

# Professor D. C. Bell's "Elocutionary Evenings."

RECENT OPINIONS OF THE PRESS—CHIEFLY CANADIAN.

READINGS FROM SHAKESPEARE, MODERN POETS, AND HUMORISTS.

—BY—

DAVID CHARLES BELL,

(LATE OF DUBLIN.)

PROFESSOR OF ELOCUTION.

Author of *The Theory of Elocution—The Modern Reader and Speaker—The Standard Elocutionist—The Ladies' Elocutionist, &c.*

## TORONTO.

Mr. Bell's Readings at the Music Hall were listened to by an appreciative audience. The readings consisted of selections from the Poets, Humorists and Dramatists, in all of which he sustained his world-wide reputation as an accomplished elocutionist. Passing, as he did, from grave to gay, he displayed to advantage his pleasing voice and careful delivery, and exhibited astounding versatility. He appeared to be equally at home in the lofty oratorical effort required in the "Speech of Brutus" and "Mark Antony's Oration," as in the humor of "Bardell vs. Pickwick," or "Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lectures." The reading of "An Orator's First Speech in Parliament" was exceedingly humorous, and was delivered in such a vivid manner as to bring the audience, in imagination, into the presence of the unfortunate hero of the story, "Tam O'Shanter" and "Shamus O'Brien," two very difficult readings, were performed with remarkable taste and effect. Altogether, the evening with Mr. Bell was a rare treat. —[Toronto Mail.

Last evening, Mr. D. C. Bell, Professor of Elocution, Dublin, gave one of his pleasing and instructive entertainments at the Music Hall. There was a numerous and appreciative audience present, and the various pieces rendered by the lecturer were received with warm and deserved applause. He gave a masterly recitation of Professor Aytoun's soul-stirring description of "Edinburgh after Fiodden." The reading of this piece was heartily applauded. —[Toronto Globe.

Professor Bell's second evening at the Music Hall was very successful. His reading is easy, natural, and graceful, his utterance clear and distinct, and his delineation of character is drawn with life-like precision. A most laughable report of a Charity Meeting of persons desirous of promoting the cause of Foreign Philanthropy, concluded the entertainment, and gave the reader full scope in the exercise of his surprising versatile qualities. —[Toronto Mail.

Mr. Bell, the eminent Irish elocutionist, delivered his first readings in the Music Hall last evening, which were all that could be desired by the most fastidious critic. Mr. Bell has all the attributes of a fine reader—voice, intonation, gesture, look, attitude—and is one of the finest readers who have ever appeared in the city. Paraphrasing the programme "Virginia" was rendered with a nicety which exacted an enthusiastic applause from the audience. Douglas Jerrold's "Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lecture" elicited peals of laughter, and was received with unbounded applause. The concluding selection, "Bardell vs. Pickwick," was a beautiful piece of acting and elocution. Any one wishing to hear and see the beauties of elocution, should visit the Music Hall. —[Toronto Leader.

He was most successful in retaining the attention of his hearers from first to last, and was frequently warmly applauded. Mr. Bell is an accomplished elocutionist, and we recommend his entertainments to the public. —[Toronto Sun.

## KINGSTON.

Professor D. C. Bell, of Dublin, the celebrated elocutionist, was greeted with a numerous, and, to use the stereotyped phraseology, highly appreciative audience, at the City Hall last night. Mr. Bell was introduced to the audience by the Very Rev. Principal Snodgrass, in a few well chosen words, in which he referred to the pleasant recollections connected with Mr. Bell's former visit to the city. An "Oratorical Melange," in which several classes of speakers were ably represented, the rendition keeping the audience in roars of laughter. The audience were captivated, which was evinced by the unflinching attention paid during the entire evening. —[Kingston Daily News.

Professor Bell commenced his readings with a condensation of "Locksley Hall," which he rendered with much taste and expression; following it with the ever popular stirring Roman Lay, "Horatius," which was given with great elocutionary power and dramatic force. Unflinching interest was kept up to the close, the programme being excellent in its selection, alternating grave and gay; as the presentation of its pieces was rhetorically fine. It is needless to say, generally, that Professor Bell is an accomplished elocutionist, and does artistically almost everything he attempts; his readings being not only given with a generally careful appreciation of the author, but with a faithful attention to the minor details of gesture and by-play. —[Kingston British Whig.

His interpretation of character in the "Christmas Carol" was exceedingly fine. Altogether, his visit to Kingston has been a pleasing one to the intellectually inclined. —[Kingston British Whig.

