

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

In referring last week to the fact of the forthcoming productions of the "Mikado" by some of our best amateurs, it was stated, as a possibility, the entertainment would be towards the end of the current month. That conjecture has since been verified and the dates now fixed upon are the 27th and 28th inst. with little if any probability of a change. The amateurs now engaged are not more ambitious than amateurs elsewhere or other amateurs in this city and there is much reason to anticipate a musical success in this instance, as is of previous record. There is one regret, however, that suggests itself in this connection, and that is the regret that some other opera less frequently done had not been selected. Some opera new to the citizens would have been a better choice. There is "Madeline" or "the Magic Kiss" the operawhich has been given by Camille D'Arville. It is not only considered not difficult, but would be quite within the power of almost any of our amateur musical organizations. The "Mikado" has been sung here by both professionals and amateurs alike, and by the way not always to the disadvantage of the latter, and the "three little maids from school" have wriggled and twinkled and warbled not infrequently, even as special attractions in concert programmes. For these reasons among others that could be given, a new work would be more interesting but at the same time there is no doubt the approaching production of the "Mikado" will give abundant satisfaction.

Some little time since in this department mention was made of the pleasure given the congregation of Germain street Baptist church by the singing of a new musical setting to the words of the sweet old hymn "Abide with me." The piece was composed by Mr. A. S. Cook, the talented young organist of the church, and it was sung from the manuscript copy. It was an instantaneous success. It has now been printed, is arranged for either a soprano or tenor voice, and is published by Mr. A. T. Bustin, the well known music dealer, at whose place of business alone I believe, the piece can be procured. The piece is within easy reach of an average voice and presents no material difficulty, F. being the highest note, and it is written with regard paid to every sentiment embodied in the beautiful words.

Tones and Undertones.

Mr. Robert Kemp, better known as "Father Kemp," the originator of the "Old Folks Concert," is dead. His death occurred in Boston on the 16th inst. He had been helpless for the last five years from creeping paralysis.

During the progress of the "Symphony concerts" in Boston during their last season forty three composers were represented by one hundred compositions.

Mr. Chas. H. Harper who was recently a member of the Castle Square Company, and whose home is in Malden, Mass., was married last week to a Miss Cora Larkin of that town.

Lillian Blauvelt will sail for Europe on the 2nd prox. She is to sing in London and later at Bayreuth.

A new operetta entitled "The Goddess of Reason" has just been completed by Johann Strauss.

The Belgian pianist, Rachel Hoffman, will give concerts in America next season.

Messrs DeKoven and Smith are writing a musical comedy for Vernona Jarbeau. The name intended for it is "A French Idol."

The Bostonians will give a performance of a romantic comedy opera entitled "Rip Van Winkle" in Providence R. I. for the first time anywhere on the 24th, inst.

Early next October the singers Mantelli, Cremonini, Ancona, and Grandi will begin a concert tour in the United States.

The annual meeting of the music teachers national association will be held in the grand Central Palace, New York, from the 24th, till 28th, of June next. Over 15 000 musicians are expected to be present. Valuable prizes will be given for original compositions.

Mr. David Bispham, who is to sing at the forthcoming Worcester festival is now in Europe. He will return in September for the festival and in November he will join the Damrosch opera company in Philadelphia.

Paderewski is to receive one thousand guineas for one performance in Queen's hall London, Eng., during the approaching jubilee season.

Adelina Patti while on her way to London Eng., last week to sing at the Royal

Albert hall in that city, got a cinder in her eye and it was so painful that she was obliged to give up her engagement. The accident cost her in the matter of her fee, just £700.

Miss Alice Neilson, who is one of the two leading prima donnas with the Bostonians, will sail for Europe in July next, to study with Madame Marchesi for a year or two. Miss Neilson is called "the best soubrette in light opera."

A comic opera entitled "Sing song Jane" will be produced in London as soon as possible. It is written by Messrs. Glover and Sturgess of the Drury Lane theatre.

Joseph O'Mara, tenor of the "Shamus O'Brien" opera company has been engaged by the Bostonians for next season.

