

**Music and
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The musical events of the week up to the date of the present writing, and, indeed the musical events of importance for some time past, were the concerts of Harrison's orchestra at the Opera house on Monday and Tuesday evenings last. Were the programme supplied by the orchestra, as such, perhaps, musically speaking, it would not be very different from other concerts they have given, but Miss Ollie Torbett, the young, well known and clever violinist with the Luttemun quintette had been engaged for the occasions and supplied additional charm. Miss Torbett always delights her audience with her gracefulness and skill in instrumentation, by her modest and unpretentious demeanour and by her sweet graciousness in recognizing the demands of her hearers in their desire for more. She played with almost wonderful smoothness an andante and Scherzo Capriccioso by David followed by "The Swanee River" with much effect and the desire to hear every tone produced was so great that an absolute stillness pervaded the house, broken only by the sweet tones of the violin, and the piano accompaniment, skillfully supplied by Miss Lucie R. Mawson, the pianist of the company. In the second part of the programme Miss Torbett played a Fantasia on Swedish Folksongs, which introduced the air "I've left my snowclad hills etc." The Luttemun quintette sang admirably well together and it is in their ensemble singing they are so successful, because outside of the leading basso and possibly Mr. Erikson there is nothing of any special value in their solo voices. By the way, too, the first tenor part was doubled, and the music they supplied was quartette singing. Their best piece it seemed to me was the serenade by Kjeralf.

The Fisk Jubilee singers give two concerts in the opera house so near the end of the week as to preclude the possibility of further notice at this time. Their work is already not unfamiliar to many musical people in this city. They have always heretofore given abundant satisfaction, and as I observe on their list of singers the names of those who have sung well on past occasions. I presume the high standard of their past work will be retained, if not surpassed, in their present visit.

The Chicago Marine band with Miss Sibyl Sammis as soprano soloist, will be the next thing in order on the 25 inst. Appropos of Miss Sammis and to satisfy many enquirers as to what kind of a singer the lady is, it may be well here to inform readers of PROGRESS that a description of the lady's voice and method will be found in another column in this department.

Prof. L. W. Titus' annual complimentary concert is rather more than three weeks distant in the future but it is even now being much considered and especially with reference to the fact that Miss Mary Louise Clary who is said to be the greatest alto in the United States is to take part in the programme.

Tones and Undertones.

Madame Emma Esmes, the prima donna, has so far recovered from her late illness as to permit her removal from her New York hotel to Port Chester, where she will remain during her convalescence.

Isidore de Lara's new opera "Moina" was produced at the Monte Carlo Theatre on the 11th inst.

The Carl Rosa Opera Company will give an autumn season at Covent garden in London this year beginning in October next.

Madame Nordica has agreed with Mr. Damosch to appear in three operas under his management in "Siegfried," "Tristan and Isolde" and "Lohengrin." Herr Kraus will sing with her.

Rosenthal has cancelled all his engagements in America for this season. He will shortly return to Europe and next fall will come back and make the tour which his illness prevented this time.

Some London, Eng., admirers of Wagner are considering a plan for the erection of a theatre on the Bayreuth model, in the suburbs of the English metropolis.

Madame Melba will not return to the United States and the Metropolitan Opera Company this season. Her health is not as satisfactory as was hoped for by her return to Europe. This she wires to M. Grau and it is confirmed by a message from Madame Marchesi her former teacher. At least this describes the latest phase of the situation.

Miss Marie Zahn, of the Castle Square opera company, Boston, and who was a member of the Gilbert opera company when that organization visited this city a couple of years since, has been selected to

sing a new ballad entitled "When I have a home of my own."

Miss Clara Lane of the Castle Square opera company, Boston, is the wife of J. K. Murray of the same company. Their home is in Winthrop, Mass., where they have three little children who welcome them every Saturday evening.

Madame Nordica will appear as Elsa in the Grand opera in Paris on 12th April next. She sails for Europe on the 31st inst.

"Tannhauser" is the opera that is being given in Boston this week by the Castle Square company and the title role is being done by Payne Clark and Martin Pache. Marie Zahn is in the cast of the principals as the shepherd.

Mrs. Marie Harrison recently sang an aria from La Traviata at a concert given in Paris by Madame Marchesi's pupils.

Miss Eva G. Coleman a gifted and young American soprano soloist, who received an ovation at Carnegie Hall a few weeks ago, is lying dangerously ill at Albany, N. Y. She has been obliged to send a substitute to fill her position in the choir of the Bloomingdale Reformed church.

