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### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The Victoria will be dark, next week.

Kate Castleton closes an engagement in Cincinnati, to-night.

The Imperial Opera Company produced Hazel Kirke at New Westminster, last Tuesday evening.

Mr. G. J. Burnett, the rising young organist, arrived in this city, yesterday evening. He will, in future, have charge of the Calvary Baptist Church organ.

The Victoria, this week, has been open every night. On Monday night, the Cleveland Minstrels gave a rather stale performance, while on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, the Little Lord Fauntleroy Company held the boards. This latter company gave a really creditable performance, but were not well patronized. Fairly good houses greeted The President Company, Thursday and Friday evenings. The play is of the farce-comedy type, and is, perhaps, the best of the '91 vintage which has been seen in Victoria. Coarse variety business is noticeably absent from the play, and the characters throughout were well sustained. The strength of the play, however, lies in the people producing it.

The Pandora Avenue Methodist Church was well filled on the evening of Thanksgiving day, to hear the rendition of the Cantata, "The Captive Maid of Israel," by the choir of the church assisted by an orchestra, the whole under the direction of Mr. J. Parfitt. Before saying anything regarding the manner in which the Cantata was rendered, there are one or two things that did not strike us as being just right. In the first place, the large audience were nearly all in their seats at the time for starting and it was 8:30 when the performers took their places on the platform. Previous to this, Rev. Mr. Watson, in apologizing for the delay, gave it as an excuse that the orchestra were having their picture taken in the lecture room. However pleasing that operation might be to the members of the orchestra, we submit that it was not by any means fair treatment to the audience who had come at the time announced for the beginning of the concert, and if the members of the orchestra were so desirous of having themselves photographed, a more fitting time might have been chosen. Rev. Mr. Watson, in his introductory remarks, especially warned the large number of boys present to be very quiet, and enlarged upon the point somewhat extensively, indeed, so much as to put a damper on the enthusi-

asm of the audience for the evening, as was evidenced by the usual applause being omitted, not because such was undeserved, but because of the audience's regard for Mr. Watson's wishes. We do not intend to criticize the Cantata number after number. That would take too long and too much space. Sufficient to say that the choruses were well rendered, the time and tune being very good, the chief fault being a want of shading and, at times, a little hesitancy in attacking. For the number of voices, the volume of tone was small, indeed, the same amount of tone could have been produced had Mr. Parfitt dispensed with about one-half of the sopranos and altos. The soloists, were a trifle nervous at times, excepting those well tried singers like Miss O'Neil and Mr. Firth who are always at home in concert work. Mrs. Drury's voice is very sweet and sympathetic, but seems exceedingly weak, and could scarcely be heard half-way down the church. Miss Honor has a good alto voice, but her enunciation is faulty. The same might be said of Mr. Dayton. With the majority of the soloists, the great trouble was want of breath, and many of them made bad breaks by breathing in wrong places, and on one or two occasions, breathing in the middle of a word—that is the unpardonable sin of vocalist. To enumerate the various soloists who took part, would fill a volume, as nearly all in the choir were soloists at one time or another on the programme. The orchestra of ten pieces, including piano, was a very creditable showing for a purely amateur affair. The chief weakness was first violin, the other parts were fairly well represented. On the whole, Mr. Parfitt scored a success, and deserves great credit for the way in which the Cantata was given. The music is not very difficult, but it is pleasing and melodious. The libretto was an interesting one for church goers, and no doubt that the audience was thoroughly satisfied with the entertainment provided for them. Thursday night's cantata is the second given under the leadership of Mr. Parfitt, and Victorians are beginning to look for one every Thanksgiving day and, indeed, oftener.

#### AT THE VICTORIA.

Nip and Tuck—Nov. 23.  
Uncle Tom's Cabin—Dec. 4.  
McKee Rankin—16 and 17.  
Carleton Opera Company—22 and 23.  
Michael Strogoff—28 and 29.  
Midnight Alarm—Jan. 8 and 9.  
Kate Claxton—22 and 23.  
Devil's Auction—25 and 26.  
Katie Putnam—29 and 30.

#### AT THE VANCOUVER OPERA HOUSE.

Cleveland's Minstrels—Nov. 11.  
The President—14.  
Skipped by the Light of the Moon—Dec 14  
Mendelssohn Quintette—19.  
Carleton Opera—24.  
John L. Sullivan—19.  
Kate Claxton—20 and 21.  
Katie Putnam—25 and 26.  
Sport McAllister—Feb. 29.  
Hanlon's Superba—April 4 and 5.  
Frederick Warde—11, 12 and 13.  
Ole Olsen—15.  
Spider and Fly—18 and 19.  
Corinne Opera Company—20 and 21.  
Marie Wainwright—May 9 and 10.

Fred Daniels—11 and 14.  
Cora Tanner—27 and 28.  
Lilian Lewis—June 1 and 2.  
Thatcher's Minstrels—10 and 11.  
Rhea—16 and 17.  
Two Johns—22 and 23.  
Natural Gas—July 20 and 21.  
The Cruisheen Lawn—29 and 30.  
Sol Smith Russell—Sept. 21 and 22.

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By recent advices the condition of the St. Petersburg money market is causing grave apprehension. There are rumors affecting the stability of ten banking houses, some of which are considered the soundest in the city. The finance minister had ordered that all foreign accounts for October must be paid in cash, without carrying over the balances. This greatly embarrassed many bankers, who were obliged to pledge government securities to raise the funds. Rouble exchange and government stocks have continued to fall steadily, and everything indicates a crisis. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times telegraphs that he learns from the best sources that a heavy export tax will be imposed on wheat, probably three weeks hence. All the ministers except Vishnegradsky, minister of finance, have favored the total prohibition of exportation, therefore a modification is still possible. The long warning given exporters will result in active trade in the meantime.