

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

This department has very little to record this week in the way of musical events; the late concerts still furnishing much ground for conversation among music lovers. Their reason to hope that the pleasant will heard this week that H. Evans Williams and Mr Hitchcock, baritone, will both be heard here in the spring is quite true.

The usual preparation for special Christmas music is being made in the various churches, some I am told putting forth a special effort to excel this year. PROGRESS hopes to refer in detail to this matter next week when as is customary in this department, the programmes for the different services will be given.

The "Musical Club" has made preparations for a meeting to be held between Christmas and New Years which promises to be of more than ordinary interest. It seems too bad, however, that the Oratorio or Choral Societies could not have arranged to give some of the "Messiah" at this time, as has been done in former years.

"A Yeoman of the Guard" is spoken of as the next opera to be given under the same management as the "Pirates of Penzance." In fact it is proposed to regularly organize a club for the production of Comic Opera.

Mr. Strand organist of Trinity Church, is conducting a male glee class in the West End.

I hear that Mr. E. B. Manning of this city who went to New York recently for the purpose of studying the violin with Herr Schraduck has accepted a position with a mercantile house there.

It is rumored that the old Philharmonic Orchestra is to be revived, and I believe it is the intention to increase its membership to an extent that will enable them to give some of the smaller symphonic works. It is to be hoped that we shall hear from them in the near future as St. John is adly lacking in orchestral music when compared with other cities of its size.

Tones and Undertones.

Lillian Blauvelt will go to Europe in the spring or early autumn to make her debut at Leipsic with Nixsch.

The statement of receipts and expenses of the last Worcester musical festival shows a deficit of over \$4000.

Mme. Clementine De Vere is to sing in Boston the 27th of this month.

M. Jean Gerardy is no longer a boy cellist for, he is now twenty one and is said to look every day of it. He made a professional re-appearance at the Metropolitan, New York recently under the management of R. H. Johnson & Company. The critics with surprising unanimity say that while his tone is big and he is very clever technically, his touch lacks beauty and he is often scratchy in passage work.

Too numerous indispositions were the cause of Van Dyck's leaving the Imperia Opera at Vienna. His illnesses had the effect of rousing the anger of the city and the court against him, and the crisis culminated recently when Van Dyck should have sung "Manon" with Mile. Renard. Having asserted that it would be impossible for him to sing, an altercation with the management ensued which ended by Van Dyck tending his resignation.

Mrs. Emma Eames Story has settled down in Paris for the winter and is now at the home which she built there two years ago, and which combines in her opinion all the American comforts of life with the advantages possible in a French house. According to the latest account of her plans, the great singer will remain all winter in Paris and it is said that she will not appear professionally until the opening of the opera season in London.

The production of Wagner's "Die Meistersinger" in Paris was a great success. The chorus numbered 150 and for the finale of the third act showing, the march of the guilds, it was planned to have 350 persons on the stage. The sum expended on the production is said to be \$30,000. The cuts made to shorten the opera all had the sanction of Mme. Wagner, and they were the customary elisions that have been made in performances in France as well as in German towns.

The Dominant, which is one of the best of musical monthlies is now published at 44 West Twenty Ninth street New York. It was formerly published in Philadelphia.

The Carl Rosa season in London was brought to a sudden end after the production of "Diarmid" the words of which were written by the Marquis of Lorne. The season was so complete a failure that the pro-

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duction of "Tristram and Isolde" in English was abandoned. Puccini's "Boheme" was a failure in London, just as it was in Vienna where in spite of much praise and a fine production it drew only half filled houses.

The "Prince Edward" march is the latest contribution to the musical world. The new march was composed by Gordon Perry of Yarmouth N. S. and is dedicated to the officers of the New Steamer Prince Edward of the Dominion Atlantic S. S. line which plies between Boston and Yarmouth.

Miss Evelyn Ashton Fletcher is a young Torontorian who has quite a reputation in musical circles in Boston.

