Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The vacation season in musical matters still continues. Some of those the more prominent in providing entertainment that might properly be noticed under the caption of this department, are rusticating, some are out of the country for a short time, revisiting scenes familiar to their earlier years, and some are abiding within our city walls yet, resting and regaining energy and strength for renewed effort in the direction of musical development later in the season.

There have been a few offerings in the way of Band Concerts, assisted by vocal talent of not lamentably inferior quality, and there have also been readings and recitations "interspersed with melodeons" (as once heard a Provincial Mrs. Partington remark) but these are somewhat of the variety character. "There is a time for everything," it has been remarked and just now is the season for merrymaking in other fields.

Tones and Undertones.

George Grossmith has returned to comic opera.

The Gilbert Opera Company is playing a summer engagement at Lakeview, Lowell, Mass.

Emma Eames Story, the prima donna, was born in China, although her parents are Americans.

There were 3,000 voices in the opening chorus at the Sængerfest recently held in New York.

Miss Marcella Rieves is the understudy of Miss Agnes Delaporte in the Schiller Opera company.

The Seidl orchestra under the direction of Mr. Anton Seidl will tour the United States next season.

Patti admits a love for two instruments, viz., the mandolin and the violin. She does not care to hear singing.

"1492" closed its season in New York on the 7th inst. with its 394th performance. It will be revived August 25th.

Verdi is credited with saying that "mutton is the best food to eat to keep the voice strong and beautiful."

Alfred DeSeve, the well known violinist of Boston, with his wife, will pass the season in Canada until September.

When "Fatinitza" is revived by the Robin Hood Company the title role will be entrusted to Jessie Bartlett Davis.

Miss Lena Dykstra, who is playing with the Camille D'Arville Co., in the role of "The Grand Duchess," is a sister of the star.

The work of Mamie Gilroy in the comic opera "Davy Jones" at the Boston museum is highly praised by the press of that city.

When the 1000th performance of "Mignon" was celebrated at the Opera Corimque in Paris recently the public were admitted free to all parts of the house.

Perugini, who is as distinguished as the latest husband of Lillian Russell, as he is as a tenor, will sing the principal roles in Lousie Baudet's Opera Company next season.

Dan Emmett, the author of "Dixie" is nearly 80 years old. He recently appeared at an amateur minstrel show at Mt. Vernon, O., and played his composition on the violin.

The latest thing in promised novelties is the aerial ballet, which is danced in the air, the dancers being suspended by invisible wires, and flying from one side of the stage to the other.

The production in Boston and New York of Wagner's "Die Feen" as translated by A. Sinclair of New York has been arranged for. Madame Nevada will be in the leading role.

Preparations are being actively made for DeWolf Hopper's production of "Dr. Syntax" next September, Bertha Walzinger, late of the Bostonians will be prima donna, and there will be two soubrettes, (viz.) Edna Wallace Hopper and Jennie Goldthwaite.

The Bostonians will produce a new opera "Prince Ananias" next season. The music is by Victor Herbert and the libretto by Franci s Neilson. They will also revive "Fatinitza." They are booked for a three days' engagement in this city about the end of August.

Last Monday evening in "La Belle Helene," Pauline Hall celebrated the 300th performance which she has given in Boston. The souvenir on the occasion was "in the shape of a stick pin constructed of old gold, upon the head of which is painted a portrait of Miss Hall."

A prominent musical critic writes that Paderewski's new Polish fantasy is the most difficult piece of music ever written for piano, "strikingly original and irresistibly effective," its style being "a combination of Liszt and Chopin in a most happy blending, with a lot of Paderewski thrown into the bargam."

The grave of the great singer Mme. Anna Bishop, who was one of the most charitable woman ever on the stage, is in a neglected churchyard at Red Hook, N. Y. Almost the last act of her life was to give her farewell appearance to the world in behalf of the poor of her profession. That appearance cost her her life.

A peculiar obituary notice appeared lately in an American paper. "The composer Bronson has the honor of announcing to his friends and patrons that the Lord has taken Miss Jay Bronson to himself. The Funeral March composed for the occasion by the grief-stricken father is published by B—& Co. at five dollars arranged for the orchestra, and two dollars for the piano; it will be performed for the first time at the funeral, which will take place to-morrow at eleven o'clock."

A TALK OF THE THEATRE.