Miss Minna Kellogg is the name of a new American contralto who will make her first appearance in London this year. She is a relative of the famous prima donna Clara Louise Kellogg.

Lulu Glasser will continue to be leading lady with Francis Wilson who next season will devote his chief attention to further productions of "Half a King."

"The Wedding Day" will be done in London, Eng. during next October. The role sung in the United States will be rendered in London by Miss Irene Perry.

"The Queen of Sheba" has received its 100th. presentation at Budapest.

Reginald DeKoven is the new president of the New York Manuscript Society.

Josef Adamowski, the well-known musician, and wife have sailed for Europe. During their absence they will visit the Adamowski family in Poland.

Miss Margaret Reid has been engaged to sing at Covent Garden, London, next season.

The Musical Courier, an excellent journal and quite up to date, has just added to its usefulness a new department which is "devoted to plays and players" and which is designated "The Drama."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

W. S. Harkins' company arrived on time and as announced opened their season at the Opera house with a production of Sutton Vane's piece "The Cotton King." There was a large audience present to greet the company, and all the members here before viz., Messrs. Wise, Bradley, Deyo, Leigh, French were recipients of a cordial welcome on their appearance. The ladies of the company are all new to St. John so is the leading man Mr. McRae and the comedian Mr. Beresford. The play which has been continued until Thursday evening depends largely upon the spectacular for recognition although there is a story of heart interest and a well defined plot,—somewhat strangely imparted—throughout. The scenic effects are certainly good and there is an alarming sense of realism in the working of the weighty elevator, as it descends slowly and steadily upon the young woman, to whose shrieks and cries for aid it almost seems there would be no response in time to save her from being crushed to death. Of "Tom" Wise's work in whatever he undertakes, it is unnecessary perhaps to speak, as he always does it with a will and an excellent interpretation but his part of "Shillinglaw" the drunken workman may fairly rank as one of his best and his successful work in the struggle between his desire for the money to save the life of his wife and child on the one hand, and his remaining sense of right on the other, always wins as it deserves, a curt approval. Mr. Bradley as Fonseca, the Jewish financier is a manly part but a quiet one and is made much of by this gentleman. Mr. Deyo as the rascally plotter and treacherous friend is consistent and strong throughout but does not do the part quite as well as seems possible, while the leading man it appeared to me was not quite comfortable in his part. By the way there is one queer bit introduced, in the form almost of a class in catechism, when after his escape and his return to the work he receives the welcome of the hands. He makes a number of separated remarks in the form of questions and the answer in each instance is "Hooray". It is not intended as comedy, but it is funny. Mr. Leigh as Rev. Mr. Ponder gives an artistic performance, and the indications are that as Mr. Beresford's voice improves so will he, in the favor of the audience.

