

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

In the very natural course of things the season has again arrived when it is in order that the St. John Oratorio society do take its summer vacation, and for a few months permit its members to recuperate from the fatigues of the past seasons work. The Board of Management of the society in recent meeting has so resolved. This action is eminently wise. It really is extremely difficult to continue the meetings of any society in summer time. True, there is always the probability of course that some few enthusiasts will put up in an appearance but in the instance of a musical society a rehearsal under such circumstances is not only unsatisfactory but discouraging to the conductor. Apropos of the oratorio society I learn that the recent productions of the Mikado by the amateurs in Mechanic's Institute resulted in an increase of the society's funds to the extent of one hundred dollars. Taking into consideration the size of the audiences that patronized the amateurs, and considering also this financial result, one is forced to the conclusion that the productions of the "Mikado" were attended with heavy expense.

In another column is mentioned the fact that the famous instructress Madame Marchesi is coming to the United States next fall. This will be pleasant news, I have no doubt, for many of our aspiring and clever lady singers, who will probably do themselves the pleasure of meeting her during her sojourn in America.

Tones and Undertones.

Camille D'Arville who is in Chicago, has almost entirely recovered from her recent illness. She will organize in New York a new operatic company for next season.

Meyerbeer's "L'Africaine" was recently given at the Imperial opera of Vienna under the auspices of the Imperial Geographical society. This opera was sung on the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Vasco de Gama's discovery of the sea route to India.

This is the last week of the "Pops" concerts at Music Hall, Boston. On Monday evening last the programme of twelve numbers consisted of selections from the works of the "Cadets". Leo Schultz was conductor.

The forthcoming production of the new opera "Captain Cook" at the Madison square garden, on the 7th July next, will be the inaugural performance of a summer season of light opera at that place.

It is said with authority that there is friction of some character between the directors of the Handel and Hayden Society of Boston.

A report is in circulation amid the musical atmosphere of Boston that Ysaye and Thomson are each engaged for 100 concerts in the United States next season at a net sum of \$50,000.

Mrs Emma Varden Foster, a Boston contralto sang in Montreal this week in a concert given under the auspices of the Queen's club.

Max Yach the conductor of the Boston promenade concerts will lead an orchestra of fourteen members at Keith's theatre this summer, beginning on the 5th July.

Upwards of 17,000 people attended the festival performance of "The Messiah" at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, Eng. The soloists were Madame Albani, Miss Marion McKenzie, Mr. Edward Lloyd and Mr. Charles Santley.

Among the members of the orchestra on the occasion of the Crystal Palace Handel festival London, were several women performers on stringed instruments, two of them being among the double basses. Two of the flute players are also of the gentle sex.

The human voice has recently been experimented upon by electricity, at the Paris academie des sciences with a view of learning the effect of its influence. As a result the influence is found to be beneficial, the voice besides being less fatigued, gains both in amplitude and timbre. Just how the test was made is not made known.

An new opera house was opened recently in Palermo with a production of Verdi's "Falstaff." The building which is admitted to be the finest in Italy was begun in 1864 and has cost the enormous sum of \$4,000,000.

It is stated that Sir Arthur Sullivan was one of some half-dozen famous composers who were in the choir on the steps of St. Paul's during the recent jubilee musical services. He wanted to get a close view of the Queen during the most interesting part of the ceremonies, and this was possible only to the choir, so he put on a sur-

plice and solemnly opened his mouth when the humbler choristers opened theirs, and solemnly closed it again when the time came for that.

The Orchestral Association Gazette tells a story which is almost too good to be true. One day at a London restaurant a guest sent a waiter to the conductor of the orchestra asking him to play the Greek national anthem. The parts not being in the library, the conductor sent word that the orchestra could not play that, but if the gentleman liked, they could oblige with Mozart's Turkish march or Beethoven's march from the "Ruins of Athens."

Madame Patti's last appearance for the season was made in London on Tuesday last when she gave a concert instead of the one she was to give but which she was prevented from attending through illness.

Mr. Lempriere Pringle, the basso, who was heard here in concert with Madame Albani has been re-engaged for the Carl Rosa Opera Company, London, for next season.

