

## Music and The Drama

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

The Carleton vocal society held its concert as announced on Wednesday evening and was attended by many from this side of the harbor, notwithstanding the disagreeable weather which prevailed. The programme was an excellent one and was very thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Ford and the members of the society having every cause for congratulations.

Vespers at the Cathedral on Sunday attracted many visitors to that edifice, many prominent musicians of other denominations being noticed in the congregation. The soloists acquitted themselves in a very praiseworthy manner.

Miss Maude McClaskey who was recently been leader of the Main street Baptist choir has resigned her position, much to the regret of those who attend that church. Miss McClaskey has a very sweet voice, and her work in the recent production of Iolanthe attracted much favorable notice.

Mr. Collinson has completed arrangements for a production of Iolanthe in Moncton, and the prospects of success in the railway town now seem most favorable.

On Easter Sunday Centenary church had large congregation both morning and evening, the musical part of the services being of a very high order. The new organ was heard to excellent advantage.

Joseph @Mara has been engaged by Maurice Grau for the season of Grand Opera at Covent Garden, London.

Violet Barney owing to illness has been obliged to cancel her engagement for the London production of "An American Beauty."

Elizabeth Coghlan a sister of Rose and the late Charles Coghlan, and herself an opera singer of noteworthy achievements died of pneumonia in Stamford, Conn., on April 8.

The sixth annual musical festival of the South Atlantic States will be held at Spartanburg, S. C., May 2 and 4. Among the soloists will be Evans Williams and Gwilym Miles.

The Oratorio Society of New York sang Bach's mass in B minor for the first time in that city on April 5. The soloists were Sara Anderson, Gertrude May Stein, Nicholas Douty, and Joseph Baernstein.

The Jefferson de-Angelis opera company is having a most prosperous season. The tour of "The Jolly Musketeer" has extended over 18,000 and the opera has been received everywhere with unusually large attendance.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Valentine Stock Company returned to St. John last week and after a well earned rest, resumed work on Monday evening opening in The Jilt, a bright and pretty thing that has proved a good attraction during its four performances. Richelieu is the bill at the theatre today both afternoon and evening. At the latter performance souvenirs in the shape of an excellent group of pictures of the members of the Stock Company will be given to celebrate its one hundredth performance in this city, an event, with one exception, unprecedented in St. John. Playgoers are regretting that the time of departure is only a week distant for, not only has the company given entire satisfaction in a dramatic way, but socially the members have won for themselves a place in the respect and esteem of all citizens not often accorded to strangers in this conservative city.

Charles Frohman will not manage Julia Marlowe next season.

Margaret Anglin is playing a pretty part in "The Bugle Call."

Elsie Emond will play the leading roles in "A Lively Legacy."

Marion Manola is seeking a divorce from her husband Jack Mason.

Charles Hoyt is said to be writing a new comedy called "A Wooden Horse."

A theatre to be devoted to German drama is to be built in Harlem, N. Y.

Henry Miller in "The Only Way" closed his Boston engagement last week.

Florence Rockwell has been engaged by Liebler and company for next season to

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play a leading part in one of their productions.

Nance O'Neil was scheduled to open her Australian tour at Sydney on March 10

Modjeska has again been forced to deny the rumor that he is to appear in vaudeville.

Eleanora Duse has made a series of remarkable successes in Vienna where she is now playing.

Mae Phelps closed with Town Topics, which will be produced here this season, on March 31.

Frank Tannehill has been engaged for a good part in "A Young Wife," which will be given here in May.

"The Gun Maker of Moscow," Sylvanus Cobb's story has been dramatized by William Otis Johnson.

Mrs. Langtry will close her American season in Boston on May 19, she will sail for England on May 23.

Blanche Bates will sail for England on May 5, and will divide her summer holiday between England and France.

Julia Morrison began her starring tour in Dore Davidson's play "A Day of Reckoning" on Monday of this week in Albany, N. Y.

"Darkest Russia" has been secured of the Davidson Stock Company to be used in repertoire next season in all the western cities.

Maude Adams will sail for England in three weeks, taking the trip for the benefit of her health, and returning almost immediately.

Madame de Meissner the novelist has just made for Richard Mansfield a translation of Tolstoi's Russian play "The Death of Ivan the Terrible."

James A. Herne has recently had an operation for the removal of one of his toes. It will be several weeks before he is able to move around again.

Lawrence Underwoods new play "Dale Ranch" promises something new and interesting and will have an elaborate production the coming season.

