Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Jaxon Opera Company, an unusual ly strong aggegation, have been presenting a varied programme of Comic and Grand opera to the music loving this week. and have received the patronage the excellence of the performances merit. On Monday evening "Pinatore" and "Cavalleria Rusticana" were viv n, and though the former has been sung here many times both by professionals and amateurs, it still has the power to please and attract, especially when sung as it was on Monday evening. On that occasion acting and singing were upon a high level, and the constant by play revealed many a good actor though small his part. There was occasionally a faltering in the dialogue on the part of some of the principals; but as a whole the work was good and recalls were frequent. Mr. Frank Deshon's Sir Joseph Porter was excellently interpreted, and he seemed to have complete grasp of the composers ideas. Buttercup. Louise Engell, the Josephine, Miss Thorne, Hebe, Miss Lehenan were all most acceptable in acting and singing, and were evidently absorbed in their various role.

"Cavalleria Rusticana," Mascagni's great masterpiece was sung with dignity and refinment, the new names in the caste being Mlle Diard, Madeline Lowne and Mr. Payne Clark. As Turridi Mr. Clark was magnificent, both vocally and histrionically, his passionately dramatic climaxes being something to be long remembered. He has a splendid voice of remarkably even register, and each note seems to be endowed with equal value and power.

Mlle Diard, as Santuzza, sang her part with dramatic intensity, and was always true to the sentiment. Her enunciation was wonderfully distinct, and her rich, pow erful voice filled the requirments of the role. There is color and emotion in her singing. On Wednesday evening her Serpolette in "The Chimes of Normandy" equally pleasing, her brightand vivacity having full scope. This last named opera by the way is a great favorite here, and one that never tails to draw a good house. In the matter of detail the performance of Wednesday evening was perhaps slightly inferior to previous productions, but taken as a whole it may be said to have been well done-The proportion in the voices was well maintained, and the choruses were excellent both in expression and shading. There are some pretty girls in the chorus too, and the stage bearing of each individual member leaves room for nothing but the most tavorable comment. In speaking of detail in regard to "The Chimes of Normandy," it might be said that in these days of realistic stage effects one scarcely expects to see the hands of peasant girls | bill at the American theatre next week. ablaze with diamonds.

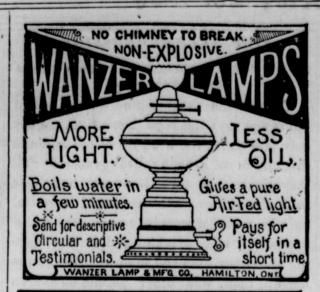
Messrs Deshon and Clark as Gaspard and Grenicheaux respectively were in good voice; the former was especially strong in his part, his thrilling work winning a well merited and enthusiastic curtain call at the close of the second act.

Il Trovatore, and Olivette were among the productions later in the week, and next week's performance will be as follows; Mikado, Monday night; Fra Diavola, Tuesday; Lucia di Lammermoor, Wednesday and Thursday; Bohemian Girl, Friday, and a grand triple bill for Saturday evening. There will be the usual Wednesday and Saturday matinees. The company is an excellent one, and the high class of operas, together with the superior manner in which they are produced, should ensure success for the engagment.

A year ago the musical people of this city hardly anticipated hearing two artists with the qualifications and reputation of Evan Williams and Mary Louise Clary, here in concert. Within that time both these great singers have appeared in St. John and achieved successes almost unprecedented. Clary was heard here for the first time in April of last year, and in October again renewed the wonderful success she made upon her first visit. In



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October she appeared in two concerts in