## HAMILTON.

The Professor proved himself a master in the art of elocution, and won from the audience frequent and enthusiastic applause. The programme was a varied one, and gave full scope to the Professor's great abilities. The gem of the evening was the rendition of Dickens's celebrated trial scene of "Bardell vs. Pickwick," which exhibited, in the highest degree, the great talents of the reader; as the changes of voice and expression given to the different characters were most natural and life-like. The Directors of the Institute deserve credit for bringing such a talented reader to the city. —[Hamilton Evening Times.

The programme was a lengthy and varied one, and during its continuance the audience were held in rapt and pleased attention. His rendition of "Edinburgh after Fiodden" and the "Banquet Scene from Macbeth," were very fine, his representations of the various characters assumed being vividly real; while the comic selections, such as "Ask Mamma," and "A Leap Year Wooing," were mirth-provoking in the extreme. At the close of every selection, Mr. Bell was greeted with the hearty applause of the audience. —[Hamilton Daily Spectator.

## BRANTFORD.

The performance needs to be heard to be appreciated, and it would be invidious to compare the rendering of one piece with another. The tragic, the pathetic, and the amusing, were so happily interspersed, that interest in the Readings did not have a chance to flag. An "Orator's First Speech in Parliament" kept the audience in spasms of merriment. The doughty rollicking Tam O'Shanter, mixed withal with superstitious dread, was well and admirably pictured. The entertainment was in every way entirely successful. —[Brantford Expositor.

Professor D. C. Bell recited selections from Shakespeare, in which the acting was very powerful and impressive. The selections were very appropriately made. A more enjoyable evening has rarely been spent in Brantford. —[Brantford Courier.

## ST. THOMAS.

He is a most effective and finished elocutionist, and conveys the sense of his matter in a tone and emphasis so faultless, that one forgets he is only listening to a recitation. He is equally at home in the grave and pathetic, as he is in the gay and humorous; and his gesture and action in giving his audience a correct sense of the ridiculous, are perfect. —[Canadian Home Journal.

## PRESCOTT.

Prof. D. C. Bell gave a series of interesting Readings, rapturously applauded by the audience. —[Prescott Telegraph.

## AYLMER.

Professor Bell is by far the best elocutionist we have heard in Canada; his style is free from all mannerism, and his ability to identify himself with the different characters he portrays, contributes greatly to his success. Although everything was delivered in a masterly manner, Mr. Bell, in our opinion, is more grand as a dramatic reader: his rendering of the "Banquet Scene," from "Macbeth," being a magnificent conception; the entrance of the hired assassins—the dismay at the news that the son had escaped—the apparition of Banquo—the distress and apology of the Queen—and Macbeth's horror on the re-appearance of the ghost—were vividly produced to the mind of the audience. —[Aylmer Paper.

## SMITH'S FALLS.

The high expectations of the audience were more than realized. The first part of the programme was a condensation of Shakespeare's tragedy of "Hamlet"; and never before have we heard this noble creation of the Bard of Avon given with such truthfulness and with so much effect. His pathos, his bursts of feeling or of passion, as the different characters in the tragedy were impersonated, showed his wonderful versatility; and the appreciation of the audience was frequently manifested by hearty rounds of applause. The entertainment was concluded with the Breach of Promise case—"Bardell vs. Pickwick"—and in this Mr. Bell portrayed the judge, jury, lawyers and all the other characters, with the ability which his other readings led the audience to expect. Altogether, his clear diction, expressive intonation, impersonation of character, and his unbounded facial powers, filled his hearers with delight that he held them spell-bound. —[Smith's Falls News.

## PARIS.

This Literary and Elocutionary evening was the most enjoyable entertainment we have attended for a length of time. The audience was the soul of merriment. —[Paris Transcript.

It is not easy to say whether Professor Bell excels most in the humorous or pathetic. His selections from Shakespeare, however, appeared to give very high satisfaction, and also those from Tennyson's "Enoch Arden." Those who were present enjoyed a high intellectual treat, such as is seldom obtained in a provincial town. —[Paris Star.

## BELLEVILLE.

His efforts gave entire satisfaction, all appearing to be well pleased with the rich treat afforded them. Prof. Bell is considered by many to be the finest speaker who has yet visited our town. —[Belleville Daily Ontario.

## WATERLOO.

Mr. Bell's talent as an elocutionist is of a very high order. His rendering of Dickens's "Christmas Carol" gave even those most familiar with that excellent tale, a new insight into its beauties. As "Mrs. Caudle," he was excellent, and "Shamus O'Brien" was also very good; but his conception of Justice Starveligh in the "Pickwick Trial Scene," was perfection itself. —[Waterloo Chronicle.

## WALKERTON.

It is seldom that the people of a small inland town like Walkerton have an opportunity to enjoy an entertainment of so high an order. It brought tears to the eyes of the audience—not of grief, however, but of merriment. It was a most enjoyable entertainment altogether, and we hope to see its pleasures soon repeated. —[Walkerton Telescope.