

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

In the gloaming I was sitting,
While my laughter ran amuck
At Frank Daniels' funny antics,
In the play called "Little Puck."

No matter what role he may assume, Frank Daniels is always amusing, and he can bring a smile to the face of a wooden Indian by simply looking at it without saying a word. It is no wonder then that a large audience was in a constant gurgle of merriment all last Monday evening at The Victoria at the first presentation this season of "Little Puck." The story is an odd one and is based on F. Anstey Guthrie's odd novel called "Vice Versa." That is, the plot, as it were, which brings about a change in a father and son, reversing their respective relations to each other, is the same as that in Guthrie's odd story. The parts fit Mr. Daniels to perfection, and every line and every situation gives him an opportunity for a display of his inimitable drollery. Daniels is Daniels always, and he is absolutely "sui generis." He is the same yesterday, to-day and forever, and always original and always funny.

The play itself is a bright one, full of catchy music and funny scenes, while the text is sparkling with witty dialogues. It does not depend on its pretty girls and topical songs for success, but possesses strong elements which would make it attractive and amusing even if those lighter embellishments were left out. The company, too, is a good one and all parts fit into the whole like the different pieces of a carefully designed mosaic. Miss Bessie Sanson is just bubbling over with infectious fun all the time she is on the stage and is always active and graceful. She is something of the style of the Vokes family, but still has originality and a charm that is all her own. Miss Hilda Thomas was very pleasing in her role, and sang some negro songs in such a captivating way that she received several encores. Bert Coote who takes the alternating role with Mr. Daniels, is an embodiment of dramatic ease and agility, and either as father or son successfully supplements the work of his principal. Robert Evans, J.C. Bell and Tony Williams also deserve a great deal of credit, and the young ladies in the company would blush with pride if they heard the pretty things said about them. The Original Clipper Quartet sang to several recalls, and D. L. Don nearly created several serious cases of cachinatory apoplexy among the audience by his intensely comical impersonations of a Simian Irishman, and by his grotesque dancing. The play has no lesson to teach, but its mission is to amuse. It does amuse, and, consequently, fulfils its mission.

Gus Williams will be at The Victoria on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday next. Mr. Williams is so well known throughout the length and breadth of the land that it is entirely superfluous to describe him further than to say that he is now the only legitimate German dialect comedian on the American stage. In his peculiar line, he has no opposition. We are told that there are more legitimately funny situations in "Keppler's Fortunes" than in any other comedy on the stage.

At Victoria West Hall, next Monday and Tuesday evenings, the amateurs of Victoria West will present the drama "Among the Breakers," and the farce "The Yankee Peddler." The object is to raise funds to purchase an altar for St. Saviour's church. The young folks who are to take part are all very clever and should give a good performance.

Victorians will have an opportunity of seeing the great comedy success "Jane," Saturday, June 25.

Blue Jean will hold forth three nights at The Victoria, June 28, 29 and 30.

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References furnished.

**E. D. McNAUGHTON,
Manager.**

Thatcher's Minstrels will be at The Victoria June 7 and 8.

EH Perkins, the humorist, will be at The Victoria, to-night.

The Banditt King has June 15 and 16 at The Victoria.

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