Of the ladies just at present Miss Dunn, the soubrette of the company is already accepted as a favorite and Miss White leading lady of the company grows steadily in popular favor with each performance and I have no doubt will be well liked before the season is far advanced. The audience on opening night was in a sort of tentative mood but the enthusiasm soon came to the surface. "Shall we forgive her" was the bill last night and the same piece is to be given this afternoon and evening. A new sporting drama by Cecil Raleigh and Seymour Hicks will be presented at the Princess' theatre, London, next autumn season. It is called "The Trainer's Daughter." A trial matinee of "A Parlor Match" will shortly be given at the Duke of York's theatre in London, Eng. For the purpose of the English production the title will be changed to "A Modern Match." Louis Aldrich has been nominated for Presidency of the Actors' Fund society of America. A. M. Palmer declines renomination. The election of officers will be held at Hoyt's theatre N. Y., on 8th. June next. Harry C. Miner is also nominated for president. A Miss Jessie Hatcher (now the wife of Frank W. Dayton of the "Old Kentucky" company) is suing the widowed mother of her previous husband John C. English jr., for dower interest in her late husband's estate. Loie Fuller (La Loie) who has been in Cuba has returned to New York. She reports that there is "a good deal of war in Cuba." She contemplates revisiting Paris in the near future. Osmond Tearle has been doing a round of Shakesperian characters in England. Since his wife (Minnie Conway) died he has been supported by Laura Hanlan as leading lady. Martha Morton, the dramatist has recently announced to her friends that she is engaged to be married to a business man. Saint John theatre goers will be interested in the announcement that James K. Hackett is engaged to be married to Miss Mary Mannering, the pretty leading lady of the Lyceum theatre company of New York. Agnes Sorna is the stage name of a Berlin actress who has been delighting audiences at the Irving Place theatre in New York. She is designated "the German Duse" as the highest tribute. By birth she is really a Silesian. She has scored a "hit" in the role of Nora in Ibsen's "A Doll's House." She returns to the States next season. A young lady member of Agustin Daly's N. Y. Company who was a great favorite in this city—Miss Percy Haswell—has secured much distinction in the production of the "Tempest" (Shakespeare's play) in Boston recently. "Miss Ada Rehan was a charming Miranda" says a notice of the play and it adds "Miss Percy Haswell made a wonderfully graceful and gracious Ariel; it required but little imagination to think of her as scorning earth and speeding on wings through the air. John T. Sullivan will be supported by Eleanor Barry and Grace Converse when on June 14th he produces the Comedietta "Capt. Huntington" at Keith's theatre Boston. George Fawcett, a former member of the Lansdowne theatre Company in this city is another "legitimate" who has joined the vaudeville ranks. He is to give "ten minute recitations" at Keith's on the 7th June. Miss Olga Netherole is considering the chances of a London production of T. B. Aldrich's play "Judith and Holofernes."

The "Two little Vagabonds" which was such a marked success in Boston was quite the opposite in Australia and the same result attended the "Prisoner of Zenda" which was substituted for it. Madame Rejane will play two or three weeks in London towards the end of next month and in all probability will give "Mme Sans Gene" "La Douloureuse" and "Francillon."

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"BILIOUSNESS."

What Causes This Condition and How it May be Relieved.

It is a common but erroneous belief that the secretion of too great a quantity of bile is the cause of a certain well-known train of symptoms, including headache, bitter taste, nausea, constipation, loss of appetite or repugnance to food, and more or less physical and mental depression. In a similar manner the term "bilious temperament" is applied to persons of a sallow or yellowish complexion, who suffer from so-called "bilious" attacks.

Such symptoms are commonly due to acute attacks of dyspepsia associated with neuralgia, especially of one side of the head and face. The neuralgia, which is often called migraine by the physician, is sometimes ushered in by a chill or by peculiar sensations, such as flashes of light, or the moving of angular figures before the eyes. The pain is often intense, incapacitating the sufferer temporarily for his ordinary duties. Pain may also be felt in other parts of the body, and the sensation of uneasiness and general discomfort may assume many unusual forms in different individuals.

These attacks are usually preventable, since in nearly every case a faulty manner of life, and not a y morbid physical peculiarity of the sufferer, is responsible for them. Immunity is usually to be obtained by avoidance of fatigue, mental exhaustion and worry, together with precaution against exposure to cold, and a regulation of the diet both as to quality and quantity.

It has been found that all these errors are productive of deleterious chemical effects upon the blood and tissues. Uric acid, one of the waste products of the body, is found in the blood in greater quantity than is normal. This acid is supposed to be of an intensely irritating character to the more delicate structure, such as the nerves and the membranes lining the joints. When the excess of waste products is allowed to be of long duration serious changes in the vital organs are liable to occur.

The body may be likened to a storage battery. Energy and vitality are being steadily and constantly accumulated. On the other hand, exertion, mental and physical, and the physiological processes, such as the digestion of food, require a discharge of the stored-up energy.

Those who have constitutionally but a small measure of vitality in stock frequently eat too much, or perhaps eat too much at once. Some persons avoid attacks of so-called biliousness by taking four light meals a day instead of three heavier ones. Bilious attacks themselves are best relieved by a restricted diet, by rest in a recumbent posture, and sometimes by the exclusion of light and unnecessary noise.

AN OLD-FASHIONED PEW.