At the Opera house this week, the Sidney Drew company with Mrs. McKee Rankin are playing in repertoire. Their engagement opened with Tom Taylor's venerable yet popular play "Still Waters Run Deep." The character of John Mildway was interpreted by Mr. Drew, who seemed to have an admirable conception of his role. This is the only play in which I have seen this company up to this moment of writing. As a whole the play was cleverly enough done—there are some excellent speeches in it—but at times there was a slowness about the action that was quite unsatisfactory. This I was and am disposed to deal with leniently for the reason that I have been reliably informed that Messrs. Whitecar and Blakemore had never seen the piece done and had only had their lines given them that day. Under the circumstances it is a tribute to the talent of the company that the performance was so very interesting and so smoothly played. By the way the Halifax Herald of recent date, literally scores the Drew company for their performance of "Nancy" in that city. It is about time Halifax got the benefit of dress rehearsals, Saint John has had them long enough

Mme. Duse will not be in America next season.

McKee Rankin and Jeffreys Lewis will star jointly next season.

W. S. Hart will impersonate Shakespeare next season in Rhea's new play dealing with the poet.

Milton Nobles has disposed of the right of "From Sire to Son" to J. E. Comerford, who will star in the piece next season.

Fanny Davenport will play a short season at the Boston theatre next October. This will be preliminary to giving her new Sardou drama.

Four "Jane" companies will be on the road next fall. The first production of "Jane" in St. John, will take place on Monday evening next.

Tyrone Power has recently produced his play "The Texan" at the Princess theatre, London. Both play and author are well remembered here.

Henry Irving has decided to be his own manager when he comes to this country for another tour. His time is nearly all booked for the season after next.

The Stock Company of the Buffalo Lyceum recently performed a play written by Rev. Oliver Booth, a local clergyman. The play is called "The Dagger and the Rose."

Mr. and Mrs. Kendall found, on their return to England, their son had abandoned law for the stage. He is now trying to live on his salary of $10 per week. He was "cut off."

Jules Barbier has just read to Bernhardt a five act drama entitled "Lucille," the heroine being the Lucille of "Camille Desmoulins." Probably the piece will be played next winter.

W. S. Harkins company closed season here on 7th inst., closing with "The Planter's Wife" instead of "The Octoroon" as first announced. They played in Eastport Monday and Tuesday last.

John Drew, brother of Sidney Drew now playing in this city, who has had a good season with "The Butterflies" in New York, is now en route to the Pacific Coast. He played in Denver, Col., last week.

"Old Jed Prouty" with Richard Golden in the leading role, will begin season at Greenville, Me., on 13th August. The scheme of the company involves a general tour of the United States to cover about three years.

Louise Montague, the $10,000 beauty in Forepaugh's show some years ago, is returning to the United States shortly, after a successful winter in London. She is still one of the prettiest women on the American stage.

Sarah Bernhardt has recently played "Izeyl" in London The play is by Messrs. Silvestre and Moraud, and is a four act drama in verse. It is said to be based on a Buddhistic foundation or legend. Its period is about 600 B. C.

The most popular comedian in Vienna, Alexander Girardi, had just celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his debut on the stage. The city honored him by conferring on him the big Salvator medal, and his benefit performance was made the occasion of a great popular demonstration. Ladies fought with each other and tore each other's clothes in the endeavor to be first at the ticket office. One of Girardi's most popular roles is Rip Van Winkle.

Miss Florence Maie Euneking, the daughter of the well known artist J. J. Euneking, is going on the stage next season. She will play second lead in the new drama "Mosswood." The leading role will be played by Miss Lucy Crabtree, a cousin of "Lotta."

THE BEAUTY OF UGLINESS.

The Success Achieved by Actors Devoid of Physicial Comeliness.

Although "pure native ugliness" is a hindrance to success in every walk of life, many dramatic artists have been able to make for themselves a name, and even to attain the highest rank in their profession, notwithstanding natural infirmities that might seem to have shut the stage door in their faces. Roscius squinted horribly, and, consquently, always appeared on the stage with a mask, until the Romans obliged him to act his characters without it. In French theatrical annals will be found the longest list of artists who attained fame, if not fortune, in spite of personal disadvantages. Ugliness like that of Jodelet, Odry and Grassot—all three remarkable specimens—adds in some instance a new charm to comic roles; but it seems scarcely admissible in the heroes and heroines of tragedy and drama. Yet La Champmesle, La Desoeillets, Mlle-Dumesni and the Sisters Sainval were ugly—some of them exceedingly so. La Noue had a nasty countenance, a low mien and gait; Lekain's face was repelling—Colle says he had a "gallows look"—his nose was half eaten by smallpox, and his chin scarred on both sides; but he could throw such expression into his features, and contrive to hide the imperfections of his figure so skilfully with his costumes that grande dames of the court exclaimed more than once during his performance, "How handsome he is." Beauborg was not much better favored, being ugly and bow legged, like Constantin, who for all that played Don Juan at Nicolet's! Mlle. Brilliant of the Comedie Italienne squinted; so did Ponteuil, and an excellent soprano, who recently left the opera, is afflicted with the same infirmity. Granger had a glass eye. Enormously fat actors have been numerous in France, and the record maker among them was probably Gros. Guillaume, a low comedian, who was obliged to have himself hooped like a barrel by three belts, the uppermost under his armpits; his stomach was said to walk ten paces before him. Another fat actor was Desessarts, for whom a table had been specially made to enable him to get under in "Tartuffe." He invariably created roars of laughter when he declared in the role of Petit Jean that he was "beginning to grow thin since he had lost his sleep," as well as when, in the "Siege de Calais," he appeared at the head of his fellow-citizens, "wasted to skeletons by a long and terrible famine." Dazincourt, in his "Memoirs," mentions an actor named Prevot, an artist of great talent, who, having had his feet frozen in Russia, was obliged to have his toes amputated. In consequence of this operation his stage walk was so shambling that the poor fellow never ventured to appear in Paris; but he obtained a great reputation in the French provinces, where he was such a favorite that the public overlooked his infirmity.