the Mechanics Institute though at that time she was heard to disadvantage, the build. ing being too small for her wonderful voice. Williams it will be remembered made his St. John debut the first of last December, and who of those present will ever forget the way in which the great singer melted the proverbially cold St. John audience. Great things had been anticipated from this man, of whom so much had been read, with reference to his phenamenal progress, in professional life, his rising from obscurity, to an elevated position in the musical world, was said to be unprecedented. But Williams fulfilled expectations in almost every case. The great career of Evan Williams never really began, nntil his appearance at the Worcester Festival of Sept, 1896; where he appeared in conjunction with Madame Nordica. The day previous to the event Williams might be called an unknown; the morning after the artist woke up to find himself on all sides lauded as America's greatest tenor. This change was brought about so quickly by his wonderful rendering of the Cujus Aninmum, from the oratoria Stabat Mater, The scene at the conclusion of this great aria is recorded as the most wildly demonstrative in the forty years of Worcester annual festivals, in which have appeared the world's greatest singers. With reference to the singing of Williams upon that memorable evening, Nordica at the time was reported to have stated, that she did not know a tenor in the world who could surpass it. What could be more attractive to the musical public of this city than the appearance in concert of these two great artists who not only have achieved success in musical centres, buthere in St. John. 1 is not strange that the interest in their approaching events is becoming most enthusiastic, not only among musical peo ple but those who do not usually attend functions of this nature.

Tones and Undertones.

J. K. Murray and Clara Lane will open their starring tour in Boston next October. They will appear in an opera by Victor Herbert and Charles Klein and will be under the management of Col. W. A. Thomp-

The Castle Square opera company made such a success in New York last week with H. M. S. Pinafore' and 'Cavalleria Rusticana' that they will continue with the same

Carlotta Steubenrauch, the female violin ist who made her debut in this country with the Banda Rossa, will appear at Keith's Boston theatre a week from Monday.

John Mason is going into vaudeville again, this time under the exclusive management of his brother, who has already secured for him two very strong vehicles for his reappearance. One is an absolutely complete musical comedy in miniature, the book by John Fowler, and the score by C. J. Wilson. Lowell Mason is negotiating with Bertha Creighton, the leading lady with Sol Smith Russell, for the support of his brother. The other is a very novel and original comedietta by Harriet Aubrey.

Madame Melba belongs to the noble cele brities who never read newspaper notices of themselves. Unlike most of them, though, she is sincere in it. She has no scrap-book, she patronizes no "news-clipping" agency, and she carefully avoids all reading matter that looks as though it might develop into anything of personal import. Those who have seen Melba in "Aida" would just as lieve that she would make an exception in favor of the notices of that performance, as she might then be induced to make a few changes in the make-up and costume which she affects therein. But whatever her errors upon the stage, Melba off the stage is a remarkably well-dressed woman .-Harpers Bazaar.

The programme for the sixteenth rehearsal and concert of the Boston Symphony orchestra on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening is: Overture, "Dedication of the House," Beethoven; recitative and air from "Alessandro," Handel; Soli for violoncello, Cantilena, Golterman; "Dance of Sylphs," Popper; Symphony in D. minor, No. 4, Schumann; songs with pianoforte; Elaine's song, "Sweet is True Love," Irish Folk Song, Foote; ballet music from "Der Daemon," Rubinstein

will be the soloists.

The venerable Verdi is said to be at work on the revision and selection of music, written for the psalms and other church uses which he composed many years ago and is now about to publish.

Efforts are being made to organize a permanent orchestra in New York city on the same lines as the Boston Symphony. This movement has been brought about by the friends of Anton Seidl, who have taken alarm at the generous offer to him from Hamburg, Germany, and wish him to remain in this country

Mr. Grau to appear in opera during the London season nex t year. She will appear at Covent Garden the opening week in "Tristan and Isolde," with Jean de

c estra, beginning next season. This decision will result in his giving up his New York interests at the close of the summer | plan on paper so far. season at Manhattan Beach, where he will

The late Conrad Behrens was 63 years old. This well-known basso was born in Brunswick Germany, where his father was a minister. It was intended that he should follow in his father's tootsteps, but he engaged in a commercial pursuits in Hamburg, and later in Stockholm. His voice attracted the favorable attention of Charles XV, King of Sweden, who enabled him to devote several years to its culture in Paris. He made his debut in Stockholm in the Royal Opera.

De Wolf Hopper returns to New York, this week, with both 'Eli Capitan' and Edna Wallace Hopper.

Adele Ritchie is to return to America in September and tour as a star in a new opera specially written by Antony Mars, music by Messager.

Rudolph Aronson and Dr. Leo Sommer have made an arrangement for the appearance in this country of the 'Black Hussars' Hungarian band, under the direction of Olah Pali.