"It is a drama that is making the music in Paris, just now" says the Musical Courier correspondent in the French capital, but he also notes the work of Miss Fairfax, a young New York lady. She is mentioned as "a brilliant young student formerly a pupil of Mme. French Madi. She is elegant, svelte and aesthetic and an artist painter of distinct talents as well as singer."

Madame Marchesi the world famous teacher of singing is coming to the United States next November for a visit of at least six months duration.

Rita Elandi, prima donna of the Carl Rosa English Opera Company has arrived in New York. Apropos of this it is said negotiations are in progress with a view to bringing the Carl Rosa Company to the United States next season.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

W. S. Harkins summer company closes to night its return engagement of a week. During this week the business has been unusually light—except on the holiday—and this notwithstanding a reduction in prices and the presentation of some intrinsically strong plays and others which have all scored successes elsewhere. This condition of business is a matter of just surprise for many who consider the matter at all and much conjecture is indulged in to account for it. Among the suggestions are to be found some to the effect that Harkins does not himself appear in the cast—that he did not open with his best play—which the company as a whole is not as good as last year—that the ladies of the company are not as clever as those he had last season, and previous seasons—that a large number of his special patrons have gone out of town for the summer—that the plays he has given are not of the quality preferred by the patrons of the ordinary reduced price productions—that his leading man did not make a favorable first impression, and so on. Harkins himself is just as popular as he ever has been and Tom Wise and Malcolm Bradley are admittedly two most valuable and useful than whom none more so can be found in any organization, "Tom" especially being a particular favorite here. Whether all or any of these conjectures afford the solution of the mystery, I am not prepared to say.

On Monday next, a company new to St. John and called the Miles Ideal Stock company, begins a week's engagement at the Opera house, opening in "Michael Strogoff." Mr. Frank Lee Miles, the well known and popular advance man and actor, is with this company.

No. 10

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The Ethel Tucker Company closed their season here last Saturday night and have been playing in Truro, N. S. during this week. Of Miss Tucker's ability and knowledge of stage management there can be not doubt; the settings of the stage in the Opera House here being among, it not really the finest seen in that house in a dramatic performance. Several of the plays presented were new to St. John and among them I liked best "The Governess" and "Speculation". In the former piece Miss Marie Booth Russell played with nice discrimination the role of the widow. It was one of her best impersonations.

Many of the prominent members of the dramatic profession, are passing their days just now at several summer resorts more or less retired.

Madame Vernona Jarbeau as intimated will again have a company of her own next season, and Richie Ling will be a member of it.

A new three act comedy the name of which in English is "Across the bridge, Hannah," has been translated into German and will soon be given in Berlin. Later on it will doubtless be seen in the United States.

Sarah Bernhardt will produce in Paris on her return there from London, a new piece entitled "Beaute Imperieuse" an adaptation of a novel by Rosny Freses.

"The Circus Girl" which closed its season at Daly's New York theatre last Saturday night will be revived again on 16th, August.

"The mysterious Mr. Bugle" the play written by Madeline Lucetti Ryley will be sent on tour next season. The rights for America are owned by a Mr. Alfred Bradley.

Miss Mary Shaw has been engaged for next season as leading lady by Mrs. Minnie Madder Fiske in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles." She will play the role of Marian the milkmaid.

The play "Caste" was first produced on April 6, 1867—thirty years ago and John Hare was first seen as Samuel Gerridge. Last year Mr. Hare surrendered this role to his son, and took up the role of Eccles.

"The new South" is the bill at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, this week. Next week T. W. Robertson's "School" will be revived. "The New South" is founded on the development of the Southern States "Since the War" with the convict labor system playing an important part in the working of the plot.

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KEEPING A WOLF FROM THE DOOR.

Apparently a Pretty Lively Struggle, But it Had a Happy Termination.

"In the course of my efforts to keep the wolf from the door," said a man who once had to make quite a little struggle to pull through, "the wolf and I got pretty well acquainted. I used to find him nights, when I went home, slouching around the yard, and sometimes when I have been very late, I have found him sitting upon the doorstep close by the door; not trying to get in, but when I went in he'd stretch his neck and look in. What he was waiting for was for me to come home some day without anything; busted beat. He knew that after one or two days of that sort of business I'd be too weak to stand him off, and then he'd get in without even the trouble of making a fight for it.

