

Canada's Song Queen.

Albani Has a Great Reception in London.

A Brilliant Audience at the Grand Opera House.

The Star Overwhelmed with Encores and Flowers—Superb Performances by Mme. Albani and the Members of Her Company.

Albani, the Canadian Queen of Song, was crowned anew last night, and London placed the laurel upon her brow.

She was the magnet that drew the wealth and fashion of the city within the walls of the Grand Opera House. The result was a blaze of sartorial splendor that outshone anything in recent years. Every trolley car moving cityward between 7 and 8 o'clock was crowded with fair women, hooded and cloaked, and with their escorts, whose overcoats shielded immaculate shirt fronts and spotless collars. In addition numberless hacks and cabs discharged their precious freight at the Opera House entrance, which for half an hour was blocked by a surging mass of well-dressed humanity. In the reception room there was a great shuffling off of outer garments and hurried glances at the big mirror, after which, radiant in evening attire, the lucky ticket holders were ready for public inspection.

The busy ushers had their hands full. On the first floor there was not a vacant seat, except on the steps of the aisles. In the balcony standing room was also at a premium. And even in the "gods," supposedly the exclusive property of the masculine element, scores of women were glad to secure sitting space without the luxury of an opera chair. It was a rare spectacle.

The audience, for its brilliancy of appearance, its evident discernment, and its demonstrative appreciation, must have favorably impressed the performers. At any rate the warm and even effusive tributes to their merit, seemed to put all in good humor, and every encore was responded to with cheerful alacrity. Mme. Albani did not appear till the fifth number, and her able associates were, perhaps, overshadowed somewhat at first by the expectancy with which she was awaited. The great prima donna's entrance was the signal for a salvo of applause, which Madame at once acknowledged by several low bows and a charming smile. The graciousness of her demeanor, so pleasantly in contrast with the airs of frigid superiority assumed by many stars of lesser magnitude, at once won the hearts of her hearers, and her triumph was almost complete before a note was uttered. They intuitively felt that Albani was a lovable woman as well as a great artist. The songstress is of medium height, stout, but graceful and active. Her handsome and expressive face beams with kindness, and there is a girlish artlessness in her manner that is very captivating. Her extreme sprightliness, and vivacity suggest her French-Canadian origin. Mme. Albani was handsomely dressed, and glittered with many diamonds.

The star's first number was "Costa Diva," from Bellini's opera of "Norma." At first her voice seemed husky, but this soon wore off and revealed her liquid tones in their purity and sweetness. She ascended the upper register with the utmost ease, her notes being beautifully strong, clear and true. A rousing encore brought her back, and there was renewed applause when the accompanist struck up "Robin Adair," for which Albani is famous. Her rendition of the good old Scotch song provoked such a furor of enthusiasm that Madame returned again and smiled and bowed her acknowledgments in her own pretty way. Two baskets of magnificent flowers were presented to her. Handel's air "Sweet Bird," with flute obligato by Mons. Ruequoy, was Mme. Albani's next number, and it was a ravishing performance. At times it was difficult to tell which was the flute and which the human voice, so perfectly did they blend—the intertwining of two silver threads of harmony. Mme. Albani's trilling was delightful in its bird-like quality and sustained strength. It was a shower of vocal pearls. Tumultuous applause and more flowers followed her retreat, and the persistence of the audience brought her to the front again. She sang Handel's "Angels Ever Bright and Fair," and glorified the lovely song with exquisite art and sympathy. Her concluding number, and the last of the evening, was "At the Gate," both of which displayed the grand volume of her voice, its delicate texture, splendid cultivation and perfect control. Her auditors were rich to hear her sing, and in response to a rapturous encore she advanced once more to the footlights. If the audience had been asked to choose a selection, the majority would undoubtedly have called for the dear old song which Mme. Albani gave them, "Home, Sweet Home." When the first bar was struck, the outburst of applause showed that the gracious songstress had divined their wish, and sang with a world of tender pathos, which her matchless art carried into the hearts of all. Her hearers sat in a blissful

trance as the charmed words were poured forth in a flood of sweet harmony. It was with a feeling of sorrow that the spell was broken when Madame breathed her farewell note. The appreciative outburst brought a fleeting glimpse of her smiling face, and then Albani made her final exit. Her kindness had been unbounded; she had responded to every encore. Many were critics during the first number; they became her admirers before the second; and her warm friends ever after.

