

## Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Matters in this particular department have been unusually quiet during the week, the special effort put forth on Christmas day in most of the churches no doubt being in a way responsible for the lassitude. With one or two exceptions the different congregations were regaled with the good results of much preparation on the part of the choirs, the work generally being most satisfactory, though among so much excellence it is hardly possible to particularize.

A bit of pleasing intelligence reaches me this week through the Musical Courier, regarding a recital given at the studio of Madame Katherine Evans von Klenner one of New York's most successful teachers, by her pupils who in different stages and selections entertained a large number of listeners. The event has an interest for St. John people in the fact that the name of a young lady from this city appears on the programme—that of Miss Frances Travers, who was heard here at the Clary concerts a few months ago. Miss Travers solo at the recital referred to above was "Je Suis Titania, Mignon" by Thomas, and the Courier says of her work, "Miss Travers is a young girl from St. John who has a soprano voice that ought to assure a great career. It is rich, full and strongly dramatic."

In Centenary church on Christmas day Mrs. Fred G. Spencer sang "The Star of Bethlehem" with the same finish and sweetness that marks all her work. The choir and congregation of this church are to be congratulated upon the general excellence of the musical part of the services.

### Tones and Undertones.

The scene of Frank Daniel's new opera, "The Idol's Eye," is laid in India, and the oriental coloring is perceptible with the first notes.

Louis Mayer, one of the best known musicians in St. Louis, died last week. He had been a member of the orchestras of the various theatres there for the past fifteen years, and was well known to the profession.

Mrs. President McKinley has given special permission to John Philip Sousa to dedicate to her his new composition just finished, and which will be called "The Lady of the White House."

The Kismet Opera company disbanded at Norfolk, Va., Dec. 4. The box-office receipts, scenery and other effects were attached by a railroad company. Helen Judson, a member of the company, has brought suit for \$500 damages against Manager Frank Norcross.

Miss Ethel Reid a former pupil of Mme. Artot de Padilla of Paris has since her return to the United States filled several important engagements with pronounced success. On Christmas morning she sang in the French church in New York a new composition—"Noel" by Rousseau, dedicated to her by the Composer.

The death is announced of Mme. Chas. Rety widow of the late music critic of the Paris Figaro, as Mlle. Emilie Faivre she was a celebrated duzagon at the old Theatre Lyrique. She made her debut in Weber's "Euryanthe" and created Siebel in Gounod's "Faust." Her greatest success perhaps was as Benjamin in Nichols "Joseph."

The death of W. H. Riehl in his seventy sixth year is also announced. Riehl is best remembered by his "Musical Characters," a work in three volumes. The first two volumes appeared in 1850 when he was a young man writing in a feuilleton style, rather than as a serious critic. Hence these volumes contain much that afforded reasons for adversaries to attack him. The third volume appeared in 1878 and is the work of ripe and mature judgement. The essays "The Two Beethoven's" and the "War History of German Opera" are most valuable musical studies which ought to be read by all young aspirants in music.

Mary Louise Clary the great contralto, will leave New York during the latter part of February for quite an extended tour in the West. She has already been booked in most of the principal Western cities, including Chicago, Milwaukee and as far west as Denver, and will probably prolong her tour to the Pacific Coast and the North West, not returning to her native city until shortly before Easter.

Brockton Mass, will give a musical festival on April 25, 26 and 27th next. The work to be given is not fully decided but the indications are that the first concert will consist of light oratorio, the second concert a miscellaneous one and the third an operatic concert. A large orchestra

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will be engaged for the occasion, and among the well known artists who will take part are Mrs. Patrick Walker, Myron Whitney, D. M. Babcock and many others. It is proposed to make the festival an annual event.

Gewlym Miles has been engaged to sing the "Elijah" in Pittsburg during the month of February and will also be heard in Sullivan's "Golden Legend" to be given in St. Louis. During April and May he will tour in the west and will go next summer to Europe to study there for several years.

The renowned contralto Gertrude May Stein, had a pronounced success with the Boston Symphony Orchestra recently. As a result she has received a number of flattering offers for spring festivals. These she has been induced to accept, and her trip to Europe will be postponed till the first of June.

Says the Musical Courier; "Lillian Blauvelt the distinguished soprano is engaged for a tour through Maine and the East during January. Blauvelt made a profound impression when she sang at Bangor and Portland during the Maine festival in October, and there is a great demand for a rehearing. The concerts are virtually disposed of so far as public patronage is concerned. Miss Blauvelt will after January probably visit the South a period. Artists of the Blauvelt Stamp, of which there are a few only, are in demand all over the country.

Emma Juch was heard for the first time this season at the recital in Mendelssohn Hall, New York last Tuesday afternoon. She sang an aria by the famous organist Guilman, and a group of Schumann songs. In the rendition of the latter few have ever excelled the prima donna.

Alexander Siloti, the pianist will make his initial American appearance in New York about the middle of January, with the Seidl orchestra.

