

## Some New Songs

**M**AKING bad songs seems to be the chief business of a large number of people nowadays, and there are always plenty of people who will buy the bad ones. At the same time, it must be remembered that a very large number of really sweet melodies set to respectable words are finding their way into the homes of the people; perhaps a much larger number than when a few great popular songs held the stage—such songs as we have never had equalled from the day of "The Lost Chord" down to that of—

Well, it doesn't matter. It happens that a music publisher has sent to this office for review a number of clean, bright, respectable songs that would make a welcome variation to the everlasting ragtime. The names of these songs are:

"I Hear a Whisper."—Katherine Barry.

"If in Any Little Word."—Bela Laszky.

"Cherry-Blossom Time."—Herbert Oliver.

"The Voice of Home."—H. Lane Wilson.

"Land of Mine."—H. Lane Wilson.

"The Heavenly Anthem."—H. Lane Wilson.

"The Rule of England."—Elgar.

"Take Wing."—Godfrey Nutting.

## Crocuses

By George Cotterell.

Yellow and purple and white,  
Snow-white and lilac and gold,  
Crocuses, my crocuses,  
Peering up from the mould;  
These like fingers of flame,  
These in a raiment of snow,  
And these of the dusky hue of thoughts  
Cherished from long ago.

Last year, last month, last week,  
My patch of garden was bare,  
No glimmer of green or gleam of gold  
Or sign of life was there;  
It was only this morning early  
That Spring came by this way,  
And the gifts she leaves for a token  
Were only mine to-day.

Hark, how the sparrows twitter,  
For joy of the warmer sun!  
They began their mating a month ago,  
And their nesting will soon be done;  
But the thrush has a gladder welcome,  
Which he'll sing in the mellow eves,  
I have heard him trying it over  
In the trees forlorn of leaves.

Forlorn? Not now, nor ever,  
Since Spring is here again,  
And crocuses, my crocuses,  
Herald her happy reign;  
Yellow and white and purple,  
Snow-white, blue veined and gold,  
The signs of a new possession  
That is old as the world is old—

New life, new love, new leafage,  
Forever old and young,  
In all the flowers that open,  
In all the songs that are sung;  
And hers is the beautiful mission  
To blossom and bloom and sing,  
My crocus-bringer, my passion,

## The Season at the Theatre

**T**HE theatrical season is practically at an end. Within a week or two some of the theatres will be closed, while at two of them stock companies will occupy the boards.

Toronto has done excellently well this season in the matter of shows. Notwithstanding its decided penchant for musical comedy the more serious side of the stage has had a more than usually large representation. No less than four companies have presented Shakespeare, and in each case the exposition has been the work of stars. Wm. Faversham's revival of "Julius Caesar" was the most noteworthy offering of the year.

Opera has done better than ever. We had three weeks of the Montreal Opera Company, and one each of the Aborn Company and the Sheehan Company. Other notable offerings have been, for the most part, the work of British playwrights. "Carnival," and "At Versailles—1780" were premieres. Mr. Bennet's "Milestones" and "Kismet," too, stand out as successful efforts.

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