

MUSIC AND DRAMA



Miss Emily Lytton in "Brewster's Millions."

TO spend money is not usually considered a difficult undertaking. But when one is possessed of an American fortune the problem of expenditure sometimes becomes acute. In "Brewster's Millions," the story is told of a poor-rich young man who is engaged in spending a million a year and at the same time preserving secrecy regarding his ultimate object. He is not permitted to give it recklessly away, neither is he allowed to gamble, nor endow institutions nor erect memorials. The Christmas holidays are the season for such improbable and diverting plots and Canadian audiences will probably find "Brewster's Millions" a source of sparkling entertainment. The play will be presented at the Princess Theatre, Toronto, during New Year's week.

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THE custom of giving "The Messiah" at this season appears to be well-established in several Canadian cities and is increasing in favour every year. Montreal, London, Ottawa and Winnipeg are centres where such an undertaking should receive strong local support. In Toronto at Massey Hall, Dr. Torrington will conduct "The Messiah" for the twenty-fifth time next Monday night. The notable soloists engaged for the occasion are Mrs. Shanna Cumming, soprano, Mrs. Grace Carter Merry, contralto, Mr. E. C. Towne, tenor, and Mr. H. Ruthven McDonald, baritone.

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MISS FRANZISKA HEINRICH, the accomplished Canadian pianist, has been giving a series of recitals in Winnipeg and the West. The Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg engaged Miss Heinrich for a recital at the Y.M.C.A. auditorium which proved a most satisfying event.

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THE Dickens Fellowship, which has a membership of eight hundred, and is steadily increasing, won deserved praise last month for its production of "The Cricket on the Hearth" at the Toronto Conservatory of Music. It is rumoured that the company intends to enter the Governor-General's competition in February next, presenting this same play. The proceeds of the local performances go entirely to the charitable funds of the Fellowship.

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SHAKESPEAREAN performances have not been frequent this year. Montreal has recently been pleased with Mr. Henry Ludlowe's appearance in Shakespearean roles and several critics have compared him not unfavourably with the late Richard Mansfield.

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THE Walker Theatre, Winnipeg, has secured that light and amusing play, "The Vanderbilt Cup," for Christmas week. Last week "The Gingerbread Man" whose "John Dough" and other ditties have been re-echoed in most corners of the continent, delighted the Winnipeg public with its seasonable confectionery.

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THE subscription lists for the Mendelssohn Choir concerts closed on December 17th and public interest in "Mendelssohn Week" is already a-tingle, while the members of Canada's champion choir show the seriousness which means practice pre-occupation. From cities throughout Ontario and beyond and from United States centres there are letters from musical citizens who are anxious to hear the choral triumphs which are not surpassed on this continent. The choir will have one foreign engagement this year—a concert in Convention Hall, Buffalo. There are rumours of an European trip next year and, if the Canadian Government has a sense of values beyond flour and cheese, it will do something towards sending this unique organisation abroad. Of course, there are many difficulties involved in a five-weeks' tour by such a number of singers. But the history of the Mendelssohn Choir has been the surmounting of such obstructions and it is the fond belief of many that the appreciation of Buffalo and New York will be equalled in Leeds and London. Mr. Vogt is not talking of European concerts in these winter days. But there is a general impression that there is something to be said later on. The Mendelssohn Choir is not regarded as a local affair. Its Conductor comes from the sturdy town of Waterloo and few of the members are native Torontonians. It is a national pride and it is of national importance that it should be heard in the heart of the Empire.

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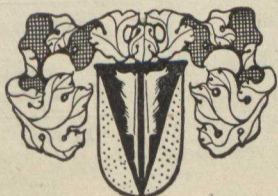
IT is announced that the Sheffield Choir of England will sing in Canada next year. But the report may be no more trustworthy than that of the royal visit.

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SIR FREDERICK BRIDGE will visit Canada in April to conduct, under the auspices of Dr. Harriss, performances throughout the Dominion, of the cathedral music of England. Church choirs and choral societies in Canada will be invited to prepare and sing, under Dr. Bridge, the master-works from three centuries of cathedral composition.

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MISS MARGARET ANGLIN has recently brought to a close her extraordinarily popular run in Mr. Moody's play, "The Great Divide." Miss Anglin will probably go to Australia next spring where she will play in comedy roles. It is said that Miss Anglin has found the strenuous part of "Ruth" hardly to her taste.

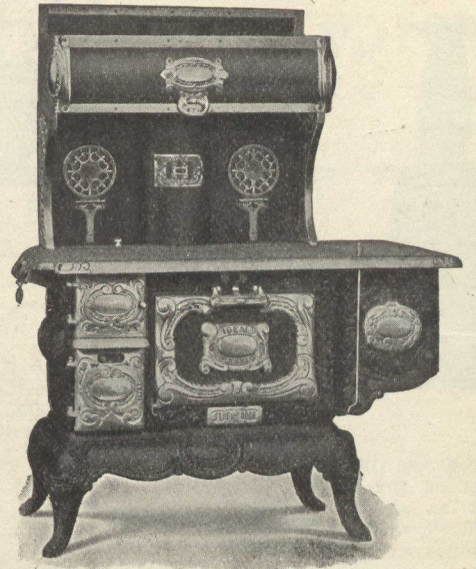


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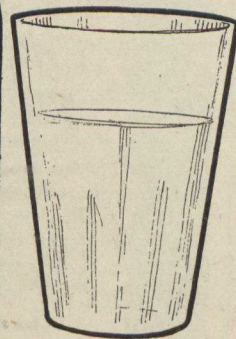
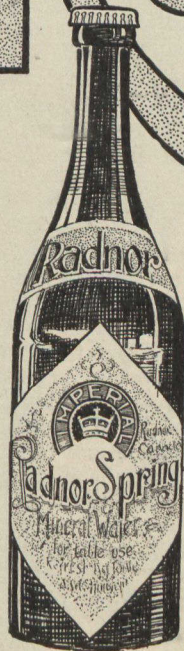
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