Florence, Italy, which is to be known as the American student's club. Only Americans can hold office although its membership is not confined to Americans. It is intended as a sort of rendezvous for the American people visiting that locality.

Madame Adamowski-Szumowska, the pianist, learned new laurels for her masterful work in the second concert given by the young violinist Huberman last week. "She re-affirmed her right to be placed in the first rank of contemporary pianists," says a recent Boston paper, "and a detailed statement of her ability would consist of an enumeration of pianistic virtues coupled with the remark that she possesses them all."

Illness on the part of several of the soloists in the recent production of "The Messiah" by the Handel and Hayden society of Boston, caused many disappointments. Mr. Lang the conductor, became so ill he could not appear and his place was taken

by Mr. George W. Chadwick, who had no opportunity to rehearse with the chorus. Notwithstanding this a notice of the work says "If one has only the chorus singing in mind it were safe to say that the performance was far from being the worst given by the society during the last ten years."

At the first production of "The Messiah" last month in Boston says a local critic. "Mrs. Juch, with her somewhat jaded voice, displayed some very good and some very bad musicianship in dealing with the soprano role." Mrs. H. E. Sawyer the contralto, was pronounced "inadequate." Mr. Thomas E. Johnson the tenor "battled with a hoarse cold" and Mr. David Bispham "arose from a sick bed to come to Music Hall" and "his upper tones were either strained or ragged."

Madame Albani sang the soprano solos in the second production of "The Messiah" in Boston last month.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

At the Opera House during the current week the Isham and Lytell Company have continued their performances to audiences which—apart from Xmas day and New Year's day—were smaller than they should have been when the merit of these performances is taken into account. The plays produced this week were "A Midnight Bell," "Forgiven" and "A Chance for a Life," all entirely new to this city, it is said. This last play was given on New Year's Day too late for further notice this week. Of the others the company is justly entitled to credit for general good work. In the first named play those that witnessed it concede that Mr. Lytell's work as Deacon Tidd was exceptionally clever and consistent, and was true to life. Everyone who has but slight knowledge of village life, must recognize the fidelity of the impersonation. In this play also Miss Drake had better opportunity than in the opening piece, and the lady seems to grow in the favor of the theatre goers. She certainly was very charming in the role of the school teacher in "A Midnight Bell." Indeed in this play it appeared to me that all the parts fitted those to whom they were entrusted. "A Dark Secret", apart from the spectacular features, has little to commend it.

Mr. John E. Brennan the comedian and Miss Eva Westcott, who is happily styled a "dainty soubrette" have been entertaining large audiences in Mechanic's Institute during the week. They have been giving a well assorted repertoire at popular prices and some of their company at least merit notice in the support afforded the joint stars. Generally speaking there is quite a gap between a "star" and the support but Mr. Brennan has avoided this as much as possible. The Brennan-Westcott Company are now well established in this city.

"The Cherry Pickers" is nearing its one hundredth performance at the 14th street theatre in New York. This is the play in which Miss Ethel Knight Mollison of this city takes the part of an Indian girl.

"The War of Wealth" is the play at the Boston theatre this week. This was one of the pieces new to this city which the Harkins company put on here last season.

Wyzeman Marshall, an old time actor who, many years ago, in the old "Lyceum" days, played star engagements in that house under the late J. W. Laneragan, died at his home in Boston on Christmas day. He was born Sept. 26, 1816, at Hudson, N. H., and his first stage appearance was at the Lion theatre on Washington street, Boston, in February 1836. His last appearance was June 13, 1864.

Some naughty person has started a rumor (possibly an advance man) that Miss Fannie Bulkley of the "Lost, Strayed or Stolen" company at the Park theatre, Boston, was engaged to be married to Joseph Holland, the actor. The lady has authorized the Boston press to give her denial of the rumor.

Sol. Smith Russell, after refreshing rest at his home in Minneapolis, resumed his tour in "A Bachelor's Romance" at the Grand Opera house in Chicago last Monday evening.

The real name of the late Alexander Hermann, the world famous magician, was Levin.

Mr. Charles Dalton who has the leading part in "The Sign of the Cross" is an English actor and the present is his first visit to this country. This play, which is favorably regarded by clergymen, is on at the Boston Museum this week.

Miss Gertrude Boswell who is 16 years of age plays a boy's part in "The Sign of the Cross." She is an American.

Edward Milton Boyle has written a new play which he has called "Capt. Impudence." It is a romance of the Mexican war. He is the author of the comedy drama "Friends

and it is probable his new play will have a Metropolitan production in the near future.

When Miss Maud Adams enters upon her career as a 'star' next season the leading man will be Robert Edeson.

