

AT THE OLD LYCEUM.

THE "MARBLE HEART" A GREAT FAVORITE.

Price Webber Gives an Amusing Incident in Which the Property Man had a Part—A German Who Didn't Say Anything—Benedict in St. John.

The recent performance of the drama of the Marble Heart in St. John brings up recollections of the time when the piece was a great favorite at the old Lyceum, and I will remember how finely it was given and what a great success it created. The author of the play was Mr. Charles Selby, one of the brightest and best light comedians England ever had. His pen was prolific, and he had a great command of the English language. His mechanical genius was great, too, and he it was who first gave to the theatre the railroad sensation scene of a train of cars with locomotive rushing across the stage at headlong speed.

This was in the realistic drama London by Night, and Mr. Augustin Daly, some twenty-two years afterwards incorporated the same effect in the popular play Under the Gaslight.

The cast of the Marble Heart at Lanergan's St. John Theatre, when I first saw it was, nearly as I can recollect as follows:

- Phidias.....J. W. Lanergan
Gorgias.....N. T. Davenport
Alcibiades.....M. W. Fiske
Simon.....R. Lamer
Lala.....Mrs. Lanergan
Apsala.....Mary Sherick
Phryne.....Clara Seabrook
Thea.....Mrs. Claude Hamilton

All the above performers I have accounted for in previous notices of the Lyceum, except Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hamilton, who were English artists, and excellent ones, too, and who were playing a star engagement with Mr. Lanergan, and I think the above drama was their first night's performance. During their season they appeared in the Poor Gentleman, Her-at-Law, Speed the Plough, Old Heads and Young Hearts, London Assurance, Follies of a Night, Prisoner of War, Hamlet, Guy Mannering, School for Scandal, and Lord Day.

A year or so afterwards the Marble Heart was produced, with Frank Roche, Shirley France, William Scallan, Frank Hardenberg, Rachel Noah, Susan Flood, and other well-known performers in the cast. The pretty song, "The Chink of Gold You Love," was originally written for the same beautiful play, and was sung and played everywhere, the melody being very catchy.

I remember a very funny incident in connection with the Marble Heart, when I was playing in the piece some years ago. The property man had been sent to borrow a few small statues and sculptor's tools to be used in the performance, and had met some friends with whom he had a jollification, and saw "things through a glass darkly." The time arrived for the curtain to go up, but no property man or properties had been seen, and we had to commence the piece. Just as "Gorgias" comes to carry away the sculptured beauties, and "Phidias" steps in to beg them to prevent him, we were staged to see our property man walk on the stage with an uncertain and wavy gait, dressed in his every-day clothes, having a small bust of some celebrated statesman under each arm. He gazed vacantly around him, as if doubtful of being in the right place; but finally saw the leading man, and going up to him, he said, with a thick utterance: "There's y'r stateshoos!"

"There's y'r stateshoos!" At the same time placing in the bewildered actor's hands the two small busts, and then made a dive for the first entrance, missed it, and measured his length on the floor, while the whole audience fairly shrieked with laughter at the ludicrous contretemps.

I think I saw it stated in your columns a while ago, that the Lion Boucicault never played in St. John. I am under the impression that when I first came to your city I saw a programme on file in the printing establishment of G. W. Day (who I used to work for) containing the announcement of the appearance of Mr. Boucicault at a benefit performance for his wife, known as Agnes Robertson, and I am pretty sure that the pieces produced on that occasion were the Life of an Actress, with Mr. Boucicault as "Grimaldi," and the comedy of the Irish Diamond in which the talented actor appeared as "Ignatius Mulrooney." Miss Robertson playing "Violet" in the first named piece, and "Andy Blake" in the last, assisted by Mr. Lanergan, George Becks, James Taylor, Annie Hyatt and Louisa Morse.

VERY SUITABLE PRESENTS.

"Astra" Makes Some Valuable and Seasonable Suggestions.

I wish very much that I had time and space for a column on Christmas presents! So many correspondents ask me about them, and so, though I cannot give a column, I will offer a few suggestions to the poor girls who are racking their brains for ideas in the way of not-too-expensive presents, especially for their gentlemen friends. Nearly every man is pleased with a gift, however trifling, which he can really put to some use; for instance I never knew a man who failed to appreciate and really use a handkerchief case, particularly the kind which is made like a book, with the two pockets made to hold the handkerchiefs, one pocket for silk, and the other for linen ones. You know men are always losing their handkerchiefs, and chasing them around from one bureau drawer to another, so that it is a real comfort to have only one thing to chase instead of a dozen, to know that as soon as you spy a patch of bright colored plush, you have reached your Mecca, and all your handkerchiefs find directly under your hand without further search.

