

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

FRANK I. CLARKE writes as follows: A Montreal dispatch conveys the sad news of the accidental death of Mrs. Molynieux St. John, a lady well known and highly esteemed by the older residents of Winnipeg, who hold her in pleasant remembrance on account of her endearing social qualities. To the survivors of an older generation Mrs. St. John will be remembered as Miss Kate Rance, one of the most graceful and talented of comedienues. Thirty years ago, in the palmy days of burlesque, before Offenbach had revolutionized the comedy stage by the introduction of opera bouffe, Kate Rance was a reigning favorite in the great theatrical world of London. Coming to America in 1866, she achieved an immediate success in New York, which was followed by equally flattering receptions in all the eastern cities. Montreal and Toronto went wild about her. "Sweet Kate Rance" was a toast, a theme for many a callow muse, the goddess at whose feet the habitués of box, pit and gallery worshipped, the good fairy of the box office. On her benefit nights at the old Royal, Montreal, the stage was transformed into a conservatory, so numerous were the floral offerings of her admirers. Pretty, petite, shapely, graceful, charming in every mood and action, blessed with a sweet voice of rare flexibility, she was an incarnation of comedy. Her performances in "Ixion," "Pocahontas," "The Invisible Prince," and "Don Giovanni" are indelibly and pleasantly stamped on the memories of those who witnessed them.

On the 27th inst., Mr. I. E. Philo, the talented and rising young local actor, will give his farewell performance at The Victoria. Monte Cristo is by no means an easy work for amateurs to undertake, and the title role, which made James O'Neil famous, will be portrayed by Mr. Philo, who will doubtless do it justice. This young man is not only gifted with grand dramatic talent, but also possesses unusual musical powers. No doubt Victorians will show their good will towards Mr. Philo by receiving Monte Cristo with a bumper house.

Victoria theatre-goers will be pleased to learn that they will have an opportunity of welcoming the ever-popular Patti Rosa next Thursday night. Patti Rosa's tour this year has been most successful—artistically and financially. The opera house at Winnipeg could not accommodate half of the number who wanted to see the popular little actress, and in other cities crowds have been turned away from the doors unable to gain admittance.

Uncle Hiram, which comes to The Victoria on the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday, is said to be one of the best of its class. The character of a down-east Yankee, when well done, affords much amusement, and no doubt Uncle Hiram will make everyone laugh.

John F. Sheridan retains all the humor and fire of his earlier youth, and his acting is just as appreciable as it was ten years ago.

Manager Jamieson of The Victoria spent the greater part of the week on the Sound in the interests of his house.

Miss Kate Dalglish is still the leading attraction at the Grove Street Theatre, San Francisco.

It is believed that the Georgia Minstrels have cancelled their British Columbia dates.

John Cort is now in Seattle, where he hopes to open a house.

The Vienna Ladies' Orchestra may return to Victoria.

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