Carl Zerrahn has been notified by the Governors of the Worcester County Musical Association that his services will not be required as conductor of the annual festival in that city, Mr. Zerrahn has conducted the festivals for thirty one years, but local management seems to think his usefulness as a conductor of a large chorus has gone. There was talk of making a change three years ago but Mr. Zerrahn's health seemed to improve, and his work at the last festival was a general cause of congratulation. George W. Chadwick of Boston has been offered the vacant post and it is thought will accept it.

In Triest female composers are coming to the fore. Two new operas, both by women are to be produced there shortly. The first "Il Sogno di Alice" by Virginia Mariani is from the pen of a hitherto unknown artist, while the second "Phryne" by the Giselda delle Grazie marks the latter's second operatic venture. She underwent the baptism of critical fire with her musical drama "Atala" and came forth unscathed.

Auton Hekking, the violin cellist has been very ill with influenza but he is on the road to rapid recovery.

Richard Strauss recently met with frenzied appreciation in Barcelona, where at a Symphony concert he had to repeat the "Tannhauser" overture and his own symphonic poem "Don Juan."

A new Spanish light opera nearing completion is the "The Maid of Madrid" with music by Harry Pabst of Philadelphia, and book by Charles H. Dorr of Boston and Frank L. Freeman, both newspaper men.

Frau Richard Strauss's maiden name was Pauline de Ahna, and she is of the same family as the eminent violinist of Berlin. She is a native of Munich, and began her artistic career in 1890 at the Court theatre at Weimar. In 1891, and again in 1892, she was engaged for the part of Elizabeth in "Tannhauser," at Bayreuth. A few days ago she sang with much success in Paris.

An almost forgotten opera, "Die Kreuzfahrer" ("The Crusaders"), by Ludwig

Spohr, which was composed in the beginning of the forties—that is, before the principles of Richard Wagner had been published broadcast—has recently been discovered in the archives of the Court theatre at Cassel, and will soon be performed there, after being revised and rearranged by Conductor Franz Beyer at that theatre.

Mme. Clementine De Vere is giving concerts in New England. She is said to be drawing very large audiences in every city visited.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The event of interest in dramatic circles last week was the appearance of H. Price Webber and his Boston Comedy Co. at the opera house, after an absence of two or three years. The company gave a matinee and evening performance, at the former presenting Tennyson's "Dora" and a bright, laugh provoking farce, and in the evening the ever interesting "White Slave" and as an after piece the "Rough Diamond" with all its merry scenes and breezy dialogue. Mr. Webber occupies a particular place in the esteem of St. John people which is all his own, as those, who year after year have basked with satisfaction under the spell of his humorousities can testify. The reception given him and Miss Edwina Grey every time they appeared on the stage during both performance on Christmas day was sufficient proof that they still retain their old time popularity and power to please. Edwina Grey, it may be said, dresses her roles better than the majority of actresses, and her general make up is really excellent. Her work in the "White slave" has upon former occasions received extended notice in this department, so that it is only necessary now to say that it was in every way equal to her previous best efforts and won throughout well merited applause. The work of Mr. Everett King deserves warm praise. It was smooth and consistent at all times, and his clear articulation, and well handled voice made it a decided pleasure to listen to him. Mr. Walter Bedell who is pleasantly remembered here, gave a good interpretation of a thankless role, and the rest of the support was good, Mr. Webber with his rollicking lines and intensely funny local jokes making the hit of the evening.

On New Years day (Saturday) the company return for two performances, that of "The Stranger" an especially strong bill in the afternoon, and "Lancashire Lass" in the evening. In a week or two they leave for a tour of Newfoundland.

Earnest Ccuelin, brother of the famous French comedian is to visit America the first of the year. He will remain but one month, giving lectures and monologues.

James K. Hackett leading man of the New York Lyceum Company has been seriously ill of typhoid fever, and is not yet out of danger.

Daniel Frohman has acquired from Anthony Hope a new comedy in four acts, written by the novelist himself, and also the rights to the dramatization of his forthcoming novel, the sequel to "The Prisoner of Zenda."

The Animated Music Score has made a big hit at Keiths (Boston) Theatre. It will likely reach St. John in the early spring.

Francis Wilson and "Half a King" has made a wonderful hit in Boston and will remain at the Tremont another week. The chorus is immensely popular and is spoken of as the most "delightful band of femininity" ever seen in a Boston Theatre.

Richard Munsfield is at the Hollis Boston, in the "Devis Disciple" a play written for him by Bernard Shaw. The scenes of which are laid in a New Hampshire village in 1777.

The engagement is announced of Anna Irish of W. H. Crane's company to J. E. Dodeon of the Empire Stock company, New York.

John Drew opens at the Hollis, Boston, next week in "A Marriage of Convenience." Isabel Irving in his leading woman.

