

Literature and Art.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:**—Our Music Editor, "Sharp Sixth," will furnish critiques of music publications sent in for review, and also critically notice public performances of high class music. Tickets for concerts, or compositions for review, must be addressed "Sharp Sixth," care GRIP Office.

St. Patrick's day's music was especially appreciated this year by its absence.

The Reformed Episcopal Church are preparing a hymn book for their own use.

Mr. H. M. Arnold, the well known tenor, has joined the St. George's Church choir.

Mr. Carey, the late bandmaster of the Q.O.B., is in the music business at Kingston.

Mr. Tom. Hurst, the well known *comique*, has now the management of A. & S. Nordheimer's branch establishment at Ottawa.

The Saratoga Lancers, the latest novelty in "squares," was danced with great *clat* at a recent meeting of one of our leading social clubs.

The management of Knox Church are to be congratulated on their deciding to introduce an organ into the church service in deference to the wish of the majority of the congregation.

The comic drama of "Who's your friend, or the Queensbury Fete," is to be performed at the Government House on the 28th inst. for the benefit of Mrs. Charlotte Morrison. We wish the entertainment success.

In a recent notice of a local concert the old song, "Where are you going to, my pretty Maid?" was announced as "The Milk-maid and the City Swell." We would suggest "Ye Bank Clerk and Lactie Lass" as more in keeping with this æsthetic age.

The Toronto Opera Company are busy in the preparation of "The Pirates of Penzance," which they intend giving the present month. A great gap has been made by Mrs. Cooper, the charming "Buttercup" and "Serpolette" having retired from the organization.

Mr. H. Guest Collins, organist of All Saints' Church, delivers a lecture on the 28th inst., on Handel, the great composer, illustrating his compositions by selections from different works, aided by local talent. From the lecturer's well known ability, a pleasant and instructive evening will be spent.

Madame Stuttaford, one of our leading professionals, whose eyesight was at one time feared to be dangerously affected, has, we are pleased to learn, so far recovered that the concert of the Orphans Society, which was postponed on her account, is now in active preparation, and will be given shortly under her leadership.

The late pastor of the Cooke's Church anti-organites, gave his opinion lately, that to suit them their preacher would require a head of copper, a brow of brass, the hide of a rhinoceros, and be prepared to live on their annual contribution of fifty cents each. From the last we should suppose that they can provide what *cheek* may be required themselves.

That there is a timely wakening up of the American press to the trashy songs that are flooding the country is evinced by the following, which is one of a number contained in a recent issue of an exchange:—

"D. M. LINDSAY, "Lay Her Down Beneath the Daisies." Song. 55 cents. Yes, lay her down, and with her the song, and ask the daisies to cover it kindly, so that it never can reach the surface again."

The "Isobel Waltzes," by W. B. Brayley, are becoming very popular. Arbuckle, the famous New York bandmaster and coruet player, writing of them says, "I do not see why these waltzes should not take as well as Waldteufel's. Some of the latter's are much inferior to the "Isobel." As the former are the most popular of the day, the comparison speaks for itself. The publishers are just issuing another edition.

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The small-minded attempt of a certain member of the Lun-tun class to injure the manager of the Royal Opera House by writing untruthful letters to the papers is taken for what it is worth. Public opinion is not affected by such transparent spite.

Mr. Cool Burgess has made a new departure, and all who wish to see how the old favorite acquits himself as a light comedian have an opportunity this week. Mr. Burgess appears at the Royal with a select company in a laughable specialty entitled, "Our Sleighting Party." Remember the waltinee.

The publishers of *Scrivener's Magazine* may be said to have literally lifted America into the proudest position of any nation in the world in the beautiful art of wood engraving. They have done this by searching out the talent that lies hidden from less keen eyes, and encouraging it when found, in a substantial manner.

The caricature group of Garfield and his Cabinet, given as a supplement with last week's *Puck*, is one of the best productions of the kind we have ever seen. The likenesses are in all cases excellent, while the grouping and management of effect betokens the hand of a genuine artist. And the humor of the picture is as charming as its artistic merit. Of course *Kepler fecit*.

The music-loving citizens of Toronto have had no ground for complaint this week. Manager Shoppard gave them a decided treat at the Grand for the first four nights, the attraction being the Strakosch & Hess English Opera Company. The performance was very much enjoyed by all who had the good fortune to be present. The audience, however, were by no means so large as the merits of the company would justify.

Leavitt's Grand Comic Opera Company, headed by the celebrated Marie Williams, and embracing many bright stars of the lyric stage, is the attraction at the Royal this week. Their repertoire contains the gems of English Comic Opera, which are rendered in masterly style, while the scenery, costumes, and effects are all the most exacting critics could demand. A pleasant time is guaranteed to all who secure seats in the Royal during this engagement.

The matinee and evening performance to be given on Saturday by M'le Litta and her concert company, at the Grand Opera House, will be an event worthy the attention of all who delight in good music rendered by distinguished professionals. M'le Litta is ranked as the peer of the best vocalists in America, and the attractiveness of her singing is enhanced by the fact that popular ballads hold a prominent place in her programmes. The prima donna is accompanied by Miss Nellie Bangs, pianiste, Miss Martel, violiniste, Mr. Cleveland, tenor, etc. We trust the generosity of the management in offering this fine attraction at popular prices may be recognized by bumper houses.

We haven't heard any more about this Free Public Library for Toronto, of late. Shall we or shall we not have it? Ald. Hallam deserves commendation for his public spirited offer to contribute largely of his private funds towards this object, but there is no reason why the institution should not be established by the City Treasury. By the way, there is an excellent collection of books at the Educational Department, St. James' Square. We would like to know who is supposed to own them. Citizens, we are aware, are not allowed to use the volumes for consultation or otherwise, and they do not appear to belong specially to anybody—unless they are for Dr. May's private edification. The works are such as are usually found in public libraries. Now, couldn't the city secure this collection as a nucleus for a public library?