

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The great event in musical circles this week was the performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* by local amateurs and as foreshadowed in this department last week the performance was attended with all the éclat that good, conscientious work on the part of the performers and a large and fashionable audience could give it—an audience that was most generous in its applause, and kind indeed to the little weaknesses noticeable throughout the entire production, but more particularly in the last act.

The orchestration was excellent, and was never at any time too loud, as often happens, the stage settings were good and the costuming beautiful, the dresses of the ladies being perfect dreams of harmony and beauty. The one great defect that could not be ignored by even the most lenient, was the decidedly inferior make-up of every member of the cast; it was particularly noticeable in the principals, Mr. Kelly's really excellent work being greatly marred by his make up, or rather the want of it. Miss Manning sacrificed the success of a very good part to a good personal appearance, and the result was disastrous in the extreme. Mr. Cochrane's and Mr. Seeley's good work was also spoiled by this same mistake. Mr. Kelly certainly made the hit of the evening, his excellent acting, clear, distinct articulation and his splendid voice making it a very great pleasure to listen to him. He had a true conception of his part, and the happy faculty of expressing it. He received frequent and generous applause and was obliged to respond to several encores. His triumph was shared by Mrs. Taylor, as Mabel, whose beautiful voice it is always a pleasure to hear. Mrs. Taylor made a very attractive appearance, sang delightfully and received well merited plaudits.

Mr. Seeley in the part of the Pirate King was another whose work was entirely satisfactory, his marked artistic ability, clear full tones, and refined style showing to excellent advantage.

The different choruses were very well balanced, and, barring the last two, were greatly enjoyed; the policeman's chorus was exceptionally good, Mr. Ritchie rendering his solo with something more than his usual excellence. Taken all in all the performance was a very good one: the little weak spots no doubt being remedied in the second performance on Thursday evening. Mr. Ford who has given a great deal of time and attention to rehearsals must have been justly elated with the result.

The next great musical event for local music lovers will be the coming of Mr. H. Evan Williams, well named America's greatest tenor. In this gentleman's musical ability and his splendid voice, the highest testimonials have been spontaneously offered. Madame Mordica, the famous prima donna we learn, selected him to accompany her on tour but owing to his engagement to sing in this city he was obliged to decline this tempting offer. Then we have Madame Mary Louise Clary, volunteering to St. John's musical people, her testimony to his excellence and superiority. In view of such tributes to his merit as thus indicated, leaving aside altogether the enthusiastic eucossecunias bestowed on his word at the recent manie musical festival, it must be conceded that he has a beautiful, a most musical voice and well entitled to the high position he now holds among the tenor singers of the world.

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Valuable and convincing as the tributes should be perhaps a yet more cogent proof of his merit is found in the fact that dating from the first of next year this gentleman's salary as solo tenor of the marble Collegiate Church on 5th Avenue, New York, is guaranteed at the phenomenal figure of five thousand dollars for ten months of the year. This is probably the highest salary paid to any choir singer in any part of the world at the present day.

Another circumstance in connection with the coming Williams concerts on December 1st and 2nd next and which materially adds to the interest of the occasion is the fact that Mrs. Fred G. Spencer will sing some numbers on the programme. This lady has not been heard in concert here for a long time past and as everyone who loves music has distinct recollection of her beautiful rich alto voice, she will be an absolute surprise when she is heard here again.

It is a pleasant reflection that local music lovers are enabled to hear the best singers on the continent from time to time and the credit for this is directly due to the good taste, good judgement and enterprise of Mr. Fred G. Spencer who assumes the risk of bringing here for the delectation of the citizens, such expensive talent. The advantage of listening to such accomplished singers as this gentleman has brought to St. John is of much value, and as Mr. Williams has recently been under instruction by the famous operatic tenor Jean De Reszke and Piancon, his artistic finish is yet more rounded.

Tones and Undertones.

