

**Music and
The Drama**
IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The musical events of this week, and in local regard, the events for many weeks past, are the productions of "Mikado" at the Mechanics Institute on Thursday and Friday evenings. It is a matter of special regret that these productions have occurred so late in the week as to preclude the possibility of a more extended notice now. It is said in advance of the performances that the lady who assumes the role of Yum Yum sings well, while the vocal powers of the others more prominent in the cast are not unknown. The chorus ought to be good because Mr. Ford, who is musical director, is a good disciplinarian and one who will endeavour to provide for excellence on the part of that all important feature—the chorus. The talent engaged is all amateur and many of the singers no doubt have heard the opera given by professionals and know how it should be done.

Next week's musical event will be the concert at the Opera house to be given by Sousa's famous Band. As customary the Band brings with them a soprano soloist and this season the soprano is Mrs. Elizabeth Northrup. This lady's work is favorably commented upon by the press of other cities in which she has appeared. She is said to have a very pleasing stage presence. I observe in reading some of these notices that her favorite selections are the "Shadow Song" by Meyerbeer and "Comin' thro' the Rye" for an encore song. Of the work of the Band under the guidance of its famous leader remark is unnecessary. It has been heard here before. Its work is remembered. Its record is unsurpassed, and in hearing it this time, those who heard it when here on its first visit to the maritime provinces, will but renew and revive former delights.

From information recently obtained I learn that there is more than a possibility that Miss Mary Louise Clary—"America's greatest alto" will again be heard in a concert here. This possibility may materialize in the early autumn. If so, it will be a source of genuine pleasure for large numbers who were prevented from hearing her sing on the occasion of her first visit here, because of the season in which it was then alone possible for her to sing in this city. For the sake of all lovers of good singing I trust this will speedily develop into much more than even a probability.

Tones and Undertones.

Madame Patti has been offered a fee of one thousand guineas if she will sing three songs in a concert to be given in London during the coming jubilee celebration.

At the recent concert in Massey Hall by the Toronto Philharmonic society, the chorus numbered about one hundred and forty voices and there was an orchestra of thirty five performers. The work of both chorus and orchestra has been pronounced exceedingly creditable to the society.

A recent notice of the Boston Women's Symphony Orchestra gives opportunity for the remark that "Boston has indeed a special reputation for its orchestras." The one under notice presents standard orchestra works with loyalty, refinement, artistry and effectiveness." Its membership is indicated by its name.

Cherubini the composer, whose full name was Maria Luigi Cherubini, at the time of his death left behind him three hundred and thirty five compositions, many of them voluminous.

"Tristan and Isolde" was not received with unqualified enthusiasm when recently given in Turin. It will be produced, nevertheless, in Rome, Milan, Florence and Naples.

The first production of Sir Arthur Sullivan's ballet "Victoria and Merrie England" took place at the Alhambra in London on Tuesday last.

Roberto Stagno a well known tenor singer, died of heart disease, at Genoa, a short time ago. He had sung in opera in New York and was the original Turiddu in the first production of Cavalleria Rusticana at Milan when Gemma Bellinconi was a famous Italian prima donna, was the Santuzza. Signor Stagno was fifty six years of age.

Signor Pizzi is said to have discovered a Mass composed by Donizetti for the funeral of Bellini in 1839. It will be performed next August in the Cathedral at Bergamo with grand orchestra chorus and soloists.

A recent number of the Musical Courier contains a portrait of Mrs. Elizabeth Northrup, the soprano with Sousa's Band this season.

Miss Mary Louise Clary has recently sung the part of Delilah in a production of "Samson and Delilah" at Bridgeport, Conn. She was most powerful and intensely



dramatic in her scorn of Samson when she calls him a coward. Her work is enthusiastically commended.

A Boston critic reviewing the musical season in that city says, "The operatic event of the season was the appearance of Calve as Marguerite," and when dealing with the miscellaneous concerts, says they "were not of a high average. The most important, those of genuine worth and peculiar brilliancy, were the piano recitals of Teresa Carreno, Adele Aus der Ohe, Madame Szumowska and the violin playing of Charles Gregorowitsch."

Eugene Cowles the basso of "The Bostonians" is being sued for a divorce says an American paper.

Australia receives not a few of the theatrical successes of other parts of the world. The latest play to visit there is "The Sign of the Cross."

It is said that after Miss Marie Wainwright returns from Europe she will make her debut in Vaudeville. Isabelle Urquhart has already joined the Keith circuit.

The Hengler sisters, the daughters of the once famous clog dancer Hengler in minstrel days have recently made a great hit at the Folies-Bergeres in Paris and are to appear in London at the Alhambra on June 7th.

Miss Olga Nethersole will and the role of Cyprienne in "Divorcions" to her repertoire. Mr. Leigh who is a member of Harkins present company, and who was here last summer also, was with Miss Nethersole last season.

Miss Julia Neilson the leading lady in "The Princess and the Butterfly" at the St. James theatre, London, fell ill recently and her place was taken by Miss Julie Opp a beautiful young American actress, who was in the cast.

