

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

In my reference last week to the productions of "The Mikado," as given by the amateurs, I quite accidentally omitted to refer to the creditable work of the orchestra, and as I had purposed, in an especial manner, to the valuable support given to the chorus by Miss Dora Armstrong who was the pianiste on the occasions. Having discovered the omission I hasten to make the necessary compensation.

Church concerts are not a little in vogue just now, but in the musical line nearly everything yields to the preparations for the coming jubilee celebration. A concert was given in the Carleton Methodist church the other evening, which gave me opportunity of hearing some voices heard before, as well as voices new to me, but whose possessors are aspirants for musical distinction. One young lady sang Shelly's "Abide with me", and her rendition was fairly good, but in her studies in future it would be well to devote a little more attention to the matter of articulation. There is no doubt whatever, no matter how good the quality of the voice may be, an imperfect and indistinct articulation distracts materially from the merit of the performance, and causes also a distinct sense of disappointment to the auditor. "Jerusalem" was the piece selected by a lady whose voice was never too frequently heard in concert prior to her marriage and I fail to see that it is not fully as good as ever it was. The selection was a good one but it seemed to me the interpretation was not quite so good as it might have been had more thought been bestowed upon it. The whole programme was the work of amateurs and gave such delight to those present that other similar pleasant entertainments might well be justified.

Sousa's Band has been heard here again and has not altered the favorable impression previously created. Mrs. Northrup, the soprano, is not a phenomenal singer by any means, but she has a true voice though light in quality, and Miss Johnston the violinist, is all that has been claimed for her. The business done here was very meagre.

Tones and Undertones.

Madame Calve will sing at Covent Garden, London, England, on the 23rd inst. which will be the gala day of "the jubilee." Late in August next the Bostonians begin a three weeks engagement at Manhattan Beach.

Mlle. Olitza the Polish contralto has been engaged for the Carl Rosa Opera Company at Covent Garden for next Autumn.

This evening as announced Col. Mapleson the impressario, opens a season of grand opera at the Drury Lane theatre London. Among his principal singers are Mazzini, the tenor, and Mesdames Melba and Nordica.

Col. Mapleson and the tenor Mazzini quarrelled some time ago because the former insulted the tenor by offering him £350 per night for singing. They are friends again. There are not a few excellent tenors in the world now who would not take much offence on receiving a like insult.

Mascagni and Leoncavallo are both in London now arranging for the production of her new opera.

Mme. Sembrich will undertake an operatic concert tour in the United States this year. It will begin next October at New York.

When but fifteen years of age Conductor Schultz of the Music Hall (Boston) concert orchestra, was invited to play before the Royal family in Berlin.

Marie Dumas, formerly Mrs. Maud Starkweather of Boston, Mass. has been engaged as prima donna soprano by Carl Rosa for his opera season at Covent garden, London. She is a pronounced favorite in England.

Clara Lane and J. K. Murray of the Castle Square theatre opera company which has lately been singing in Brooklyn, are receiving unstinted praise for their excellent work. The company has gone to St. Louis.

The comic opera "The Walking Delegate" now on at the Tremont theatre, Boston, has made the biggest kind of a hit. The scenes are all laid in Corea among a population of Chinese, Japanese and Americans. There is said to be a great deal of fun and laughter in the piece. The composer is Lucius Hosmer and the librettist is Charles Emerson Cook.

It is altogether probable that Victor Maurel will return to the United States next autumn and give a series of recitals.

Sousa's Band with Mrs. Northrup,

and Miss Martina Johnston, violinist, give a concert in the Boston theatre tomorrow evening.

Leoncavallo's opera "La Boheme" is said to be, in its entirety, much stronger dramatically than musically. It is an important work nevertheless.

De Wolf Hopper with "El Capitan" is giving performances in the west.

Mrs. George Holman, well known as the "Mother of Opera", died recently aged seventy five years. She it was who established the Holman Opera company in Canada during the war.

DeKoven and Smith's new opera which is named "The Highwayman" will be produced next season at the Broadway theatre New York.