A Musical Event.

The churchwardens of an English village had placed an organ in their little church, and in the delight of their hearts they told the archdeacon what they had done at his next visitation. He fell in with their enthusiasm, and advised them to have a grand opening, at which Dr. C.—a well-known musician—should be present.

The advice was eagerly taken. Placards were posted, and the service was advertised in the local papers. The all-important day arrived, and with it Dr. C., who was at once shown up into the singing-loft, where stood the instrument in a case brilliant with gilded pipes known to the profession as "dummies."

"But where is the keyboard?" enquired the great man, who had already been somewhat disconcerted at the size of the organ.

"Oh," said the churchwarden, "we turn un round wi' that there," pointing to the handle.

"The amazement and indignation of Doctor C. were beyond words. He had been invited to open a hand-organ!

AFTER THIRTY YEARS.

Allan Stewart, of Springton, Suffers all this time—At Last Confined to Bed—Story of His Happy Release From Pain.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. July 9—Allan Stewart of Springton, near here, says that Dodd's Kidney Pills saved his life, and he wants the fact to be known. For thirty years he has had kidney disease and gravel. Hundreds of dollars spent on doctors and medicine failed to do any good. On July 14 last, Mr. Stewart had to take to his bed, and everybody considered his case a hopeless one. He heard of Dodd's Kidney Pills and began using them. He says he noticed an improvement from the first, and ten boxes cured him. He is now free from all pain and enjoys excellent health.

Canada's Prima Donna.

An interesting story is told of Madame Albani, who, when a girl of twenty, made her debut on the stage in Messina in La Sonnambula, and at once made a brilliant success. At the first rehearsal, the young artist having sung a well-known air, the conductor stopped playing and, seizing her hands, said: "My child! you will have a great success; you will make a furore"—a prediction that was completely verified.

Trying Times Indeed.

First Stranded Thespian—"By the time we reach New York our shoes will be worn out."

Second Thespian—"Yes, hard times always try men's soles."

Respecting His Last Wishes.

Two cowboys once met on a Texas plain and rode along together. They were strangers to each other, and their notions as to the merits of the Decalogue were about as loose as possible. Suddenly one of the "boys" made a suspicious movement toward his hip-pocket. Instantly the other drew his revolver and shot him dead.

The "live" boy then dismounted, gazed steadily at his victim, and said to himself—"Now, I wonder if he was really going to shoot me. The evidence was agin him, but anyway, I'll see for myself."

Turning the body over, he discovered that the only murderous weapon the dead man bore was a flask of whiskey; and then in sorrowful tones he said; "There, I've killed an innocent man and a perfect gentleman. He wasn't going to shoot me; he merely intended to invite me to have a drink," and as he drew his sleeve across his mouth, he continued: "The last wishes of the dead shall be respected."

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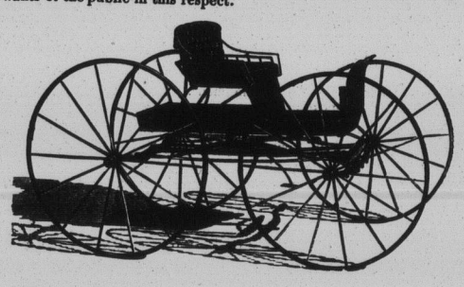

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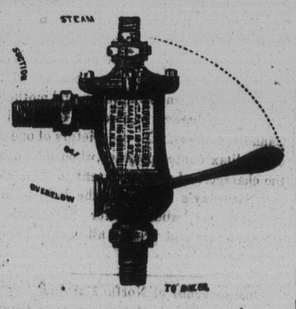

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