A line has recently been added to the St. John Opera house advertisement in the Mirror which says that "Cheap repertoire companies are barred."

Gertrude Dion Magill, Harkins' leading lady for one or two seasons is successfully playing the role of Nigida in the New York production of "Quo Vadis."

J. Boyd Douglas has obtained the right from Mark Twain to dramatize his story "The man that Corrupted Hadleyburg" and has nearly completed the play.

Walter Hale has sailed for London to appear in "An American Beauty." Frank Worthing has succeeded him as Edmund Burke in Oliver Goldsmith with Stuart Robson.

Blanche Bates, who was to have been a member of Luckett's Summer Stock Company in Washington, has a difference of opinion with the manager and will in consequence not be with the aggregation.

Clara Rainford who originated the part of Aunt Lydia in the recent production of "My Son Ben" has been engaged for a strong character part in "Border Side" which opened in Baltimore this week.

Arthur Sidman will star in a four act postural play. He will open in the spring of 1901 in Boston for a four or six weeks run in a first class house. Robert Fulgora, Sidman's present manager will direct the tour.

Anna Braga, for a long time a valued member of the Irving Place theatre, N. Y., has severed her connection with it and will go to London, renounce the German drama, and study with a view to playing in English.

The Austrian authorities have let it be known that "L'Aiglon" will not be produced in that country. This is of course on account of the none too favorable light in which ancestors of the Royal family are shown in the play.

W. S. Harkins has gone back to New York to make preparations for his summer visit to the provinces. It is expected that his engagement will be of unusual interest, and he has some surprises for his friends in this part of the world.

Arthur Donaldson whose great success in the title role of You Youson is acknowledged by press and public throughout the country has the new romantic comedy called "The Swedish Troubadour" which was written expressly for them.

Aida Blair has succeeded Elita Proctor Otis, in the leading role in Sporting Life, the latter being engaged in "Woman and Wine" in which she and Mabel Eaton, well known here, represent two members of the Paris demi mondes. The play is said to be one of the very warmest at present in New York.

Richard Golden will revive "Old Jed Prouty" next season under the management of William Henry Rudolph, Harry M.

Morse has been engaged to appear in his old part of Jeb Hardy, and among other well known people who will figure in the cast are, Harry Rich, Randolph Murray, Robert Craig, Melville Collins, Laurence Flynn, John J. Gaffney, the original Dick Stubbs, Mrs. Frank Tannehill and Eugenia Castelli. The tour will begin in August and extend to the Pacific Coast.

Sergeant Patrick Campbell, husband of Mrs. Patrick Campbell, the English actress, was killed in battle in South Africa on April 6, Word was received at the theatre at which Mrs. Campbell was playing, during a performance but she was not told until after it was over. She feels his death very deeply.

Charles I. Herman who created an excellent impression as Macbeth and Anthony in Modjeskas support last season is winning new laurels for his fine portrayal of the whimsical, good natured duke in Frederick Warde's new comedy "The Duke's Jester," also his strong impersonation of Friar Angelo in "The Lion's Mouth."

Lincoln J. Carter's eight travelling companies will close the season in a few weeks. With the possible exception of "Just Before Dawn," they will be all be put on the road early next season. Mr. Carter will make a new production of "The Fast Mail" which will tour the Western States next season the following year returning to the east. In addition to his regular attractions he will put out three new productions next season the first at his Criterion Theatre on May 18—viz. The Eleventh Hour, a melodrama. In the second, Down Mobile, a Southern play, Mr. Carter will introduce the fire scene, for which he has secured letter patent. His production will be a new play of Western frontier life, entitled The Flaming Arrow. One of its features will be a representation of the last stand of Custer. The Criterion Theatre will close its season on June 15, when some necessary changes will be made in the building. Its next season will open Aug. 12.

Richard Mansfield has announced that his next season will be devoted almost entirely to New York with a brief Chicago engagement. Besides Henry V. and Paolo and Francisca he means to present Tolstoi's, "The Poet." The compliments that Mansfield and Joseph Jefferson have been paying to each other through the medium of the press recently are edifying. Mr. Jefferson opened the discussion by asserting that Mr. Mansfield's intensity led him to overact, and that jarred upon the Jefferson nerves. He thought Mr. Mansfield might outgrow this failing in time. Mr. Mansfield retorted that he did not see why Mr. Jefferson should concern himself with his acting, but he was sorry to hear that it troubled him. He believed it was fifteen years since Mr. Jefferson attended one of his performances. When masks are taken off and actors speak what they really think of each other and of each other's acting, the result is always amusing and sometimes surprising.