The operetta *Les petites femmes* by Messrs Andrew and Sylvane has scored a Parisian success.

Miss Aino Akte, is the name of a new prima donna twenty years of age, tall and blonde, who has recently made a hit in Paris. She is a native of Finland. Her mother was a celebrated Swedish dramatic soprano.

Mascagni is furnished a political residence and \$15 a day by the Conservatory of Issaro. He enjoys life, is getting fat, does not any longer burn the midnight oil and is devoted to his wife and children. Sonzoyno, his publisher pays him \$200 a month as a retainer and has a monopoly of all his new operas.

Alice Estey, Bessie McDonald, Lloyd D'Aubique, G. W. Ferguson and Homer Lind are American singers who are members of the Carl Rosa English opera company.

L'Atriciaine will shortly be produced at Alexandria by an Egyptian company with an Arabic version of the libretto.

The Marine Band was to play at the Chicago Horse show but the permit was revoked because of protests to the secretary of the navy from Chicago Musicians Unions.

Madame Melba was the soloist at the first of this season's concerts New York, by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which took place at the Metropolitan Opera House on Thursday evening.

Leon Marx, an American and pupil of Joachim will appear in concert in New York early next month.

A young San Francisco lady—Miss Regina Newman—who is now studying in Berlin, has recently signed a five years contract with Pollini of the Hamburg Opera. Her voice is described as "a pure soprano of excellent power and range."

It is said that the Empress of Austria and Princess Gisela are both very fond of Hungarian music and while at Budapest recently they had a gypsy band, during dinner, play for them the Hungarian National hymn and several folksongs.

The Hungarians have an ancient wind instrument which is peculiar in many respects. It is called a Tarogata and they formerly used it instead of the clarion. Her sound produced from it is said to be rather "melancholy sweet and appealing." It has been neglected by this people for a long time.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Ethel Tucker Company will open an engagement here on Nov. 22. Miss Ethel Tucker will bring an excellent supporting company and will produce an entirely new line of plays. The specialty artists are all bright and clever, "the baby Patti" having given musical and vocal performances before Queen Victoria, the Emperor of Germany, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and other celebrated persons. Miss Tucker is a great favorite here and no doubt her coming engagement will be as successful as preceding ones have been. Miss Tucker's company is playing in Calais Me. this week.

Moving pictures of scenes at the Queen's Jubilee celebration in London, are to be shown at the Opera house here next week.

The Miles Ideal Stock Company open the new theatre in Fredericton on Monday next, with one of their fine productions of

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"Michael Strogoff." In this play the youthful and talented leading man of the company—Mr. John E. Miles—appears in the title role to much advantage and opportunity is afforded him for a short illustration of his power and skill as a swordsman. The theatre has been entirely remodelled—the stage enlarged, new dressing rooms made near the stage and new and elegant scenery provided all contributing to make this one of the neatest best equipped and most comfortable theatres in the country. The Miles Ideal Company will play an engagement of one week at this visit. Frederictonians should recognize the enterprise of the manager of this house and give the company which is one of the best on the road, bumper houses during their stay there.

George Jepson who will be favorably remembered as a member of the Opera House Stock company in this city a few years ago, is making a great success of his role in "The Little Minister" this season.

It is said that S. E. Dodson, who plays Richelieu in "Under the Red Robe" presents "one of the most remarkable" "make ups" ever seen on the stage.

In Carton's "Tree of Knowledge" played at the St. James theatre, London, the particular hit was scored by young Henry Irving. It may be mentioned that Fay Davis, Julia Nelson and George Alexander were in the cast of the piece with him.

E. H. Sothern is rehearsing the play "Henry Esmond" which has been dramatized for him.

"Captain Swift" is the bill for the current week at the Castle Square theatre, Boston. Next week "The Fatal Card" will be the bill at this popular house.

Miss Mary Hampton, the handsome Southern actress who is well known to theatre goers here, is a not unimportant member of "Under the Red Robe" company this season.

