

**Music and
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Perhaps the matter of the most general local interest in musical circles, during the past week, is the news that has reached this city regarding Mrs. Marie Harrison, the well-known singer, the lady of the phenomenal compass. It will be remembered that after appearing in a series, as it were, of farewell concerts Mrs. Harrison sailed for Europe with the avowed intention of becoming a pupil of Madame Marchesi in Paris. She is still studying with that famous teacher and the latest news about the Canadian singer, is that she "has accepted a short engagement in London during the Christmas holidays which promises to be as agreeable as profitable. It will be chiefly of a social character, with two or three public appearances. She remains in Paris another year probably."

A new piece of music which from its intrinsic merits must naturally become popular is, "Abide with Me" arranged as a solo, by Mr. A. S. Cook, organist of Germain street baptist church. The solo was given in that church, and for the first time, last Sunday evening when it was rendered by Miss Pidgeon, the leading soprano. The arrangement is most tuneful, it is of easy range, all the prayerfulness of the words is fully regarded and it is destined to be in very general demand. I understand the piece is now being printed and will soon be on sale here. The congregation of the Germain street church have much reason to be well pleased with their talented young organist.

Tones and Undertones.

The solo flutist of the Washington Marine Band (Henry Jaeger) is the owner of a golden flute with silver keys. It is of 18 carat gold and beautifully engraved. The tone of the instrument is sweet, flawless and absolutely correct. There is said to be \$400 worth of the precious metal in the flute.

Madame Melba is not credited with a success in the role of Brunnhilde in "Siegfried." A critical notice of her work says "The part is not one that presents opportunities for the display of her voice which is heard at its best in flexible, florid singing; and is without the fullness and the sonority to give effect to the music of Wagner."

Marguerite Norri, a young American lady, who is singing with much success aboard, is the stage name of Miss Marguerite Freeling who was a member of the class of 1893 in the New England Conservatory of Music.

After an absence of ten years Marie Van Zandt is to reappear at the Opera Comique in Paris. She had been almost an idol in Paris at one period but subsequently was hissed from the stage. She has since sung in St. Petersburg and Monte Carlo. Her personal characteristics are said to have marred what should have been a great career.

When Sieveking the famous pianist, gave his concert in Steinert hall, Boston, last Saturday he scored a great success. When he played the Moszkowski Etude de concert G flat op. 24, a critic says "he" had at his command yet under perfect control, a real battle horse. Many students present rose in their seats and the enthusiasm of the audience was intense beyond description. It was a heroic, masterly and long to be remembered performance."

Mrs. Jennie Patrick Walker sang in the cantata "The Holy City" at the first baptist church, Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, last Sunday evening.

Rosenthal's piano recitals to be given in Boston, are now definitely fixed some dates in April next.

Mrs. Maud Starkweather, formerly a Boston lady who is now known as Mme. Marie Dums, is singing with much success in the British provinces.

At the Castle Square theatre, Boston, last week the comic opera "The Royal Middy" scored a marked success, and many compliments are paid to Miss Clara Lane, as "The Middy" Miss Millard as the Queen, and to Miss Ladd. The latter lady is considered too "self conscious to give the greatest pleasure."

"Brian Born," which opera is being given at the Boston theatre this week by the Whitney opera company, is said to be somewhat on the order of "Robin Hood."

"Maritania" is on at the Castle Square theatre Boston, for this week and will be followed by "The Gendoliers" next week.

Fred C. Whitney, the director of the Whitney Opera Company is said to be the youngest impressario on this side of the Atlantic

Madame Sigrid Arnoldson has recently received from the Grand Duke of Hesse the gold medal for art and science after singing "Carmen" at the Darmstadt Court Theatre.

Frau Bertha Pierson the dramatic soprano of the Royal Opera at Berlin, who has been seriously ill, is now pronounced out of danger and slowly convalescing. She may never appear in public again however.