"Don Quixote" a new opera by William Kiensi will be one of the first novelties of the coming season in Berlin, it having been accepted by the Royal Opera house in that city.

DeWolf Hopper with "El Capitan" will begin a four weeks engagement at Manhattan Beach on the 26th. inst.

Miss Dorothy Morton has been engaged as prima donna of William Perry's opera bouffe company which will open in "Little Faust" at Manhattan Beach following the Hopper engagement. It is said Miss Morton will go to England in the autumn.

At the theatre Italien in St. Petersburg, a new opera entitled "Leonore", was recently performed with much success. The author is a Mons. Jules Kapry, a French composer who is living in St. Petersburg.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Thomas E. Shea closes his season at the opera house this evening with a production of the "Snares of New York." His business during his engagement here has been quite large and his audiences have evidently been delighted.

On Monday evening next Miss Ethel Tucker, will begin an engagement at the opera house in which she will be supported by Mr. H. P. Meldon and his company. I hear the company will again include John E. Brennan the comedian and that the soubrette is Miss Bella Vivian who is one of the daintiest of that order of talent. There is said to be other excellent singing, and dancing and speciality talent in this year's company. A number of strong melo-dramas are produced during the engagement and with the addition of the illustrations given by the cinephotograph at each performance there is little doubt but that every taste will be gratified and good business attend Miss Tucker and the company throughout their season.

Miss Percy Haswell who has been a member of Augustin Daly's company (N. Y.) for the past few years, will be a member of W. H. Crane's (The Senator) company next season. Miss Haswell is a particular favorite with theatre goers in this city. She was leading lady in the Lansdowne theatre company here.

Miss Miriam Clements who is now playing at the Garrick theatre, London, in "My friend the Prince," will make a tour of the United States next autumn.

Charles Frohman has secured the American rights to a new play by E. E. Rose, which is a dramatization of Anthony Hope's novel "The Heart of Princess Osra."

"An Irish Gentleman" is the title of another new play now in rehearsal for an early production at the Globe theatre.

On Monday next 14th inst. a statue of Mrs. Siddons, the famous actress, will be unveiled at Paddington by Sir Henry Irving.

Emily Bancker an English actress, died in the Albany (N. Y.) hospital of peritonitis on the 4th. inst. She first came to the United States in one of the companies brought over by the late Rosina Vokes. In private life Miss Bancker was the wife of W. H. Ryley who acted with her. She was about 35 years of age and possessed much beauty.

It is announced that Frederick De Belleville will be leading man in Minnie Madern Fiske's company next season.

The Metropolitan magazine for June has in its pages a picture of W. S. Harkins as Henri in "Under the Red Robe" and Ida Conquest, one of the pretty girls of the stage who was playing in the scene with him. The picture represents them as lovers.

Lorimer Stoddard's play "the Daughters of New York" will in all likelihood be done by the Frawley Company in San Francisco this season; Blanche Bates, who is leading lady of the company, will play

the title role in "Sue." Frawley intends to bring his company to visit and give performances in several of the principal Eastern cities.

A new play entitled "A Man's shadow" written by Robert Buchanan, was given a performance in London Eng. on Monday last.

Augustin Daly proposes with his English Company this season, giving an open air performance of "As you like it" at Stratford-on-Avon, in aid of the local Shakespeare memorial. The date for the performance is 28th August next.

Paris is to have a new theatre shortly to be called the "Feminine theatre." In this house will be produced principally plays about women's rights and works written by women. Lectures and musicales by women will also be given.

At the close of her London engagement Sarah Bernhardt will produce in Paris a new piece entitled "Beaute Imperieuse." It is an adaptation from the novel of Rosay Freres and is a story of social question.

"The Wandering Minstrel" which is Clay Green's new play will be produced in Boston, next September by Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger.

Rose Coghlan will star next season in "The sporting Duchess." Her brother, Charles Coghlan is now sojourning in Prince Edward Island.