There is a rumor in the theatrical world to the effect that in all likelihood, Madame Modjeska will within the next year settle in New York as a teacher of art dramatic.

Messrs. Harrison and Maud who have just closed a very successful year as manager of the Haymarket theatre, London, celebrated the anniversary by giving "a little dinner" to Miss Winifred Emery, (Mrs. Maud.)

Next Monday evening E. S. Willard begins an engagement at the Tremont theatre Boston. His opening piece will be "The Physician," and during his season there will also present a piece called "Tom Punch" which is a dramatization of Dicken's "Martin Chuzzlewit."

A new music hall is being erected at Hastings, Eng., where the old Marine hotel stood. In this hotel it is said the Empress Eugenie and the Prince Imperial took refuge after Sedan. The new structure will be called the Royal Marine Palace of Varieties.

Maud Jeffries, the leading lady of Wilson Barrett's company, visited her mother in Tennessee recently. She will go to Australia accompanied by her mother.

"Richelieu" as a production failed in Paris recently and the reason given for the disaster is that a man was cast for the title role who was naturally better equipped to play Falstaff.

Substitution Rampant.

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It has come to our knowledge that some dealers are endeavoring to palm off on the public trashy foot remedies which they claim are "as good as" Foot Elm. The price may be a little less to you and the profits a little greater to them, but the results are always disappointing. Guaranteed foot comfort is surely worth a quarter, which is all that is asked for Foot Elm. Your feet will certainly suffer for it if you buy the other stuff. Price 25 cents at all dealers, or by mail post paid STOTT & JURY, Downmanville, Ont., Canadian Agents.

VERY STYLISH SWEATERS.

Styles Brought Over From England for the Adornment of Golf Players. The evolution of the sweater to its present form started with the bicyclists and assisted by the picturesque demagogues of golf, which has done more to make men's clothes attractive than anything else in the world since tennis made flannels and negligé shirts popular. Golf has helped the cause of picturesque dressing even more than tennis.

With the primitive sweater of football days of two decades ago the present garment has very little to do. The dark colored sweater came to this country from England five or six years ago, and for a while there was no demand for anything more elaborate. Then the sweater was a garment worn only for the roughest use, and nobody tried or wanted to make it modish. It was the bicycle that changed all that and golf did the rest.

Sweaters began to come from England made in the various browns and blacks of the golf stockings and there was a tasteful variation of the older kind, although to women as well as to men, none of the later styles have ever been so becoming as the pure white wool sweater. But the new colors were tasteful and the combinations neat and quiet; so the brown sweaters became popular. Afterward black and white plaids, dark yellow and brown squares and diamonds and other figures became popular for persons who were going to play golf and wanted to do it in a costume that were certain to attract attention.

The latest development of the sweater was sent to New York this fall from London, and already some of the kind have been seen of the links near the city. Early arrivals from Europe had them late last summer at Newport. They are finely woven in dark blue, red and gray. Scattered over them are small diamonds picked out in white. In the grey sweaters which are rather light in colour, the diamond is scarcely visible, and in all of them it is inconspicuous. Golf stockings are sold with these sweaters to match them exactly. Most of those seen are for men, and sweaters of the finer kind, such as those described here, are indeed not to be found for women. But women and the sweater were friends only in the first mad whirl of the bicycle fever. It was not long before they parted and nowadays a woman wearing a sweater is difficult to find from the Grant monument to the Coney Island cycle track. In golf the sweater has wholly disappeared among well-dressed women. But the man's sweater continues to grow more elaborate every day.

Whist in the Church.

