

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The negotiations that were referred to in this column as pending, with the object of securing the presence in concert of Mary Louise Clary, the famous alto singer, have since been completed, and I am informed that the coming of this great singer is now assured. She will sing in concert in this city on the 13th of April next, on her way to Montreal where she is engaged to sing in a production of "Elijah" later in the same week. The occasion of her singing here will be her first appearance in the maritime provinces, although the fame of her beautiful voice has long since preceded her. This forthcoming musical festival, quite apart from the sensation in musical circles the coming of this great singer will naturally create, will have additional interest for local musical people in the fact that it will be the occasion of Prof. Titus annual concert. Every lover of music in this city likes to patronize this concert of Mr. Titus and with the special attraction of Miss Clary's voice there is no doubt but that the hall will be filled to its capacity. The Institute has been engaged, as I learn, for the purpose of this concert, as the Opera House could not be had owing to other bookings at that house. The institute, however, has been the scene of musical triumphs in the past, and from its stage have been heard some of the best voices the musical world has produced. Mr. Titus will be assisted by local talent from among the best we have and a programme of choice variety and superior quality is a certainty. No lover of music can anticipate other than a thorough delight in the prospect of this concert. Miss Clary is credited with possessing the finest alto voice in America.

In quite another field of music, it is pleasant to note the distinctions being won by a St. John man, Prof. Tapley, the well known organist. Prof. Tapley's compositions generally have much to commend them, but one of his latest, the "Royal March" has been the means of securing for him the recognition of no less a personage than His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. Prof. Tapley has recently received a complimentary letter from the Prince written from Sandringham Palace, Norfolk, in which he thanks Prof. Tapley for his "Royal March."

The visit of the party of Halifax musical people who presented "Hispania" at the Opera House here, and the very favorable impression that was created by the sweet voice of their prima, Mrs. Hagerty, is still fresh in the memories of all. The company has been in more or less continuous practice in their own city and they gave "Rip Van Winkle" in Halifax last week. Mrs. Hagerty again sang the leading female role of "Gretchen" and all who witnessed the performance are unanimous in paying tribute of praise for her clever and artistic work both as a singer and as an actress. Indeed one gentleman who has no prejudice in the matter expressed himself to the effect that the performance referred to was ahead of that given in Halifax by Albani. Of course, a remark of this intense character is likely to be questioned somewhat, nevertheless, although not personally present at the performance of "Rip Van Winkle" I have not the slightest doubt but that a great success was scored. I think Mrs. Hagerty's voice is about the sweetest and most melodious that has been heard here for a long time. I felicitate the lady, the conductor and the management on their well merited success.

Tones and Undertones.

The City Cornet Band Minstrels gave performances at the Opera House on last Monday and Tuesday evenings with gratifying results.

A Miss Stanley of St. Louis, now of Paris, who recently made her debut in La Juive has just made a new success in "La Navarraise" in Ghent.

The latest tribute to the beautiful voice of Mlle Francisca of San Francisco, who was referred to in this department last week, is that her voice "is Melba's voice a soul in it."

What is designated the largest musical library in the world, is owned by Arthur W. Tams and is kept in a house on West Twenty Eight street New York. Mr. Tams has been nearly a quarter of a century in collecting it. He estimates its commercial value at a quarter of a million dollars.

Sibyl Sanderson, the prima donna, recently made a great success in St. Petersburg. On one occasion it is said she was recalled twenty times. She sang the waltz song from Romeo and Juliet for one encore.

Mrs Josephine S. Jacoby is the name

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of a handsome young woman who is rapidly coming to the front in New York musical circles. Of her voice it is said "it is tropical in the warmth of its glow, full volumed, even and characterized by an abundance which would seem to know no fatigue."

Madame Schlager has retired from the Court opera in Vienna. Her farewell appearance was as Valentine in "Les Huguenots" and the occasion was probably the greatest triumph of her musical career. A notice says after the second act she was called out from eight to ten times. After the duet in the third act the applause began again and thundered and stormed through the house as though it would never cease. Time and again the orchestra attempted to proceed but they were rapped into silence, as the applause drowned out every tone. Madame Schlager was called out again and again—no less than twelve times—and floral and other offerings were made so numerous that she had to make a speech. Later on she had to make another speech as the people refused to leave the house until she did so.

A Toronto organization called the Mendelssohn Choir, comprising 175 mixed voices, has already earned high reputation for unaccompanied part song singing.

Camilla Urso, the famous violiniste, recently appeared as the soloist in a concert given in Galveston, Texas.

Miss Anna Miller Wood, who is a Californian by birth, possesses a lovely contralto voice, which "she uses with the utmost skill intelligence and sympathetic feeling" added to a charming personality. Miss Wood holds a position in the choir of one of the leading churches in Boston.

Rosa Linde has began an action at law against Madame Nordica for \$3000 damages for breach of contract, Miss Linde alleges she had a verbal contract with the prima donna to accompany her on her western tour and she was supplanted by Madame Scalchi.

The late Count Castelmary the opera singer who died suddenly on the stage at the close of an opera performance recently, was married to Marie Sass, the opera singer about thirty years ago. She left him for Victor Maurel and strangely enough both men were members of the same company in the United States last season.

The London Symphony concerts, as they were called up to a short time since when they were known as the Heuschel concerts, will be discontinued, for a time at least, after the present season.

Madame Patti has been singing in Monte Carlo recently. She sang with her old time success as Violetta.

