

Music and The Drama

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

The concerts under the management of F. G. Spencer took place last Thursday and Friday evenings, and while not perhaps quite so largely attended as previous events of a similar nature, were yet well patronized. The Redpath concert company is a particularly strong aggregation this season and the recent concerts are regarded by many as the best which Manager Spencer has offered to the public—and he has undoubtedly offered many good things. While Mary Louise Clary seems to have lost none of her power to charm a St. John audience with that wonderful voice of hers, which reminds one so much of a grand old organ, played by a master hand, she yet had to share honors with Eleonore Meredith, a soprano, who on her first appearance made a wonderful impression, and one that will take some time to obliterate. Her voice, is rich, true and pure, of wonderful compass and power and her enunciation clear and perfect. Her rendition of Gounads Ave Maria on the second night was magnificently executed and its reception by the critical audience was a flattering assurance, if such were needed, of the pleasure it gave to those who heard it. Mr. Towne was somewhat of a disappointment, "suffering from a cold" so the papers said, though he was heard to good advantage in the quartettes. Carl Duff was a delightful surprise, his great full resonant bass making such music as is not often heard in the opera house. His various numbers were warmly received and it would be difficult to say which gave the greatest pleasure. Whatever other singers come to St. John there will always be a hearty welcome for Carl Duff. As an accompanist Miss Kober gave the most perfect satisfaction and her instrumental solos were very brilliantly executed; Miss Von Fursch, the foreign looking little violinist played with a delicacy of touch and finish that showed not only the greatest skill and careful training but a thorough comprehension and mastering of her favorite instrument. Her numbers were very enthusiastically received. The concerts were I believe successful from a financial point of view, and Mr. Spencer is doubtless encouraged to future efforts in this line.

A charming little concert was given in St. Andrews church on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the Ladies Aid society and a delightful programme rendered before a large and appreciative audience.

At the cathedral tomorrow, the occasion of the consecration of Bishops Barry and Casey, Mozarts Twelfth mass will be sung. In the afternoon pontifical vespers will be given, and several solos will be rendered.

Gorton's Minstrels are doing the south very successfully.

Black Patti's Troubadors are having a successful tour of the west.

Emma Italia will retire from the stage upon her marriage which will occur shortly.

The latest song hit is "Atter All" which is having an immense success everywhere.

Hubbard Smith, composer of many popular songs of the day, is American consul at Canton in the Philippines.

Madame Gadski was the soloist at an impromptu musicale in New York a few evenings ago at the College of Music.

Emil Brueggeman received a dangerous sword wound last week in New York, during a performance of Die Freischutz.

F. M. Morse, the original giant in "Jack and the Beanstalk" has left that organization. Mr. Morse is the possessor of a wonderful bass voice.

Nellie Melba, according to a cable despatch from Berlin last week, is suffering with influenza and her appearance in the German capital was postponed.

Announcement is made of the recent marriage of A. L. Wilbur, proprietor of the Wilbur Opera company and Maude Daniel, manager of the company.

Carre and Missa's lyric drama L'Hote was produced in Paris a few weeks ago. It is said to have a powerful and tragic story but the music does not suit the theme.

Les Saltimbouques an operetta, with

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music that shows Maurice Ordonneau at his best, and a libretto that is fairly creditable to Louis Ganne has achieved success in Paris. In the cast are Paul Fugere, Jeanne Saulier and Lyse Berty.

Viola Gillette, at one time with the Castle Square Opera company, has achieved much success as Allan a-Dale in Williamson and Musgroves production of "Robin Hood" in Sydney, N. S. W., Miss Gillette went to Australia with Hoyt and McKee's company and was loaned for the "Robin Hood" engagement. She has been offered a permanent position in the Royal Comic Opera company.

Rome is anxiously awaiting the first production of Puccini's La Tosca. It was when Bernhardt first played Tosca in Milan that the idea of an opera on this theme was first conceived. The authors have improved upon the original, the play in the first place being reduced to three acts and the action being more concentrated, intense and thrilling. Sardou's play has been idealized and little of it remains but the plot. It may be said to have been re-written entirely with the result that La Tosca the opera is far more interesting than La Tosca the play. Puccini was about a year writing it.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The seventh week of the Valentine Stock Company's engagement opened auspiciously with audiences that in point of numbers were only surpassed by the holiday attendance. "The Merchant of Venice" was the attraction and a strong one it proved. It was smoothly and charmingly played, and that those who witnessed it were more than pleased was demonstrated by the frequent outbursts of applause. The interpretation was particularly strong and fine, and there was no doubt that Mr. Mawson, Miss Bonstelle, Messrs. Evans and Webster had a true conception of the roles they played. Mr. Mawson's "Shylock" the grasping, relentless usurer, was a magnificent piece of work, so thrillingly realistic that even that actor's warmest admirers felt that they hated him cordially, and for once would rather bestow hisses than applause, upon the course prompted by avarice and revenge. What an ideal Portia, Miss Bonstelle was, in her sweet natural girlishness, charming naivete, and altogether fascinating personality.

She was equal to every scene, and gave a most finished interpretation of one of Shakespeare's most interesting and lovable heroines. The balance of the cast called for almost the entire strength of the Company, all of whom were equal to the demands made upon them. The "Merchant of Venice" will run for the entire week.

The St. John Amateur Dramatic club gave an entertainment in the Institute on Wednesday evening in aid of the Transvaal fund. The drama "Tried and True" was presented and the cast included some amateurs whose names were a guarantee of good work.

Rejane is being heartily welcomed back to the French capital.

George Grossmith's American tour begins in Boston next week.

Katherine Rober opens an engagement in Portland Me. next week.