A lovely combination is peacock blue plush lined with pale pink silk or satin. I think it is much prettier plain than quilted. The pockets inside are of the satin, and the case itself very like the linen covers we used to make, or get our mothers to make, for our books when we went to school. Embroider your friend's initials on one pocket, and a spray of small flowers, daisies or forget-me-nots on the other. Place a bow of ribbon on one corner of the outside, but omit the usual string, as no man on earth will take the trouble of untying them every time he opens his case, and be sure to put plenty of sachet powder between the plush and the lining.

Another trifle that a man always likes is a well perfumed sachet, to put amongst his handkerchiefs. Make it a good size; at least five inches square, and embroider or paint, initials on one side, and flowers, or ferns on the other. A necktie case is another thing easily made, but not quite so useful, because it is so much trouble to tuck the neckties smoothly in, that most men prefer tossing them in a wisp in the drawer. A photograph case of plush, lined with satin is always useful to a man, who never knows what to do with his collection of photos, and a dress shirt shield is a perfect boon to the tired soul whose spirit has grown weary of trying to keep a silk handkerchief from slipping off the shiny bosom of his dress shirt, into which he dare not stick a pin to keep it in place. The pattern is published by Butterick, and only costs ten cents. The outside is of black silk or satin, and the lining of quilted satin in pale pink, blue, or cream.

A collar and cuff box is another welcome present, but that must be bought, as I do not think it could be made at home. I know I could not make one, and I am considered very clever with my fingers, as the saying is. A pair of worked slippers is a charming Christmas gift, but a very expensive one, as no girl would think of giving an unmade pair, if she has the one ought not to, as no one should ever give a present which will entail expense upon the recipient, and slippers are useless until they are made up. For one's lady friends there are a hundred and one trifles such as fan bags, sachet bags, table scarfs, a case of cards, a little bag of cushions, photograph frames, tea cloths and table mats. Dolls will always delight the hearts of little girls, and a doll's Tam o' Shanter cap, or tiny muff and storm collar, made of a bit of fur which is sure to be lying around the house somewhere, would be a joy for ever, or until they were worn out. I really don't know what one could give a little boy, unless a jack-knife, or skates, but these are only a few suggestions, you know.

How to Use the Telephone. Some practical hints as how to use the telephone have recently been published, and some of them are well worth repeating. One man will get right up to the telephone and say what he has to say loud enough to be heard a square away. The next one stands away back and does the same thing, while a third will almost whisper into the instrument. There is only one way to talk through a telephone, and that is to talk in a normal tone. The "Central" might be saved a world of trouble and undesired expense if its users would carefully learn and follow it. That way is to stand just a little back and talk in an ordinary tone, as if you were talking to a man a couple of feet away instead of one, two or more miles away over a wire. Don't yell, don't whisper; simply speak in an ordinary tone and distinctly. The words are carried by electricity, not by the force of your enunciation. The instrument is not like a deaf man, but, on the other hand, it is extremely sensitive.—Chicago News.

Blown In by the Wind. A number of very attractive calendars have been left at Progress Office this week. One of the prettiest is from O. H. Warwick. It is a handy size, and the designer instantly attracts attention. Messrs. Knowlton and Gilchrist, agents of the Phoenix Insurance Company, send out two calendars, a large one that can be seen from any part of the office, and a small desk card with the Phoenix seal in red.

The Guardian has changed its design this year, and the calendar is even more attractive than before.

Another very pretty calendar was received from Mr. A. C. Fairweather, of the Commercial Union.

To Sharpen a Razor. A great many men who find that their razors can not be kept in order by a common leather strop by the sort of strop used by barbers, imagining that with this the razor can be kept in perfect condition. They are generally greatly disappointed to find that their razors cut no better than those with the strop, but in their not knowing how to use a barber's strop, they require not only considerable strength, but also a peculiar swing of the wrist. Unless this be learned the more you strop a razor the less it will cut.

AUNTIE'S OBSERVATIONS.

What a Bright Smile Means to the Family Circle.

