

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE Calhoun Opera Company will sing an engagement of three nights at The Victoria, beginning January 10, presenting Fatinitza Boccacio and Said Pasha. The company as it is constituted is particularly strong in the number of principal singers. An eastern paper, speaking of the performance of Said Pasha, says: "The prima donna was Miss Laura Millard, who sang the part of Serena very charmingly. Miss Millard is the possessor of a beautiful voice and is also otherwise fortunate in having good looks and a fine stage presence as aids in her work. Miss Julie Calhoun as Alta, the adopted daughter of the rajah, was just second to Miss Millard. Her work was artistic and satisfying. Mr. Pache as Terrano, the Mexican, sang magnificently. He has a fine voice and dressed and acted his character in an exceedingly acceptable manner. Messrs Thompson and Risdale gave excellent support as Said Pasha and Hassan Bev. The comedy roles were in the hands of Douglas A. Flint and Kiriland Calhoun, who took the parts of Hadad and Nocke. Both are excellent singers as well as clever comedians. Their work last evening was particularly funny. Miss Hartley should not be forgotten in her ungrateful part of Balah Sojah. Her work was very clever. The chorus was very strong in voice and they did excellent work."

Salvini and his company fully sustained the promises made concerning



them. The Don Caesar de Bazan of Salvini was equal to anything ever seen in Victoria.

The Carra Morris company drew fairly well last night, and gave a good performance. To-night they will be seen in "Lost in London."

Mr. Isadore Philo called on Salvini

while he was in this city, and secured an engagement for next year with the great actor.

Rose Le Monde, the original "Ta-ra-ra-Boom de-ay," opens an engagement at the Delmonico Music Hall, Monday night.

Uncle Tom's Cabin comes to The Victoria January 6.

A BUSINESS COUNCIL.

We are well pleased to notice that something definite has been done in the direction of securing business men as candidates for positions in the City Council at the coming elections. From time to time, the *British Columbia Commercial Journal* has pointed out how much disadvantaged the city of Victoria has been by the presence on the Board of Aldermen and even in the occupancy of the mayor's chair, of gentlemen who, however worthy they might be as individuals, were possessed of none of those qualifications which should fit them to do that particular class of work which it is the function of a town council to handle. Possibly there is not a single gentleman doing municipal duty to whom exception could be taken in his private capacity or in the department of business which he follows; but, unfortunately, that is not sufficient warrant for his presence in the public body of which he is a member. Men of sound business ability are wanted at this particular when there are so many issues that require men of the highest skill and business capacity.

The affairs of a city like Victoria want the same kind of attention that a merchant pays to his own concerns. There is just as keen, if not keener, financeering to be done as many a man has to put forth when he requires to raise the wind to meet his payments. For lack of this, Victoria has, in one way or another, had to pay more for monetary advances than recent transactions have shown that she ought to have done; while though we neither charge nor even insinuate speculation on the part of any one, public funds have unquestionably found their way into channels that were altogether improper ones. Purchases for the city have many of them not been made as advantageously as they might have been. It has been the public which has had to pay, and what's the odds? There has been any amount of talk out of all proportion to the work accomplished, and political and sectional controversies have combined to make the civic debates long-winded and altogether unprofitable. In a word, few business qualities have been displayed upon the floor of the Council or in the committee rooms.

There are one or two good men on the board, but what are they when their votes have had to be counted against the majority against them? They have been powerless, and therefore have been unable to carry out their desires. All this must be changed, and it is to be hoped the Citizens' Committee will be successful in effecting the much-needed and long-talked-of reforms.—*Commercial Journal*.

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