

## Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

During the present week the music has been truly of a public character and such as it was, contributed not a little to the delight of a large position of the visitors to the exhibition. The music was chiefly that supplied by our Local hands and it was public none the less that it was connected with the arrival in St. John of the most public man it may be said in Canada—Sir Wilfred Laurier—the present premier of our fair Dominion. Sir Wilfrid has recently returned from England, where as every one knows he participated in the Jubilee celebration playing no insignificant part on the occasion, and with all due regard for loyalty to local institutions, I venture the opinion that while in England Sir Wilfred, really heard better military bands than this city is able to supply. If the premier's soul is "attuned to sweet sounds" he could not help noting the presence of the military band in the depot on the day of his arrival. Other music he heard, and probably of more pleasing character, was the music of the cheers from the thousands who greeted him when he made his appearance.

A recent number of the "Church Times" gives a full description of the musical festival at Glastonbury Abbey, where attended the Archbishop of Canterbury and eighty other prelates, delegates from all parts of the world. An interesting circumstance in this connection is noted in the fact that the musical service was presided over by Dr. Percy C. Buck the organist of Bath and Wells Cathedral and who is the youngest Doctor of music recorded in Great Britain being only 24 years of age. This talented young musician is a nephew of Mr. Edward Buck now an instructor in music and chieftain of St. Andrews Church in our city.

I have heard that Mme. Marie Harrison who since she was last heard in concert in this city has studied under the famous teacher Madame Marchesi in Paris, purposes a short concert tour in the Dominion in the near future. I learn that Mrs. Harrison intends going to London at the close of her concert tour.

Many local lovers of good singing will be interested in a note elsewhere in this department regarding Mr. Tom Daniel who goes to Europe next week to study music, and who purposes remaining there for two years. Bon voyage and abundant success is hoped for him.

Already the forthcoming concerts by Madame Mary Louise Clary are being eagerly anticipated and when mention is made of them, on all sides is heard the expressed determination to attend them. Only those who have heard Miss Clary sing when here before know what a treat was lost by musical people who from one cause or another were then deprived. The dates of the concerts are the 12th and 13th of October, and they are rapidly approaching. It is useless to say anything in praise of Miss Clary's splendid voice because every one who is at all an conrart with the singing world of today knows that the claim made for her as being "the greatest alto in America" is absolutely well founded.

### Tones and Undertones.

The great music festival of the State of Maine will be observed both at Bangor and Portland, in the former city on the 14th, 15th and 16th of October next, and in Portland, Me., on the 18th, 19th and 20th of October. There will be a chorus of one thousand voices, supplemented by Seidl's New York orchestra of seventy-five pieces. Among the soloists will be Mme. Nordica, Lillian Blavolt, Antoina H. Sawyer, Evan Williams, Lillian Carlsmith, Mr. Duft and other prominent ones.

Gorton's minstrels play a two nights engagement at the Opera house this week, beginning last night. Their last performance will be given this evening.

In London Eng. a successful rival to Paderewski is announced. His name is Edward Zeldenrust as he is a Hollander.

Van Dyck, the new Belgian tenor will as at present arranged, during the season of 1898-99 be heard in the United States in "Werther," "Manon" and "Der Evangeliniani."

Mr. Tom Daniel, now of Boston, but formerly of this city, where he was well and favorably known in musical circles, sails for Europe on the 22nd inst. for two years study of vocal music. A complimentary concert was given him in the Association Hall on Thursday evening last, at which Mrs. E. Humphrey Allen, Miss Marie Kaula Stone, Mrs. Geo. J. Parker and others were heard.

It is said it is probable that Mrs. Mary Anderson Navarro may appear on the

concert stage in London, Eng. this season. The London Daily Mail is authority for the remark. Mrs. Navarro has been studying vocal music for the past two years and her voice is greatly admired by her friends.

Madame Nordica, it is now said, will sail from England for America on the 24th inst. It is quite clear therefore she will not sing at the Worcester Musical Festival this year.

The baritone part in "Israel" by Gaul, when this work is given at the Rhode Island Choir festival will be sung by Mr. Stephen Townsend. The date will be 14th October.

Valentine Abt, who is said to be America's greatest mandolin virtuoso, will make his first appearance in Boston at Association Hall on 1st Nov. He will be assisted by local vocal and instrumental talent.

