

MUSIC AND DRAMA

THE EASTER SERVICES.

A VETERAN musician, who has seen many changes in Canadian programmes, recently said that the character of the music at the churches on Easter Sunday was a striking indication of the country's development in this art. The selections chosen are such as were attempted by only a few choirs a score of years ago, and the constant study of the classic Easter anthems shows the serious ambition cherished by choir-master and organist.

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A WELCOME GUEST.

SIR FREDERICK BRIDGE, organist of Westminster Abbey, is to visit Canada next month and in the course of his tour of the Dominion will deliver lectures on "The Cathedral Music of England during Three Centuries." Many choirs throughout the country are busy practising the English cathedral music to be given as accompaniment to the distinguished visitor's discourse. Sir Frederick is the most interesting figure among English organists, his genius having directed the music of all the great memorial services for the last quarter-of-a-century. His visit to Canada cannot but deepen our knowledge of the great ecclesiastical composers. Several of Sir Frederick's former pupils are in this country which has drawn very largely upon England's organists. In Toronto this noted English organist will be heard at St. James' Cathedral on May 1st.

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A LOCKE PLAY.

"THE Morals of Marcus" is a dramatisation of Mr. William J. Locke's novel, "The Morals of Marcus Ordeyne." The story, written with a certain whimsical charm, frankly concerns itself with the "affairs" of a young Turkish waif named *Carlotta* who has a complete disregard of the decalogue. The hero, *Sir Marcus*, is a worthy eccentric, however, who finally wins the butterfly affections of the errant lady. The domestic felicity of *Sir Marcus* seems rather doubtful, but novelist and playwright can dismiss all doleful futures with "finis" or the curtain. This play, with Miss Marie Doro as *Carlotta*, has proved interesting to Toronto theatre-goers this week. The drama gives a decidedly softened version of the witchery and wanderings of the tiresome little Turk.

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THREE LITTLE MAIDS.

THE Toronto Press Club announces for its fourth annual production the English musical comedy, *Three Little Maids*, which will be given at the Royal Alexandra Theatre on May 7th, 8th and 9th. The production is reported to be the best of its kind since *The Geisha*. Messrs. Robert Stuart Pigott and Douglas A. Paterson are in charge of the preparations and their success in former years warrants a large advance sale of tickets for this year's comedy. His Excellency, the Governor-General, may be in attendance at the first performance and a party from Government House will also have a box.

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THE CARUSO CONCERT.

THERE is every indication that the Caruso concert on May 4th in Massey Hall, Toronto, will be a great occasion. Already there have been many applications for seats from outside towns and cities. Caruso is undoubtedly one of the greatest tenor singers of the day and the rare oppor-

tunity of hearing such a golden Italian voice appeals both to the Canadians who have not been able to attend the Conried Metropolitan Company's operas in New York and to those who have heard the Neapolitan tenor before and are anxious to repeat the experience. This is Caruso's first concert tour and it will probably be many years ere he indulges in a second, for he takes the best care of his health, possessing a magnificent physique.

Caruso was famous in Italy, Russia and South America before he came to New York, where he made the first season of the Conried management a tremendous success. It is rather difficult for the conceited public of North America to realise that the Latin cities of South America are far readier to recognise operatic genius than we of the north. Caruso has realised his temperamental qualities in so far that he has kept almost exclusively to the opera of his native land, singing infrequently in French roles and in only one Wagnerian—that of *Lohengrin*, which, however, was sung in Italian.

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AN EASTERN SINGER.

MISS MABEL BARKER, a talented young Canadian singer now studying in Europe, was born in Lime Ridge, near Sherbrooke in the East-



Miss Mabel Barker

A well-known singer of the Eastern Townships, Quebec.

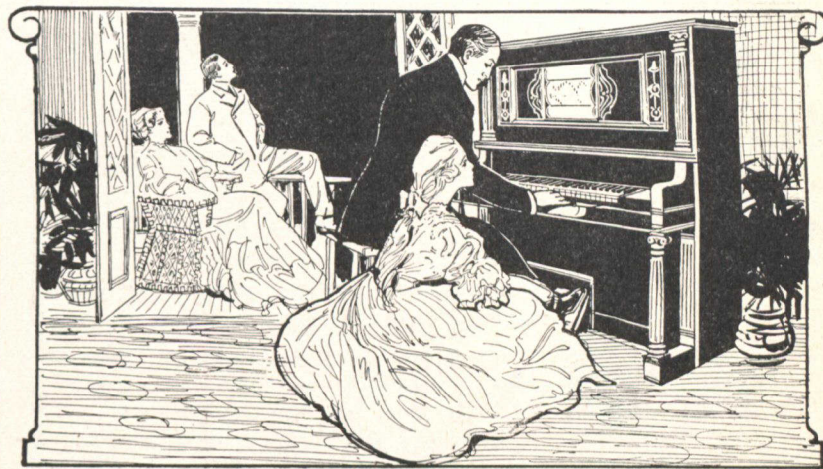
ern Townships of Quebec. Miss Barker first studied in Montreal with Professor Landry, now of Winnipeg, and became soprano soloist in St. James' Methodist Church, Montreal, a position which she held for several years. Miss Barker's repertoire includes standard oratorios and many of the great operatic roles, her special excellence being in oratorio work. Recently Miss Barker has been studying grand opera in Paris with Monsieur Varney, and, after coming to her Canadian home for a holiday next summer, she will return to Paris next autumn where she will probably make her debut in grand opera. Miss Barker is one of a gifted and hard-working Canadian "colony," which will doubtless do melodious credit to their home land.

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