

**Music and
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

In this department last week it was only permitted to refer to the programme of the first concert at which the great tenor singer Mr. H. Evans Williams appeared in this city. To say that the second concert was equal to the first would but faintly express it. There was at first, in one of the encore pieces, just the slightest variation from tune which is explained satisfactorily in the fact that the singer had contracted a cold the previous day, but throughout the other numbers he rose in his splendid efforts superior to physical ailment and his grand voice rang again through the hall compelling the most strained, wrapt and intense attention of the large audience. The great singer capped fittingly his efforts with the grand aria "Lend me Your Aid," from The Queen of Sheba. Nothing so grand so powerful, so dramatic, so glorious was ever heard in St. John. It will never be forgotten by any one who had the pleasure of listening to it. It was simply a triumphant effort and most suitable close to one of the greatest musical events of the year.

Mrs. Spencer too, labored under the difficulty of a severe cold, but she sang most sweetly, and she won additional honors in her home city as one of its best vocalists.

Now that the Williams concerts are numbered with the past events it is but a mere tribute of justice to remark that the music lovers of this city are not a little indebted to Mr. F. G. Spencer who was directly instrumental in bringing here Miss Mary Louise Clary, America's greatest alto and H. Evans Williams, equally well named America's greatest tenor.

To Mr. Spencer's musical taste and to his courage and enterprise is due the opportunity to hear these great singers. No one else offered to undertake the risk, no one else would undertake it. Mr. Spencer then deserves the greatest credit and it is pleasant to know that he has sustained no financial loss. From the experience the public has already had of Mr. Spencer's selections, it may, and will be confidently relied upon that whenever the young managers name appears again in this field, that same public will be assured that what will be offered will be of undoubted good quality.

Tones and Undertones.

Mascagni is completing a new opera on a Japanese subject. He has called the work "Iris."

Miss Marie Engel, the American prima donna, will return to the United States in February next and appear in concert.

The first concert of the Apollo Club for this season was given in Music Hall, Boston, on Wednesday evening of last week. The soloist was Pol. Plancon, the celebrated basso. The next concert will be given on January 2nd when David Bispham the baritone will be the soloist.

It will directly interest St. John readers of this column, to learn that Miss Nita Carritte is to sing in New York a role "Clarchen" in an English adaptation of a little one act German play "Adelaide" which deals with a romantic episode in Beethoven's career. The production will form one of Mr. Bagby's musicals at the Astoria. Miss Carritte made her debut at Covent Garden, London, under Sir Augustus Harris, and later was prima donna of the Carl Rosa opera company. When the late Henry E. Abbey and Maurice Grau were planning a season of English opera at the Knickerbocker theatre Miss Carritte was engaged as one of the leading members of the company. The firm failed and the scheme fell through. David Bispham is the adapter of "Adelaide."

The American theatre in New York will be reopened on Christmas Day with a revival of 'The Queen's Handkerchief.' It is proposed to have a permanent organization to give English opera at a price from twenty five cents, to seventy five cents, all with adequate orchestra, large and selected chorus, talented principals and all science and costume effects.

W. A. Corey, manager of the famous Seventh Regiment Band is already planning to take the Band to Paris in the year 1900.

Miss Marie Barna of San Francisco made her American debut at the academy of music in Philadelphia last Monday evening at Brumhilde in 'Siegfried.' Miss Barna has been engaged by Messrs Damroch and Ellis as leading prima donna for Wagnerian roles. She will appear as Elsa in 'Lehngren,' Sieglinde in 'Gottterdammerung,' Valentine in the 'Huguenot' and Aida in addition to Brumhilde.

"In a Persian Garden" the words of which are from the "Rubiyat" and the music by Liz Lehmann of London, was

recently given before the Harvard Musical Association. The talent employed in the production or some of it at least is well known and favorably so in St. John. They were Mrs. E. Humphrey Allen, Mrs. Ella Cleveland Fenderson, Mr. George J. Parker and Mr. Ivan Morawaki.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cary Lord has been engaged by the Montreal Philharmonic Society to sing in "The Messiah" in that city on the 23rd inst.

