

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The concert in the Opera House last week in which Mme. Marie Harrison made her appearance, after a period of study with Mme. Marchesi, as the public has been advised, was an occasion of much interest musically. Curiosity also and a desire to witness what improvement if any had been effected by the famous French teacher in Mrs. Harrison's voice and method entered largely into the event. At the close of the concert opinions were as varied almost as the audience, which, by the way did not crowd the houses by any means, was numerous. I do not think I perceived any phenomenal change in her voice since she was previously heard in concert here, save possibly a greater ease and flexibility, in some of the higher tones. In the lady's voice, which has a remarkable compass there are certainly some very fine tones, but the quality the register is uneven. Now whether the gain, such as it may be is not at the sacrifice of other material features is a question; because there was noticed particularly in the English encore selections, Home dearie home' and 'The Land o' the Leal' a decided nasal effect that marred the rendition and jarred disagreeably upon the nerves of those who like an English song well sung. Both these selections were sung better by Mrs. Harrison than they had been before by others in this city.

Mr. Gershon Mayes' song "Admiral Tom" is a good one and his rendition justly merited the hearty encore demanded by the audience. This gentleman, however, undertook to improve on the piece by introducing some of the words of "Rule Britannia" the air of which song was the refrain. To take a liberty of that kind does not compliment the author of the piece and, if it be intended for the benefit of future users of the song, should be copyrighted and the protection donated to the composer. Unless something of the kind is done there is the probability that some base imitator will use the idea. In the incident referred to the audience was very polite.

Arrangements in connection with the new vocal society grow apace and the first rehearsal will shortly be held, as I have learned. There has been some difficulty in securing just the right kind of a hall for the society but that difficulty has disappeared.

All musical people in this city and Halifax will have the opportunity of hearing in some of her choicest selections, Miss Mary Louise Clary, the greatest of American altos. A contralto voice is always a lovely voice, but when it is trained and developed, and strengthened so that it may express all the variations from pianissimo to fortissimo, then is the beauty enhanced to such a degree that it must be heard to be appreciated. Miss Clary's voice possesses all these qualities, and perhaps beyond all in importance, the lady always sings in tune. All who have heard this lady sing here before are eagerly anticipating a renewal of their previous delight, and no one else will intentionally lose the chance of hearing this artist at one or the other of her concerts. Next Tuesday evening will be one of the banner nights in the history of the Institute. Miss Clary will also sing in Halifax, next Thursday and Friday, and for the first time, I

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believe in the city. Halifax has a reputation as a musical city, that is well merited, and I am confident that every pleasurable anticipation aroused by the advent of Miss Clary in concert, will be more than abundantly realized. Prof. Titus of this city is managing the concerts in our sister city. Among our own music lovers, next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the Institute are eagerly awaited.

Tones and Undertones.

Walter Damrosch's season of opera to be given in Philadelphia will open on the 29th of November. "Aida" will be the bill and Madame Melba will sing the leading role.

Madame Inez Sprague of Rhode Island, is about to sail for Europe, where she will resume her musical studies for the opera.

A new private opera house is to be erected in Paris by a number of ladies of rank who are devoted to Wagner's music. Victor Maurel will be the director.

Sir Alexander A. Mackenzie is at work on some musical numbers for the dramatization of "The Little Minister."

Madame Eames, it is said will accompany the DeReszke brothers to Russia next winter to take part in a series of Wagner performances in St. Petersburg. At the close of the St. Petersburg season the company will appear in Moscow, Warsaw and other cities. It is also said that Madame Eames will sing Senta in "The Flying Dutchman." This is an addition to her Wagnerian repertoire.

Mr. W. W. Adams will direct a chorus of two hundred voices which will assist at the Sunday evening services in Music Hall, Boston, during the coming winter.

Mme Szumowski, Mr. T. Adamowski and Mr. J. Adamowski it is said, were summoned to Spala in Russia, a week or two ago to play before the Czar and Czarina.

Arthur Beresford the basso, has returned to Boston from a European trip.

A concert of British music to be given at Brussels next winter has been arranged by Yease the violinist. It will be conducted by Dr. Villiers Stanford and the soloists will be Mile Brema and Mr. Plunket Greene. The pianist will be Mr. Leonard Borwick.

Yet another "favorite pupil of Liszt" will come to this continent early next winter and be heard in orchestral concerts and recitals. His name is Siloti, and he is one of the younger school of pianists.

Miss Nellie Salome Thomas, the Boston soprano has recently returned from Europe but she has arranged to go back to London early next spring.

The much desired musical prize at Berlin and which is known as The Mendelssohn Stipendium, has been won by Miss Leonora Jackson, an American. The prize is 1500 marks. The competition aroused the keenest interest. This is the first time it has been won by a competitor of American nationality.

