IN AN OLD PLAYHOUSE.

THE DRAMA IN ST. JOHN HALF A
CENTURY AGO.

Bloopley's Theatre and Some Who Trod Its
Boards—Plays and Players That are Seen
and Heard no More—A House—Bill of the
Good Old Days.

On the morning of the 15th of October,
1874, that great enemy of the historic
bouses of St. John, fire, swept away the
last traces of the old Hopley theatre. For
years before that time the greater portion
of the building had been among the things
that had been and were not, and comparatively few of the young generation knew
that there had stood there the playhouse to
which the beauty and fashion of the city
had flocked in the days of long ago. Yet
in the thirty or more years for which it
stood, prior to a destruction of all but
aportion of it by fire, in November, 1854,
many actors of no mean note trod its
boards, and not the least of these were
Junius Brutus Booth, who made his advent
in 1841, the Vandenhoffs, Mrs. Fitzwilliams,
Buxton, the comedian and others. There,
too,prominent citizens were wont to appear
on the amateur stage, in their younger

I THE DRAMA IN ST. JOHN HALF A
CENTURY AGO.

Opened by Cyrus Stockwell in the previous
year. Nelson's bookstore was kept by
Valentine Nelson, and the Mr. Seely, who
lived next door to the theatre, was the
late Richard Seely, who was himself an
amateur actor in the local entertainments of
late (chard Seely, who was himself an
amateur actor in the local entertainments of
late (chard Seely, who was himself an
amateur actor in the local entertainments of
late (chard Seely, who was himself an
amateur actor in the local entertainments
of later years.

Among other amateur performers in the
Hopley theatre, at one time of late (hopley theatre, at one time of later years.

Among other amateur actor in the local entertainments
of later years.

Among other amateur performers in the
Hopley theatre, at one time of later was to delta few months ago;
John E. Ganong, who died a few months ago;
John E. Ganong, who died a few months ago;
John E. Ganong, who died a few months ago;
John E too, prominent citizens were wont to appear on the amateur stage, in their younger days, and no less a thing than the Institute lecture course had its beginning there. The Hopley theatre had no small share in

educating and developing the taste of the citizens of half a century or so ago.

If I do not know when the building was erected, but it was probably about the year 1820. It was used as a circus as far back as 1825, and no doubt for other purposes of amusement before that date. In the thirties and forties it was at the zenith of

of amusement before that date. In the thirties and forties it was at the zenith of its fame as a theatre. The site of it was on Union street, east of the Golden Ball corner, within view, and indeed within pistol shot, of the new opera house.

In looking over some old papers, the other day, I found a curious relic of this theatre in the early days of the Victorian era. It was a finely preserved house-bill, of an earlier date than I have seen published of late years, and it read as follows:



THEATRE.

STAGE MANAGER, MR. NICKINSON.
PROMPTER, MR. ADDIS

DEVERNA, duly appreciating the suppo dy received from the Inhabitants of St. dol-narious to Mentr a continuance of their libera espectfully announces that, during his late vis e United States, he has succeeded in effectin gements, [for a limited number of nights

of the principal "London Theatres," and recently the leading Performers in the "Park Theatre," New York. Engagements have also been entered into

MISS ANGELICA Principal "Danseuse," and favorite "Comedi of the London, New York and Philadel phia THEATRES. MR. RAFFILE,

MR. ADDIS,

long and favorably known as the Prompter and Stage Director of the Nat and Bowery Theatres, New York.

With this "Combination of Talent" in addition the acknowledged ability of the present Copany, the Manager confidently anticipate a remuneration for his efforts to present, in perfection, in succession of

Sterling TRAGEDIES and COMEDIES, So'carefully produced as to command the appro-Monday Evening, July 23, 1838

OTHELLO,

OTHELLO
Cassio-Mr. Taylor Roderigo-Mr. Nickinson
Brabantio-Mr. Bellamy, Gratiano-Mr. Anderson Ludovice-Mr. BrownMontano-Mr. Milner
DUKE
EMELIAMrs.Anderson
After which MRS. ANGELICA, will appear in her

MR. RASIMI will repeat his Spanish Botthe opers of Massaniello. To conclude with the admired FARCE of

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

It would be inferred from the announcement that this was the opening night of the season, though it is just possible that Mr. Deverna was so well satisfied with his own rhetoric that he allowed the praise of his enterprise to appear on the bills on subsequent occasions. How this enterprise was rewarded, and how tar the public found the enterprise equal to the promise, must, it is to be feared, remain a mystery to the people of today. I have no file of city papers for that year, and if I had, it is doubtful if they would throw much light on the subject. It would be inferred from the annou

city papers for that year, and if I had, it is doubtful if they would throw much light on the subject.