### TABLET NUMBER FIVE.

The Story of a Remarkable Murder and How the Truth About it Came Out.

The story was told by a Police Commissioner of another city who was in New Orleans recently on a visit.

"The most ingenious murder I ever knew anything about," he said, "was committed by a young physician. He was a rising practitioner at a place where I formerly lived, and, with your permission, I will speak of him simply as Dr. Smith. About a dozen years ago, as nearly as I remember, this young man went on a visit to a relative in a neighboring city, and one afternoon, on the third or fourth day of his stay, he startled a lady member of the household by remarking that he had a feeling that some misfortune had overtaken a wealthy planter whom they both knew very well, and whom I will call Col. Jones. The Colonel was a prominent resident of the doctor's home town and had a large outlying estate, which he was in the habit of visiting once a week. On the day of Smith's

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**Cuticura THE SET**

singular premonition he was on one of those tours of inspection, but failed to come back, and the following morning his corpse was found lying in a cornfield. He had evidently been dead about twenty-four hours, and from the appearance of the body seemed to have been seized with some sort of fit or convulsion.

Of course the affair created a great stir, and the police made a pretty thorough investigation, but the only thing they found that merited any special attention was a small, round vial in the dead man's vest pocket. It was about the diameter of a lead pencil by four inches long, and had originally contained a couple of dozen medicinal tablets, which, lying one on top of the other, filled the little bottle to the cork. A few still remained in the bottom. Upon enquiry it was learned without trouble that the tablets were a harmless preparation of soda, and that Jones himself had bought them at a local drug store. That ended suspicion in that quarter, and, for lack of anything better, the Coroner returned a verdict of death from sunstroke.

"Some time after Jones had been buried," continued the Police Commissioner, "I learned accidentally of Dr. Smith's curious prophecy, and it set him to thinking. Eventually I evolved a theory but it was impossible at the time to sustain it with proof, and for five or six years I kept it pigeon-holed in my brain, waiting for something to happen. Meanwhile, to everybody's surprise, Dr. Smith went to the dogs. He began by drinking heavily, gradually lost his practice and finally skipped out to avoid prosecution for cashing a fake draft. After his flight I learned enough to absolutely confirm my theory as to Jones's death. What has really happened was this:

"Dr. Smith owed the old man a considerable sum of money and had given a note, upon which he had forged his father's name as indorser. The planter was pressing him for payment and had threatened suit, which meant inevitable exposure. One day, while they were conversing, Jones pulled out a little glass vial and swallowed one of the tablets it contained, remarking that he took one daily, after dinner, for sour stomach. That suggested a diabolical scheme of assassination, which the doctor proceeded to put into execution. Repairing to his office, he made up a duplicate tablet of strychnine, and, encountering the Colonel next day, asked him to let him have the vial for a moment, so he could copy the address of the makers from the label. Jones handed it over unsuspectingly, and while his attention was briefly diverted elsewhere Smith put in the prepared tablet. He placed it under the top four thus making it reasonably certain that his victim would take it on the fifth day from that date. Next morning he left town, so as to be far away when the tragedy was consummated, and some mysterious, uncontrollable impulse evidently led him to make the prediction that first excited my suspicion. When I made certain of all this, I located Smith in Oklahoma and was on the point of applying for an extradition warrant, when he anticipated me by contracting pneumonia and dying. I thereupon returned the case to its mental pigeonhole, where it has remained ever since."

"Pardon me for asking," said one of the listeners, "but is that really a true story, or are you entertaining us with interesting fiction?"

"It is absolutely true," replied the narrator.

"But how did you learn the particulars?"

"Well," said the Police Commissioner, smiling, "Smith was like most clever criminals—he had one weak spot. He was fool enough to tell a woman. She blabbed."

"How old are you, Uncle Si?" said the editor of the Oldville Weekly bugle, grasping his oldest subscriber warmly by the hand. "You still appear to be well and hearty."

"Yes," replied Uncle Si. "I guess I'm about as tough as they make 'em. I've been readin' your paper mighty nigh forty years, and I'm alive yit."

Mrs. Author—I don't think that last publisher to whom you sent your story will return it, do you, dear?"

Mr. Author—It is doubtful, my love; I didn't have money enough to send him the necessary stamps.

"Rudward Kipling wrote two poems about 'The Absent-Minded Beggar.'"

"I don't recall the other one."

"Least We Forget."

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