From the quiet little corner I fill in life, I see a great many things that I have often thought might be of benefit to some one, and cause them to look a little more closely into their every day lives, and, perhaps endeavor to live a little more, as they would have the world believe they live. Ah, me! these hearts, these tongues of ours. How little we know each other! Sometimes I wish I might speak the words that rush to my lips, but dare not, lest those to whom they are addressed would not take them in the kindly spirit with which they are spoken. Alas! I know too well by bitter experience that "Silence is Golden," therefore I use my pen, wishing with my whole heart to add my mite, hoping it might help some one along the weary way. So many helpful words are spoken now-a-days, that it would seem to be quite impossible that any more could be said upon any subject, but so many queer things happen, that I can only come to one conclusion, either, that people do not read what is written, or that they do not read with a desire to learn and profit by that which they read.

How many times, when the little foxes were troubling me, have I sat down and read some helpful article written to mothers, some words that gave encouragement and taught me that mine were not the only troubles existing, and that if I only could muster the required patience, and look out from a pair of clear glasses, I should presently laugh at that, which before, seemed to be a veritable mountain of misery. Let us take life more cheerfully; let not the little worries control us, until we are their slaves, and lose all our sweetness and love; but let us fling them to one side, laugh at them, and go on with a smiling face that will make those about us feel like smiling too; to see how it feels you know.

I am often in the company of one who is so despondent over the slightest trifles, that it is misery to live in the house with her at times. If Monday morning dawns cloudy and muggy, as in our city by the sea so often occurs, and her face is quite as mournful as the day, her mouth is down at the corners, her voice sounds as if she had lost all her friends and the whole house is rendered uncomfortable by her despondency; and all because God has caused the sweet rain to fall, or from some cause or other nature has not seen fit to smile. Ah, me! how little it matters after all. I would not send my husband out to his work, my little boy to school, with the recollection of the face I presented at breakfast; with the sound of that doleful voice ringing in their ears, for all the washings that were ever done on this earth! Think of how depressing an effect such things have upon even common acquaintances, and then judge how they must affect the feelings of those who love us, and look to us for help and strength. The mother must be cheerful, and no matter how homely her face, it is as sweet to those at home. A breaker of the heart with sweet, hopeful words is more to be valued than the best of food with a doleful, disconsolate face for its accompaniment. It fits the husband for his duties; when he meets his vexatious annoyances he will apply his heart to his work, and his cheerful face he left behind him in the little home.

On the other hand the husband and children of my doleful friend loiter by the way; they are rendered sour and cross before they get to the door. I have seen the face that it is no use to be pleasant that every one is cross and every hand against them. The husband is sharp with his employees, the children sulky at school, the servant goes about her work, feeling that she is to have a choleric morning; that no matter how cheerful she is, nothing can remove the cloud from the face of her mistress, in fact she does not dare to be cheerful as her mistress seems to think it a sin to smile, and accuses her of not caring if the house were threatened by fire, if she has no interest in the work, etc., until everything gets in a muddle, and when the rest of the family return, things have gone wrong all round, and the dinner is eaten with anything but thankful hearts, and indignation lowers threateningly near. How is it to be put out at the window, then, for no "little god of love" will remain in such an atmosphere. Sisters be cheerful, try it and see what magic power it possesses, you will never believe the effect it will have on your faces, your home, your servants, and all with whom you come in contact. The very beggar who comes to your door is helped on his way by a bit of your sunshine, if you have nothing more to give him give him a helping word. No human being can place the limit upon influence. The influence of a smiling cheerful face! Who can tell what it may accomplish, what its worth may be to those thrown in contact with it.

When the sunning up of all our little acts shall take place, how amazed we shall be to find that a little sympathy, a few bright words of encouragement, helped some discouraged soul into a better life; and how great will be one regret, that that which cost us so little should not have been more liberally dealt out; ay, scattered everywhere and at all times. We will have some grand surprises I fancy on that day. The great things that we have flattered ourselves have been accepted by God, and placed to our credit, will, I fear, be sadly wanting, while the little sweet kindly thoughts, words and deeds, will, to our amazement, be like diamonds glittering through the pages of our life's history, and the "drops of cold water" will be considered of such importance, that we will wonder why we never thought of life in that way, so easy it would have been to have done only those simple things. Ah! it is not so easy to be cheerful, encouraging and tender; but it frequently costs a great effort, though we are repaid a thousand fold, by the effect upon not only ourselves, but those about us. AUNTIE MAY.

