

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Unless all singers fail and unless all the musical critics of the leading cities of the United States are in error, then every anticipation now formed of the musical event provided for next week will be abundantly realized. The event is probably every one knows will be the annual complimentary concert to Prof. L. W. Titus and the feature of the evening will be the first appearance in this city of the lady who is called "the greatest alto in the United States,"—Miss Mary Louise Clary. She will be heard at the Opera House next Tuesday evening the 13th, inst., and in several numbers of the programme, thus furnishing to local music lovers a musical treat that never before has been approached in our midst, except perhaps when the celebrated Annie Louise Cary was heard here many years ago. There are hundreds upon hundreds of the musical people of to day to whom the singing of Miss Cary is only a tradition or a mere memory, and there is now about to be afforded them an opportunity of reviving these past delights, and for others to have a demonstration of the possibilities of an alto voice. There are sopranos and sopranos (several of them have been heard here), and there are altos and altos but, in order to appreciate an what alto voice cultivated and well trained, is capable of effecting, it is necessary to hear Miss Clary, or some other voice nearly as good. The names of several of those who will assist in Prof. Titus programme were given in this department last week and I have now the pleasure of adding the name of Mr. Manning, the young and earnest musical student and violinist who is also a contributor. The occasion should so inspire our home talent that they will surpass their previous best effort. Nothing need be said about the proportions of the audience because every one can who will want to be represented there next Tuesday evening.

The words of a college song I saw in a collection of such songs not long since occur to me as I learn that Signer Folt the famous English basso is coming here this month. Certainly that "There's music in the air" appears to be the fact for April of this year. This gentleman is under the management of Mr. C. A. E. Harris another English gentleman, who will be especially remembered perhaps as having so cleverly managed the Albani concert as it was called. Madame Albani it was said was then making a tour of Canada enroute to Australia. This tour I allude to has not yet materialized in its entirety, by the way.

The music people of the city and in an especial manner those who are members of the congregation of St. John's (Stone) church regret the resignation of Mrs. W. S. Carter as leader of the choir in St. John's. In "Parish Notes" for April the following tribute is self explanatory:

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, March 23, 1897.

Dear Mrs. Carter:— We learned with much sorrow that you felt it your duty to resign the position which for so many years you have held in the choir of St. John's church. We cannot fully express to you the benefit we have derived from being associated with one whose vocal endowment, thorough knowledge of music, and personal courtesy, so eminently fitted her for the position of leader. For the last seven years, each prominent performance and each musical service owed much of its effectiveness to your personal efforts and your example to others in the true method, earnest and devotional, of church music.

But our sorrow at losing your help is made far more keen by our knowledge of the sad family bereavement which is its cause. That loss is felt by our choir also, in whose ranks one who is now at rest gave us for a short time her most valued help. The sympathy of so many friends extended to you will in some measure we hope, alleviate your sorrow; and the assurance that your labours have contributed so greatly to our church's welfare will be a source of deep satisfaction, we feel sure, to yourself at all future times.

We remain sincerely and affectionately,
John DeSoyes, Rector.
James S. Ford, Organist and Choir Master.

Avis Davidson,	Florence Jardine,
Mary Patton,	Helen Perkins,
Maud Humphrey,	Louise M. Skinner,
Jennie C. Knodell,	Carrie Fairweather,
Annie Wetmore,	Georgie A. Knodell,
Jeanette Ford,	A. G. Burnham,
R. C. Farmer,	Ralph F. Markham,
Alfred DeW. Howard,	G. C. Coster,
W. H. Holder,	R. Seeley,
S.D. Crawford,	A. H. Lindsay.

Tones and Undertones.

Madame Scalchi the famous operatic prima donna contralto, is the latest addition to the vaudeville stage. Mme. Scalchi, accompanied Nordica in her recent western concert tour, and she is now singing in the music halls in western cities. Her agent has written to one of the large music halls in the east asking for an engagement. She wants to appear in the garden scene from "Faust" and will supply the company for the other four roles, in consideration of \$1,000 a week.

"The Chimes of Normandy" has been again revived and is occupying the stage at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, this week.

In a recent production of "Die Walkure" with Madame Lehman in the role of Brunhilde, a critical notice says, "Miss Lehman dominated the entire presentation as she never fails to do in whatever opera she takes part. This she accomplishes by the inherent force, dignity and sincerity of her own character, the power from which infuses every pose or gesture she makes, and sounds forth in every tone she utters. Possessing that irresistible magnetism lent by an indomitable will, the strongest possible self poise and an immovable individuality. Miss Lehman compels her hearers to follow her with absolute attention and undivided interest."

The old Music Hall organ, Boston, is to be sold by auction next month. It was removed from the hall in 1884 and for nearly thirteen years it has been stored in a shed at the back of the Conservatory.

The chorus of the opera company producing "Shamus O'Brien" went on strike in Philadelphia last week and the season was closed. One week's back pay was due and although the management guaranteed salaries for the then current week, the strikers would not go on.

Jessie Bartlett Davis was unable to appear with the Bostonians in "The Serenade" last week owing to a slight attack of hoarseness. Her place was taken by Marcia Van Dresser.

Richard Strauss' symphonic poem "Also sprach Zarathustra" in which he endeavored to express in music Friedrich Nietzsche's idea of the Uebermensch, has been performed in London and has proved too much for the musical critics. They agree that it is extremely dull and disagreeable, while some suspect that they have been mystified by a ponderous German practical joke.