Miss Minnie Hunt the prima donna of the London Gaiety theatre company now in Boston, received her stage training in the famous Carl Rosa opera company. The company will leave for England early in the new year to present a new burlesque at the home theatre.

Miss Gertrude May Stein, the Boston contralto has signed a three years contract to sing leading roles in the Opera House in Mannheim Germany.

Madame Sialchi, the prima donna, is reported as doing an immense business in her tour of Texas.

It is said that negotiations are pending for an early New York appearance of Camille D'Arville the prima donna, in "Peg Woffington."

Miss Josephine Hall the comic opera singer, is reported to have received an offer Charles Frohman to originate in the United States, the role in "Oh! Susannah" created in London by Miss Louie Frear.

The Handel and Hayden society of Boston, under the direction of Carl Zerkau has announced the season's schedule. It is as follows:

Sunday and Monday evenings, Dec 19 and 20, 'The Messiah,' soloists, Mrs. George Henschel, soprano; Mrs. Anna Taylor Jones, contralto; Mr. H. Evan Williams, tenor; Mr. E. Leon Rains, bass.

Monday evening, Feb. 7, 'Arminius,' soloists, Miss Gertrude May Stein, contralto; Mr. H. Evan Williams, tenor, and bass to be announced.

Easter Sunday evening, April 10, 'The Redemption,' soloists, Mrs. Johanna Galski, soprano; Mr. Ffrangcon Davies, bass, and other soloists to be announced.

One hundred fresh young voices have been added to the chorus this season and the artists have been especially engaged with the idea of equal merit of all.

Season ticket holders of last year will find their old seats reserved for them at Music Hall on Monday, Dec. 6, until 9 o'clock p. m. There will be three grades of prices, according to location. For the general public, season tickets may be obtained on and after Thursday, Dec. 9. The season tickets include one performance of 'The Messiah,' and carry the right of renewal for another season. The sale of single tickets for 'The Messiah' performances will open on Monday, Dec. 13.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The return engagement of Miss Ethel Tucker and Miss Lillian Tucker opened at the opera house to a large audience on Monday evening last in a production of "Held by the Enemy." The play was well put on and gave general satisfaction. Miss Ethel Tucker's cleverness, stage knowledge ability and general talent as an actress is conceded by every one who makes any pretensions to knowledge of theatrical matters; but it every other member of the company were equally skillful it would not compensate a St. John audience for "incapable specialists." The manager was unfortunate enough to engage a speciality team—Poe and Hayden—to appear with the company during the engagement in this city. They met the company here on Monday and appeared last Monday evening. They have not been permitted to appear since.

"Held by the Enemy," is a beautiful play that brings vividly before an audience the trouble between the North and South; the scenes are all intense, the dialogue beautiful, and the climaxes exciting. Mr. Will Richards, as Colonel Prescott was seen to excellent advantage, and his work throughout was strong and well conceived. Mr. Cecil Owen, who has before been favorably mentioned in this department, gave a thoroughly finished and artistic interpretation of the role of Surgeon Fielding. This gentleman, I believe, played in the original production of the piece in Australia. The company have done a good business here and gave very general satisfaction.

Miss Ethel Tucker and the company begin an engagement in Halifax at the Academy on Monday evening next. The Haligonians will also acknowledge this lady's cleverness. Miss Horne who has been ill is now convalescent, and will be able to play next week.

A new four act company by Pinero entitled 'Trelawney of the Wells' which is about to be produced at the Court theatre London, will be seen under the name

FACE HUMORS

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'Rose (Trelawney)' at the Empire theatre, New York this season.

The Empire theatre stock company in New York will open their regular season on Jan. 3rd. with a production of Paul Pottery's play entitled 'The Conquerors.' The period is that of the French-German war 1870-71 and the scenes are laid around a French chateau. Mrs. Jack Bloodgood will make her professional debut on the occasion, and have an important role.

John Drew will later be seen in New York at Wallack's theatre in a new comedy by H. V. Esmond, entitled 'Oas summers day.'

Rose Eytinge has been engaged for the Murray Hill N. Y. theatre stock company and will make her first appearance in a special production of 'Ros Michael.' Wallace Hopper well known in this city, is a member of a stock company in Denver, Colorado, of which H. Percy Maldoz, also well known here, is the manager.

