

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Mr. W. Edgar Buck was to a large extent successful in the promotion of the "first and concert" in connection with the Metropolitan Methodist Church choir, which took place Wednesday evening. The choir itself was increased for the occasion, but the director failed to find in numbers the effect which he sought. There was, too, a hesitancy in obeying the conductor's baton, which denoted a manifest want of practice, and produced the consequent effect in killing time. Probably the best rendered number by the choir was that of "The Heavens are Telling," (Haydn), although a better balance was evident in the execution of "Sweet and Low," (Barby). In the former number, solos were given by Miss O'Neill, Mr. J. G. Brown and Mr. Bishop. Mr. Buck's rendering of "The Valley of Shadows" was very effective, but here again in the chorus that want of sympathy and unity that can only be had from bodies of voices that have undergone careful and constant training together. Mr. Buck well deserved the warm recall he received. Mrs. Dennis Harris, who appeared in several numbers of duets and trios, has a sweet mezzo-soprano voice of good average compass for drawing room singing; her duet with Mr. Buck in "Maying" did not show to good advantage, but a decided improvement was evident in the trio with Mr. Buck and Miss Jameson in "The Gypsy's Laughing Song," where perhaps from the confidence gained by singing twice previously, she threw greater spirit and force into the work. Miss Jameson's voice is apparently suffering from the sacrifice of force and volume to the search for range. She possesses a fair complement of the former, and could employ them to far greater effect in their legitimate capacity. Miss Jameson's abilities are capable of giving a deal of pleasure. Mr. A. Aspland sang in a trio with Mrs. Harris and Miss Jameson, and in a duo with Mr. Buck. He is very young, his voice still being in the transition stage, so that it is yet to be proved whether he will make any mark as a tenor. Mr. J. G. Brown needs no detailed mention at this late day. He sang "The Wonders of the Deep," and gracefully and positively declined to respond to the persistent and very warm demand for an encore, which was much merited. Mr. Ernest Wolff played Ernst's "Elegie," and was very cordially recalled.

Frank Daniels, the inimitable comedian, who will be at The Victoria on the evening of the 20th, with his most successful piece, "Little Puck," has this season the largest farce comedy company on the road. It numbers over twenty-five people of known standing and acknowledged ability in the amusement world. Mr. Daniels, although, of course, the central figure in the performance, does not believe in "giving the whole show himself." Heading the supporting company is that painstaking and attractive bit of sweet femininity, Miss Bessie Sanson, who has been Mr. Daniels' co-laborer ever since the play was first produced. Miss Adele Farrington-Dunn, the well known contralto, now plays Clara, and with her are the Misses Loona Amrose, Rosa Mitchell

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Julia Lee, Violet Carleton-Canfield, Ellie Rook, Marjorie Dorr, Fanny Booker, while among the comedians are Tony Williams, Frank Girard, Daniel L. Baker, John Canfield, Chas. A. Boyd, Oliver Howe, James Grant, Thos. Kiernan, Walter Long, Thos. Nelson, J. Ellsworth Moore, Charles Simpson, R. U. Dunn and others.

The Calhoun Opera Company have changed from Jan. 4, 5 and 6 to Jan 30 and 31 and Feb. 1.

The last performance of Rob Roy was not so well attended as the first. The work of Messrs. MacKay, McAllister, Chapman, Stillman and Mellon was particularly worthy of notice, and Mrs. Chapman sustained her reputation of being a very clever actress. Of the male amateurs much could be said, Messrs. Falconer, Sell and Mackie were all that could be desired in their parts, while Miss Grant and Miss O'Neill really surprised their friends. Miss Mackie was pleasing and natural, and the dancing by W. Anderson, Miss Strachau, Miss McKenzie and Master McKenzie was a decidedly interesting feature of the performance.

The concert under the auspices of the Y. L. I. at Institute Hall, Thursday evening, was a musical treat. The leading musicians of the city, including Messrs. Rowlands, Brown, Wolff and Miss Sharp, took part.

A local dramatic company will present Sunset and My Uncle's Will at Philharmonic Hall, next Monday evening.

The Arion Club concert, on the evening of the 20th, will be the musical event of next week.

Strife, by an amateur company, will be repeated to-night at Victoria West Hall.

Miss M. Harrup will read a paper on the history of British Columbia at an entertainment to be given in the new school of St. Saviour's Church, next Monday evening.

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