



HIS LAST LETTER

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

With the exception of Miss Helen Furlong's concert at the Mechanics Institute on Thursday evening, and which I regret is given too late in the week for more particular notice, there is little or nothing of interest in musical circles this week that calls for observation.

Miss Furlong's concert I assume will be a success in every regard, because the greater part, I might even say all, of the talent contributing to the programme has been heard here on other occasions with the greatest pleasure. The recent "Mikado" concerts were the medium by which Mrs. Taylor was introduced to our music lovers and her sweet singing on these occasions only intensified the desire to hear her again. The fates have been kind somewhat earlier than anticipated, because this lady will have appeared in the programme of Thursday's concert. The other voices too were heard to advantage in the Parada as well as in the Mikado. I have no doubt their best effort will be made on the occasion of the debut of the young violinist.

The number of our professional musicians I observe, has been increased, by the recent arrival in our midst of Mr. Edgar Buck, of London, England, who is a musician of much ability, and who intends to locate in this city, I am informed. Mr. Buck is a pupil of the famous Manuel Garcia, and is a basso cantante. He purposes teaching here and his record as a voice trainer and conductor is quite marked having among other works, of like character, conducted the great chorus which sang on Parliament Hill, Ottawa on the memorable 22 June last. No doubt many of our aspiring vocalists will be glad to avail themselves of Mr. Buck's presence in our midst and benefit as well by his skilful teaching.

Tones and Undertones.

The latest reports from Madame Nordica are to the effect that she is rapidly convalescing.

Mlle. Chaminade is reported to be delicate in health and not coming to this continent as had been expected. The rigors and fatigues of a tour on the United States are considered to be more than she could endure.

Ysaie the violinist, will begin his tour of

the United States under his contract with R. M. Johnson for one hundred concerts, next November in New York at the first Philharmonic concert there. His brother Theo. Ysaie, who is a pianist, will accompany him. The consideration for these one hundred concerts is said to be the trifling (?) sum of \$50,000. There is wealth in catgut.

For the next Wagner festival at Bayreuth there have been seven thousand tickets sold in London and the list is closed.

Sir. Arthur Sullivan is said to have received £10,000 for his celebrated song "The Lost Chord," thus indicating the value of music that is popular in England.

Miss Della Rogers is a young United States lady, who recently sang the role of Leonore in "La Traviata," and received much praise for her work in this character as well as on other occasions. A writer speaking of her voice says, "Her voice carries caresses, sighs, complaints, which come from the temperament and go straight to the heart of the audience."

After the present season Madame Emma Eames will, in addition to Elsa in "Lohengrin" sing in the German language her Wagnerian repertory, comprising the parts of Eva, Elizabeth and Sieglinde.

The Royal Opera in Berlin has 33 solo singers. It is said that this opera and the operetta theatres in Berlin give employ to 443 male and 383 female singers.

An edition of the complete works of Liszt is projected by the Association of German musicians. Liszt's name has been placed to many "arrangements" that are not his.

In England it is said there is a law which prohibits the bringing of biblical characters upon the stage, and for that reason Saint Saens "Samson and Delilah" cannot be given in London.

It appears that London audiences have not been very enthusiastic over Richard Strauss new symphonic poem "Thus Spake Zarathustra."

Madame Calve was in Paris last week and went over, along with Massene, the music of his new opera "Sapho" in which she is to create the principal role next October at the opera Comique. She will spend the summer at Carlsbad.

For the copyright of "I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls" Balfe is credited with having received £8000; for "When other lips" £8000; and for "The Heart bowed down" the sum of £5000.

Rosenthal the famous pianist, whose illness prevented his proposed tour of the

United States, emphatically denies the story of his marriage and says "it was the product of the mind of a demented Californian reporter." He will "return to his first love—the piano."

The copyright of Michael Watson's song "Anchored" was recently sold at auction and brought £1212,15s.

Mlle. Marie Barna has been engaged by Damrosch for next season to sing the roles of Elsa, Elizabeth, Valentino, Santazza, Brunhilde, in "Siegfried" and Aida Mille Barna is a Californian by birth.

In addition to the visit which Madame Marchesi is to make in New York the coming autumn, it is now said she will visit and give singing lessons in other cities. These other cities will be visited "at the risk of a speculator."