Mme. Frances Saville, a member of the Abbey Grau troupe at the Metropolitan Opera House, season 1896-'97, has been engaged at the Royal Opera in Vienna for

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Says the New York Clipper "A. W. Cross, who has been in the city the past six weeks, completing arrangments for the tour of John D'Ormund and Agnes Fuller next season, left Feb. 18 to assume managment of the Josie Mills Co. for the rest of the season.

Charlie Thropp, an actor in the "Blue Jeans" Company, while playing at Cleveland, O., was accidentally shot in the leg during the petormance, recently by Miss Ballou, who was supposed to be aiming at a squirrel.

Ullie Akerstrom mourns the loss of her mother, Elizabeth, W. Akerstrom, who died, in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 3. Miss Akerstrom left her company at Lawrence, Mass Feb. [4, and did not rejoin until Feb. 21, at Pittsfield, Mass. her date at Manchester, N. H., was cancelled, and the company laid off until Miss Akerstrom

John L. Sullivans Comedy and Vaudeville Co. are attracting good business in their Kentucky tour.

The Miles Stock Company are playing in Corning N. Y. this week.

The latest dramatic news says that Frederick Warde, Louis James and Mile. Rhea will form a trio combination next season to give several Shakespearian plays as well as one new play.

Fay Templeton is still fond of acting in spite of the fact that she has come in for a part of Howell Osborne's gold, and has been engaged by cable for Weber and Fields' stock company.

Mr. E, H. Sothern begins his annual engagement at the Hollis, Feb. 28, when he will present for the first time in Boston, Anthony Hope's latest play, "The Adven tures of Lady Ursula."

The latest rumor is that Virginia Harned will star next season in this play ap pearing for a run at the New York Garrick theatre, when her husband, E. H. Sothern, presents a new play at the

Charles Frohman had seven companies playing in New York last week : John Drew

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Mrs. George Henschel and Mr. Leo Schulz | at Wallack's; Maude Adams at the Garrick; 'Oh, Sussannah,' at Hoyt's; 'Never Again' at the Grand; Henry Miller at the Garden, 'The White Heather' at the Academy and 'The Conquerors' at the Empire

Doonelly and Girard will probably dissolve partnership at the close of their present tour in 'The Geezer' and Mr. Girard will revive 'Natural Gas' next season.

Four weeks from Siturday night William Gillette will have completed his present tour with 'Sacret Service,' the last performance being booked for Brooklyn. On the following Wednesday he will sail for London, where he opens Easter week as that Mme. Nordica has signed a contract with | superlative liar, Gus Billings, in 'Too Mu:h Johnson.' He will take with him nearly all of the original American company.

There is a remote possibility that Mr. Gillette with Charles Frohman's assistance, may go out next season in a repertoire of Victor Herbert has yielded to persussion his own plays, giving "Held by the and will conduct the Pittsburg (Pa.) Or- Enemy" "To Much Johnson" "Secret Service" and "Tae Private Secretary," or "The Professor". But this is merely a

"The Belle of New York" will sail for conduct the Twenty-second Regiment | London the last of next month and open at the Shaftesbury theatre April 9.

"Nat Goodwin will open next season at the New York Knickerbocker theatre in Clyde Fitch's new play "Nathan Hale".

Caarles Frohman is going to London next month and Charles B. Dillingham, Julia Marlowe's manager, will accompany

Tae Actors Society of America has drawn up and presented to the Legislature at Albany through Senator Cantor, "An act to punish frauds committed against actors," which makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not less than two hundred and fifty dollars, or one year's imprisonment, or both, for any person to engage actors or opera singers, take them out of the State and leave them stranded in some distant city.

Minnie Cass, an American actress, who has been playing at the Central Theatre, Berlin, Ger., has suddenly disappeared, and her whereabouts is a mystery. The police have been appealed to, but have been unable to trace her.

The continued ill health of Beatrice Cameron will undoubtedly compel her to retire from the stage at the conclusion of Richard Mansfield's Chicago engagement. Carrie Keeler, who is now her understudy, will probably replace her.

Fanny Davenport may appear in 'Mme. Sans Gene' next season.

Edward Harrigan will appear hereafter in standard price houses only.