A New Restaurant. There will be another restaurant on Prince William street, and the situation will be most advantageous for business men. Mr. J. D. Turner has leased the store in the Pugsley building, formerly occupied by the Halifax banking company, and intends to give the new establishment a reputation equal to the one on King square. And everybody knows what that means.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

ONTARIO BUSINESS COLLEGE Belleville Ont. Most widely attended business college in America. Students from N. Y., N. B., and P. E. I. constantly in attendance. Send for the 2nd annual circular. Address, ROBINSON & JOHNSON Belleville, Ont.

MISS BOWMAN WILL OPEN her Art Studios at the subject of advertising will do well to obtain a copy of "Book for Advertisers," 368 pages, price one dollar. Mailed, postage paid, on receipt of price. Contains a careful compilation from the American Newspaper Directory of all the best papers and class journals; gives the circulation rating of every one, and a good deal of information about rates and other matters pertaining to the business of advertising.—Address, ROBERT A. ADVERTISING BUREAU, 10 Spruce street, N. Y.

LADIES' FANCY WORK—Miss Laura Coleman will execute all kinds of Fancy Work, Original Designing for Needle Work, Patching on Silk, etc. Some finished work already on hand for sale.—LANSDOWNE HOUSE, 40 King Square.

AGENTS WANTED for our splendid approval sheets of Stamps at 25 per cent. commission. 75 stamps all different, including Victoria, India, Barbados, etc., 10 cents. Address TAYLOR & FAIRWEATHER, P. O. box 496, St. John, N. B. 12-5-91

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL for English, French, young ladies, 24 to 30 years of age. Board and room furnished and lighted, \$2.00 per week. Send for catalogue, 4, D. Hircanus Director, 11-21-91

MISS WHITMAN TEACHER of Piano at the school of Music, 84 Kent street, gives musical instruction based on the Kindergarten principle, to children from five to nine years of age. Four dollars per term, ten weeks.

PROFESSIONAL PERSONS having News-Articles which they wish to preserve in scrap book form can have the work done neatly and cheaply. For further information write "J. H. P." Phoenix Office. 11-21-91

WANTED—AGENTS for our Fine Approval Sheets of Stamps at 33 1/2 per cent. Commission. Reference required. 50 stamps, all different, 15 cents—a New Brunswick Stamp in every package.—LANSON & BARNES, P. O. Box 206, St. John, N. B. 4-21-91

MONEY TO LOAN in large and small sums, on Real Estate Security. For full particulars apply to HARRIS G. FERRIS, Barrister-at-Law, Pugsley's New Building, St. John, N. B. 4-21-91

BARGAIN. A SPECIAL LINE of Tweeds—all wool, dark colors, will be made up for \$14.00 a suit.—A. GILMORE, Tailor, 72 Germain Street.

EVERY ONE IN NEED OF INFORMATION on the subject of advertising will do well to obtain a copy of "Book for Advertisers," 368 pages, price one dollar. Mailed, postage paid, on receipt of price. Contains a careful compilation from the American Newspaper Directory of all the best papers and class journals; gives the circulation rating of every one, and a good deal of information about rates and other matters pertaining to the business of advertising.—Address, ROBERT A. ADVERTISING BUREAU, 10 Spruce street, N. Y.

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COSTUMES WIGS, WHISKERS.—A. L. King, St. John, N. B., has the largest and best assortment of costumes, wigs, whiskers, and hair for hire for Parades, Carnivals, Theatres, Concerts, etc., at right prices. dec27

LAMP BURNER—LAMBERTSON'S safety Lamp Burner, which I have been selling four years, is the most paying, and most satisfactory article for agents to handle. Send 45 cents for pretty sample Burner, descriptive circulars, and testimonials.—A. L. SPENCER, Wholesale and Retail Agent for the Maritime Provinces, Belmont Hotel 10 King st., St. John, N. B. dec27

BOARDING. Transient Boarders can be accommodated with large and pleasant rooms, in a very centrally located house, 78 Sidney street.—Mrs. McILWAIN. May2.

CANNED Salmon, Lobsters, Oysters, Corn, Tomatoes, Peas, Beans, Peaches. 1400 Cases. In lots of 25 Cases, at manufacturers' prices. JOSEPH FINLEY, 65, 67, and 69 Dock St.

Xmas Presents.

