

Music and The Drama

Probably the first in point of importance among our local musical organizations, is the Oratorio society and it is always a pleasure to be able to make favorable reference to it. It will therefore be gratifying to readers of this department to know that active and earnest endeavor is being made by the members of this society in getting familiar with the music of the "May Queen" the work they have now in hand. Energy is a characteristic of the president and this quality, combined with his well known love for music, should have the effect of giving all Oratorio matters a decided boom. It is more than probable that the society will participate effectively in the celebrations of this year of diamond jubilee.

When our young and aspiring voices start out from home to study in a land and amid scenes that are strange to them, the favorable wishes of all music lovers attend them. The latest to leave home with the purpose of cultivating and further developing her voice is Miss Trueman. I have heard the most favorable accounts of this young lady's voice from several whose judgment should not be much at fault. I have not heard her sing yet myself but I understand she has been for some time under the special instruction of a lady here, who though now heard all too rarely, is second to no soprano in the city. I trust this young aspirant for musical distinction will realize abundant success.

The Fisk Jubilee singers supplied their usual programme in their concerts last week and the audiences were fairly large.

There have been changes made in some of the city church choir recently and one of these changes and not the least important is in the fact that Miss Bertha Lake has been engaged for a north end choir.

The initial appearance in our city of the Chicago Marine Band must have been a delightful occasion to its patrons judging by the interest aroused by the announcement of its coming. The concerts, I regret to say were begun too late in the week for specific remark on the work of the band and its soloist, Miss Sibyl Sammis. The band which is a Western organization has visited the eastern country and if one may form an opinion from apparent spontaneous and general comment of the press of New York and Boston, this band has encountered and conquered the prejudices of these cities in favor of their own bands. The Chicago Marine Band gave concerts in all the strongholds of Sousa, and in every instance their work was received with great enthusiasm and in the opinion of their hearers no secondary place was accorded them. However St. John music lovers will have heard them by the time this week's PROGRESS will appear and they will have judged for themselves of the merit of the band.

The approaching concert of Prof. L. W. Titus is creating no little musical excitement and interest although its date is fixed for the 13th prox. This interest is felt not only because the public likes to mark its appreciation of Prof. Titus as a citizen and a musician, but this interest is enhanced for this year in the fact that a lady who is called the greatest alto singer in the United States, is to make her first appearance in this city on that occasion. This lady—Mary Louise Clary—is the solo alto of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, and testimonials without number, as it were, are furnished as to the beauty of her voice and excellence and superiority of her work in concert. I believe Miss Clary will sing several numbers at this concert and as it is to be held in the opera house, opportunity will be had to hear her under the most favorable circumstances.

Local musical people and many others, including our most literary, will regret the death of Miss Emma McInnis, which occurred in Windsor N. S. on Wednesday last. This young lady was one of our favorite alto singers while residing in this city, and her skill as an elocutionist was readily acknowledged. She was always ready to respond to any movement of a public or charitable nature and her tuneful voice was frequently heard in aid of objects of the latter character. This department tenders its sympathy to the bereaved family and friends.

Tones and Undertones.
A new musical comedy to which the name "The Isle of Gold" has been given will be produced in New York shortly. The work is by Charles A. Byrne and Herman Perlet.

Frau Materna, the original Brunnhilde at Bayreuth is said to be about to establish a school of dramatic singing in Vienna. Gounod's "De Profundis" was given at Natick, Mass on Wednesday last by a

chorus of seventy five voices assisted by the Germaina orchestra.

Madame Teresa Carreno, the distinguished pianiste, gave a second recital in Music Hall, Boston, last Saturday to a large audience. Her rendition of Beethoven's music is severely criticized. Her playing of selections from the works of this composer is spoken of thus "so far as its being in touch with the physical requirements of the work was concerned it may best be described as non est. It was also unauthoritative. Measures were prolonged beyond the time value intended for them; and there was many a retard and acceleration which, if justifiable, then the best authorities who have interpreted the work here are in error." The selection thus dealt with was the Sonata Appassionata Op. 57. She is pronounced a great interpreter of Liszt. "The King of Pianists died in Liszt—the queen lives in Carreno."

The child cornetist, Miss Helen Apollonio, will play in Association Hall, Boston, on the 13th prox.

The supplementary season of grand opera which the Abbey, Schoeffel and Grau Company will begin in Boston on the 5th April will be limited to five nights and one matinee. The operas will be sung in German, French and Italian as follows "Siegfried" and "Lohengrin" in German, "Faust" and "Carmen" in French and "Martha" in Italian.

Rosenthal will sail for Europe next month and will return to the United States in September next.

Gilbert (James L.) the composer who wrote "Not a Sparrow Falseth" has written a companion piece for this which is entitled "The Realms of Endless Days."

Richard Stahl who wrote the music for Hoyt's new comedy is said to be the composer of the operas "The Sea King" and "Said Pasha."

Mr. Myron W. Whitney the well known basso, recently sang in Boston at a concert in Tremont Temple in that city in aid of the Working Boys Home. There were several numbers given by a chorus of 200 voices accompanied by the Germania orchestra.

It is expected that Signor Borgotti who sang the title role in "Andrea Chenier" at La Scala, Milan, will be heard in the United States next summer.

