

Music and The Drama

SONS AND UNDERTONES.

The Albani concert last evening was an event of interest to music lovers. At the time of writing the sale of seats was large and the concert promised to be a success financially.

City talent entertained the inmates of the Boys Industrial Home on Tuesday evening at a most successful concert.

May Irvin is inimitable in her coon songs in Madge Smith, Attorney.

Louis Mann and Clara Lipmann are making a hit in "All an account of Eliza."

The Norman in White is the sobriquet of a mysterious songstress who is this week delighting Boston audiences.

Ethel Jackson has been engaged to play a leading role in Miss Bob white, Willard Spencer's new opera, which is to be produced in April.

Joseph Welsh has attained sudden prominence in The Burgomaster by his singing of 'I sing from my heart to you,' one of the sweetest ballads of the day.

Alalya Wesley wears in "A Guilty Mother" a dress trimmed with lace 200 years old. The lace is an heirloom in her family and was worn a century ago by her great grandmother at a ball given in honor of a member of the royal family in England.

Mr. M. Douglas Flattery author of "Wife or Maid?" "A Pair of Knaves" and "A Few Trumps" has just finished the libretto of a comic opera which is both picturesque and inviting. It is entitled "The Queen of the Harem" and the scenes are laid in Constantinople and Paris. He has already received several offers from managers for its production.

Josef Hotmann is a Pole and so is Jean de Reszke. Rubenstein also was Polish, on his mother's side. Hotmann was his favorite pupil during the last years of his life and gave him his last photograph with a few bars "Contra Dance" written on it and the words "You alone, my dear Josef, of all whom I have heard play this composition render it as I intended it."

Speaking of De Angelis, a Boston writer says "There is something Jeff De Angelis can be proud of, and that is the thought that he has achieved his present high position as a comic opera star by thoroughly legitimate methods. There has been no "fakery" in his career. He has never been mixed up in any public scandal of any kind whatever. He has never posed as a matinee hero. He has never tried to break into society, and he has never delivered lectures on pathology before the Podunk Literary Society. In fact he has never been agitated into fame. He has won his success by good, honest, hard work, and he has thrived by industry and not by charlatanism. He has attended to his own business, and aside from his efforts as a comedian on the stage, he has apparently avoided the public gaze. In this respect De Angelis stands almost alone among the stars on the American stage. His modesty seems to be genuine, and in these days of sham and puffery and shoddy publicity, it is pleasant to record the success of one who has mounted the top rung of the ladder in a legitimate manner."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Valentine Stock company closed its engagement on Saturday with a production of The Merchant of Venice. After a four days stay in Frederickton the company went to Ottawa where they will open a four weeks engagement on Monday.

Katherine Gray denies the rumor that she is to retire from the stage.

Mr. Haddon Chambers has finished a one act play which will be produced shortly in New York.

Sydney Rosefelds farce "The Purple Lady" has been placed for English production by Edward Terry.

A cablegram announces that Olga Netherole has arrived in London and was much benefited by the ocean voyage.

Louise Drew, the daughter of John Drew, made her professional debut in Philadelphia last Wednesday in Richard Carvel.

Maude Fealy, William Gillett's leading lady enjoys the distinction of being the youngest Juliet on the stage. She is still in her teens.

"The O'Ruddy," the late Stephen Crane's uncompleted novel is being finished by Mr. A. E. W. Mason and will be dramatized by David Belasco.

William Gillett is one of the most successful playwrights of the present day. He has to his credit farce, comedy, drama and the spectacular. He has written two of the greatest war dramas ever produced

in America and at the present time there are no less than six of his plays performing nightly in America and England.

Augustus Thomas has signed a contract to provide a new play for Peter F. Dailey's next season, when Christie McDonald will be again the comedian's leading lady.

Joseph Litt has engaged Miss Minnie Seligman to play the leading role in "The Prince of Peace," the Drury Lane melo drama, which is soon to be produced in New York.

'Sweet and Twenty' is the name of a comedy which Basil Hood has written for Ellaine Ferrise. He has also written a play which has been accepted by George Alexander.

Mr. Haddon Chambers has finished a one act play to which he has given the title 'Blue Roses.' The characters are three in number and the story is of a neglected wife.

There is said to be no foundation for the assertion that Stephen Phillips is the author of the new blank verse play which Sir Henry Irving has promised to produce in London after 'Coriolanus.'

George Honey who plays Sidney Prince, the crackman in Sherlock Holmes is English and a Cambridge man. He rowed number six in the University eight against Oxford in 1894. He is well known as an amateur single scull.

It is said that some of the land recently purchased in Texas by John Craig the leading man of the Boston Car the Square Stock Company, lies within the recently discovered oil belt and possibly the actor may assume a new role, that of the millionaire.

Among the plays which Julia Neilson and Fred Terry are holding for future production are "The Chancellor," an eighteenth century comedy by Enoch Bennett, a costume comedy still unnamed by Max Pemberton and James Arthur; a new comedy drama by Clyde Fitch and a modern comedy "The Heel of Achilles" by Louis Parker and Boyle Lawrence.

