

PRESS NOTICES—CHIEFLY CANADIAN.

PROFESSOR D. C. BELL'S ELOCUTIONARY EVENINGS AND READINGS FROM SHAKESPEARE.

FLORA.

..... Mr. Bell showed himself to be thoroughly at home in his work, and his easy transition from the sublime to the ridiculous, from the tragic to the comic, was truly remarkable. In the selections from Shakespeare and Scott, his compass of voice, and his aptness in tone and attitude, brought the scenes portrayed before the mind of the audience in a very vivid manner, and held their fixed attention; while, in other selections, his imitation of voice and manner excited the risibilities of his hearers.—[Flora Observer.]

PERTH.

..... It was soon manifest that Professor Bell was a thorough master of the art of representing the play in its living character. Under his magnificent rendering, the tragedy—Macbeth—developed new beauties, and evoked fresh praises, even from those well versed in the works of Shakespeare. The roaring comic masterpiece of Burns, "Tam O'Shanter," followed, and was brilliantly read by the Professor; and the vigorous and pathetic Irish morceau, "Shammas O'Brien," was equally well executed. In both these latter pieces, the national dialects and characteristics of either country were perfectly represented—producing the deepest comical effect.—On the whole the entertainment gave entire satisfaction.—[Perth Courier.]

The programme was a good one, and ample justice was done to each selection. Mr. Bell possesses rare powers of elocution.—[Perth Expositor.]

NAPANEE.

A rich and chaste intellectual treat was enjoyed. Mr. Bell opened with Scott's "Battle of Flodden," reproducing the scenes of the fearful clamor and clash of martial arms in vivid reality, and depicting, in all its anguished grandeur, the brave death of the noble Marston. The celebrated and world-admired report of the Breach of Promise of Marriage between Bardell and Pickwick, was the master-piece of the evening, and evoked peal after peal of the most hearty laughter. Mr. Bell has the happy faculty, acquired by study and association, of imitating the natural dialect of the different witnesses in this suit, and his ludicrous mimicry of the portly judge was really admirable; and no less so was his inimitable rendering of the convincing address to the jury of Sergeant Buzfuz.—[Napanee Standard.]

ST. MARY'S.

..... The most appreciative audience that ever gathered there on any previous occasion. The rendition of the different selections was ably done, and those present showed their appreciation of the reader's efforts by very hearty applause.—[St. Mary's Argus.]

WOODSTOCK.

..... If power may be judged by its effect, Prof. Bell gave proof of his power as a finished elocutionist, by the deep interest with which he was heard at one time, the applause he called forth at another, and again by the hearty laughter excited by his exhibition of wit and humor. Mr. Bell's voice has compass and flexibility, equally adapted for the low tones of pathos or the louder utterances of manly eloquence.—[Woodstock Times.]

PAISLEY.

..... It would be a difficult task to select from the many pieces rehearsed; as all, in our opinion, were faultless as delineations of character. During the recital of his humorous pieces, the risible faculties of his hearers were severely strained. The Professor's personal appearance is much in his favor as an elocutionist.—[Paisley Advocate.]

GALT.

..... Those who were present enjoyed a rich treat, as the Professor is evidently a master in the art of elocution. His renditions of "Edinburgh after Flodden," and "Lord Noodle's Maiden Speech," were especially good.—[Galt Reformer.]

GODERICH.

..... Mr. Bell is unquestionably a master of elocution, possessing a voice of rare richness and scope, and a keen perception. In all of his readings could be detected careful study, as well as a natural ability to imitate; and his conceptions of the characters in the selections chosen were happy and life-like. In rendering "Shammas O'Brien" the audience seemed spell-bound. the effect upon the audience was electric. It has seldom been our pleasure to enjoy so pleasant an evening.—[Huron Signal.]

COBOURG.

The large audience was exceedingly gratified. The elocution was perfect in all the pieces—particularly in those passages requiring an adaptation of voice and gesture to the humorous. This was especially appreciated in "Shammas O'Brien," and "Love in a Balloon." But the gem of the evening was Dickens's "Christmas Carol." This was listened to, throughout, with the most vivid interest, and repeatedly interrupted with bursts of applause. The delineations of the grasping character of the miserly old banker were perfect. If Professor Bell were ever called upon to see a "ghost," we believe he would not have to practise a single moment—he knows exactly how to look already.—[Cobourg World.]

SEAFORTH.

..... All were delighted with the entertainment. Mr. Bell is certainly an elocutionist of rare merit, and his selections were most happy.—[Huron Expositor.]

STRATHROY.

..... Mr. Bell proved himself an accomplished reader, entering fully into the spirit of the pieces, and displaying superior elocutionary powers; which are aided by proper gestures and a commanding presence.—[Strathroy Age.]

CARLETON PLACE.

..... We can do little more than endorse the verdict which the public has returned, wherever he has given one of his entertainments, and assure those who have not had the pleasure of listening to him that they have missed the greatest treat of the season. The vivid and forcible portraiture of the passions; the sharp, sudden, and often astonishing changes of facial expression, together with the clear and distinct pronunciation, enabled the audience to follow intelligently the readings from beginning to end; repeated bursts of applause testifying the success of the reader and the satisfaction of the audience.—[Carleton Place Herald.]

..... It was an evening of chaste enjoyment and intellectual feast, such as a seldom one's privilege to experience. Bursts of laughter, solemn impression, happy and fresh inspiration of knowledge, followed over and anon during the course of the evening, and everybody was delighted.—[Carleton Place Central Canadian.]