Herbert Kelley, Edie Shannon and William J. Lemoine will appear as joint stars next season in Madeline Ryley's play, "A Coat of many colors."

Fanny Davenport and her husband Melbourne MacDowell are quietly enjoying their summer home at Duxbury, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Price Webber (Edwina Grey) and company have recently been playing to excellent business at Waterloo, Quebec province.

Madame Duse made her Parisian debut last week in "Camille."

"Caste" is being given this week by the Castle Square comedy company, Boston.

Miss Ida Conquest of the Empire theatre company New York, is visiting her friend Mrs. J. H. Sutherland 295 Commonwealth avenue Boston.

TAILTWISTING ON THE ORINOCO.

Cowboys in Venezuela who Have no Need of Using the Lasso.

On the upper waters of the Orinoco River in Venezuela is a region of high, open plains called llanos, where wild cattle graze in countless thousands, said Sidney Ascot, recently arrived in New York from South America. "Many of these cattle have no owner, but, for the most part, they bear one or another man's brand, President Crespo being the largest individual owner. The vaqueros that herd them have ways different from any other cowboys that I have seen in North or South America. The Venezuela vaquero carries no lasso, and his saddle has no horn in front such as the Mexican, the Texan, and the Gaucho saddle serves as a belaying pin for the lasso after the noose has been thrown about a creature's neck or legs. In other respects he is a regulation South American cowboy, with jacket, wide-brimmed hat, slashed trousers, and a knife handy to get at. His horse is a wiry, nervous pony, more docile of temper than bronchos in general, and he rides him well. Slung from his saddle or tied about his own body are several strong thongs of rope or leather, used in tying cattle, and sometimes a rope with which to picket his

horse out to graze, though oftener the horse is merely hobbled by tying together his fore legs.

When the Venezuelan cowboy wishes to catch a bull or cow for branding, or for any purpose, he rides alongside it and, with horse and cattle on the dead-run, stoops from his saddle, grasps the creature's tail, and, with a sharp, peculiar twist, sends the animal rolling on its back. From the force with which it falls, the creature's horns almost invariably pin its head to the ground, giving the vaquero time to dismount and sit on its head, holding the animal helpless to rise, while a companion ties its legs. The cattle of the llanos are large and active, with sharp, widespread horns. A mounted man they fear, but a man on foot on a plain where they are in great danger from them. They do not attack him, but, moved by curiosity, they crowd him until he is trampled to death.

It is an exciting scene, the driving of the cattle selected for export aboard the steamers that come up the Orinoco for them. The water of this river deepens rapidly from the shore so that the boats can lie close to the bank. A chute is rigged from the bank to the boat, with lances on the shore converging to it in a V shape. The vaqueros hold the cattle together, and drive them on toward the chute. If one of the animals can be driven upon the chute the others press after, crowding one another along into the cattle quarters until the boat's load is made up. Ellis Grell, the cattle king of Venezuela, has a trained ox that is of great service in helping to get wild cattle aboard the boats. He is already within the fences when the herd is driven in, and he leads the way through the chute, the other cattle following. He passes through the cattle quarters out upon the afterdeck by a passage which is immediately closed behind him, while the others continued to file into the hold until it is filled.

During the rainy season many cattle are drowned by sudden rises in the river. In the great inundation of October, 1892, when the Orinoco waters rose ninety-two feet—the highest rise recorded since the seventeenth century—so many cattle were drowned that their floating bodies stopped navigation on the river, the upward bound steamer having to lay up at Bolivar until the carcasses had drifted past. The appearance of the drowned cattle he encountered in parts of the river as that of vast herds swimming with the current. For weeks the air was noisome with the stench of dead cattle caught among the trees of the overflowed banks. Turtles, alligators, garfish gorged upon the carcasses, and vast numbers of vultures and buzzards came into the valley. What the birds and reptiles left the ants made way with on the subsidence of the waters.