The star has not been selfish enough to shine in lonely splendor, but has surrounded herself with an unusually capable company. Madame Vander-veer-Green, charmingly attired, made two appearances and was cordially received. She has a superb contralto, her voice being rich and sympathetic, her art excellent, and her intonation beautifully clear. As her second number she gave the "Song of the Sea," and "Loch Lomond," with a capital Scotch accent, and was uproariously applauded. She rendered that she earned another encore, and kindly sang a sweet lullaby that captivated all.

Mr. Norman Salmond's fine, manly, ringing baritone, and free and easy manner made him an immediate favorite, and he carried off a large share of the evening's honors. His selections were of the popular variety, and included some rollicking English songs and ballads that brought down the house.

Mons. Frederic Ruequoy's performance on the flute was unique and brilliant. The flute is an instrument of great possibilities, and Mons. Ruequoy produced some exquisite results from it. He played a solo of his own composition, which possessed much merit and was cleverly rendered. Mr. Ernest Schelling, pianist, displayed creditable technical skill and powers of execution, though his memory apparently failed him while playing Liszt's "Rhapsodie," half the page of which he omitted. The accompanist, Mr. H. Lane-Wilson, won great admiration for his work.

Manager Roote is to be commended for securing an attraction of this merit and magnitude, and is to be congratulated upon the splendid success of the enterprise.

The London Presbytery

Appoints Its Commissioners to the General Assembly.

And Nominates a Halifax Divine for Moderator—Nominations for Vacant Chairs in Knox College—Rev. Mr. D. Robertson's Resignation—Increased Contributions—No Reduction in Representation to the General Assembly.

The Presbytery of London reassembled at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the school room of the First Presbyterian Church, the moderator in the chair.

The following commissioners were appointed to the meeting of the General Assembly in Toronto in June: Ministers—Dr. Proudfoot, W. Anderson, B. D., D. L. Dewar, B.D., A. Wilson, R. W. Ross, M.A., R. Stuart, B.A., M. P. Talling, B.A., J. Milloy and D. Kelso. Elders—W. Anderson, W. Dickinson, R. Rathburn, J. McDonald, W. Campbell and John Robb.

Rev. D. Robertson, of East London, tendered his resignation as pastor of the King Street Church, owing to delicate health. Commissioners from the congregation were heard, and it was moved by Dr. Proudfoot that the resignation be laid on the table and the question cited to appear before the Presbytery, which holds its next meeting at the time of the Synod in Chattanooga.

The home mission report of Rev. A. Henderson was received. North Ekfrid, which had secured the Rev. A. Miller, of Mossa, for afternoon services, wished to secure the services of a missionary for the summer months. Rev. S. D. Johnston, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, was appointed to the field. The usual half-yearly grants to augmented charges were passed.

Mr.utherland, clerk of the Presbytery, reported regarding the Alma Street Church, St. Thomas, and urged the necessity of assisting that congregation by applying to the augmentation committee for the grant of \$100, which had lately been withdrawn.

Rev. D. C. Johnston reported having received \$164.37 for congregations in behalf of Aylmer Church. Several congregations had failed to respond to the request of the Presbytery, and Mr. Johnston was asked to again call their attention to the matter.

The report on church life presented by Rev. G. H. Sawers, of Westminster, made several recommendations, which were received and adopted. The remit suggesting a smaller representation of the church in the General Assembly, which had been sent down from the Presbytery, was discussed. The suggestion was to make the representation one-sixth instead of one-fourth. The difficulty experienced by the Presbyterians in billeting the large number of delegates to the Assembly was used as an argument for the reduction.