Siloti the favorite pupil of Liszt and considered one of the best pianists of the present day is coming to the United States next spring, and Leo Stern the young 'cellist is also coming.

Martinus Sieveking the Dutch pianist, will return to New York about 1st November.

Madame Melba, is now at Ostend and will sing at Bergamo this month at a concert for the Don zetti Memorial functions and take part in one operatic performance. She comes to New York in November to sing with the Damroch Opera Company.

Baron Berthold's debut in London, with the Carl and Rosa Opera Company is said to have been highly successful.

Madame Eames and Mme Etalka Gerster are sojourning in the Italian Lake district, while Madame Calve is on her farm at Averyron.

It is again said that Mascagni the composer of "Cavalleria Rusticana" attempted suicide by poison at Bologna, Italy. The attempt failed but it is asserted that his mind is unbinged and he must be placed under control.

Mme Christine Nilsson, the once famous prima donna, is visiting her native land and is so fondly remembered that when seen in the exhibition at Stockholm she was almost quite mobbed. She travels as the Countess Miranda. She was serenaded one night by the students of Upsala University and in response threw open the window and, though unseen, sang for them one of the Swedish national melodies.

Jessie Bartlett Davis and W. H. McDonald of the Bostonians have the leading roles in the new opera "The Serenade" which opens their engagement at the Boston theatre next week.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The theatrical event of the week consists of the appearance in our midst of James O'Neill the tragedian known by repute to theatregoers everywhere on this continent, at all events. The celebrated play "Virginius" was the opening piece of the engagement followed by "Monte Cristo" still more celebrated even, through Mr. O'Neill's skilful impersonations. Then "The Dead Heart" and "The Courier of Lyons." These form a repertoire of unusual attraction, and the performances, so far at least as the star is concerned are of unusual merit. Virginius is a splendid play and the title role gives Mr. O'Neill abundant opportunity for good clever work and to manifest his power and his right to high rank among the foremost players of the time. The Virginia of this production was a young lady quite new to our people Miss Ashton, slight and attractive and with an excellent conception of her role. With "Monte Cristo" Mr. O'Neill's name is intimately associated and his presentation of the play was a revelation to all who witnessed it. The play has been given here before quite frequently, but O'Neill's presentation of it shows how meagre former productions were and the extent of the imitations of O'Neill made by those who essayed the role of "Dantes." The role of Mercedes in "Monte Cristo" was played by Miss Dodd, but while there is little in the part to permit advantageous work, the young lady who is of good stage presence, acquitted herself in a manner to win much favor.

In the company there are some few members who are above the average seen here for some time past and whose work was careful and consistent throughout, for instance the gentlemen to whom were entrusted the roles of Nortier, Villefort and Caderousse. The company is quite numerous but where the cast is large, as in some of these plays, doubtless are frequently necessary, and therefore the names do not always indicate the identity of the actor.

The Miles Ideal stock company will play an engagement at Eastport Me., next week opening there on Saturday evening. Since the close of their St. John engagement the company have been resting and enjoying themselves as well in the delightful climate of this city.

Mr. Frank Lee Miles who was seized

with a severe illness last week is rapidly convalescing and will shortly be able to resume work.

W. A. Whitecar and his wife, (whose stage name is Laura Almosnino) are playing as members of Lillian Lewis's company this season.

The once famous play "The Galley Slave" of which the author was the late Bartley Campbell, has been revived and is being played at the Castle Square theatre.

Miss May Nannery, who is a native of this city, and who since early childhood has been a resident of San Francisco, where as an actress she is a very particular favorite, has closed an engagement for a season of thirty two weeks, beginning at Butte, Montana.

"The Cherry Pickers" is being given at the Boston theatre, Boston, this week and is pronounced "one of the best melodramas which Boston has seen in many moons." It is full of startling features.

Fanny Davenport's new play which she will shortly produce, is still without a title and she says it will not be named until produced. The play is by an American author and there are many expressions of belief that she wrote it herself. Her ability to write a good play is conceded on all sides.

Lewis Morrison famous as Mephisto in Faust will shortly begin an engagement at the Bowdoin Square theatre, Boston, when he will appear in his play entitled "The Indian." Theatre goers in this city will remember that he produced this play in the opera house here a couple of seasons ago.