Miss Florence Traub and Mr. Albert Burgemeister concert pianists of the Virgil piano school, New York gave a piano recital in Steinert hall, Boston last evening. Their programme was most interesting.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The next dramatic event of importance will be the engagement of H. Price Webber Boston Comedy Company at the Opera House. This well-known Company has been playing in Nova Scotia for the past few months and meeting with wonderfully good success. Mr. Webber and his charming wife are so well known in St. John that they need no introduction to the theatre going public. The genial Price is always sure of a very warm welcome in this city, and as he brings with him upon this visit a well equipped company his success is assured. The will produce several new plays as their engagement will include the two holidays, will no doubt play to satisfactory business.

The Miles Stock Company are playing in Portland Me. this week, having successfully toured other parts of the Pine State.

The Ethel Tucker Company closed a weeks engagement here on Saturday evening with "The Ring of Iron" a thrilling drama abounding in exciting situations. The play contains a story of deep heart interest, and the various roles were well interpreted on the occasion referred to. On Monday evening the company opened a three weeks engagement in Halifax to a crowded house. The press of that city speaks in the highest terms of the opening bill "Held by the Enemy." The company will go south early in January.

In the cast of the "Princess and the Butterfly" at the Lyceum, New York, are two names well known to St. John people, that of James K. Hackett and William Courtleigh. The latter will be pleasantly remembered here as a member of W. S. Harkin's company a couple of years ago.

"A Ward of France" is the title of a historical play which follows "A Lady of Quality" at Wallack's (N. Y.) theatre. The scenes of the play are laid in New Orleans during the early part of the century and are concerned with certain dramatic incidents attendant upon the succession in Louisiana of the Spanish, French and American governments every incident in the story is authentic and historically correct. The period affords opportunity for a striking staging, and elaborate dress effects. Maurice Barrymore, Maud Granger and other well known people are in the cast.

Olga Nethersole has secured from Rudyard Kipling the right to dramatize his novel "The Light that Failed." A dramatic version of the book has already been prepared and produced by Courtenay Thorpe.

"My friend from India" has been far and away the most successful farce comedy of recent years. The price has not only made a substantial fortune of \$75,000 for its managers, but has also brought Da Souchet to the front as one of the best farce writers in America.

The "Cherry Pickers" still continues to be one of the best paying attractions on the road. It is now being done in the South with all the original cast, and all the elaborate scenic effects for which it is noted.

Julia Arthur ended a wonderfully successful engagement at Wallacks theatre New York last Saturday, and on Monday began her road tour in "A Lady of Quality." In a few short weeks this young actress has advanced herself to the front rank as a popular and profitable star, and her career from this time on will undoubtedly be watched with interest by all who have known her. The news of Miss Arthur's great success is very pleasing to her former numerous admirers in the provinces.

Otis Skinner grows enthusiastic over his play "Prince Rudolph" which has delighted large audiences wherever it has been presented. That it is an adaptation of Stevenson's romance, "Prince Otto," is well known, but only those who have watched the dashing Prince of Kronfeld on the stage can appreciate the wonders that have been wrought with the work of the great Scotch story-teller who died in far-away Samoa.

The first appearance of Eleanor Duse at Naples was made the occasion of an innovation by the ladies of the greatest Italian city. There was a secret understanding that none of them would wear a hat in the audience and what the courts have not succeeded in doing, an appeal by the authoress, Matilda Serao has at last accomplished.

A monument is to be erected in Venice to Gustavo Modena, the great Italian artist. Funds are being raised by a series of benefits, in which Tomasso Salvini and Novelli, who next to Zacconi are the most prominent actors of the Italian dramatic stage, will take part.

The Comedie Francaise has recently purchased for the famous collection of paintings, cuts and engravings relating to the history of the French theatre, a very rare water color painting, representing the bodily chastisement of Beaumarchais in the Church of Saint-Lazare. The famous author who wrote "Figaro's Wedding" suffered this disgraceful public punishment because he spared neither the Court nor the sacred person of King Louis XV in his biting satires.