Madame Nordica has sailed for England. She told a friend that she expected to sing Elsa in grand opera on 19th April once that a week later she would appear as Valentine in "Les Huguenots." After that she will rest in Paris until the Covent Garden season opens.

A new comic opera to which has been given the odd name of "1999" will shortly be presented at the Fifth Avenue theatre, New York. Hugh Chilver has been engaged to sing the principal tenor role.

Plunkett Greene, the Irish baritone singer, is again meeting with much success in New York. It is said there is at least a possibility that ere long he may be induced to visit this city. He was singing in Toronto last Wednesday evening with Madame Vanderveer Green and Rudolph Von Scarpa formerly court pianist to the Emperor of Austria, assisting in the programme.

The Toronto Philharmonic's Queen's Jubilee Concert will be given on the 4th May and will be under the patronage of the Governor General and Countess Aberdeen. The production will consist of "The Erl King's Daughter." Miss Detta Zeigler has been engaged for the soprano parts and Mr. Watkins Mills as basso.

The Chicago Marine Band gave two concerts in the Boston theatre last Sunday—afternoon and evening—Miss Sammis sang "Kathleen Mavourneen." This band will play in Toronto next week.

The death of Johannes Brahms, the famous musician and composer is announced this week.

A portrait of Miss Frances Maud Cousineau of Toronto adorns the last issue of "Saturday Night", and shows her to be very attractive. Miss Cousineau is now studying grand opera under Madame Marchesi in Paris.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

"Hogan's Alley" with all the well known features of that neighborhood, including the Yellow Kid and Liz, is being presented each evening this week at the Mechanic's Institute, to quite large business. Mr. Murphy, the manager, is a veritable hustler and he is offering a number of excellent specialties in addition to the laughable afterpiece.

It is announced that Miss Mary Hampton will retire from the position of leading lady in the E. H. Sothern company on the 17th inst. She wants a rest and her health is somewhat impaired. It was expected she would go to London with the "Secret Service" company but she gave up the engagement to Miss Blanche Walsby. Miss Hampton however may go to England later on with one of Frohman's pieces.

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TORONTO, ONT. TORONTO, ONT.

Mrs. E. H. Sothern (Miss Virginia Harned) will succeed Miss Hampton as leading lady in her husband's company.

It is said that Felix Morris is making arrangements to go in the vaudeville ranks. The success of others of the legitimate who have joined the vaudeville stage is tempting. Mr. Morris will appear in a sketch called "The Old Musician".

Miss Fay Davis, a Boston girl, is one of the chief attractions in Piner's new play "The Princess and the Butterfly" recently produced in London. Only two years ago Miss Davis was a London favorite as a reader in drawing rooms. Her first success was with Charles Wyndham in "A Squire of Dames" and English adaptation by McCarton of Dumas' "L'Amie des Femmes."

In June next Sarah Bernhardt will visit England and endeavor to recapture London.

Henry Arthur Jones' new play "The Physician" introduces the dal-life idea which he has already made familiar in "Judah," "The Rogue's Comedy," "Michael and his lost Angel." A notice of this last named play say "it is unquestionably one of the most powerful of modern dramas, despite the summary manner in which the populace rejected it a year or so ago."

George Brandes, the Danish critic, who is the most cosmopolitan of literary men in his tastes and knowledge, has written a comprehensive study of Shakespeare, which is to be translated into English. Mr. Brandes writes in French and German almost as well as in his native tongue.

Henry E. Dixey who has been appearing in "In Gayest Manhattan" at Koster and Bial's in New York has been discharged from the company. A few evenings since he appeared and sang inaudibly and danced a few steps cautiously. He was so fatigued by this exertion he abruptly left the stage. The duet with Miss Flo Irwin had to be omitted.

John H. ("Jack") Bunny, the popular comedian who was here with Harkin's a few seasons ago, is now a member of Roland Reed's company producing "The Wrong Mr. Wright." This play was given its first New York production in the Harlem opera house last week. It is by George H. Broadhurst.

Linda Bainbridge is the name of a lady member of the company producing in New York a piece called "The New Dominion." This lady was at one time a member of the Lansdowne theatre company in this city.

James K. Hackett, through indisposition was not able to appear in his part in a recent production of "The Mayflower" in New York.

Sarah Bernhardt has taken up the theatre big hat nuisance and suggests that ladies wear mantillas in the evenings at restaurant dinners and subsequent visits to the theatres.

Sally Chew is the name of an actress who twenty years ago was a popular soubrette but who is now a news girl in New York. Her husband who was George C. Stanley an actor—but whose real name is George Chew—deserted her about thirteen years ago with two children to care for. She is still an attractive woman it is said.

Jennie Worrell, one of the two Worrell sisters who came to New York with Lydia Thompson's blondes was fined \$3. in Jefferson Market police court for disorderly conduct the other day.

Sibyl Johnson, (Sibyl Greenwald) who first became at all known as an actress as Izsa in "The Clemenceau Case," when first produced in New York, has been in the toils of the law recently. A judgment has been secured against her for \$395.

Charles French who played Neb in Harkin's production of "In Old Kentucky" in this city is still doing that character with much success. He is in Boston and Laura Burt is the Madge of the piece.

Julia Marlowe is playing in "For Bonnie Prince Charlie" in the Hollis theatre Boston this week. This is the tenth consecutive year she has played in that city, not having missed a single season since she became a star.

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