Rev. D. M. Gordon, D.D., of Halifax, was nominated as moderator of next General Assembly.

On the schemes of the church the clerk reported that the contribution for the year 1895 showed in most instances a marked and encouraging increase over 1894. St. Andrew's Church, London, also showed an increase of \$1,000 in this respect.

Rev. G. Stuart, of South London, submitted a report regarding a May conference for the discussion of subjects relating to the conduct of public worship and ordinances. A committee was ordered to prepare a programme and arrange for the conference, which will be held at the meeting of the Presbytery in St. Thomas.

The report on Sabbath schools was presented by Rev. Mr. Courtney. It showed a deepening interest and increasing enthusiasm in the work.

The item of most interest to the Presbytery was the nomination of professors for the vacant chairs in Knox College. The voting was conducted by ballot. Rev. G. L. Robinson, M.A., Ph.D., of New York, was nominated for the chair of Old Testament literature, and Rev. John Somerville, M.A., D.D., of Owen Sound, for the chair of apologetics and church history.

The Presbytery adjourned shortly after 6 o'clock. Several members remained in the city over night, to attend the concert by Albani at the Grand Opera House.

Safe, Sure and Painless. What a world of meaning this statement embodies. Just what you are looking for, is it not? Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor—the great sure-pop corn cure—acts in this way. It makes no sore spots; safe, acts speedily and with certainty; sure and without inflaming the parts; painlessly. Do not be imposed upon by imitations or substitutes.

Epworth Leaguers.

The General Secretary Speaks of Their Aims and Objects.

And Mrs. Gordon Wright Dwells on the Relation of the League to Missions—An Interesting Session.

The first annual convention of the Epworth League of the London district concluded last night, when a crowded audience listened to the closing addresses. The first speaker was Mrs. Gordon Wright, first London, who dwelt on the relation of missions to the Epworth League. The address of Rev. A. C. Crews, Toronto, the general secretary, was very encouraging and most interesting, and the speaker was applauded frequently. The chair was occupied by President Young.

Mrs. Gordon Wright hoped that anything she might say might bear fruit and arouse and stimulate true missionary spirit. It was a foregone conclusion, she said, the relation between Epworth Leaguers and missions; in fact, their interests were so interwoven that the two were inseparable. So that missionary spirit could be inculcated there had to be a constant dwelling of the spirit of the Most High, and to retain this there must be obedience. The speaker gave a detailed outline of the work of the Epworth League. It was meant for others as well as the Apostle Peter. Independent piety recognized God's relationship to the human race. He was the universal father, and the duty of the Christian to his brethren was imperative. So often the excuse of home missions was made when foreign mission effort was not receiving the attention it might. There was not, or even only a very small portion, of the responsibility to God in relation to missions was personal and non-transferable. Missionary effort could be placed under three heads—ability, opportunity and desire. Mrs. Wright pointed out that great benefit would accrue from systematic giving, and that the busiest could at least pray for the work. Children should be familiarized with the work of noble missionaries, then some were surely in a position to go to the field. As to the need of missionaries, she stood appalled at that phase of the question. The speaker gave a detailed outline of the work of the Epworth League. It was meant for others as well as the Apostle Peter. Independent piety recognized God's relationship to the human race. He was the universal father, and the duty of the Christian to his brethren was imperative. So often the excuse of home missions was made when foreign mission effort was not receiving the attention it might. There was not, or even only a very small portion, of the responsibility to God in relation to missions was personal and non-transferable. Missionary effort could be placed under three heads—ability, opportunity and desire. Mrs. Wright pointed out that great benefit would accrue from systematic giving, and that the busiest could at least pray for the work. Children should be familiarized with the work of noble missionaries, then some were surely in a position to go to the field. As to the need of missionaries, she stood appalled at that phase of the question.

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