A new Easter anthem, entitled "Easter Morn" has just been completed by Miss Edith Rowena Noyes. Another entitled "From Gloom to Glory" has been written by Adam Geibel.

Mrs. Vanderveer Green, who is a former pupil of Marchesi, recently sang at the Caledonian choir concert in Toronto, Canada.

Miss Marie Donavin is the name of the soprano soloist now on tour with Victor Herbert's famous Twenty-second regiment band. A critical notice of her voice and her work says, "she freighted her frail voice and temperament too heavily with the dramatic content of Ah! fors e lui. She is nevertheless a young singer with an extremely pretty and pure, high soprano voice, well trained to colourate work and emitted with evenness and ease. The texture of the instrument is extremely slight, but the quality is refined and musical."

Something about Miss Sibyl Sammis the soprano who appears with the Chicago Marine band in this city next week will be of interest to all musical readers. A notice of this lady written in a critical vein says, "Miss Sibyl Sammis who possesses a high mezzo-soprano voice, and who vocalizes with much facility showed some sterling artistic endowment. She sings with ease but the natural silvery lustre of her voice is blurred by throatiness in spots. This deserves attention. The young lady also needs more repose. She sung with an impetuosity which if not the result of extreme nervousness should be curbed. But this young girl has a good voice, emitted freely and has a remarkable fluency and correctness of florid work. She was well received and encored."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

A play to which the name "Change Alley" has been given and which is founded on the South Sea Bubble is said to have been decided upon for the opening of the Lyceum (N. Y.) theatre season of 1897-98. The piece is by Louis N. Parker and Murray Carson.

Tyrone Power who was here with "The Texan" and who introduced Edith Crane (more recently successful as Trilby) to a St. John audience is now a member of Augustin Daly's (New York) Company.

Olga Netherole's New York engagement will begin on Monday evening next at the Garden theatre with a production of "Carmen." It is scarcely necessary to add that a new man has been secured to play Jose. Nathaniel Hartwig is the name of this season's victim.

On Monday evening next at the Empire theatre (N. Y.) the play "Under the Red Robe" will have reached its one hundredth performance. This is the play in the cast of which the St. John favorite Will S. Harkins is playing.

It is announced that for next season the

American tragedian Thomas W. Keene will add "King John" to his repertoire.

There are hints of trouble at the Lyceum theatre London, Eng., and it is said that Ellen Terry may appear in another house "in conjunction with a younger actor manager."

"Never again" is the name of a farce from the French by Maurice Desvallieres and Antony Mars that was produced at the Garrick, N. Y., last week. It is said to be "Forbidden Fruit" over again with change of name and characters.

The widow of the late Nelson Wheatcroft the actor, will continue the Empire Theatre Dramatic school in succession to her deceased husband. Mrs. Wheatcroft was formerly Miss Adelaide Stanhope, an actress of much talent.

Edward E. Rose the first manager of the Castle Square theatre, Boston, has acquired control of the Grand Opera house in that city and assumed the management last Monday.

The largest run that Julia Marlowe and Robert Faber, her husband, ever played in New York is in "For Bonnie Prince Charlie" which will close in that city next week.

A recent Brooklyn paper says "Lent is bringing some of the finest plays of the season to Brooklyn." Among their productions are "Rosemary" with John Drew and Maude Adams; "Spiritisme" "Heartsease" with Henry Miller as star, and other less successful pieces.

Miss Miriam O'Leary (now Mrs. Collins), a former Boston Museum favorite, but who has been off the stage since her marriage a few years ago, will reappear with some professional friends at the Hollis theatre, Boston, on the afternoon of the 20th. April next, in a production of "The Two Orphans." The proceeds are for a most deserving charitable object.

Mr. Bancroft, the retired English actor, by his public reading of Dickens' Christmas Carol has made over \$15 000 this season for English hospitals.

Trilby had to be altered in Vienna because of the anti-semitic agitation. Svengali is made up as a Hungarian gypsy band leader.

"Admirable Guinea" is the name of a new melodrama by Robert Louis Stevenson and William Ernest Henley, which is to be one of the first plays produced in London next fall.

There was a riot in the Grand theatre at Marseilles, France, a short time ago because a number of women refused to take off their big hats.

