

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

"THE MILLIONNAIRE" AT THE GRAND.

DANIEL SULLY, well known here as an Irish comedian, has, during the week, been presenting at this theatre an Irish-American comedy entitled "The Millionaire," and has scored a marked success so far as he himself is concerned, but, unfortunately, as is too often the case in starring companies, the support is very feeble. "The Millionaire" gives Mr. Sully an opportunity for displaying an inexhaustible fund of dry humour, which is the main stay of a play that would be otherwise weak. The scenery is good, that in the second act being especially realistic and representing on the stage the construction of a railway, a locomotive and various other accessories.

THE ACADEMY.

On Monday evening Miss Pixley appeared at the Academy in her play entitled "The Deacon's Daughter." Owing to unfavourable weather the attendance was not so large as was expected, but this in no way affected the enjoyment of those who witnessed this play. Miss Pixley is well known here and the play has several times been produced in Toronto, but, notwithstanding this, one can afford to see it again. Messrs. Daly, Grinnell and Lavton form a very fair support and are capable in their parts. Miss Pixley's dancing and singing serve to give variety to the performance, and her acting throughout has lost none of that vim and go for which she has always been noted. The photographic scene where she appears in male costume is by far the best in the play. The play itself is a well-written comedy of a light nature and contains some very ludicrous situations.

ONE of the greatest attractions that has ever been booked here will occupy the Academy of Music next week. The famous French Pantomime Company, direct from the Eden Theatre, Paris, will appear in a grand scenic production of "The Prodigal Father." The entertainment consists of an entire four-act play produced in pantomime, not a word being spoken. This will be the company's second week in America. Considering the magnitude of this engagement there can be but little doubt that the Academy will be well filled. There will positively be no advance in prices.

THE triumphant success of Mascagni's new opera "Cavalleria Rusticana" in Italy has attracted much attention to the composer, a poor teacher in a little Tuscan village.

THE coming opera season in Russia, both at St. Petersburg and at Moscow, promises to be unusually active, especially in the production of native works. In the former capital it is intended to bring out "Prince Igor," a posthumous work of the late Alex. Borodin, portions of which have been performed in the concert-room; also Tchaikowsky's new opera, "La Dame de Pique." At Moscow, an unpublished opera, entitled "A Dream on the Volga," by Anton Arensky, a young composer, some of whose works have gained much notice, is to be the principal novelty. Besides these native works, Melba and the brothers De Reszké may be counted upon as certain attractions to the public of St. Petersburg.

It is said that a new invention in musical instruments has been brought out in Austria by a manufacturer living at Pressburg, which is causing a good deal of interest. This is called a bowed piano, but is really a case resembling a pianoforte frame and containing six violins, two violas, and two violincellos, the strings of which are tuned to different notes. The instruments are connected by circular bands, which are brought into contact with the strings by means of the keyboard, the hammers of which bear upon the bands with varying pressure. The instrument is said to produce a fine tone, soft or powerful; but the principal difficulty in bringing it into practical use would be the tuning of the gut strings required, as wire strings could not be universally employed.

In the picturesque old Horseshoe Cloisters at Windsor, England, there is living a most interesting old man, who has sung in St. George's choir during portion of the reigns of two sovereigns and the entire reigns of two more. Mr. John Mitchell is the oldest of the lay clerks of the royal chapels. Tall, white-bearded, with fine features and a still rich and resonant bass voice he is a charming person, who links to a remarkable degree the first and last decades of this century. Born in Eton in 1809, he first sang when only six years old in the choir of St. George's when George III. was king, and he can distinctly remember seeing that unhappy monarch driving post-haste up the long walk. Mr. Mitchell sang at the coronations of William IV. and Queen Victoria, and at the wedding and jubilee of the Queen in Westminster Abbey.

In criticizing the proposal to establish a "British Artist's Room" at the new National Portrait Gallery, the *Saturday Review* puts forward as an objection: "Would not all Academicians think themselves entitled to contribute? Yet no one would like to deny that, though our Academy has always contained a certain number of great artists, it has also always contained at least an equal number who could only be called artists by courtesy; and also, that some of our greatest and most representative artists have never been even Associates." But that, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is exactly what is claimed as one of the great advantages of the proposal! Membership of the Academy will no longer be the only certificate of ability, which, as the *Saturday Review* imputes, is not an infallible standard. If on that ground alone, the scheme should find favour.