"Mice and Men" is the name of a play which she has sold to Forbes Robertson for production in London, and Mr. Nat Goodwin will present another which she is now writing. The only light comedy she expects to present for some time will be a play for Willie Collier, which Mr. Litt wishes her to write, but so far she has not definitely accepted the commission.

In the course of a performance at the New Curzon Theatre in Calcutta recently one of the actors had to swallow some wine from a bottle. He did so with a gulp and immediately ran screaming about the stage, to the delight of the audience who thought it was part of the play. But it soon became evident that it was an unheeded effect; the poor man was in the most terrible pain. He had been handed in mistake for the wine a bottle of sulphuric acid used with the limelight. He may recover.

The latest actress to be fired with an ambition to play Becky Sharp is Marie Tempest who will assume the character in the Prince of Wales Theatre, London, before long. Her play is a new version of 'Vanity Fair,' by a "well-known writer," who prefers to keep his name secret, and herein displays his wisdom. The reason why so many actresses wish to play Becky Sharp is obvious enough. The name in itself is a capital advertisement, the part is an uncommonly "fat" one, in the professional sense, and it does not require any special ability for its enactment.

Told of William Gillette: It happened at a railway lunch counter, Gillette walked leisurely up to the counter, hazarded a doughnut and plaintively spoke to the dressy young woman handing out things to excited voyagers who grabbed and bolted them, or had them thrust into a greasy paper bag to carry further and fare worse withal. 'I will take a ham sandwich,' stated Mr. Gillette, curling his arm up on the counter edge restfully. 'Will you eat it now or take it with you?' kindly inquired the waitress. 'Why, both, if you don't mind,' quietly answered William.

Says the Boston Evening Transcript on Thursday, Feb. 21, Judge McMahon of the Court of General Sessions, on motion of the district attorney, dismissed two indictments procured on June 8, 1898, at the instance of the theatrical trust against Harrison Grey Fiske, editor and proprietor of the Dramatic Mirror, for alleged libel. Mr. Fiske, it will be remembered, started a crusade against the trust in the Mirror in 1897, and has opposed that combination ever since. The trust sought to silence the Mirror first by instituting civil suits for alleged damages against the Mirror and its printers and circulating agents, and failing of its purpose instituted the criminal proceeding. A very lively series of preliminary hearings on the criminal process in the magistrate's court, beginning on March 15, 1898, is remembered. Mr. Fiske appeared with his counsel,

Abram R. King, and several members of the trust were subjected to searching examination. As the magistrate's court had not a trial jurisdiction, Mr. Fiske waived examination. It was the wish of Mr. Fiske to join issue on one of the civil suits brought by the trust, but the trust seemed disinclined to go into court, and one by one the civil actions were dismissed on motion of the trust's lawyers. Failing to join issue on the civil cases, Mr. Fiske hoped to do so in the criminal cases, but this the trust would not prosecute, for reasons best known to its members, and the dismissal of the indictments for alleged criminal libel ends the legal side of this interesting matter. Mr. Fiske's journal, the Mirror, has steadily continued a warm opposition to the trust, and promises still to continue that opposition.

Russel Sage has declared that the theatre is not necessary for the recreation of a young man. He prefers books as being not only cheaper but better. Mr. Andrew Carnegie disagrees with this view. 'I attach great importance to the theatre as a means of amusement,' he said, in an address to a Sunday-school class—and a Baptist Sunday school at that! 'There are, of course, in these days many bad plays; but there are also many good ones. I shall never forget the night when for the first time I heard the strange, mysterious rhythm of the language of Shakespeare.' He was then a messenger boy, and he got in because he was delivering a message to the manager. Mr. Sage was a poor country boy who fought his way up. Mr. Carnegie has also made a few dollars. Both are church men and church members. Both have rigid ideas as to right and wrong, and if both do not agree about the theatre they simply represent other men who disagree on subjects that intimately concern the daily life and character of the people.

Speaking of Madeline Lusette Ryley, and her work as a comedy writer the Transcript says:

The plays from her pen slated for production next fall are all more or less of a dramatic rather than a comedy nature. Of these interest will attach more closely to a play which Mr. Jacob Litt will produce. In this production Mr. John Mason will be given the stellar honor for which he has so long waited. The securing of this play was brought about under rather odd circumstances. Mr. Litt wanted a play for Willie Collier and made an appointment with Mrs. Ryley during her recent flying trip from London, where she now resides. She read him the play, the name of which is withheld, with every assurance that it would not suit Collier, but with an idea that it might attract the astute manager on its merits. It did, but he said, "Where am I to find the actor for the leading role?" "What do you think of Mr. Mason?" said Mrs. Ryley. "Splendid; but he is engaged with Daniel Frohman."

"Not for next season," was the reply. "I have it on my own authority."