Margaret Mather is said to have expended \$40,000 in her production of 'Cymbeline' which she is presenting in the Boston theatre this week.

The Empire theatre (N. Y.) Stock Company closed a very successful Boston engagement last Saturday night during which they presented "Under the Red Robe." The closing performance was a memorable one.

Julia Marlowe is shortly to appear in another male role—Nero in the days when he was a lad.

A dramatization of "Beyond the Bonnie Brier Bush" with J. H. Stoddard in the leading role will shortly be produced.

"Tribly" is the bill at the Castle Square theatre Boston, this week. "A Celebrated Case" will be the bill next week.

Fanny Davenport will end her tour in "The Saint and the Fool" in Providence, R. I., tonight and will rest during the holidays. She will resume in January and will revive her repertoire presenting "Cleopatra," "Fedora" and "La Tosca."

E. S. Willard is presenting "Tom Pinch" again this week in Boston. The public did not like his "David Garrick" not because he was inartistic but because he did not suit the part. Over 15,000 people saw his previous production of "Tom Pinch."

The date of Sir. Henry Irving's production in London of "Peter the Great" is fixed for the 18th, inst. The play was written by Laurence Irving son of the tragedian.

Nat Goodwin's New York engagement in "An American Citizen" which is now in its second month, has been extended to the middle of January next. He is contemplating an early production of Clyde Fitch's drama based upon the life of Nathan Hale.

"The Rogue's Comedy" is said to be the only play in Mr. Willard's repertoire which employs the full strength of his company. He will revive the piece during his last week in Boston.

The famous Olympic theatre in New Orleans was totally destroyed by fire last week.

Miss Lettice Fairfax is the name of a handsome young lady who is the latest addition to Augustin Daly's forces. Miss Fairfax will make her American debut in the principal female role in a piece entitled "Number Nine; or The Lady of Ostend." Another American debutante Miss Irene Perry will be seen at Daly's theatre in this piece.

Miss Besie Tryce who has been seriously ill is now convalescing and will shortly resume her place in the cast of "The Princess and the Butterfly."

Put to Many Uses.

Sharks furnish a number of valuable products. The liver of the shark contains an oil that possesses medicinal qualities equal to those of cod-liver oil. The skin after being dried takes the polish and hardness of mother-of-pearl. The fins are always highly prized by the Chinese, who pickle them and serve them at dinner as

the most delicate dish. The Europeans who do not appreciate the fins as a food convert them into a fish-glue. As for the flesh of the shark—that, despite its oily taste, is eaten in certain countries. The Icelanders, who do a large business in sharks' oil, send out annually a fleet of a hundred vessels for the capture of the great fish.

WHY MEN AND WOMEN MARRY.

The Frenzy of Love Does not Make the Most Matches.

To say why people marry would be as difficult as to say why they travel, or love life, or weary of it, or esteem their neighbors, or despise the human race. But, underlying all differences of decision or action, there is nevertheless a certain uniformity in human habits and motives. Let our reasons for wedlock seem as diverse as they may, let us think we marry for ambition, or spite, or greed, or love, or to serve our country, or gratify our friends, or found a family, the motive, fine down till it lies unadorned and bare before us, is the need of companionship. We want to be loved; we want some one's strength to supplement our weakness; we crave some one's faith in us to fortify our wavering faith in ourselves. Given certain conditions often of a very commonplace description, and we conclude that we have found what we sought. Our imagination is satisfied for the time; we consider ourselves in love, and all is well.

In observing our neighbours, it often strikes us how oddly they choose their partners; how far otherwise we should have chosen for them. The poet marries a woman of the simplest domestic mind; the beautiful woman, who, for a season or two at any rate, has the world at her feet, selects a rawboned Hercules, and forgives his plainness of feature because of his strength, or his moral excellence, or his good heart.

People say that love is a frenzy, a rapture, a brief madness; it may be so in certain cases, but as a rule it seems to be a much soberer thing. Deliriums and ecstasies are probably as rare as heroisms or crimes. The majority of people go about their wooings practically enough. It frenzies and fevers accompany the initial stages, the latter ones—which involve learning the price of furniture, where to buy a marriage license, and how many changes of raiment are expected for a respectable start—are sufficiently humdrum.