Is the piano waning in popularity and giving place to the violin? One would not think so to see the activity among the dealers in these instruments on Tremont Street. And yet it would appear that the violin, especially as an instrument for young girls, is rapidly increasing in popularity. The classes in the violin at the music schools are growing larger, and a "popular" concert to-day can hardly be regarded as popular unless a young lady violinist is included among the "talent." In England it is said to have fairly taken its place as an instrument for girls. After all, the piano is really a very modern instrument when compared with the violin. It is only a harp set in a box and twanged with leather covered hammers. It is really a mechanical sort of an affair, while the violin has never within the memory of living man or woman been improved and never will be. Who cares for an old piano and how much will it bring in the market? But a violin! What divine melody will pour forth, under skilful fingers, from an old Stradivarius or Amati! The wizard of Cremona possessed a secret which no imitator, however keen, has ever been able to fathom. Princes and dukes, men of high renown and modern money kings have scrambled for the possession of the few rare products of his cunning. Stradivarius died more than one hundred and fifty years ago, but the few violins and 'cellos which still exist to enchant the ear of the world are worth their weight in gold. The master of the piano is a skilful mechanic, with agile, supple fingers and an acute musical instinct. The master or mistress of the violin is imbued with divine fire, unquenchable with age, the gift of the gods.—*Boston Advertiser*.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

AMONG THE MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES. By Julia P. Ballard. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

"How shall we interest young people? How shall we most interest them? How shall we best interest them?" are the pertinent questions which Miss Ballard asks in one of her charming prefaces, and how clearly, cleverly and attractively she provides an answer the beautifully illustrated and fascinating pages of this volume testify. It is sufficient to say that this book is one of those successful simplifications of scientific teaching of which this age is so prolific. Though it is adapted to the mind of a child, it can be read with pleasure and profit by the adult.

FOLLOWING THE GUIDON. By Elizabeth B. Custer. New York: Harper Brothers.

The readers of "Boots and Saddles" have, since the announcement of the present volume, eagerly anticipated its appearance. And we may safely say that not one of them has risen from the perusal of its pages dissatisfied. For the same sparkling style, bright cheeriness of treatment and graphic clearness of narrative are as conspicuous in the present as in the previous volume. Mrs. Custer's literary talent and thorough appreciation of her subject enable her to invest the views of army life at wild United States' outposts, and her sketches of scenes and persons and incidents with a winning and instructive charm. The extracts from letters of her late husband, that dashing cavalry leader, General Custer, are very interesting.

THE SQUATTER'S DREAM. A story of Australian Life. By Rolf Boldrewood. London and New York: Macmillan and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

In tracing the fortunes of Jack Redgrave, a typical Australian gentleman farmer, from his charming home and happy and successful life at Marshmead, to his new adventure at Gondaree, on the Lower Warrow, Mr. Boldrewood proves himself the possessor of the fertile brain and facile pen of a cultivated and clever novelist; and that he has by extensive observation, painstaking care and actual experience provided himself with the requisite knowledge and ample material to enable him to do justice to his subject matter goes without the saying. How well he delineates Australian character, and describes the varied phases of life and labour and scenery in the rural parts of that vast Island Continent, the reader of the bright, attractive pages of this very interesting tale can testify. We may say that to the Canadian reader it has an added charm in that it so well portrays the points of similarity and difference between the great British Dominion of the Southern Ocean and that of the American Continent.

THE CANADIANS OF OLD. By Philipps Aubert de Gaspé. Translated by Charles G. D. Roberts. New York: D. Appleton and Company; Toronto: Hart and Company.

If Parkman, in his fascinating history of "Montcalm and Wolfe," has created a desire for more intimate acquaintance with the French-Canadians of that period, or if anyone desires to know something of the hospitality, customs, and superstitions of these sturdy pioneers of "New France," here, under the title of "Canadians of Old," is a book that will do much to satisfy and interest them. Not only has the author produced a story of considerable interest in itself, but he has pictured in a quaint yet graphic manner many incidents in the every-day life of Quebec's early settlers, from the noble seigneur, exercising

ing fatherly sway over his little parish, down to the humble *habitant*, content in loyalty to his Church and King. This volume can have none other than a good effect upon English readers, winning from them a more sympathetic recognition of their French brother's faith and nationality. The work of translation has been well done by Prof. Chas. G. D. Roberts, who deserves credit for bringing before English readers so much that is historically interesting to all Canadians.