Madge Lessing is still the comely Jack

of 'Jack and the Beanstalk.' Marion Manola-Mason is said to have

retired temporarily from the stage. Cissy Fitzerald may appear; in]E. E.

Rice's next production, 'Monte | Carlo.' William H. Crane is considering an offer to present "A Virginia Courtship," in

Ida Conquest will be William | Gillette's leading woman when he goes to London in

Isabelle Urquhart presented a new farce at Keith's New York theatre last week entitled "Whose Baby?"

Modjeska is coming to Boston before long in repertoire. Mr. Joseph Haworth is her leading man.

May Irwin closed her New York engagement in the "The Swell | Miss Fitz well" last Saturday and opened Monday in Brooklyn.

Good houses are greeting the Lillian Tucker company in its Southern tour. The company recently played in Atlanta Ga., to record breaking business.

Charles Barron is to be the Bill Sykes in Elita Proctor Otis' forthcoming | revival of "Oliver Twist."

Mrs. Leslie Carter is to lappear at the Adelphi Taeatre, London, in "The Heart ot Maryland" on April 9.

Ada Rehan has played 300 parts.

Irving has decided to play, Cyrano de

Sarah Bernhardt's illness to due to fibroid tumor. Rejane has scored a new success in Sar-

dou's, "Pamela." Walter Jones is to star as Ithe crushed tragedian of 'In Gay New York,' backed

by ex President Hayes'son. George Alexander's revival of 'Much

A to About Nothing' has been voted great success by the London critics. James K. Hackett this week made his

first appearance as Nigellin 'The Tree of Knowledge.'

Even the stage realism! of a snowstorm is attended with peril. Joseph! R. Grismer, stage manager for the Manhattan Threatre, New York, met last week with a severe accident at a performance of "Way

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Down East." Daring the snow scene he was manipulating an electric fan which distributes the fine pieces of paper and his fingers of the right hand came in contact with the blades, almost severing them.

Plays to be introduced by Mansfield include "St. Ives," the "First Violin," and "King Frederick and William II."

'l am getting tired,' says Mr. Mansfield, of appearing in the guise of men who have only unpleasant attributes. People begin to think that I am that sort of man myself. Hereafter I am going to play lovers that all the girls will rave over. Seriously, I think public taste shows a healthy incline toward the stage characters that one would not be ashamed to know in real life, men of kindly nature, brave and lovable; men who make love brilliantly, fight cheerfully and live in an atmosphere of roses and

The latest recruit for vaudeville is Miss Cora Tanner, who, assisted by Louis Massen, will appear in Sir Charles L. Young's sketch 'Drifting Apart.'

Ada Rehan is soon to reappear as Kate Verity in Pinero's 'The Squire.'

Fay Templeton, who is now in l'aris, will shortly appear at a New York music

Nary a Toll or Spin.

The choir was singing a new arrangement of the beautiful anthem. 'Consider the Lilies.' The pure, sweet voice of the soprano rose clearly and distinctly in the

They toi-oi-oi-oil not, They toil not, They toil net, Ny-y-y-ther do they spin.

She parsed and the tenor took up the

Nee-ee ee-ther do they spin. They toi-oi-oi oil not,
They toil not,
They toil not,
Nee-ee-ee-ther do they spin.

The tenor ceased, and the basso, a solemn, red haired young man, with a somewhat wordly looking eye and a voice like a foghorn, broke in:

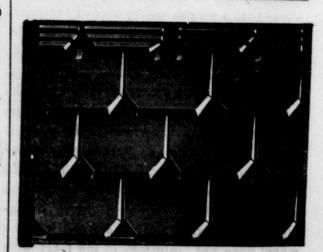
> Nay-1y-a -ayther do they spin. They toi-oi-oil not, They toil not, They toil not, Nay-ay-ay-ther do they spin.

Then the voices of the three were lifted up in semi-chorus:

> Ny-y-y-ther Nay-ay-ay-ther do they spin They toi-oi-oi-oil not, Tney toil not-Ny-y.y-ther Nay-ay-ay-ther

'Brethern,' said the gray-haired oldfashioned pastor when the choir had finshed, 'we will begin the service of the morning by singing the familiar hymn, 'And Am I Yet Alive ?'-Chicago Tribune

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