"I knew what would happen then, the weakest first, the children, and it became a sort of personal fight between me and the wolf. It was a long, silent fight, and very close, though as a matter of fact, I had a little the better of it, just a shade. Sometimes I've come home very late, or so nearly empty handed that what I had wasn't heavy enough to weigh down anything but a man's spirit; but never once did the wolf actually get his nose within the door, though they were two or three times when he camped on the doorstep for two days at a time. But we kept him out and drove him off again each time, and at last as far away as the yard, and finally something happened that drove him off altogether.

"I don't believe in luck; I believe a man is sure to get all he's entitled to if he works hard enough for it, but I find as I grow older that I believe a little more in circumstances; and one day as I was going home to meet the wolf, I met a [Circumstances of large proportions and of a beaming countenance.

"Strug., me boy," said Circumstance, "we've been looking for you a long time. Where have you been?"

"The wolf knew what was up the moment I struck the fence, but I'm blessed if he didn't smile over it; in fact, I think he was rather pleased, we'd known each other so long, and he was pretty jolly, anyway for a wolf.

"He hung around for a day or two longer, and I fed him up the best I knew how; but just as soon as he made sure that we were all right he lit out, and we never saw him again. It seems queer, seems as though he'd have been all the more certain to stay right there, where he was sure of good stuff to eat and plenty of it, but the fact is that the wolf never feels at home except with misery, or a reasonably close approximation to it. Cheerfulness and plenty he simply can't abide."

GOT THEM BOTH.

A Lucky Young Lawyer Gets the Old Man's Business and his Daughter.

"My best stroke of business was when I first hung out my shingle in the West," told the lawyer who now handles none but the most important and remunerative cases. "Living about fifty miles north of the town in which I was impatiently waiting for something to do, was an eccentric old fellow who owned enough land to make three

or four counties and enough cattle to feed the armies of the world.

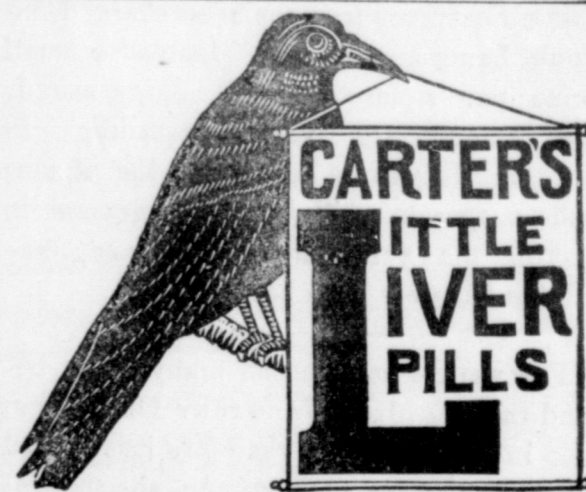
"As I was pacing up and down the little office one morning, wondering what I could go at it my first case didn't come soon, I answered a knock at the door to meet a young lady who had all the glow and vigor of the prairie with the easy society ways of the cultured Eastern woman. While I was trying to recover my breath she told me that she was a messenger from her father, who had heard that there was a new lawyer in town, and wanted his opinion in a matter that threatened to lead to a lawsuit. I took the letter she handed me and found it signed by the rich old ranchman.

"But your father asks an opinion without making any statement of his case," I said after reading.

"It's evident that you don't know papa. If you sent back for further information he would denounce you as an ignoramus and have nothing more to do with you. Write something learned in language, but obscure in ideas. Quote a lot of your rusty old legal maxims in the original Latin, and, above all things, abuse the other man with merciless bitterness.

"In three hours she was back from her shopping, and the 'learned opinion' was ready. The language was ponderous. The sentences were long and involved. The Latin was injected without reference to the context, and the abuse was underlined with red ink. She read and laughed till her sparkling eyes rained tears down her brilliant cheeks. 'You must arrange to do all papa's law business,' she warned me at parting, and I danced a boisterous solo when she was gone.

"Next day came a letter from 'papa.' He had at last found a lawyer. That opinion was worthy of a Webster or a Choate. He inclosed \$1,000, and made me his attorney. Later I got the daughter. — Detroit Free Press.



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