The new Opera Comique in Paris, will, it is estimated cost \$3,500,000 francs, but its completion is not looked for prior to the exposition.

An operetta entitled "The Merry Benedicts" by Maurice Arnold has recently been finished in Brooklyn N.Y.. The book is by Mr. La Touche Hancock. The operetta will have its initial in the near future.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Katherine Rober company began their season at the Opera house last Monday evening by producing "Man and Wife," a piece done here by Harkins some little time ago. Miss Rober, whose voice suggests a cold or it might be the harshness of over straining—at all events it is rather a handicap,—played the leading role, Florence Grantly, very consistently throughout and merited the applause bestowed on her. There was not much ground of complaint as to the rank and file of the company. On Wednesday evening Miss Rober gave a performance of "Carmen" and for the first time in this city. The audience was large and attentive too I thought, and Miss Rober seemed very happy in the title role—which was none the less difficult that the lady's work seemed easy. At times full of love and passion, mischievous, determined, bored and weary, and savage as a wild beast, and as relentless—these are among the varied emotions to be represented by who ever essays the role of "Carmen." Miss Rober had an excellent conception of the characters.

The Isham—Lyell Company opened at the Queen's theatre, Montreal, last Monday evening in "My Friend from India." The papers of that city say the house was crowded to its capacity, standing room only being obtainable before the curtain raised.

Mary Hampton, is playing opposite roles to E. H. Sothern in the latter's company. Miss Georgia Cayvan, on the 25th inst will make her stellar debut at the Tremont theatre, Boston. She will appear in repertoire, it is said.

"The Electrician" a new play by Charles E. Blaney will shortly be produced in New York. A beautiful electric display is provided for the second act.

"My Friend from India" which was productive of so much fun when recently produced at the Opera House in this city appears to be quite as fun provoking at the Park theatre, Boston, where another company is giving it. It is such a success in the "hub" that it could fill that theatre as long as desired.

Maud Adams in "Rosemary" at the Hollis theatre, Boston, has won the affections of Boston dramatic critics evidently. She is said to have "much magnetism and is simply fascinating."

"Northern Lights" a strong melodrama, the action of which takes place in the Little Big Horn Valley in 1870 when Gen. Custer was killed in battle with the Sioux Indians under Sitting Bull, is the attraction at the Bowdon Square theatre Boston, this week.

"The Right to Happiness" a play by Marguerite Merington is meeting with much success in the Southern States. Minnie Madder Fiske is playing the leading role.

Gillette and his entire company will go to London with "Secret Service" at the close of the present season.

Alphonse Daudet, is dramatizing his novel "La Petite Parisienne," and the work is reported as being well advanced.

Sir Henry Irving has made another great success in a Shakespearian role "Richard III" at the Lyceum in London, Eng. It is almost 20 years since the revival of this piece made by him under the Bateman administration in 1877.

T. D. Frawley's company has returned to San Francisco after a successful professional visit to the Sandwich Islands.

Miss Fannie Buckley of the "Lost, Strayed or Stolen" company who recently thought it necessary to give public denial to a rumor that she was engaged to be married is the daughter of Dr. Arthur T. Hills of New York.

Miss Hadise Wright who played the role of Mrs. Haller in Wilson Barrett's production of "The Stranger" in the United States a short time ago, has made a positive hit in a recent London production of a new play entitled "The Haven of Content" by Malcolm Watson.

DISTILLING MOUNTAIN DEW.

A Moonshiner Describes the Process of Making Illicit Whiskey.