Clara Troop is very seriously ill. "Blue Jeans" is to be given a London production.

Margaret Mather enjoys the distinction of being attended by a high caste Chinese waiting maid. Miss Mather gave two performances of "Leah" at the Boston theatre this week.

A play founded upon Dickens "Tale of Two Cities" is being written for E. S. Willard. Mrs. E. S. Willard has taken up her pen with excellent results and has written a fairy tale called "Cherriwink." Her nom de guerre is Rachel Penn and she is said to have shown decided talent and ability.

Cora Tanner will, it is said, revive "Alone in London" next season.

Maud Harrison who has been in retirement for the last few seasons is to return to the stage early in January in one of the best parts of "O Susanns."

Marie Jansen has just completed her seventeenth year on the stage.

The murder of Guldensuppe in New York will furnish material and plot for a play to be produced in that city in the near future.

Sadie Martinot has patented a theatre seat hat box for ladies headwear. The, at present, crimson haired Sadie, thinks she is going to make a fortune out of her invention and incidentally remarks that if it works as well as she thinks, she will sometime have a statue erected to her memory by grateful mankind of succeeding generations.

Mrs. Kendal has been talking to a New York interviewer and in the course of an interesting conversation says some very bright sensible things; and unlike the majority of actresses acknowledges that she is past the age for playing young girls parts, and is sufficient of an artist to recognize that she must go in for an altogether different line but one which will give her just as good opportunities in every way.

"Tess of the d'Urbevilles" which is being played by Minnie Madder Fiske has met with nothing but the highest praise wherever it has been played and every critic who has reviewed the performance is profuse in his praise of this wonderful work.

George K. Fortescue the portly Smith-kings of the "Belle of New York" who for years played the leading female parts in burlesque productions weighs 340 pounds. He played "the merry little mountain maid" in Adonis.

CREAM OF TARTAR.

Report of the Dominion Analysts Upon its Adulteration—Danger to our Food from Alum and Phosphate Mixtures. It would seem as if housekeepers who have been in the habit of using in the old-fashioned way soda and cream of tartar or soda and sour milk to raise their cake, biscuit, rolls, etc., would have to make a change, if they have regard for the healthfulness of their food.

The report of the Inland Revenue Department of Canada gives the results of a series of analyses of substances bought for cream of tartar extending over a period of four years, made by Professor A. McGill, assistant to the Chief Analyst of the Dominion, Dr. Macfarlan. The samples analyzed, which were procured from the chief grocers and druggists in every part of Canada, including the Maritime Provinces, were in all cases bought for cream of tartar, and were from the stock from which sales were being made daily to housekeepers for baking purposes.

The number of samples thus collected and examined was one hundred and eighty-three, from as many different dealers. "Out of this number," says the analyst, "I have found only one sample to consist of pure bitartrate of potassium' cream of tartar." Among the adulterants found are named alum (ammonia alum in most cases) tartrate of lime, sulphate of lime, superphosphate of lime, syssum, etc. Many samples though bought for cream of tartar, had no trace of cream of tartar in them, but were made up wholly of phosphates, alum, starch, etc.

Seventy of the better samples, which were claimed to be really and actually genuine cream of tartar, were subjected to special tests. Every sample but one of these was found to contain lime, in quantities exceeding sixteen per cent of their entire weight. Lime is a caustic, and like alum, when taken with the food into the stomach acts as a poison. Sulphuric acid is not a pleasant thing to take in food; yet over seven per cent of this chemical was likewise discovered in some of these samples of so called pure cream of tartar.

These being the best specimens of cream of tartar that can be bought in the Canadian market by chemists who are looking for pure goods, what are the chances of the housekeeper when purchasing indiscriminately from the ordinary stock found at the grocers' or druggists'? So long as she trusts to these sources for the agents to raise her biscuit and cake, she is powerless to protect her food from dangerous impurities, for she is all the time mixing it with alum and other poisonous adulterants.