Miss Doris Huntington, a Boston society girl, is the latest aspirant for the stage and has gone to New York to interview managers. This young lady is under twenty years of age and is accompanied by her mother. Miss Huntington has played Rosalind, Parthenia and Leah already.

Nat C. Goodwin will revive "An American Citizen" for the opening of his approaching season at the Hollis street theatre, Boston. The beautiful Maxine Elliott will be his leading lady this season also.

Farce comedy continues to retain the greater part of its popularity of the past few years.

A recent Boston paper says, "Edith St. Clair as Minnie in "One Round of Pleasure" displays a pair of rounded shoulders that fairly glisten with whiteness. They are the plumpest and daintiest shoulders that Boston has seen in several seasons and they are held in place by an equally dazzling pair of white arms."

It is expected that E. S. Willard the English actor, will arrive with his company in New York today. He will have a new play which is called "The Physician" which was written by Henry Arthur Jones. He has been summing in Barnstead.

George H. Broadhurst is at work on another comedy, the scenes of which will be laid near San Diego, California. Mr. Broadhurst has written other successful plays one of them being called "What happened to Jones"

Mr. John E. Miles, the talented young actor of the Miles Ideal Stock Company has been offered by Elmer Grandin, the comedy role in his new play, if he chooses to accept it.

### WOMAN AS MOONSHINER.

Experience of a Former Revenue Officer in Tennessee.

During a session of the United States District Court at Nashville, Tenn., a professional informer approached me cautiously in the corridor of the Custom House and asked me in a stage whisper what I would pay him if he would lead me to a moonshiner still. I told him that the amount paid was from \$4 to \$12. I paid nothing for finding the still, but would employ him as 'guide' at the rate of \$4 per day, and as 'guard' at the same rate, provided the latter was necessary. He told me that when he located it he would write, and that I must be sure and meet him and follow his directions. About a month after this interview I received a letter from him telling me to come to Lawrenceburg on a certain day, and after dark to start out on the Waynesboro road. Six miles from town, at a double log house, the road forks, and I was to take a plain left-hand road follow this for four or five miles, and I would

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arrived at a house with a well on the side of the road that had a long sweep over it. After passing this about 100 yards I was to take a path leading up a hollow to the right, follow this path about a mile until I came to a cross-hollow, turn up the right-hand hollow and blow my whistle and he would meet me. No one but a revenue officer would start out at night to destroy a citizen's property, endure the hardships and fatigue, and run the risk of being ambushed and killed upon such information, especially when it was known that the author was infinitely meaner than the party to be despoiled and arrested.

In company with a deputy marshal and local revenue officer, I arrived at Lawrenceburg on time, and from inquiries learned that the section I contemplated visiting was difficult of access, owing to its rugged character. We hired horses at the livery stable and after supper sallied for h. We had but little difficulty in riding the rendezvous and our guide, though the latter was so completely disguised with lamplblack and sheepskin whiskers as to be unrecognizable to me at least. My first interrogatory was: "Who is running the still?" He declared he did not know; that he had come upon it unexpectedly while hunting, and did not dare to approach close enough to ascertain. He carried us through the woods, along what I took to be a bog trail, over an extended ridge, down into a ravine, where we found a small branch a couple of feet wide and as many inches in depth. Turning up this and following it for several hundred yards, we approached a deep cove, the adjacent hills arising probably 100 feet. Stopping us in front of a heavy undergrowth springing from the swamp formed by the branch spreading out over the bottom, he told us that it was about 100 yards beyond. We divided our forces, two of the party crossing over the swamp and going up on the opposite side, the guide and myself going up to the right. We moved as cautiously as the Indian surprising his victim, and when within twenty paces a low signal was given and we sprang forward.

It was unoccupied.