"Under the Red Robe" which closed its New York season last Saturday night at the Empire theatre is still being played at the Haymarket theatre, London.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

"Shall we forgive her" and "A Bowery girl" are the names of the plays given by Harkin's dramatic company since the last writing in this department, and the former is undoubtedly the best play offered during the present season. It possesses much intrinsic merit and was the medium of excellent work by several members of the company who had but little opportunity in the opening piece, the work of all being so

good that an admirable performance was given. Special mention is due to Miss Ryan for consistent work as Joanna Lightfoot a "Christian woman," and to Mr. Malcolm Bradley in the role of Neil Garth. Mr. Deyo as the "Parson" was also a good impersonation and a good illustration of muscular christianity, while "Tom" Wise I thought, has rarely done better work than in his short part of Dr. McKerron. It was very life like and very natural indeed. Charles French as James Stapleton was also a really creditable performance, and just here, it occurs to me to remind this gentleman that when he plays the part of the old mill hand in "The Cotton King" again, he should take the precaution to either remove or conceal his finger ring. I omitted to mention this last week. I am satisfied however that it was due to forgetfulness or oversight that he retained it for he is too good an actor not to see its inconsistency. In "Shall we Forgive Her" too Miss White has done her best work of the season and her opportunities are great throughout the piece. The other play "A Bowery Girl" is not likely to become popular here no matter by whom presented. It is too local in its character. It presents types of character well known in New York and probably would be appreciated by New York audiences but the reflection presents itself that it is really not worthy of the talents of the gentlemen and ladies who are engaged in its production. There is nothing to it. It is very flimsy. There is one good scene in it very realistic—the house on fire, upon which the curtain falls. "Brother for Brother" is the title of the play given the last three days of the week. The Company closes the present season to night.

Thomas E. Shea begins a two weeks engagement at the Opera House next Monday evening. The initial play will be the "Man o' war man." It is new to St. John. Except on the first two evenings of each week, and one night given up to Sousa's Band, a nightly change is promised.

Rose Coghlan has decided not to enter into Vaudeville after all.

Richard Mansfield has purchased another new play for production next October. It is entitled "Nellie Moray" and is the joint product of Henri Dumay and William Schuyler of St. Louis.

The season of "Under the Red Robe" which had been extended for a week beyond the original date of closing at the Empire theatre, closed last Saturday night. This play is one of the most successful of the comparatively few successes of the season just ended.

Henry C. Miner declares he is not a candidate for the presidency of the Actor's Fund of America. The indications are that Louis Aldrich, the present vice president, will be elected.

Miss Catherine Lewis, who two seasons ago was a member of Augustin Daly's company in New York, has been engaged by that manager to play the role of Madame Drivelli at Daly's theatre.

Frank C. Bangs is considering an offer made to him to appear in variety and act, with supers and scenic effects, the forum scene from "Julius Caesar." He used to play, and with much distinction, the role of Marc Antony, with the late Lawrence Barrett and E. L. Davenport in the Booth's theatre production of that great play.

Clara Morris too has joined the vaudeville ranks and made her first appearance in that line of work at Gilmore's auditorium, Philadelphia last week. The medium was a one act play entitled "Blind Justice" by Kenneth Lee.

A St. Louis newspaper man named Geo. S. Johns has sold an original modern play entitled "David" to Robert Downing. The play will be given by Mr. Downing next season with Miss Eugenia Blair as leading lady.

"The Heart of Maryland" will begin its next (the third) season on the 17th August next at the Baldwin theatre, San Francisco. Nine weeks will be devoted to the far west and the company will play east via St. Louis and end their tour at the Academy of Music in New York.

During his season of thirty six weeks recently closed, Louis James produced with much success a new comedy entitled "My Lord and Some Ladies". Next season this gentleman may revive "Rinaldo", "The Fool's Revenge", and "The Robbers."

E. H. Sothern's next season will begin at the Lyceum theatre, New York about the 1st September with a new play entitled "Change Alley", written by Louis

N. Parker and Murray Carson. The story is placed in the reign of George 1st and has reference to the South sea bubble excitement.

Walter S. Hawkins of the "Cadet" theatrical performers is shortly going on the professional stage.

The theatrical "trust or combine" in New York is said to comprise the following eight men, viz., "Frohman, Hayman, Klaw, Erlanger, Rich, Harris, Nixon, (otherwise Nerdlinger) and Zimmerman." They have formulated a decree that hereafter the trust will refuse to engage any person who has ever appeared in vaudeville. A very pretty row is among the possibilities in the near future as a consequence.

Food Value of Cocoa.

The International Journal of Surgery says:—

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Won Lee's Letter.

The postmaster of a Western town received a letter from a Chinaman in Omaha who gave proof of the surprising possibilities of the English language by writing as follows:

DEAR SIR POSTMASTER:—I have a letter for you, Sir, and I have to ask you in that town how many inhabitants to live, Sir, and how many steam laundry here and how many Chinamen to keeping Laundry, here, Sir, and if you want me to come, Sir, and how much rent I will pay. You tell me all about that town and your answer for me will here come and I say thank you now, Sir.

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