Prof. McGill indicates the remedy which the housewife should apply, and that is to give up using cream of tartar and soda in the old-fashioned way, and employ in their stead a modern high-class baking powder, known to be free from all detrimental substances. In the Royal Baking Powder, for instance, which is a cream of tartar powder, classed by Prof. McGill as a most excellent article, the ingredients before being used are refined to a condition of chemical purity. The enormous output of the Royal Baking Powder Company—probably one half of all the baking consumed in America, requiring the use of over one-half of all the cream of tartar manufactured—makes the use of chemically pure ingredients an absolute necessity. Its refineries are the largest in the world, costing the company over half a million dollars, but they have secured to the people what they could not otherwise have had, in place of the adulterated cream of tartar of the market, a baking preparation of absolute purity and healthfulness.

The importance of this subject to the public cannot be over-estimated, for it has a relation to the health of every person in the community. Eating in Mexico. Mexico is a land where people like to eat and eat a good deal. The dinner table is well spread, and there is an abundance. Food is served in courses and often many of them. A common bill of fare in thousands of houses at noon will be: Soup, called caldo, or broth; rice, or macaroni, known as sopa; baked or stuffed tomatoes or artichokes, a most delicious vegetable; two kinds of meat, often chicken and a roast, or chops and steaks, fried potatoes, salad, beans, which always appear; fruit and several kinds of sweets and then coffee. Everything comes on separately, served by a boy or maid. This is a very useful repast and is frequently varied with fish from Vera Cruz or the fresh water lakes. Red wine and pulque or usual table drinks.

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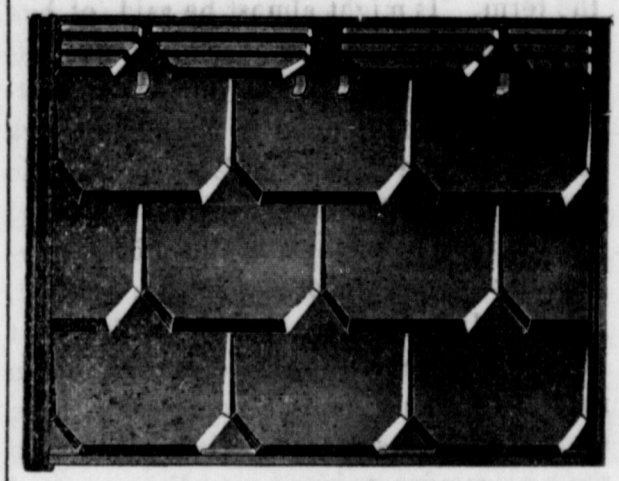
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Different Reasons.

In a little New Hampshire village there lives an old lady who has such a sweet spirit of kindness toward all the world, that she is unable to comprehend the entire lack of that spirit in some other people.

Not long ago one of her granddaughters a gay young city girl, was paying her a visit, and one day told her of a ragged and in toxicated man whom she had seen on the street just before leaving home.

"I can't bear to meet a man like that," said, vehemently, at the end of her story. "I know just how 'tis, dear," said the old lady, laying one of her soft, wrinkled hands on the girl's head. "It does seem as if you'd got to stop and speak with the poor creatures just a minute, don't it? I never can bear to pass 'em by without a word, it don't seem human!"

The gay little granddaughter was quite disturbed by this misinterpretation of her words, but she did not deceive her grandmother as to her meaning. For some reason she felt ashamed.

A "Cry of the Heart."

A story is told of a schoolboy who was given an opportunity to hear a great deal about some recent explorations in Africa, under the supposition that he would be much interested in it, but who turned from the whole subject with weariness.

"Don't you like to hear about what all these great explorers are doing?" he was asked. "Hardly, sir," answered the boy; "you'll excuse me, but it seems to me that there's enough geography already!"

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