Those who know by actual experience how the moonshiner makes his "mountain dew" are loathe to tell how it is done, says an ex-moonshiner. They reason, and not without good sense, that it is a dangerous secret, and therefore it is a matter of some difficulty to persuade one to tell his secret. The moonshiner knows that the very minute he starts a brew, that minute he is a criminal in the eyes of the law. His individual views as to the criminality of his act do not at all coincide with the law on the subject, however. The moonshiner believes that he has as much right to convert his corn into whiskey as the gardener has to make sauce out of his tomatoes, or the grape grower to distill the juice of his fruit into wine. This is the way he looks at the crime of illicit distilling. All the laws cannot change his view from the matter. He imagines that the government has a particular spite to vent against him, and therefore he regards civilized man as his ruthless enemy. He holds the officer, whose sworn duty it is to enforce the law, in as much odium as society entertains for the moonshiner. He will stubbornly insist that he is more sinned against than sinning.

The moonshiners of this country have been unjustly compared to the smugglers who intent the mountainous regions of Europe and traffic in contraband commodities and articles. As a rule, they are not as desperate a lot as they are painted. Some have slain to protect themselves from what they deem unjust and outrageous laws, but that is done by men in other walks of life, and such are not denominated desperadoes. But this is digressing from the subject. How is mountain dew made? The idea of the average person whose environments in life have been such as would afford no opportunities for gleaning the secret of the moonshiner, would take in some fine chemical process, that could not have originated in any but a college professor's mind, and yet the way in which the rugged moonshiner makes his "dew" does not include anything that the college student encountered in his study of chemistry, from a purely practical point of view.

The process is simple. The moonshiner sends his corn to mill to have it ground. It is converted into meal, the same as is used to make corn bread. This meal is put in a tub or barrel of boiling water. In this way it is cooked. It sits until it is cool enough to burn the hands when they are put in it. It is stirred up well and then put in the still. The still is then filled with cold water. After that the malt is added. Malt is made by putting corn in water and letting it soak two or three days, or until it sprouts. (Then it is malted.) The malt is ground the same as the corn was, and to every bushel of corn is added sixteen single handfuls of malt. The malt and the cold water are added at the same time. Then the brew stands until it sours, which requires several days. In that time it begins to work or ferment. A crust or cap, as it is called by moonshiners, of bran forms on the top of the water. This cap is bluish in color. It is not disturbed at all. In a short time this cap settles to the bottom where it came from. The weight of the solidified mass of bran or husks causes it to sink. The fire is then started under the still, and it is only a matter of two or three hours until about two gallons of whiskey have been distilled. The moonshiner then has two gallons of "dew," which he can sell for from \$2 to \$5, as the needs of the purchaser may justify, and he has consumed six days and a bushel of corn in making it. Thus one bushel of corn yields two gallons of whiskey, which may bring, in the moonshiner's market, from \$4 to \$10. About thirty gallons of water are used to brew one bushel of corn.

A still is a large copper kettle shaped like a cistern. They hold from fifty to sixty gallons. Over the neck of the still a cap fits the same as one joint of stovepipe fits over another. From the top of this cap an arm runs out about ten inches long. To this arm is attached the worm. Well, the worm is a coil of pipe about sixteen feet long. It is through this that the evaporation of the steam from the still passes. The worm is coiled in the flake stand, which is filled with water for the purpose of keeping the worm cool. If the worm was not thus cooled no evaporation would take place, or at least not immediately. The other end of the worm runs out of the flake stand into the mouth of a tunnel which is placed in the keg or jug that catches the run. From the time the fire was started under the still until the brew is finished has consumed about two hours.

The whiskey made by moonshiners is pronounced the very best when it has a little of age on it. They do not color it, but sell it just as it comes out of the still. It is then as clear as water.

A New Language.

In the course of Mark Twain's visit to Egypt, says the Saturday Review, he engaged two Arab guides and set out for the pyramids. He was familiar enough with Arabic, he thought, to understand and be understood with perfect ease. To his consternation, he found that he

could not comprehend a word that either of the guides uttered. At the pyramids he met a friend, to whom he made known his dilemma. It was very mysterious, Twain thought.

"Why, the explanation is simple enough," said the friend.