We found a furnace with a nice fifteen gallon copper on it and the dry wood piled up around ready for starting a long crane-neck connecting the copper boiler with the "worm-stand," in which was a copper worm, something unusual, as they are generally made of lead, mash tubs and barrels full of beer ready for distillation. The apparatus was under a brush arbor made by driving four posts in the ground, with forks at the top, and the whole inclosed by nailing poles to the posts. This was done to prevent stock from trespassing upon the premises. The floor was dirt. I was struck with the neatness of the place. The floor had been swept with a bundle of switches that was setting against a beer barrel. We could destroy the still at any time, and considered it of higher importance to capture those who operated it. We therefore concealed ourselves, determined to await the arrival of the operator. It was now about 3 o'clock a. m. We could hear chickens crowing on the hill above us, and, after daylight, voices, indicating that there was a settlement near us. About 7 o'clock we heard person talking and evidently approaching from above. Presently a woman about 35 years of age with an ordinary garden hoe in her hand, followed by a boy of 14 with an ax in his hand and small single-barrel shotgun, was seen approaching from the direction we judged the settlement was. We permitted them to pass unmolested. They climbed the low fence. The woman laid her bonnet on an empty box after she had set her hoe down, while the boy threw his axe over before him and set his gun down within the inclosure.

At this moment the local deputy and marshal appeared and I followed from the opposite direction. The woman never uttered a word, but regarded us for a moment with as much contempt as I felt at being placed in such a position. Finally she spied our guide standing off about twenty paces. She scanned him closely from head to foot and said: "You are the poor miserable skunk that piloted these men here." Turning to me, her eyes by this time flashing with indignation, she said: "I do not blame you'ns. You are only doing your duty, but that miserable whelp yonder [he had gone] ought to be shot. He got my whiskey as long as I would let him have it, and when I refused him he runs off and brings you'ns here." "Do you know him?" "Know him! I would recognize him if his miserable old head was off, let alone blacked and trimmed with the skin of some sheep that he stole! I asked her name, "You know my name. That white-livered scoundrel gave it to you." I assured her that he had not, but, on the contrary, told us that he was ignorant of it. "The sneaking liar! He has been here a dozen times, and owes me now \$12 for whiskey." She then gave me her name. I told her it was my duty to place her and her son under arrest and destroy

the property. At this she broke down and commenced crying. Her son walked up to where she was and tried to comfort her by assuring her that they could make a living some other way; that he would go and hire out.

I told her that I would take her personal recognizance to appear before the commissioner at some future time, when it would suit my convenience and hers, and that I would pay her if she would return to the house and prepare us breakfast and let her son feed our stock. My unexpected kindness surprised her and she commenced crying again, and started to the house on the hill. I sent one of the party with the lad to get the horses, and when they were all gone out up the copper and worm and emptied out the beer, leaving the barrels for her use about the house when we were gone. While waiting for our breakfast, I noticed a small account book on the mantel board, and curiosity prompted me to examine its contents. I found the entries made in a masculine hand and accounted for the sale of whiskey, receipts of meal &c.

When breakfast was finished and we repaired to the room where I had found the book, the only room they had except a shed affair that served the double purpose of a kitchen and a dining room, I took the book from the mantel board and asked her to explain its contents. Her statement was as follows: "My husband bought the still that you'ns have destroyed from a neighbor whose name I cannot give. He paid about half on it, when he died, leaving me with six children that you see here around me. I had helped him about the business before we moved here, and as I understood it, the gentleman as owned it and sold it to my husband 'lowed that I could continue the business and that the officers would not be likely to disturb me. I told him I had no education. He said he would help me, and he foted that book and sets down for me what whiskey he gets and what others get, and who is entitled to whiskey when a "run" is made, on account of furnishing meal. I fatten my hogs and get enough meal to make my bread out'n it, but it is not for the rascals and dead beats that get it on a credit and never pay I could do pretty well." I asked how much the guide owed her, and she said she thought it was \$12; that it was 'shot' down in the book. She was especially incensed at him because he got the whiskey, not to drink but to sell. I paid her for our breakfast and feed and left. From the account book I got all the facts necessary to discipline the neighborhood. I had the former owner, the guide, everybody who carried meal there to be made into whiskey on shares, arrested at my leisure. I used her and her son as witnesses against them. They were allowed 'mileage' and 'attendance' before the Commissioner, eighteen miles away, in each case; 'mileage' and 'attendance' before the United States Court at Nashville, amounting to over \$100. As to the case against her, she was indicted for manufacturing or working at a still house. The proof disclosed the fact that she was arrested before she had committed an avert act, and Judge Key ordered the jury to find "not guilty as to her and her son."

She is now living in Lonoke, Ark, having married a well-to-do citizen, and is doubtless making a dutiful wife.

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