C. W. Coudock, the veteran actor, who has been in active work this season has retired from the stage. He is upwards of eighty years of age. Mr. Coudock in 'ye olden time' has played star engagements in Laneragan's Lyceum in this city. He was a tragedian of high order of talent and was great in 'Hamlet' King Lear etc. in which he has been seen in this city. Personally he bore a marked resemblance to the late Hon. Joseph Howe, for whom he has not infrequently been mistaken.

NERO A HANDY DOG WITH KITTENS

He Responds to the Mother's Appeal and Helps Them When She Cannot.

In the house of one of Brooklyn's best known citizens on Prince street says a writer in the N. Y. Sun is a dog that has taken upon himself the care of the family cat and her offspring. His name is Nero, and he is a fine specimen of the English setter breed.

There was an increase in the cat family not long ago, and on account of the cold weather the mother cat was allowed to keep her little ones in the bottom drawer of the desk in the library. The kittens are so small that they are not able to get out without assistance. The mother cat, owing to the depth of the drawer, has found it almost impossible to get them out, and it was the custom of one of the family to take them out. Nero stood and watched the operation. One day he evidently thought it was about time one of the kittens was back in its nest, and he rolled it over on the floor as carefully as its mother could have done, licked it all over, and then took it in his mouth and deposited it in the drawer.

The dog's master, when sitting in the recess in the library one day, was interrupted in his reading by the mewing of the mother cat. He watched her. She evidently had concluded that the kittens were large enough to test their legs, and she raised herself on her hind legs and put her front paws on the edge of the bureau drawer. Then she gradually drew herself up and balanced her body on the edge, while she tried to take one of the kittens out with her mouth. She found herself unequal to the task, and dropped back to the floor. Nero was asleep in front of the fire, his head on the floor between his paws. The cat looked at the dog and then at the drawer, and finally went over to where the dog lay. Putting her mouth close to the dog's head she mewed pitifully. Nero sprang to his feet, and the cat started toward the desk. As she

The First of these Monthly Competitions will commence January 1st, 1897, and will be continued each month during 1897.

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1	Western Ontario, consisting of Counties York, Simcoe & all Counties W. and S. of these
2	East'n Ontario, consisting of Counties Ontario, Muskoka & all Counties E. & N. of these
3	Province of Quebec
4	Province of New Brunswick
5	Province of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

RULES.
1. Every month during 1897, in each of the districts, prizes will be awarded as follows:
The 5 competitors who send in the largest number of coupons from the district in which they reside, will each receive, at winner's option, a lady's or gent's Bicycles, value \$100.
The 5 competitors who send in the next largest number of coupons from the district in which they reside, will each receive, at winner's option, a lady's or gent's Gold Watch, value \$25.
The competitions will close the last day of each month during 1897. Coupons received too late for one month's competition will be put into the next.
2. Competitors who obtain wrappers from unclean soap in dealer's stock will be disqualified. Employees of Messrs. Lever Brothers, Ltd., and their families, are debarred from competing.
3. A printed list of winners in competitor's district will be forwarded to competitors 21 days after each competition closes.
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walked along she looked back at Nero. The dog followed her, and putting his big muzzle into the drawer he litted out the kittens one by one and put them gently on the floor. Then he went back to the fire, lay down, and smuggled down between the dog's paws and went to sleep, too.
Nero has several accomplishments. His master will put a piece of cake on each paw, and the dog will not touch one of them until he gets permission to do so. This in itself is not an unusual feat for a dog, but it is not common for a dog to stand as long a speech as Nero must listen to before grabbing the dainties. His master uses the most aggravating deliberation in his address to Nero, saying:

"Don't be in unseemly haste, Nero; slowly, now, slowly."

He then puts another piece of cake on Nero's nose, and Nero stands and quivers with excitement, while his eyes turn in, as if afflicted with strabismus, in an effort to see the cake. He will wait patiently until the master says:

"All right, Nero"
Then the three pieces of cake disappear in a flash, and Nero's tail wags violently. Nero has on the top of his head a remarkably large bump, and his master is inclined to believe that there is a good deal in it.

What Courtesy Is

Somebody says that although courtesy is not Christianity, it is a very good imitation of it, indorsed by good breeding. Christianity commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Whether we love him or not, courtesy does not inquire. We are to seem to do so, and act as if we did.

There are people who consider this deceit. "If I don't care a snap for Jones, why should I express pleasure at the sight of him and sorrow when he leaves me? If I never saw his wife and children, is it not

hypocrisy for me to show interest in Mrs. Jones' rheumatism or regret the broken arm of the small Jones?"

It may be so. Perhaps it is a debatable matter. Yet life holds so much sorrow and so many mistakes and regrets for most of us, that it is a primary duty to humanity to force ourselves to feel and to express all the sympathy, kindness and cordiality we can, even if we have to manufacture them "out of the whole cloth."—Harper's Bazaar.

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