The ranchmen of the upper Orinoco are the best fighting men in Venezuela, and in the revolutions so frequent in that country the side they take up arms for is almost surely a winner. Living in a region where horses and cattle are plentiful and low in value, they have primitive and hospitable customs. Let a traveller arrive hungry at a ranch, and if meat is not already in the house a vaquero is sent out to knock an ox in the head. The animal's hide is taken off, a few choice cuts of meat taken, and the remainder of the carcass is left for the vultures. Equally primitive, and illustrative of the spirit of comity among the rancheros, their is method of travelling horseback between Bolivar and Caracas. The old Spanish road, a fairly well-constructed highway, connects the two cities. The ranchero, starting for instance, from Bolivar, with one horse, rides the animal until it is tired out, then catches another horse from the herds that feed along the roadside and turns his own loose to find its way back home. The same is done with a third horse when the second has been tired down, and this thing is repeated throughout the journey, each horse turned loose finding its way back to its own range in the course of a few days. The journey of 400 miles is thus quickly made, with the advantage to the traveller of fresh remounts as often as he may wish.

FOREST GIANTS.

Stately Grandeur of Some of California's Big Trees.

In the national park and forest reserves of California the big trees are by far the most interesting and greatest natural features. There are two varieties, namely, Sequoia sempervirens, ordinarily known as the 'redwood,' the tree which has furnished most of the redwood lumber of commerce, and Sequoia gigantea, from which a comparatively small amount of similar lumber has also been made. The former is the smaller variety, and grows on the foothills along the coast; the latter attains a considerable larger growth, is, more strictly speaking, the 'big tree' of California, and is seldom found at a lower altitude than 5,000 feet.

Scattered along the extent of the Sierra Nevada from north to south are many distinct and separate groups or groves of Sequoia gigantea. These are generally known by significant of locality, as, for instance, 'calaveras,' 'Tuolumme,' 'Mariposa,' and 'Fresno,' names of the counties in which the groves so called are situated. The Tuolumme Grove is in the Yosemite Park, and the Mariposa near by. This lat-

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ter is the one most frequently visited by tourists, and contains the 'Wawona'—a tree with a bole burnt in his base, through which the stage road runs and four-horse stages are driven without difficulty—and the 'Grizzly Giant,' one of the largest trees in the world.

The stately grandeur of these enormous and lofty trees is so impressive it seems quite fit and natural that some of the larger ones should have been individualized and honored with distinguished titles. Nearly every state in the Union and every distinguished general of the civil war has a namesake among them. The "General Grant", in the General Grant Park, and the "General Sheridan," of the Giant Forest (situated in the Sequoia Park,) are individuals of the largest size. It is difficult to determine just which of the big trees is the largest, but these two and the "Grizzly Giant"—the gnarly base of any one of which will exceed thirty feet in diameter—are probably the biggest trees yet discovered.

The trees often grow in such inaccessible mountain retreats that some of the territory covered by them has never yet been thoroughly and systematically explored. Outside the lands reserved by the government, the California lumber company owns several thousand acres of these trees—enough to last forty years, cutting many millions of feet per day.—Harper's Weekly.

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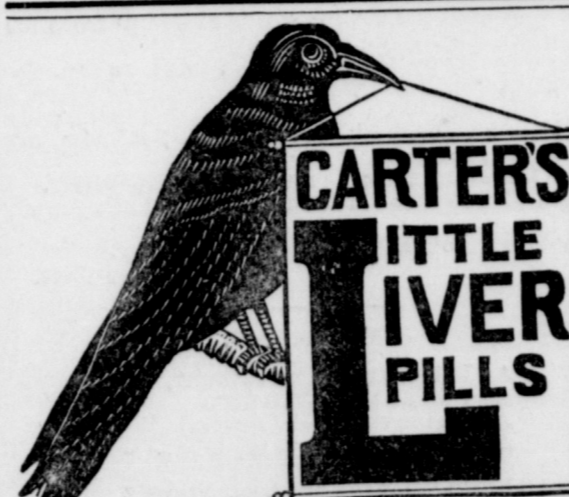
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