There is a story to the effect that when Rossini was in London in 1823-4 he was worried by a nobleman who wanted singing lessons. In order to stop the annoyance he asked the prohibitive figure of one hundred guineas a lesson. To the great surprise of Rossini the offer was accepted.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Miles Ideal Stock Company during this the second and last week of their engagements here, have but intensified the favorable impression they produced on the occasion of their opening performance. Their business has been very good throughout the season and the patronage bestowed on them has certainly been merited for the reason that their every performance has been characterized by an earnest desire to give the very best in their power, not alone in the work of each member of the Company, but in the quality and variety of the several plays they have presented. However creditable all their work has been, perhaps the strongest and best is done in "Damon and Pythias" which was given last week and which was received with enthusiasm and an unanimous expression of the very warmest commendation. The title roles were in the hands of Mr. John E. Miles and Mr. W. J. Butler, a member of the company who has appeared in several other advantageous roles. This play was again given on Thursday afternoon during the stay of the visiting Knights of Pythias. Another of the strong bills of the company "A Fair Rebel" in which Mr. John E. Miles acquitted himself in an admirable manner as Colonel Mason, was given last Monday evening for the first time, and to large business despite the opposition of the circus attraction. The play was then given its first production in

this city and develops an interesting story of love triumphing over the obstacle of sectional hostility. Miss June Swift played the role of the "fair rebel" in a very satisfactory manner, taking her performance in its entirety. This young lady as Calanthe in Damon and Pythias also gave an excellent performance. Mr. Tavernier merits more than passing remark for his good work in the role of Major Stillman as does Miss Essington in the part of Aunt Margie. Mr. Tavernier in fact is most reliable in his every role. The stage management of the company too is evidently in good hands because the settings are well conceived and admirable attention, generally speaking, paid to detail. The specialties of Jack Tucker and the charming and vivacious little soubrette, Miss Eva Williams, who can play a part in a thoroughly satisfying manner have made them both particular favorites. I almost omitted mention which is justly due to Miss Emma Lathrop for her clever character work in the role of Mrs. Wood in "A Fair Rebel". The company give their farewell performance tonight. A matinee as usual being given this afternoon.

"Sans-Gene" as presented by Sir Henry Irving has become the success of the London season—Ellen Terry's interpretation of the title role is a triumph for her because the critics who were somewhat hostile at first now say it is one of the best things she has ever done and all in all, one of the most beautiful performances ever seen in London.

Arthur Forrest has been engaged as leading man for Richard Mansfield for next season. He has filled this same position in a former season. Mr. Forrest will be remembered by theatre goers as a member of Harkins Company of a few summers ago.

Clarence Handysides is a member of Nat C. Goodwin's Company for next season as is Clarence Montaine who some years ago was with "Bradley's players" in the institute. The beautiful Maxine Elliott will again be the leading lady of this Company.

Loie Fuller, or "La Loie" as the Parisians call her, intends to appear again in London, when she will give her audiences something that is said to be startling.

"Blue Jeans" the buzz saw play, will be renewed next season, with Nettie Bourne in the role which Jennie Yeamans used to play.

Alan Dale the well known dramatic critic has recently been complimenting Julia Arthur upon whom great expectations are being built, as she intends to "star" in the United States next season.

Miss Arthur has enjoyed the distinction of being a member of Sir Henry Irving's company in London, for the past few years. She is now on her way to America. Her play is Mrs. Burnetts "A Lady of Quality."

The Empire theatre in New York will open on 4th September next with "Under the Red Robe." All the other New York theatres will open early.

"Les deux Gosses" (The Two Little Vagabonds) is still running at the theatre Ambigu, in Paris, where it was produced February 1896.

Sir. Henry Irving and Ellen Terry will not make a tour of the English provinces this season.

Malcolm Bradley, one of the favorite members of the Harkins company for the past two or three seasons, is engaged next season to play the role of Fouché in "Madame Sans-Gene" with Katherine Kidder in the title role.

"The Swell Miss Fitzswell" is the title of a piece in which May Irwin will play a legitimate comedy role next season. Miss Irwin will play the role of a modiste.

"I," said the pompous actor, "was once where the shells fell so thick and fast that to escape them was impossible." "And you are alive to tell it?" "O, yes. The shells were loaded with eggs."—Detroit Free Press.

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