"Mignon" the popular opera, is the bill at the Castle Square opera house, Boston, this week. The title role is being sung by Miss Clara Lane and Miss Carrie Roma, the latter a new member of the company.

Massenet's "La Cid" has been called "a brass and sheepskin affair," but the story has always been popular with composers and operas have been written to it by Sacchini (Rome, 1762); Piccini (Naples, 1763); Paisello (Florence, 1776); Farinelli, (1797); Luigi Savi, (Parma, 1834); Neeb, (Frankfurt, 1857); Peter Cornelius (Weimar, 1865); Charles Wagner, (Darmstadt, 1821); Handel, (Florence, 1708); Sapienza, (Naples, 1823); Albinerger (Munich, 1821); Sailer (Paris, 1788, not performed); Orlandi (1815); General (Milan, 1817); Litolf (Paris, 1850, not

performed); Emil Meyer (Linz, 1848), (and Willy Bohme (Dessau, 1887).

At Parma Saint-Saens "Samson and Delilah," was recently given, and a curious incident occurred. The artist who took the character of Samson did not please the public, and when, during the third act, an aria sung by him elicited hisses and cat-calls, he graciously bowed to the public, called "good night" to the audience in a stentorian voice, and disappeared in their wings. The audience gave vent to their angry feelings, which quieted down when Samson appeared again on the stage, but instead of singing, he began a lecture, in the course of which he stated that he had sung the part as prescribed in the score, true to the pitch and correctly, and that he, was not to blame if the public did not like the part. Therefore, since he could not change it, he offered them another "good night," again disappearing behind the scenery. This explanation was followed by a storm of indignation, which continued for some time, until the manager of the opera appeared in front of the curtain and quieted the public by the information that he had discharged his unruly singer. After that episode the opera was finished, but without Samson.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Mary Hampton is leading lady now with E. H. Sothorn and is playing in Boston in "An Enemy to the King" which the star has already made famous elsewhere.

The production of a new comedy entitled "The Yellow Lily" has been arranged for copyright purposes. The play was written by William Norris a member of the "Thoroughbred" company now playing in Boston.

John Hare, the English actor, who is now delighting Boston theatre goers, has been on the English stage for thirty years. He is only fifty two years of age.

W. S. Hart, who acts the leading heroic role in "Under the Polar Star," will be remembered in St. John as having been the leading man in Madame Rhea's company when she was last here.

"Secret Service" a new play by Dr. Gillette will be seen at the Boston Museum following "Thoroughbred" at that house. "Thoroughbred" will be revived in London Eng., next month by Toole who originally produced it there. In the third act there is said to be a fine representation of the racing field at Ascot.

At the Globe theatre, London, recently a new play by Jerome K. Jerome was presented. It is a farcical comedy and is called "The Mac Haggis." It is said to be "in touch with the present demand for Scottish character and humor in fiction."

Julia Marlowe's engagement at Wallack's theatre, New York, has been extended until the 20th inst.

Augustin Daly has been credited with the adaptation of "Guy Mannering," that is shortly to be produced at his theatre in New York and to which has been given the name "The Witch of Durncleugh" but it is now said that Robert Chambers is the author.

Richard Mansfield has been appearing in Boston this week in "Richard III" and "The Merchant of Venice." Mansfield is said by some dramatic critics to be "the best Shylock upon the American stage today."

It forms a somewhat severe reflection upon the literary claims and pretensions of the citizens of 'the hub,' that Robert Mantell's production of "Romco and Juliet" and Mansfield's "Merchant" and "Richard" there were none of Shakespeare's plays produced there this season. Possibly however Boston culture recognizes that they have no company that gives a thoroughly satisfying performance of any of these works.

Sybil Johnstone, who first became known as an actress, when she played Iza in "The Clemenceau Case" is engaged at Keith's theatre Boston.

The well known play "Rosedale" is being revived at the Bowdoin square theatre, Boston, and will be given there next Monday evening, by a company at the head of which is Charles Barron, who it is said was the second to play the role of Elliot Gray in that city.

Hoyt's new piece "A Stranger in New York" has been the medium whereby Marie Jansen is credited with having made a decided hit. The piece is said to be one of Hoyt's best.

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So many new fields of employment are opening to girls that there is some danger lest the old-time pride of women in the dainty needlework and lacework that their hands fashioned should quite die out. This is, however, not likely to be the case in the city of Vienna. A lady writer—Marion Mulhall—who not long ago visited that city, says that Vienna's great glory is the Government Art School of Embroidery, under the direction of Madame St. George, perhaps the most distinguished designer and needlewoman in the world.

There a girl may, without expense, fit herself for the making of the most delicate laces, or the working of the most exquisite embroidery. The course is entirely free, and extends over five years, though many pupils who do not wish to make art work a profession leave after two or three years, satisfied with knowing the rudiments of lacework or art embroidery.

Each year has its special course, and its special room, and the pupils cannot go from one to the other before the year expires. That the pupils become very skillful by the time the full course is completed is shown by the class of work done in the last year. When the school was visited these pupils wear mending a magnificent canopy, the work of the Empress Maria Theresa. For four years ten girls under Madame St. George's superintendence, had worked at that canopy, and it would take two years more to complete it.

"Every kind of embroidery," says the writer, "including Persian, Indian Japanese and Turkish is done here, and I was astonished to see some beautiful samples of the 'nanduty' or spider's web, made by the Guarani women of Paraguay, and rarely seen in Europe. This lace is made of the fibre of the aloes, and is so fine that it must be manufactured inside the huts with the doors shut, so that not the least breath of wind may touch it.

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