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

The Chapel of the University was well filled by a most cultivated audience, gathered to listen to Professor Bell's Shakespearean Readings. The essential scenes in the play ("Macbeth") were all given, with remarks interpolated, so as to make the story connected and complete. We have no hesitation in saying—and we feel confident that those who were present will bear us out in the statement—that no such lyceum presentation of "Macbeth" has ever been made in this city. We felt ourselves thrilled and excited by many of the great scenes. The audience, which was, of course, largely made up of the students, especially applauded the "Dagger Soliloquy," the "banquet scene," and the pitiful lament of Macduff over his slaughtered wife and children. The last named scene was executed with a depth of pathos we have never seen equalled, even on the stage.—[Syracuse Daily Journal.]

The Independent Church was filled last evening on the occasion of the final reading of the series. The "Curtain Lecture" was a source of unrestrained merriment to all, as the outraged feelings and caustic remarks of the irate and sleepless spouses were so forcibly and truly interpreted. Mr. Bell excelled in his recitation of "Shammas O'Brien"—a powerful ballad in the Irish vernacular. His pathos and raucy humor were especially commendable. Altogether, the entertainment was full of interest and amusement, and of a highly refined and intellectual character.—[Syracuse Standard.]

..... Mr. D. C. Bell gave the finest reading of the celebrated trial of Bardell vs. Pickwick that it has been our good fortune to listen to. The different characters were presented in such a manner as to bring them vividly before the mind's eye, and were illustrated with masterly effect. The reading of this celebrated scene was infinitely more effective than Mr. Dickens's recitation, and would alone entitle the reader to a place in the first rank of his profession. It is evident that as a comedian, Mr. Bell has few superiors, if he has an equal.—[Syracuse Daily Journal.]

From many hundreds of notices by the British and Irish Press, the following are presented:—

DUBLIN.

..... All who have heard Mr. Bell's readings are aware, in common with ourselves, that it may with perfect truth be said, he reads no passage which he does not adorn. The finest poetical pieces, or the noblest prose compositions—with all the beauties with which educated readers have considered themselves familiar from frequent reading—have had new ideas and graces of style brought forth for admiration, by the clear diction, expressive intonation and gesture of Mr. Bell.—[Dublin Irish Times, Ireland.]

We have, on many previous occasions, stolen an hour's delight in listening to the very exquisite "Readings of Shakespeare" by Professor Bell. We confess the deep and entire satisfaction with which we have heard such noble thought, each glorious burst of feeling, each vivid gleam of passion, as poured by the poet; each delicate touch of character, betraying the depth to which he sounded the human heart.—[Dublin Freeman's Journal, Ireland.]

BELFAST.

..... The manner in which his readings were received, and the enthusiastic applause with which they were interspersed, abundantly testified the appreciation of the audience, and their admiration of his talents and ability. It was characterized by a most intelligent conception, and a power of execution which realized to his hearers the many beauties of the work, as perfectly as if assisted by the usual accessories of scenery and costume. At the conclusion, the enthusiasm of the audience culminated in repeated rounds of applause. All were rendered with taste and effect; and whether grave or gay, comic or sentimental, they seemed to come with equal ease, and were equally greeted with applause.—[Belfast News-Letter, Ireland.]

CORK.

This distinguished reader, whose name has long been a household word in the home of every educated Irishman, made his appearance under the auspices of the Cork Young Men's Society. The Munster Hall never before furnished so charmingly intellectual an entertainment, and seldom have its walls echoed to such hearty and repeated applause from so full an audience. The programme was admirably selected, and afforded full scope for the display of Professor Bell's great power of elocution and personification. The delivery was simply astonishing. He transported us by the sheer force of genius, and for a time made us believe to behold many instead of one. "Bardell vs. Pickwick" afforded the fullest scope for his great powers of humorous delineation. There was the true attic salt in his display. He avoided all the temptations that were so lavishly strewn before him, to degenerate into grotesqueness—a difficult task for all but the most accomplished.—[Irish Daily Telegraph, Cork, Ireland.]

EDINBURGH.

Mr. Bell's powers of delivery and action are of a very high order, and drew forth from the crowded audience repeated bursts of applause. Some had their recollections of the Kembles, of Siddons and of Keen revived, and confessed their ancient favorites were equalled. Mr. Bell's voice possesses great depth and power, with much flexibility and sweetness of tone. His action is most graceful and natural.—[Edinburgh Evening Post, Scotland.]

MAYNOOTH.

(St. Patrick's College.)

..... On Easter Tuesday, Mr. Bell, the eminent elocutionist, concluded his course of Eight Lectures at Maynooth College, before the President, Professors, and Students. The value of Mr. Bell's teachings cannot be overrated by those who have to read and speak in public; and it is a pleasing fact to record, that the study of elocution, and the art of taking the exalted position which it deserves in our universities, colleges, and schools. Mr. Bell's readings were of a miscellaneous character, and were heard with deep gratification by all present.—[Freeman's Journal, Ireland.]

Terms and Syllabus of Subjects forwarded, on application to Mr. D. C. BELL, Box 518, Brantford P. O., Ont.

*. In places where the requisite arrangements can be made, PROF. D. C. BELL, and his brother, PROF. A. MELVILLE BELL (late of University College, London, England), Inventor of "Visible Speech," may be engaged for a Dual Literary and Elocutionary Evening.