It love has no serious consequences, a proportion of us might be as volatile as a certain notorious novelist advises us to be. But happily the consequences are there, and the right minded study them seriously if they are given time. It is this underlying seriousness that constitutes a danger, unsuspected till we feel its tough filaments about us. Because marriage involves a career as well as a condition, custom, the usages of society, and the disabilities of their sex train women to make such a settlement in life as an object of ambition from their earliest years.

If loneliness, disappointment, and self-pity keep aloof, I believe a considerable proportion of women would remain unwedded from choice; but these familiars seize or threaten even the most fortunate of us now and then, and we think to delude fate and build against the future the bulwarks of affection.

SAGACIOUS WOLVES.

The Wise Wolves ate the Flesh of the Colts and Left the Poison.

Everybody knows what formidable foes a pack of wolves may become, but just how sagacious an enemy a wolf can prove himself is not as well appreciated. It is not an easy task to rid a ranch of such pests, as an instance lately given in the Macleod Gazette sufficiently proves.

A colt belonging to a Mr. Warnock having died, its owner thought to make use of it in clearing off a few wolves. He accordingly took ten strychnine tablets and inserted them carefully in various parts of the body, which he left to be a prey to the marauding beasts.

For two days Mr. Warnock abstained from going near the spot, but when he did go he expected to find that some execution had been done. To his surprise, not a wolf was to be seen, dead or alive.

Not that the colt had been neglected. The skin had been neatly stripped from the body, and nearly every particle of flesh eaten, as well as the ribs and smaller bones. The fore and hind legs had been wrenched off at the knee-joint and carried some distance, where everything mashable had been properly mashed. And yet, within a radius of a mile from the spot where the colt had been, there was not a dead wolf.

Mr. Warnock returned from his survey and spread out the skin of the colt hair down, upon the ground. Then he saw, with some surprise, a small bunch of flesh untouched, and still adhering to the hide. Inclosed in the flesh was the strychnine tablet.

A closer examination showed that every one of the ten pellets had been carefully left alone by the wolves. Every shred of flesh around the spots where the tablets had been placed was eaten away, but that which enclosed the poison was left.

The explanation lay in the fact that Mr. Warnock had, before inserting the pellets

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picked them up with his fingers, instead of with a pair of forceps, as was his custom. The wolves had scented danger.

A PIONEER'S NEGLECTED GRAVE.

Beneath a Wild Cherry Tree Sleeps Austin the Founder of Texas.

Among the foothills of the Ozark mountains, in the cemetery at Potosi, Mo., lie the remains of Moses Austin, the founder of Texas, for whom the capital of that state is named. His grave is in a neglected state.

Moses Austin was a native of Durham, Conn., and emigrated to Missouri about the year 1785. In 1797 he obtained from the Spanish Government a grant of land containing 6,085 acres, which is still known as the Austin survey, and includes a portion of Potosi townsite. In the year 1798 Austin built a costly mansion, just opposite the site of the present courthouse, and was at that time the finest structure west of the Mississippi River. He was extensively engaged in mining on the claim, and in his report to the Government in 1819 reported 200 miners at work on the claim. He built the first furnace in the Southwest.

In the year 1821 he explored the unknown province of Texas, and afterwards secured a grant to enter and colonize. He returned to Missouri in 1823 for the purpose of organizing a colony, but was taken sick and died and his remains were interred in the Protestant cemetery. His plans were successfully carried into effect by his son, Stephen F. Austin, but as his father was the originator of the exploration he is rightly called the founder of the Lone Star State.

A very large cherry tree has grown over the grave. The once famous mansion was destroyed by fire in 1873. There are still numbers of miners working successfully on the claim, which is a regular honeymoon of holes, but the supply of lead is seemingly inexhaustible.

Cheapest Place to Shop in Russia.

'Thieves' market,' a traveler declares, 'is the cheapest place to shop in all Russia, even for a foreigner. It is in Moscow, which is the railroad centre of the empire, and quite likely the clearing house or exchange for stolen goods. The merchants tell the buyer frankly that the reason they can sell things cheaply is because they are stolen. We deal only in that which costs us nothing. We charge you for storage, that is all.'

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