Little Lord Fauntleroy, is revived at the Castle Square theatre this week for the benefit of the school children.

"The Maid of Marblehead" has closed its season.

Bronson Howard is writing a new play which Herbert Kecey will use next season.

Edward Harrigan has recovered from his recent severe illness and will resume his interrupted tour after the holidays.

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The "Geisha" is coming to the Tremont theatre, Boston, and the engagement in that city promises to be a big success.

When Nat Goodwin acts in Clyde Fitch's play, based on the life of Nathan Hale, he will supply it with elaborate scenery and make what is technically known as "a production" of it. The hero is hanged at the close of the play—or to speak more accurately, is just about to be hanged as the curtain falls on the last act of the drama.

Berbohm Tree has accepted from Robert Buchanan a new play founded on incidents in Paul Bourget's novel "Andree Corneles."

Major E. O. Bills, whose drum major specialty has been one of the specialties (e a tures) of the Miles Ideal Stock Co. for the past four months, closed with above company Dec. 11, at Taunton, Mass., and on Dec 13 joined J. J. McGlynn and J. J. Magee, in "Out of Sight," to do drum major work.

J. Walter Kennedy, the tragic actor, has engaged Cathleen Moot, a young society woman, of Boston to support him in "Othello," "Virginius," "Samson," and "Damon and Pythias."

Gertrude Dion Magill who was here during the season of '96 with W. S. Harkins, is now with the Boston Theatre Company.

Laura Biggar and Burt Haverly who played here in "A trip to Chinatown" are now in Cincinnati playing "A Railroad Ticket," and meeting with excellent success.

Stuart Robson presented Augustus Thomas' version of "The Jucklins" for the first time in Denver Col., the week before Christmas.

Josie Mills says that her company is not closed, but has only temporarily suspended, and will resume work after New Years.

Julia Marlowe who was obliged to lay off in Cincinnati through a severe sore throat, was able to resume work on Wednesday evening of this week.

Fred C. Hoey is engaged for Talleyrand in Rhea's new play "The Empress of France."

Alberta Gallatin, of the Joseph Jefferson company which closed its season in Albany N. Y., will shortly take the road supported by Kendal Weston. She will play "Camille," "The Ironmaster," "A Scrap of Paper," "Carmen" and "Denise."

The Opera House at Stratford, Ontario, was destroyed totally by fire several days ago. It is not known as yet whether another will be built.

Zelma Rawlston's male impersonation specialty seems to be one of the most taking features of 1492. The Western press is unanimous in her praise.

Alice Reade, playing in the White Heather at the Academy of Music, New York became hysterical during the performance last Tuesday evening, as a result of overwork. She was removed to Bellevue Hospital.

Nellie Maskell has signed for Madame Frochard in Kate Claxton's Two Orphans company.

Rhea has been plasing Camille and "Frou Frou" in Montreal recently. It is said that her support is poor.

A Midnight Trust, the sensational English melodrama which has made a hit in the English provinces, will be produced in Boston in February, with the original scenery and painting.

James J. Corbett's Naval Cadet company laid off two weeks in Toronto, ending December 17th.

Frank C. Thayer, better known by his hosts of friends throughout the country as "Fritz," has severed his connection with the Boston Traveler, where he has been for over a year, and signed with John F. Harley to go in advance of A Bachelor's Honeymoon.

"What Dreams May Come," a new play by Paul Kester is to be brought out at a leading New York theatre early in the year, with Mme Janauschek, Courtenay, Thorpe, Maude Banks, Mrs. Alexander Salvini and William Redmond in the cast.

"Hazel Kirke" as played at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, did not give perfect satisfaction, and the work done is

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spoken of by the critics as decidedly uneven.

Helen Wethersby will join Edward Harrigan's company when it starts out early in the New Year.

Charles B. Hanford, who is managing the tour and acting the leading parts with Thomas W. Keene, is one of the closest students of Shakespeare on the stage. He has played almost every important part in the legitimate repertory.

Jessie Bartlett Davis says that she is not to star next season.

Julia Artbur returns to New York at Wallack's theatre April 25, for her farewell engagement this season. She is to spend her summer vacation in Europe.

Hilda Clark, who has scored a hit as Constance in "The Highwayman" at the Broadway theatre in New York, is a native of Kansas. She studied for the operatic stage in Milan, and last season sang the prima donna roles with the Bostonians. Miss Clark is a beauty and an excellent singer.

Chauncey Olcott in "Sweet Inniscarra" is having the most profitable season that he has ever known. Since starting out in September he has cleared a profit for Manager Picton and himself of nearly \$40,000. With the exception of Joseph Jefferson and Sol Smith Russell, he is the best money making star in the country.

May Irwin's well-known and expensive smile has widened since the beginning of her engagement at the New York Bijou theatre. So has her bank account.

Tragedian Thomas W. Keene has long been a favorite in the South, but his recent tour of that section of the country has been the most successful that he has ever known.

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