And that's what's the matter with Emporia—too much whist. The painted china set is married to cards. Women have no higher thought from week's end to week's end than winning head prizes. They grow nervous, irascible, bad tempered, and ugly playing cards. Little crows feet appear at the corners of their eyes after an evening with whist, and deep vertical lines plough themselves just above their noses. There are more plain women in Emporia who lost their bloom at the rented card tables than there are women who have worn themselves out over the kitchen stove. It is worry, not work, that makes women fade, and cards are sapping the juice out of the town. Only the young people patronize the public library. The old folks make "What's trumps" the chief end of man. Cards have invaded the churches. One church has a big factional row blooming upon the horizon because the pastor has jumped cards. Another church narrowly avoided it last winter. A third pastor seen his best customers whooping it up in whist clubs and hasn't the nerve to say a word. In the meantime poker rooms, which are just as improving and elevating and just as helpful to the town as whist clubs, have opened on Commercial street, and the town is enjoying the fruit of the seed the women have planted.

"Hardly Worth While."

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat tells what purports to be a true story of an "Eastern woman" who used to be notorious among her friends for the long time it took her to dress. As the newspaper puts it, "There was no case on record of a guest who had been greeted under her roof with any degree of promptitude." Now she has reformed, and this is how the reform came about:

One evening, at a private entertainment of some kind, she encountered a certain bishop, an old friend of the family. "Ah, my dear Mrs. Smith," remarked the ecclesiastic. "How are you? I passed your house yesterday, and thought of dropping in to see you."

"And you didn't do it? That was very unkind of you."

"Well, no. You see, I said to myself, 'I have just one hour to call upon Mrs. Smith. She will take fifty-seven minutes to dress. That will leave just three for our talk. It is hardly worth while.'"

True Hospitality.

The Washington Post prints a "true story," told by a retired army officer. The occurrence happened in New Mexico. Colonel X. was making a long march, and the provision-wagons had gone astray. He was hot and tired and hungry, when he

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met Major B., who invited him home—presumably to some fort—to breakfast. The Major's fortunes were at a low ebb, and when the breakfast was brought on it proved to consist entirely of rice—rice cooked in the wonderful Southern fashion with every kernel perfect. The hungry guest ate a spoonful. He detests rice. Then he waited for a second course. "Have some rice, colonel," said the major, whom nothing ever disconcerts, quite as if the rice had but that moment appeared.

"No!" snapped the colonel. "I'm a Kantukian, sir, and I don't eat rice. I don't eat rice, sir. Give me something else."

"Why, certainly, colonel, certainly," said the host. "Try some of the mustard; it's very fine, sir, very fine."

Women on a Lotty Wire.

Although the cable at the new bridge, is suspended from the towers at either side of the river, is large and strong, and the concrete box and gearing which slide along under the cable are here are few men in Topeka who would care to take the risk of riding across on the aerial railway.

But there are three ladies who accomplish this feat. A Hunsecker, the engineer, who manages the engines in the little shanty up in the south tower, thought it would be a pleasant trip for his wife and two daughters to cross the river high in the air. They thought so, too, and so the box was lowered at the south side of the river, and Mrs. Emma Hunsecker and her two daughters Alice and Kate, stepped in. Foreman Gaines also got into the "car." Engineer Hunsecker pulled the throttle and the cables stretched tightly, lifting high into the air a cargo very precious to him. The cables and pulleys wound up and the car was soon swinging directly from the cable. Then the travelling cable drum was thrown into gear and the "car" containing the four people started north at a lively rate of speed. The sensation of flying through space was exhilarating, but to many would have been terrifying. But the ladies enjoyed the ride, and after riding to the north tower and returning to the south bank of the river they alighted from the concrete box much pleased with their ride and not in the least scared.

Explained.

"Charley," said young Mrs. Torkins, "I have made a discovery."

"I hope it isn't anything about athletics," replied her husband, apprehensively.

"It is, though. I know now why nature doesn't put any hair on the heads of young children. It is to keep them from becoming football players too early in life."

Misconstrued.

Cholly (with an air of adoration)—Ah, Miss Moneybags, how would you like little bull puppy?

Miss Moneybags—Oh, Cholly, this is so sudden.

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