How a Would-be Rope Walker Practised his Art in Meeting.

Many of the pews in the old New England meeting-houses had such towering partition walls that only the tops of the tallest heads could be seen when the occupants were seated; occasionally a bench extended across the pew floor with a tier of three shelves; the lowest was used as a foot-rest, the second was for the hats of the men, and the third—a mere ridge—was for the hymn-books and Bibles. Concerning one of these triple-tiered foot-benches, Mrs. Alice Morse Earle, in her volume, "The Sabbath in Puritan New England," tells a story which all readers, old and young, are likely to find amusing.

A boy in a certain New England town was prodigiously diverted by an exhibition of tight-rope walking when a travelling show visited the village. Fired by the performance, he daily practised walking on rails, fences and every narrow foothold he

could find as a preparation for a final feat on his mother's clothes-line.

In an evil hour, as he sat one Sunday in the corner of the pew, his eyes rested on the narrow ledge which formed the top of the foot-bench. The desire grew stronger to try to walk on that precarious foothold. His father and mother were peacefully sleeping; the walls were high, and the minister seldom glanced to right or left; at last, pulling off his heavy shoes, he softly mounted the foot-bench. He walked forward and back with great success twice, thrice, but when turning for a fourth tour he suddenly lost his balance, and over he went with a resounding crash—hats, psalm-books, heavy bench and all.

He crashed into hopeless shapelessness his father's gray beaver meeting hat, a long-treasured and much-loved antique; he nearly smashed his mother's kid-slipped foot to jelly, and the fall elicited from her, in the surprise of the sudden awakening and intense pain, an ear-piercing shriek, which, with the noisy crash electrified the entire meeting.

All the grown people stood up to see what had happened, the children climbed on the seats to look at the guilty offender and his deeply mortified parents, while the minister paused in his sermon and said, with cutting severity, "I have always regretted that the office of tithing-man has been abolished in this community, as his presence and his watchful care are sadly needed by both the grown persons and the children of this congregation."

The wretched boy who had caused all the commotion was of course unincurred by his fall, but a final settlement at home between father and son made the would-be tight-rope walker wish that he had at least broken his arm instead of his father's hat and his mother's pride and the peace of the congregation.

SIR EDWIN LANDSEER.

He Showed Wonderful Genius at a Very Early Age.

At an exhibition of the Royal Academy considerable notice was attracted by the picture of a magnificent dog, chained to its kennel and carried away by a flood. A gentleman hurried off to the painter to make an offer for it; he rang at the door of a small garden. When the wicket was opened, he saw a small boy playing with a hoop with some other little fellows. He inquired of the children.

"Does Mr. Landseer live here?"

"Yes," replied one of the boys.

"When may I speak to him?"

"Now, if you like. I am Mr. Landseer."

"But," explained the visitor, "it is your father I want to see. I have called about a picture of his at the Academy."

"Well," said the child, "it is I who am exhibiting the picture." He was then a little over fourteen years old.

Though Landseer's genius was cultivated early, it was no forced plant. His technical powers were prodigious. He was once present at a party when the conversation turned upon feats of manual dexterity, and a lady exclaimed:

"Well, there is one thing nobody has ever done, and that is to draw two things at once!"

"Oh yes, I think I can do that," returned Landseer; and with a pencil in each hand, he drew rapidly and simultaneously the profile of a stag's head, with all its antlers complete, and the perfect profile of a horse's head. Both drawings were full of energy.

Landseer painted deer and dogs as no one had ever done before, and was said to have humanized their expression. He was fond of outdoor sports, but when deer-stalking the Scottish Highlands, often disgusted the gillies by leading them on a long tramp with more sketching than shooting. On one occasion the men were astonished, just as a magnificent stag came in the way, to have Sir Edwin's gun thrust into their hands with the words, "Here take this!" while the sketch-book was pulled hastily out. The gillies could not refrain from expressing a forcible opinion at this conduct amongst themselves. "But," one of them added, "Sir Edwin must have understood Gaelic, for he was out of temper for the rest of the day."

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