And so it came about that within forty-eight hours Mrs. Ryley had sold a play she had finished some time before, and was the means of making her old time stage companion a star.

ON THE SAME WIRE.

Trouble Made Among Women by Suburbanville's Telephone System.

Since telephones on party wires have been introduced in Suburbanville there has been a very thorough readjustment of old fends. The party wire system permits three or four telephones on the same wire. Every telephone bell on this wire rings at the same time. The special telephone that is wanted is indicated by the number of times the bell rings. Each subscriber on a party wire quickly acquires a decided contempt, if not hatred, for every other subscriber on the same wire.

Suburbanville's social lines were formerly marked by membership in church congregations, in some one of the dozen or more whist clubs, and lastly by the butcher who supplied the family. When Mrs. Smith wanted to invite a dozen congenial women to form a whist or bowling club she sorted out on her list the women who patronized the same butcher and went to the same church.

Since the party telephones have been put in it has made the problem of collecting a dozen congenial women so complex that it would puzzle a graduate in double-entry bookkeeping. Not only must the hostess bear in mind the congregation to which the women belong and the butchers whom they patronize, but she must be sure not to bring together two women who use the same party wire. Such a disaster happened last week.

Mrs. Onering had never met Mrs. Tworing, though their telephones were on the same wire. When Mrs. Tworing's telephone was put in she thoroughly enjoyed

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GRIP

the novelty to call up all of her friends who had telephones a dozen times a day. Mrs. Onering had become accustomed to her telephone, and the continual jangling of Mrs. Tworing's calls annoyed her. Several lively skirmishes followed over the wire.

One morning when Mrs. Onering was anxious to telephone for a cab to catch a certain train she waited for Mrs. Tworing to get through telephoning until her patience was exhausted. Then she broke in on the wire with the request.

'Won't you please give me a chance to call up the livery stable? I'm in a hurry.'

'Are you indeed?' said the voice. 'Who are you?'

'I am Mrs. Onering. Who are you?'

'I am Mrs. Tworing, and I shall complain to Central that you have been listening.'

'Well, then, I will tell Central that I can't help listening because you are using the telephone all the time. I have as much right on this wire as you have.'

'Comes from having ill-bred persons on the wire, and—'

'I'll complain, and—'

'I won't stand it —'

'Such impertinence! —'

Bur-r-r-r, and both telephones rang off at the same time. It so happened that Mrs. Onering and Mrs. Tworing did not know each other by sight. They were both guests at a Helping Hand social last week, and happening to be seated together they opened conversation without the formality of an introduction.

They agreed beautifully about butchers, and each wondered why she had not happened to meet the other before. Then they came to the subject of telephones.

'I find my telephone a great convenience,' said Mrs. Onering, 'but I have the most disagreeable people on it. One woman has just had her telephone put in, and she works it to death. She has been telephoning all this last month. I think I will apply to have my wire changed. I can't stand it.'

'That's just my experience,' said Mrs. Tworing delightedly. 'There is the most impertinent woman on my wire. I know from her voice that she is a perfect fright. She is so curious that she listens whenever I use the wire. If one could only chase the other subscribers on her party wire it would be a great advantage.'

So many common experiences made Mrs. Onering and Mrs. Tworing very chummy and each was just about to invite the other to call when the hostess came up and said to them:

'Why, I did not know that you two people knew each other.'

'We have just scraped an acquaintance,' said Mrs. Onering, 'and I wish that you would introduce us formally.'

'Certainly,' said the hostess. 'Mrs. Onering I want to present a neighbor of yours, Mrs. Tworing.'

'Tworing did you say?' asked Mrs. Onering. 'Yes, I remember the name perfectly. So sorry, but I must be going now. I have had a lovely afternoon,' and out she went.

'It she had not gone I would have left,' said Mrs. Tworing.

'Why I thought that you were getting along beautifully,' said the hostess.

'Her telephone is on my party wire and she bothers me very much.'

Mrs. Tworing and Mrs. Onering pass each other on the street as strangers and when they conflict in using the telephone each treats the other with frigid politeness. So many hostesses in Suburbanville

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have had similar awkward experiences that they have now applied to the telephone company for a classified list of the party telephones in use so that two women who use the same wire may not be invited at the same time.

Life-Saving Politeness.

Patriotism and politeness are great virtues, and a Japanese physician, Doctor Aoyama, owes his life to the fact that he possessed them both in high degree.

He had caught the plague and was dying for need of the food which, in his delirium, he refused to take. His nurse was in despair, but finally conceived the idea of playing upon his patriotism by filling a glass with liquid nourishment and then offering to drink to the health of the mikado.

This was repeated until, ardent patriot as he was, the doctor felt that he had honored his sovereign enough.

Then his politeness was appealed to, the nurse proposing a toast and reproaching the sick man for not joining in it. In this way the patient's strength was maintained until the delirium subsided and he became convalescent.

Father—I am afraid you will never make your living with your pen.

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