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MUSIC & THE DRAMA

THE appearance of the San Carlo Opera Company from Covent Garden, London, at Massey Hall, Toronto, this week, is one of the most important events of the season. This company was organised three years ago in Milan by Mr. Henry Russell. It was first heard in London at the Covent Garden Opera House, where it met with pronounced success. Signor Caruso and Miss Alice Nielsen were the most brilliant stars in its firmament, while the orchestral equipment was admitted to be exceptionally satisfactory in smoothness. Mr. Russell is said to exercise great care over every detail of chorus and orchestra, not contenting himself with securing a few stellar attractions.

While it is reassuring to be informed of Mr. Russell's methods in securing an artistic ensemble, undoubtedly the most interesting fact to the public is that Madame Lillian Nordica, the city's favourite grand opera singer, is the leading member of the San Carlo Opera Company. On Friday evening Miss Nielsen, Mlle. Dereyne and several other well-known artists appear in Puccini's "La Boheme." At the Saturday matinee "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Don Pasquale" form the programme, while on Saturday night "Il Trovatore" with Madame Nordica in the leading part will doubtless prove the climax of an exceedingly enjoyable engagement. Constantino, the Spanish tenor, who is to sing on Friday evening is said to be a great artist who makes even Caruso look to his laurels. During the first week of this month he received most favourable criticisms in San Francisco, a city which, according to local admission, "has become rather spoiled and pampered in the matter of notable singers."

* *

Those who saw Mr. Dallas Welford in Mr. Carton's farce, "Mr. Hopkinson," in his first Canadian engagement, will need no urging to see "Hoppy" again. Mr. Welford will be at the Princess Theatre, Toronto, next week in the former play and in another Carton production, "Public Opinion." "Hoppy" is a creation which it is utterly impossible to forget, however one may try to put the loathsome little bouncer out of mind. But though he may have inspired the beholder with a desire to see him heartily kicked, "Hoppy" also inspired so many healthful chuckles that the news of his return is received with gladness.

* *

Mr. Arthur Symons in discussing the British ear for music says: "To have an ear for music is not at all the same thing as having taste in music. I am not sure that the British as a race, have not rather an ear than a taste for music, while the Germans seem to an exceptional degree to have the taste. The Italians, it must be admitted, have only the ear; so that we come somewhere between those extremes."

* *

The May Festival Chorus will give their first concert in Massey Hall, Toronto, on Thursday, May 16th. The Executive have secured the services of Mr. H. M. Fletcher, the conductor of the Schubert Choir and the People's Choral Union. The chorus numbers 225 men, forming the largest male chorus that has ever sung in Toronto. Madame Le Grand Reed, the Canadian prima donna, and Mr. J. R. Page, baritone, will be the assisting artists.

* *

Miss Katherine Parlow is a young Canadian violinist at present studying with Auer, the celebrated master of the instrument in St. Petersburg. Miss Parlow played before Auer when he was in London a year ago and the great Russian violinist was so struck with her undoubted genius that he proposed she should return to Rus-

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