Albert Morris Bagby is an individual who will get as near as possible to a practical illustration of "A feast of reason and the flowing bowl" when he gives his proposed series of "morning operas" at the Waldorf in New York. They are to be followed by luncheon parties.

This week the Bostonians are giving their old and favorite opera "Robin Hood" at the Boston theatre.

The production entitled "A Wandering Minstrel" in which Van Biene the famous cellist played an important part, has been discontinued. Van Biene will tour is it said with another new piece by Frank Harvey called "A Musician's Romance" opening in Montreal this week.

"The Mouse and the Garter" is the name given by its author to a one act comic opera, which will be produced in New York the coming winter. It is by Henry Waller who wrote "Ogallallas" which the Bostonians sang some time ago.

The salaries paid in German opera houses are small compared with what is paid in the United States. In Germany the prima donna seldom gets more than \$5000 or \$6000 a year, the first tenor a little less and so on down to the chorus and orchestra who are paid \$200, \$300, \$500 a year. They are, however, assured of permanent employment and at the end of a certain number of years are entitled to pensions.

It is said that a perfect avalanche of New operas threatens Italy during the coming season.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Bennett and Moulton company have been giving a daily change of bill at the Opera house this week. Their present engagement closes to night with a production of that very laughable piece "McKenna's Flirtation."

The opening play was "Darkest Russia," a very strong piece and presented with

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much regard to beautiful scenic effect. Compared with last years company that of the present year holds no specially unfavorable position, although there is, in theatrical parlance, some dead wood in it. The piece was well staged and well costumed throughout, but in one of the acts a member of the company who impersonated the son of the Minister of Police, wore a scarlet tunic that had a very familiar and British appearance. Mr. Justin Adams, a very clever and brainy young man is at the head of this company. The excellence of the orchestra merits more than a passing word of recognition.

Next Monday evening Mr. Green's company, formerly McAuliffe and Green, will begin an engagement in the Opera House. In connection with this it is announced that Mr. E. E. Rose the play wright and Manager of the Castle Square theatre, Boston, will appear in the different plays presented during their stay here.

William Richards late of the Ethel Tucker Co., left Moncton on Thursday for Denver Colo., to join a Stock Co., in that city, where he will play the juvenile and light comedy roles.

Nat. Goodwin in "An American Citizen" closes his engagement in Boston tonight. Miss Elliotts part in this play does not amount to much nor was it intended to, because, as in the case of nearly every play expressly written for an individual, no one else can be permitted even a chance.

"The Sporting Duchess" with Rose Coghlan in the leading role is on at the Grand Opera house Boston this week.

At the Castle Square theatre Boston, for the current week, the society play entitled "A Social Highwayman" is the bill. For next week "The Amazons" will be given.

Theatrical people as well as all lovers of the old time drama everywhere, learned with much regret of the death of Joseph Proctor the actor. Mr. Proctor's death occurred last week. He was born in Marlboro Mass. May 7, 1816. His greatest and earliest success was in the title role in "Nick in the Woods." Mr. Proctor has played in this piece in Laneragan's Lyceum in this city.

Cleo de Merode, the French danseuse, has made her first appearance before a New York audience. She did not thrill the spectators 'worth a cent.' She was a frost, and yet the Parisians whose tastes would seem to be more elated than the New Yorkers are delighted with her. 'Is it possible taste is less artistic in Paris?'

Mrs. Fiekin in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" one of the few great successes of last season will begin an engagement at Tremont theatre, Boston, on 1st November next.

Augustus Thomas is the author of a new comedy to which has been given the odd title "Don't tell her husband." It was produced at the Columbia theatre, San Francisco last week for the first time and scored a success.

Madame Modjeska has begun rehearsals at Chicago for her forthcoming three weeks engagement at the Grand Opera house in that city.

Rachel Noah a former favorite in this city will play the role of Mrs. Hardcastle in a production of "She Stoops to Conquer" to be given in Boston on the 20th inst. for a charitable object.

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A ROYAL MATCH MAKER.

A Queen who has Made Many Diplomatic Matches.

Denmark is a small country, which does not have a large part in the world's affairs; but its court is an important one by reason of its marriage alliances and the personal influence of the king and queen. Whenever there is a court ball at Copenhagen, one of the liveliest dancers is King Christian IX, who is still young at heart, although close to his eightieth year.

His wife Queen Louise, is his senior by several months, and has ceased to dance in the royal quadrilles. She has been one of the most successful match-makers in Europe and still takes keen interest in this royal sport.

For her eldest son, the crown prince, the queen found a suitable partner nearly thirty years ago in Princess Lowisa, daughter of the king of Sweden and Norway. Her oldest daughter became the Princess of Wales, and her second daughter the wife of Alexander III. and mother of the present Tsar of Russia. Her second son after the election as king of Greece, married a Russian grand duchess. With one grandson on the Russian throne, and another, the Duke of York, destined to reign in England, and with two other grandsons heirs to the crowns of Denmark and Greece, Queen Louise may be described as the grandmother of four emperors and kings.