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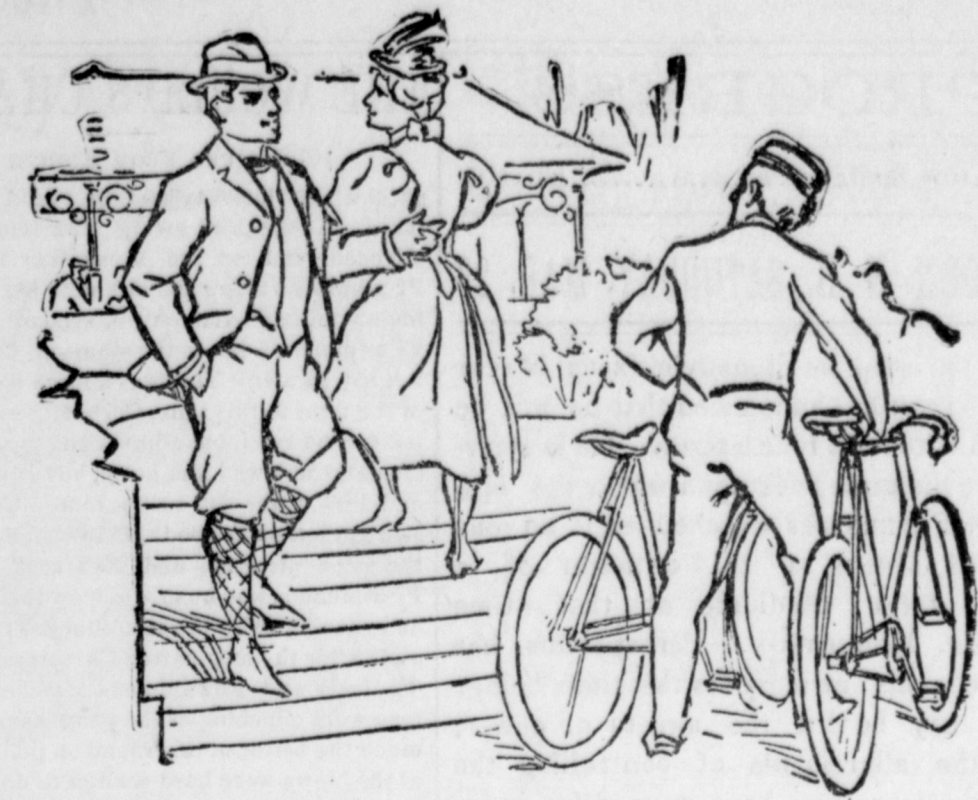
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The Children's Organ-Grinder.

The Boston Herald tells a story of two little children living near Boston and their own special organ man. Every Friday afternoon the Italian appears under their nursery window, and just as regularly two blond heads bob up, and little hands are waved in recognition.

After several visits of this North End troubadour, the small audience made acquaintance with him, and would tell him to play this or that tune, and ask all about himself and his family.

Had he any little boys and girls? Why, yes, indeed. And then the children enlisted mama's good-will, and nice cookies were sent to the organ man's little boy, and after a while bundles of clothing and toys were waiting for the man; and all were received with the warmest of thanks.

On the day after Christmas, when the organ began to tune up, the children were still in the midst of their holiday, but everything was dropped to welcome the Italian, and to give him his share of Santa Claus's bounty.

Then the poor fellow, in his turn, handed out a letter which his wife had sent to the children and their mother, thanking them in the quaintest terms for all their

goodness. She could not write herself, the letter said, but her son was writing it for her, and she hoped every blessing would come to such kind people, who had made them all so happy.

It was a most touching epistle, though a good deal soiled and almost illegible; and its unexpectedness was not the least part of the pleasure that it gave the two children.

A discolored, faded or gray beard [does not appear tidy, but may be made so by Buckingham's Dye for whiskers, which colors an even brown or black.

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According to the Standard of the Insurance Department of the State of New York

INCOME.

Received for Premiums - \$39,592,414 20

From all other sources - 10,100,281 07

\$49,702,695 27

DISBURSEMENTS.

To Policy-holders for Claims by Death - \$12,595,113 39

To Policy-holders for Endowments, Dividends, etc. - 12,842,456 11

For all other Accounts - 10,781,095 64

\$36,218,665 14

ASSETS.

United States Bonds and other Securities - \$110,125,082 15

First lien Loans on Bond and Mortgage - 71,542,929 56

Loans on Stocks and Bonds - 11,091,325 00

Real Estate - 22,767,666 65

Cash in Banks and Trust Companies - 12,680,390 00

Accrued Interest, Net Deferred Premiums, etc. - 6,535,555 06

\$284,744,148 42

Reserve for Policies and other Liabilities - 205,010,633 72

Surplus - \$29,732,514 70

Insurance and Annuities in force - \$918,698,338 45

I have carefully examined the foregoing Statement and find the same to be correct; liabilities calculated by the Insurance Department.

CHARLES A. PRELLER Auditor

From the Surplus a dividend will be apportioned as usual.

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