NOTHING CAN BE MORE SUITABLE THAN A SUIT OF CLOTHING, A REEFER, OVERCOAT OR ULSTER,

For a Xmas Present for your Father, Brother, Son or Friend. We have a splendid selection of these garments, and our Prices are the Lowest in the City.

SCOVIL, FRASER & CO.

Oak Hall.—COR. KING AND GERMAIN STREETS.—Oak Hall. A Sled Given With Every Boy's Suit, Overcoat or Reofer.

IDEAL Black Board & Desk. Price, \$3.85. This is a valuable invention—Aids children to pursue their studies at home. Contains 16 different Sets of Designs, from simple letters up to general outlinedrawing. Can be changed into a Desk, with places for ink, paper, etc. SEND FOR ONE BEFORE YOU ARE TOO LATE. Baby Sleighs, Framers, Sleds, Black Board 40c., 75c. and \$1.25. C. E. BURNHAM & SON, SAINT JOHN, N. B.

Useful and Ornamental! We Call Special Attention

TO OUR LINE OF COAL VASES, FIRE IRONS, FIRE GUARDS, HEARTH BRUSHES, ANDIRONS AND FENDERS, of which, at present, we are showing a Fine Stock. ALSO, BRASS AND COPPER HOT WATER KETTLES, With and Without Stands. FANCY Granite Tea and Coffee Pots, BRASS AND JAPANNED CRUMB PANS and BRUSHES, And a wonderful variety of Cookstoves Utensils of every description, including a full range of sizes and styles, in NEVER-BREAK STEEL WARE.

EMERSON & FISHER, 75 to 79 PRINCE WM. STREET.

P. S.—We have not mentioned our Extensive Stock of Stoves or Ranges, including the Celebrated CHARTER OAK, but wish to remind our friends that our Annual December Sale of Heating Stoves is now, and that during this month we make a discount of 10 per cent. for cash down from prices of all HEATING STOVES.

OVER 300 PATTERNS TO SELECT FROM. ENGLISH POCKET CUTLERY. Table Cutlery, An elegant assortment of IVORY, XYLONITE and CELLULOID Handled Knives, in three sizes. CARVERS Single Pairs and Sets. Razors in Gentlemen's Sets and singly; Scissors, Ladies' Companions, &c. ALL FROM WELL KNOWN SHEFFIELD OUTLERS.

T. McAVITY & SONS, 13 and 15, King Street, ST. JOHN, N. B.

MUSICAL

TALK OF THE TOWN. I I were to talk of the spread before the present since I last wrote you an extension to your sized paper, several best and choose as follows: At the Columbia. Widows still delight in houses, and no change of place for a short time theatre has become quite

I dropped into the Grand short time ago to see a well known dramatic effort. A.C. Wheeler) and it was of the fact that a dramatic play. This one Royal of the Grand, and a story of the New York time of the war, but it story lacks plot, in fact dialogue and in fact goes towards making only interest to me was Mrs. St. John's favorite Mrs. Hampton, Mr. J. Lindsay Hurst. Miss J. leading lady in this piece good work with a most part far and away being Miss Hampton. She is since she was in St. John favorably known to managers. She has done work indeed in several productions, notably in The Mad, The Lovelorn, Power. She is handsome, attractive, and will be near future as a promising profession. Mr. Burnham doing the comedy, as well; the gentlemanly care of a husband. A short time ago and is Oregon, where he is in company of that city, but in the more popular chooses all the stage and superintends He told me he intended theatre in Portland or second to none in the men in which the play and as our friend is a his word. Mr. Hurst part in Jack Royal every thing he undertakes.

The Tremont theatre of the season's success. Alabama, one of the most home-like pieces. The scene is laid on a some years after the war. It is simple and hinges setting the path of a young man who is in a setting was perfection contingent that all in all agree that the third act was a scenic been surpassed. At the Hollis, the splendid two weeks ago to see these efforts. It is as neither Mr. nor actors, but you are a pleasing, clean cut, since. I saw them in comedy The Queen's attempt of every description, including a full range of sizes and styles, in NEVER-BREAK STEEL WARE. Manager Field of mind to give the week he put in another's Knof and of course strong flexible, an amount of dramatic work has been very by the musical critic tenor, has also plaid opinion of opera good things, being reasonable, besides which is rather rare any operatic artist herself requires enough known. her reputation on Carmen that would her in the first rank. The Park theatre street. I suppose I do season. We are promised and fine performance the charming Roi others, of some of time to give you H. Price We