

**MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.**

The time is drawing near for the grand farewell performance of the talented young actor, Mr. I. E. Philo. The play which he has chosen, Monte Cristo, is undoubtedly a very difficult piece to produce, but in the hands of Mr. Philo and his associates it will no doubt receive a creditable rendition. In speaking of the play, Mr. Philo says: "Many people have asked me wherein lies the great art in the proper portrayal of Edmond Dantès. The art consists in the impersonation of four distinct characters, which requires the greatest power of the most versatile actor." When asked why he had chosen Monte Cristo, as there were other plays much easier, Mr. Philo replied: "I admit that Monte Cristo is not exactly in my style. I chose it simply because it has been played here several times before, and the citizens being conversant with it would be in a position to judge of my merit as a romantic actor." In addition to the play Mr. Philo will introduce a vocal selection, which in itself should prove a drawing card. New scenery has been painted for the production and rich costumes will be worn. The company contains the best local talent, and no doubt the citizens will turn out in large numbers on the evening of the 27th as a testimony of their good-will for the young man, who will make his first appearance on the professional stage in New York early in June. The performance will be attended by His Honor Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney.

On Wednesday evening a company of amateurs presented "Our Boys" at The Victoria to a large and fashionable audience. The entertainment was a decided success in every respect and the participants have every reason to feel proud that their efforts have been appreciated by the public. From beginning to end everything proceeded without a hitch. Mr. Rhodes performed the part of Perkyn Middlewick in his usual free and easy manner, while Mr. Scaife as Sir Geoffrey Champneys, indicated that he has had considerable stage experience. Mr. Webber as Talbot Geoffrey sustained his character as a comedian remarkably well. Miss Rhodes as Clarissa, and Mrs. Powell as Belinda were favorites. Mrs. Scaife as the heiress

earned repeated applause, while Miss N. Powell displayed ability as Mary Melrose. The minor parts were taken by Mr. B. T. Drake and Mr. C. W. Ward, and all deserve great credit. Miss Higgins was under study for the part of Belinda, so well taken by Mrs. Powell. The scenery arrangement was due to the artistic taste of Miss Powell. It is the intention to present this comedy at Vancouver at an early date, and also to repeat it here by special request.

Miss Carolyn Gage, who will be seen at The Victoria next Wednesday evening in D'Ennery and Comon's Celebrated Case, has the reputation of being an genuine actress. She is also a thorough lady—a combination not too frequent, but always pleasing—and one is unable in knowing her to decide whether the accomplished actress or the charming woman is most to be admired. Miss Gage deserves much credit for surrounding herself with clever players, as the company gives an excellent performance, each individual in the cast, it is said, working apparently with the one idea of assisting in making a harmonious and complete production.

The Delmonico Music Hall will be re-opened next Monday night under entirely different management. In the meantime many changes are being made in the house. The boxes have been removed, and in their place a gallery has been erected. The most talented vocalists available, the manager claims, have been engaged for the opening week.

It is said that W. S. Penley, the famous original of the Rev. Robert Spalding in the "Private Secretary," and the hero and heroine in "Charley's Aunt," the success of this season in London, contemplates retiring. To get seats for "Charley's Aunt," you have to book three weeks ahead.

"The Fall of Tarquin," by Tacoma amateurs, may be produced in Victoria on the evening of May 24. W. J. Fife, the manager, is corresponding with Mr. Jamieson with a view of obtaining The Victoria for that date.

Henry Irving followed his usual custom in closing the Lyceum Theatre

during Holy week. He has been giving brief revivals of "Louis XI" and the "Lyon's Mail," while "Becket" still holds sway most of the week.

Burlesque and variety performances are drawing the money this season, and legitimate dramatic companies, unless of rare artistic ability, are suffering in consequence.

Manager Jamieson has closed an engagement with Mrs. W. J. Florence, for two nights, May 29 and 30. The bills will be the Almighty Dollar, and the Old Love and the New, respectively.

Sol Smith Russell has engaged Stewart Allen as stage manager for his World's Fair engagement at the Grand Opera House, Chicago.

A company composed of representatives of seven South African tribes are appearing in eastern cities in native songs, dances and ceremonies.

The violin which will be used by Remenyi, during his engagement in this city, was manufactured in 1726, and is worth \$8,000.

Roland Reed is recovering from a severe attack of malaria. Nat Goodwin's sight is failing. He is being treated by an eye specialist.

The Oratorio, "Creation," under the direction of Mr. Werner, will receive a rendition at The Victoria May 18.

Gray & Stevens' Vesper Bill's has been booked for two nights, May 22 and 23.

Cinderella, a spectacular production, comes to The Victoria, May 11 and 12.

George Berry is now stage manager at Morosco's San Francisco house.

James J. Corbett comes to The Victoria May 17.

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