THE twenty-fourth volume of "Alden's Manifold Cyclopedia" has been issued. In this volume, five States are treated: Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, and Montana. Among the cities described are Memphis, Tenn., and the historic Memphis of Egypt; Mexico, Milan, and Milwaukee. There are biographies of Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer, Michelangelo, John Stuart Mill, Hugh Miller, Milman, and Milton. Among the important topics in other lines are Meteorology, Miasma, Microscope, and Mind. The matter is well brought down to date, and the illustrations are numerous and helpful.

THE *Queries Magazine* for this month comes to us with an interesting article on "Early Caricaturists," dealing principally with those of the restoration and onward to the time of the Georges. "Some Notable Dreams" will enchant believers in the supernatural. Other articles are one on "Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz," on "The Influence of the Bible on the Poetry of Heinrich Heine," "The Beautiful Snow," "Mr. Swinburne on the Brontës," several short poems, and the usual notes on current literature and queries end the number. The frontispiece, entitled "A Type of Beauty," is good.

THE quarterly number of the *Magazine of Poetry* contains a brief account of about thirty poets, principally of the United States, and also furnishes several short poems and extracts as examples of their various styles. The illustrations of the several writers are well executed. It is difficult to mention any writer individually where there are so many, but for those interested in the less-renowned writers of the present day this work should prove invaluable. There is also a collection of current poems, which includes one entitled "The Gift of the Sea," by Rudyard Kipling, which is in every way worthy of this rising young poet. The number is well gotten up and excellently printed.

FIRST among the articles of the *English Illustrated Magazine* for November stands one by Frederick Gale, illustrated by W. Harold Oakley, and having an introduction written by the Rt. Hon. Earl of Selborne. It is entitled "Winchester College," and is a full and interesting account of the progress of this fine old school up to the present day. Mrs. Jeune, well known as the benefactress of the children of the poor, gives a description of her work under the title of "Children's Happy Evenings." Other articles are "A Holiday in South Africa," by M. Kelly; "A Royal Surgical Nurse," by E. Sellers; and in addition to the serial tale, one entitled "Sonia," by Sidney Pickering. The illustrations are well up to the mark, the frontispiece, "Portrait of Two Gentlemen," from a picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds, in the National Gallery, being especially well executed.

Temple Bar for November contains several interesting articles, prominent among these an anonymous one, entitled "Reminiscences of my Time at Oxford," is especially interesting to university men of twenty-five years ago, and recalls several well-known names which have since become famous. "Miss Mitford" is the subject of a well written and comprehensive sketch, which gives one an insight into the life of one of whom too little is known. "Wolves and Were Wolves," by C. F. Gordon Cumming, and "Stanley Rippenger's Recital," are well worth perusal. The serial tale, "Alas," is continued, and this number also contains an exciting episode of the Indian mutiny, entitled "The Siege of Sunga Gunge." Other contents are "Letters of a Worldly Woman," and some verses by Arthur L. Salmon, called "Seafarer and Driftwood," and "Springs Immortality," a short poem by Mackenzie Bell.

THE *Overland Monthly* for November has a number of interesting articles, prominent among which are "Fremont's Place in California's History," by Willard B. Farwell, a concise description of this explorer's influence upon that country; and "Love to Canada," by John S. Hittell, evidently written from a United States' standpoint, in which the writer advocates union between the two countries. Other contributions consist of "The Bears and the Historians," by M. W. Shinn; "In the Mahratta Country," by T. F. B.; and numerous tales, entitled severally, "How Cornish Jack Showed a Pious Bringing Up," "A Night Lesson," "A Romance of the Platte," and "The Animated Chimney." A sonnet, by Edward Cummings, entitled "The Killdeer," and a short poem by J. Herbert Phillips, complete a very interesting number. There are besides several short biographical fragments of various well-known men and women.

*Blackwood's Magazine* for November opens with a well-written and unbiased article on the late "Sir Stafford Northcote," which, starting from his early days, gives a brief but concise sketch of his career up to the time of his death. J. Theodore Bent furnishes an interesting account of the East, called "Tarsus, Past and Present," showing how small are the changes in these eastern countries when compared with the fast moving west. "Customs," by Sir H. E. Maxwell, M.P., is a light and interesting notice of