"Please enlighten me, then," said Twain. "Why, you should have hired younger men. These old fellows have lost their teeth, and of course they don't speak Arabic. They speak gum-Arabic."

A WINDY WELL.

A Strange Underground Draft of Air Found in a Deep Sinking.

Arizona possesses some of the greatest natural wonders in the world, not the least of which is this phenomenon of a current of air issuing from or going into the bowels of the earth through sundry natural and artificial openings made in the earth's crust.

Something over a year ago a Mr. Contman undertook the drilling of a well at his place. Everything went well to a depth of some twenty-five feet, when the drill suddenly dropped some six feet and a strong current of air issued from the hole. The exciting air current was so strong that it blew off the men's hats who were recovering the lost drill.

The well was of course abandoned and left to blow, but there are some peculiarities about it that are worthy of observation. The air will escape from the well for days at a time with such force that pebbles the size of peas are thrown out and piled up about its mouth until it looks very much like the expanded portion of a funnel. At the same time it is accompanied by a sound much like the distant bellowing of a fog horn. This noise is not always present, because the air does not at all times escape with the same force. Again there will be for days a suction current, unaccompanied by sound, in which the current of air passes into the earth, with some less force than it escapes, and any light object, as a feather, piece of paper or cloth, will, if held in close proximity, be immediately sucked into the subterranean labyrinth of Eolus.

Just the cause of this phenomenon no one has yet been able to determine, but it is supposed that there is an underground opening between the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, which cleaves the earth for more than a mile in depth, and the Sycamore canyon some eighty miles to the south of it, of the same proportions, but much shorter.

This would seem possible for the fact that the current of air is always passing from north to south or vice versa, varying of course a few points of the compass from the true meridian but always in these general directions as determined by experiment and then the stratum underlying the quaternary is of volcanic cinder. This is very porous and in many places so called bottomless holes exist.—Popular Science News.

SOLD AT A LOSS.

In order to convince the public that Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills are far superior to any liver pill ever placed on the market, the manufacturer has for the past six months sold them at 10 cents for a vial of 40 doses; or at a clear loss of 50 per cent. of their cost price. The truly wonderful merit of Dr. Agnew's Pills is now recognized in three-fourths of Canadian homes and from this time on the retail price for a vial of 40 doses will be 20 cents, five or cents a vial less than is charged for other brands of liver pills. They are the smallest, cheapest, best.

A Dog's Expensive Meal.

It is said that more remarkable things happen in southern France than in any other part of the world, chiefly on account of the wonderful imaginations that the people there have. But now and then these remarkable things are not dependent on the imaginations of the inhabitants; one of them has recently come out through a lawsuit at Narbonne, the proceedings of which are reported in the Paris papers. The complainant in the case made oath that he was one day dining on the 'terrace,' or

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open-air space fronting on the sidewalk where French people are wont to take their meals in summer. He had just begun to eat his soup when it occurred to him to count some money that he had a short time before received. In counting it, he accidentally let fall a hundred-franc bank-note into his soup. Instantly he fished it out of the plate with his fork, and sent the soup away; but the bank-note was saturated, and he laid it down on the tablecloth to dry. He was going on with his meal when a little gust of wind blew the bill off the table. Its owner jumped after it, but a wandering dog which had been hungrily watching the meal was quicker than he, and seized it. The taste of the soup on the paper made it an edible thing to the animal, and it was swallowed in an instant. And then the man who owned the bill was, though bursting with rage, reduced to the humiliation and insincerity of saying, 'Good doggie! Come here, nice doggie,' and to the employment of smiles and wheedling ways, in order to get near enough to the animal to read the name engraved on his collar. But he succeeded; and when he had made note of the name, he assisted the 'good doggie's' rapid departure. Next he brought a suit against the man who owned the dog for the restitution of the one hundred francs; and the court at Narbonne, after hearing the evidence and the pleas at great length, decided that the owner of the dog must pay the other man the money.

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