The solo in Prof. Bridges' new cantata entitled "The Flag of England" will be sung by Madame Albani. The cantata was written in honor of the Queen's diamond jubilee. The words are by Rudyard Kipling.

William Mertens who is a member of the Damrosch opera company has been engaged to sing in the Berlin Imperial opera company.

The Royal opera season in London will commence on 10th May next when M. Van Dyck and Mme Eames will be in the cast of "Tannhauser" giving the French version of that work. The new Venusburg music, written for Paris will be rendered.

The opera "Satanella" shortly to be given at the Castle Square Theatre, Boston, was first produced there by the Parepa Rosa Company in 1892. It was revived in New York, at the Standard theatre in 1883.

The Hasty Pudding club of Harvard college have in rehearsal a comic opera—a sort of broad burlesque, entitled "The Flying Dutchman" which they will give first on 30th of April next at Cambridge and at the Bijou theatre, Boston, on May 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The music is by John A. Carpenter of the class of '97; the libretto is by M. E. Stone jr., of '97—both these gentlemen belong to Chicago—and the songs are by H. T. Nichols, class '97, of Boston. The members of the cast of the opera are all members of the class of '97, who graduate this year. James Gilbert is coaching the club.

The production of "Tannhauser" at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, last week, is said to have been in the whole as "a pleasing and fairly successful one" For this week "Carmen" has been revived and Miss Clara Lane and Miss Carrie Roma are alternating in the title role. "The Bohemian Girl" and "Satanella" will follow.

A fragment of an opera begun by Wagner, when 20 years of age, called "Die Hochzeit" and which was never finished, has been bought by an English woman for \$500. Wagner wrote the libretto (his first) and composed an introduction, a chorus and a septet, but stepped as his sister did not like the plot.

"I'm saddest when I sing" she warbled

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in agonized tones. "There are others," was the inelegant reply of young Sawyer. —Tid Bits.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Clarance Handysides who was here with Harkins a few summers ago, is playing in "An American Citizen" the piece in which Nat Goodwin is starring this season. The play is now on at the Hollis theatre, for the first time in Boston. Hattie Russell who was also seen in this city is in the cast of this play. The "beautiful" Maxine Elliott is leading lady.

George Fawcett, a popular member of the one time Lansdowne theatre company in this city under the management of the late Eugene McDowell, is now playing in the "Two Little Vagrants" company which is filling a return engagement in Boston. Mr. Fawcett is the husband of Miss Percy Haswell, a great favorite in this city, who is now a member of Augustin Daly's Company, New York.

Nat Goodwin opened his present season at the Baldwin theatre, San Francisco and will end it at the same house.

Adah Richmond-Stetson, more distinguished recently as a litigant in proceedings connected with the will of the late John Stetson, than as an actress, will play a week's engagement beginning next Monday, in "The Colleen Bawn" at the Bowdoin Square theatre. Boston. Miss Richmond will play the role of Eily O'Connor.

The drama "Humanity" by Sutton Vane and under the management of Wm. A. Brady is on at the Columbia theatre, Boston, this week. At the head of this company is Joe Grismer and Phoebe Davies a very capable pair who are said to have been in the original cast. This play I have heard will be presented in this city later in the season under Mr. Brady's management. There is a spirited sword fight on horseback in the piece and a dynamite explosion. It purports to be a story of love and war and the scenes are laid in England and South Africa.

W. H. Crane's new play will be ready for him in September next. It is being written by Clyde Fitch.

It is reported that Olive May will be the leading lady for John Drew next season in succession to Maud Adams who will then be a stellar attraction. Miss Adams makes her final appearance as a member of the Drew Company this evening, at the Harlem Opera House.

Miss Amelia Bingham of the "Two Little Vagrants" company is a blonde and very graceful. She recently won the prize in the most attractive woman of the American stage in the competition started by the New York World.

A new comedy has been written for Miss Fortescue, the English actress, by W. S. Gilbert.

Sir Henry Irving has been re-elected President of the actors Benevolent Fund of Great Britain and Ireland. Mr. Irving says the reports of a disagreement between him and Ellen Terry are entirely without foundation.

Virginia Harned was the original "Tribby" in the United States, it is said will star next season in "The Dancing Girl."

"The Cherry Pickers" will be produced in London in August next, the English rights having been secured by Louis Nethercole and Robert Pateman. This is the piece in which Miss Mollison of this city was recently playing the role of an Indian girl and during one of the performances lost an expensive and therefore valuable anklet. It is not yet definitely announced whether Miss Mollison or any other talent from the United States will appear in the production in England.

It is said that a deadhead—he was not a Bostonian—sent the following letter to the manager of a theatre: "Dear Sir—I attended your theatre last night, and I re-

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gret[?]o say I spent such a wretched evening that I must request you to remove my name at once from your free list!"

An ambitious Boston dramatic critic appears to have his head affected somewhat by the work of pretty Madge Lessing in "Jack and the Beanstalk." Here is a specimen, "Life is a narrow-gauge freight yard in Nevada on a bleak December Sunday till one has seen Madge Lessing. Then the cacti begin to sprout between the ties, balmy joyfloats in on the southern breeze, the ice melts and trickles away to the salty sea and the chick-a-dee chortles chirpfully to the coyote."

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