Two other marriages this adroit match-maker has arranged. Her third son, Prince Waldemar, married Princess Marie d'Orleans, daughter of the Duc de Chartre and her third daughter became the wife of the Duke of Cumberland, a great grandson of George III. of England, who might have been King of England if Queen Victoria had died in her girlhood. These were marriages which brought great fortunes into the Danish family, for the Orleans princess was an heiress, and the Duke of Cumberland was also rich. Queen Louise, having married off all her children with marked success, has begun to arrange a new series of alliances for her grandchildren. Her theory has been that the reigning house of a feeble country like Denmark can be converted into a centre of influence in Europe by discreet, but ambitious, marriages. She acted upon this principle when she advised her grandson, the Crown Prince of Greece, to marry a sister of the German Emperor.

The queen is not only a match-maker, but also a woman of great force of character and a good mind. Her influence has been felt in the family councils of royalty throughout Europe. The late Tsar and the present Emperor of Russia have attached great weight to her advice. Copenhagen has been the capital where for two generations the Russian imperial family have been frequent visitors, and where they have thrown off the cares of state. In September Queen Louise's eightieth birthday was celebrated by a reunion of her descendants and relations in Copenhagen. It was a large family party from many courts in Europe, and she received the congratulations of nearly all sovereigns on the continent.

CURES FOR INSOMNIA.

"Don't Keep Yourself Awake In Trying to Go Asleep" is One.

One of the gastronomic magazines had an article giving some comprehensive directions regarding the cure of sleeplessness. It is sensible in admitting the complexity of a case of insomnia and of the doubts often connected with its origin. A man may apply all his own knowledge and that of his medical adviser and yet be unable for a time to overcome the tendency of the mind to drift along in helpless consciousness through the long hours of the night. But there must be a cause for this perverseness and a remedy for it, though the cure may not be found without a persevering quest. The American needs a full share of sleep. He works hard with brain and nerves, and is apt to play as hard as he works. To lie in bed with the wheels of thought running on waste material is a sort of torture as well as a danger to health. Napoleon's faculty of going to sleep on the instant was one of the greatest advantages he had over the commanders on the other side.

According to the magazine authority the worst enemies of sleep are worrying, overwork, overeating, indigestible suppers, and the habitual use of stimulants and drugs. The cure includes strict attention to diet, a well ventilated sleeping room, some light exercise, like a walk, an hour after the evening meal, and freedom, of course from worry. Napoleon had as many cares and perplexities as the next man, but arbitrarily shut them off. It is not well to go to bed hungry. A cup of hot milk or a light sandwich is advised when that sensation is felt. Yet it is necessary to remember that insomnia and an overloaded stomach are closely acquainted. Stimulants and narcotics in the end are sleep destroyers. The condition they induce is not refreshing sleep. Sleeplessness is an indication of the need of sleep and must not be combated too far. People who sleep but little should not be permitted

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When the whole subject is weighed the main remedy is seen to be good habits and a tranquil mind. Some who resolve to discard worry continue the habit over insomnia. They must be philosophical over that as well as all else. 'Don't keep yourself awake in trying to sleep' is the injunction. It would be far better to revert to some mild abstraction, such for instance, as the many fine things that have been said of sleep. Think of Leigh Hunt's definition of it as the time when the mysterious spirit goes to take its airy round; of Wordsworth calling it a captive never wishing to be free; of Scott's advice to sleep in peace and wake in joy, which necessarily involves good health and a good conscience; of Bulwer's tribute to 'the happiest of earthly boons'; of Milton nodding under the timely dew of sleep, and of Emerson's thought that, 'Sleep fingers all our lifetime about our eyes, as night hovers all day in the boughs of the fir tree.' The right frame of mind and body is the cure for insomnia.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Queer Marriage Custom.

A decidedly curious marriage custom obtains in the Island of Hinna, directly opposite the Island of Rhodes. The Greeks, by whom it was peopled, subsist for the most part on the results of the sponge fishery. No girl in the island is allowed to marry until she has brought up a certain number of sponges, which must be taken from a certain depth. In some of the other Greek islands, however, this demonstration of ability is dominated by the men, and it there are several suitors for the hand of any particular maiden her father hands her over to the man who can dive best, and in consequence bring up the largest number of sponges.

He Knew the Kind of Milk.

Tom (at popular watering place)—I drank some milk last night which made me sick. I don't understand it. Milk never affected me that way before.

Dick—You are not accustomed to this water.—Up to Date.

Old Suspension Bridge.

A chain bridge over the Merrimac river at Amesbury, Mass., is said to be the oldest suspension bridge in the United States. It was built in 1792.

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