David Belasco has written a new third act for "Naughty Anthony."

Charles Bassett has been specially engaged for "A Bunch of Keys."

Sarah Truax has added "Much Ado About Nothing" to her repertoire.

Kate Rorke intends to revive "The Squire" by Pinero in London, it is said.

James K. Hackett is a Canadian, having been born at Wolfe Island Ontario in 1869.

The Burrill Comedy company, here last year, is playing Massachusetts this week.

Emperor William of Germany has written another play which he calls "The Iron Tooth."

James A. Herne in "Sag Harbor" is playing to good business in his New England tour.

Nance O'Neil and her company sailed from Vancouver for Australia on Friday of this week.

Jane Harding, has gone to Marseilles and Monte Carlo to give a series of performances.

Josie Lloyd is winning much praise for her work in The Span of Life, seen here in October.

Stuart Robson will shortly produce Mr. Thomas' new play Oliver Goldsmith in New York.

Kyrie Bellew has sailed for Egypt where he will make an extended stay for the benefit of his health.

Henrik Ibsens new play "When the Dead Awake" was successfully produced in Germany on Jan 23.

Helen Garretson has been engaged to succeed Edna May in "The Belle of New York" when the company returns to Europe.

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Miss Garretson is said to be a society girl and will shortly make her professional debut.

"The Belle of New York" may be presented in Berlin by an American company during the summer.

Smythe and Rice, long managerial partners will dissolve partnerships at the close of the present season.

Paul Blouet (Max O'Rell) arrived in New York a few days ago from Europe to begin a lecturing tour.

Olga Nethersole has been very ill and had to cancel her New York engagement. She is suffering from tonsillitis.

Fay Davis and Julie Opp will have leading parts in George Alexander's London production of Rupert of Hentzau.

Mary Hampton has resigned from the Frawley Company in San Francisco and will return shortly to New York.

Mouset Sluly and his company have returned from their tour of the French provinces and will begin work in Paris very soon.

The creditors of the Earl of Yarmouth, whose stage name is Eric Hope, met in London last week and decided to place his estate in bankruptcy.

Rose Coghlan will play Lady Garnet, the role originated in America by Ada Rehan when The Great Ruby was produced in New York next month.

Annie Russell may be seen next season as Lorna Doone in a dramatization of Blackmore's novel of that name, now being made by Louis N. Parker.

Nat Goodwin and Maxine Elliott are now playing "When We Two were Twenty one," replacing "The Cowboy and the Lady" which had a successful run.

Arthur Hughes who was here with the last production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was killed at Paxton, Ill., recently while attempting to board a moving train.

William Churchill De Mille, son of the late H. C. De Mille made his debut as a dramatist recently, when "A mixed Four some" a one act comedy drama written by

him was produced recently in New York. The young author and his brother, Cecil De Mille appeared in the cast.

Dorothy Morton during a performance of The Greek Slave at the Quebec Academy of music, rebuked a box party that had made audible comments upon her work.

Enmet Corrigan has succeeded Edward J. Morgan in the title role of Ben Hur at the N. Y., Broadway. Mr. Morgan is playing in The Ambassador at Daly's this week.

Rudolf Ardenson sailed last week for Paris where he expects to conduct a roof garden during the exposition. He will also secure novelties for presentation in New York.

William Faversham and Jessie Millward have arranged for a benefit on Feb. 9 for the sick and wounded British soldiers in Africa. Among those who will take part are Maxine Elliott, Nat Goodwin, Wm. Gillette and others.

David Warfield may become a star under David Belasco's management. Negotiations have been under way for a long time but the parties interested have not come to a definite understanding.

William Seymour who staged Maude Adams' revival of "Romeo and Juliet" last year has been engaged to stage the production of "As You Like It" in which Miss Adams will be seen next spring.

Belle Archer is to have a new play by Forbes Heerman. The work is said to be somewhat on the style of Clyde Fitch's "The Cowboy and the Lady" but the title has not been announced yet.

Zelie Davenport who is engaged by Liebler and Company for "The Children of The Ghetto" to replace Ellen Burg in the part of Leah, appeared in that role last week and scored an immense success.

A. M. Palmer will go to Europe in the spring to consult with several authors upon a new play for Richard Mansfield. Mr. Mansfield has approved the first scene and costume designs for his revival of Henry V.

Charles E. Evans has purchased from David Belasco a half interest in the road right to "Naughty Anthony" and expects soon to return to the stage in the title role of his successful force. The purchase price for the half interest is said to be \$20,000.

Agnes Sorma has conquered Paris. She gave two performances of A Doll's House to audiences that, despite the fact that most of them did not understand German, recognized her art and applauded her enthusiastically. The critics were loud in their praise of her.

Wilson Barrett has finally disposed of the charge that he plagiarized "The Sign of the Cross" from "Quo Vadis" by the authenticated statement that "Quo Vadis" was not published in Poland until March 1895, while "The Sign of the Cross" was produced in St. Louis a year earlier. The singular similarity of the story and character of the play and novel is accounted for by Mr. Barrett on the theory that both he and

Sienkiewicz sought the same sources for material in connection with the Neronian period.

Liebler and company will make an elaborate production of "Monte Cristo" next season with James O'Neill in the title role and a carefully selected company. The production will be on an elaborate scale and of such magnitude, it is said, that it can be presented only on large stages. It is the intention to divide the season between New York and Boston.

Beautiful Gertrude Dion Magill who made a sensation when here with W. S. Harkins some time ago—and incidentally an impression on many St. John masculine hearts—has been making a success in the role of Georgette in "The King of the Opium Ring" Recently however, she has been obliged to cancel her engagement and is undergoing treatment for laryngitis.

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