The mayor of St. John at that time was Robert F. Hazen, the eleventh to occupy the chair in the fifty and odd years of the city's corporate existence. Many of the local readers of ProGRESS in the remember when he resided in the house which has since been transformed into the Hotel Dnfferin, and which was one of the very few buildings which stood in the path of the fire of 1877 and escaped. The St. John hotel, in 1838, was new in its career as a house of entertainment, having been

Marie Contract of the Contract

Slader.

In 1840 the place was known as Preston's theatre, having a Mr. Preston as lessee. It was in that year that the Vandenhofts arrived. Prior to the completion of the Institute building, the lectures of the first course were delivered there.

In a partial file of the Loyalist for 1843, I find several notices of the performances of the amateurs of the Histrionic society, but the value of them is sadly lessened by the fact that the names of the actors are not mentioned. Here are some of the plays which were produced:

On February 4, The Dumb Girl of Genoa was given, with Billy Barlovs as an afterpiece. There was but a small audience, and in order to attract the public the price for future nights was reduced to one shilling and three pence for box tickets and seven pence ha'penny for the gallery. One week later the citizens who attended were treated to Rob Roy and the farce of My Fellow Clerk. The part of Baillie Nichol Jarvie was, if I mistake not, taken by James Robertson, a well known tailor.

The Dumb Girl of Genoa was repeated on Feb. 13, with the farce of My Fellow Clerk, "in a manner that would have done credit to stock actors," says the critic. Then followed, on succeeding Monday and Thursday nights, The Rent Day and Hunting the Turtle; Wenlock and Miss in Her Teens; the Golden Farmer and the Irishman in London, while on Feb. 13, with Wenlock and Miss in Her Teens; the Golden Farmer and the Irishman in London, while on Feb. 27 The Dumb Girl of Genoa and The Golden Farmer were repeated. Of the latter, the Loyalist says that "the gentleman who personated the character of the farmer created quite a sympathy, as we observed many of the fair sex were affected even to tears."

Soaring a little higher, the Merchant of Venice was produced on March 16, and

farmer created quite a sympathy, as we observed many of the fair sex were affected even to tears."

Soaring a little higher, the Merchant of Venice was produced on March 16, and the next week came the Robber of the Rhine and The Golden Farmer again. The latter appears to have taken well, for the critic has this to say. "We have seen many performances in different parts of the continent, and most certainly think that the principal characters were as well performed as possibly they could be."

Macbeth was given twice during the season, and on April 27 the Merchant of Venice was repeated, for the benefit of Mr. Slader, who had rendered valuable aid as stage decorator and all-round actor. This was Arthur Slader, a man of many and brilliant gifts, who spent his life in alternately sinning and repenting. He is generally referred to as a printer, but in the course of his life he acted in many other lines of work, such as that of editor, schoolmaster and painter. He was a poet as well as an ector, and from all accounts he might have been anything he chose, had he taken care of himself. In this very year, 1843, he was the central figure in a total abstinence reform crusade, but his reformation had but all too brief a life.

The last performance of which I find any mention in this year was on May 4, when Richard III and My Fellow Clerk were produced. Other files, from which, no doubt, much more might be learned, are not at hand at the present writing.

The Marble Heart, to be produced at the opening of the opera house, has not been seen in St. John for some years, but it is remembered with pleasure by frequenters of Lanergan's old lyceum. It was put on as long ago as 1866, and possibly earlier, while I well remember it in the seventies. In 1866, Frank Roche, George Clair, W. H. Danvers, Rachael Noah and Jennie Anderson were among Lanergan's actors. The same play was given in 1870, with Shirley France as Volage, Frank Roche as Raphael and Lizzie Anderson and Raphael.

He cannot walk, he cannot speak, Nothing he knows of books or men; He is the weakest of the weak, And has not strength to hold a pen.

He rules his parents by a cry,
And holds them captive by a smile;
A despot strong through infancy,
A king from lack of guile.

He lies upon his back and crows, Or looks with grave eyes or his mother; What can he mean? But I suppose They understand each other.

Kisses he takes as rightful due, And Turk-like has his slaves to dress him; His subjects bend before him, too; I'm one of them. God bless him.

Ease and Comfort For Doctors.

adjutant general, Fredericton, as seen during a recent visit. It shows how method

Punctually at 9.30 a. m. the colone came striding along, straight, tall and very inch a soldier. Greeting the assembled officers with a nod and a good morning, he seated himself and in a short sharp tone of voice put the question: "Any pris-

tone of voice put the question: "Any prisoners?"

"One prisoner, sir," is the ready response of Adjutant Hemming on this particular morning.

After all the preliminaries have been gone through, the stentorian tones of the sergeant-major were heard proclaiming:

"Escort, prisoner, evidence, left wheel; quick march; halt; front;" and the prisoner appeared, with the witnesses for and against, and a member of the guard on either side.

The adjutant reads the charge, the witnesses

either side.

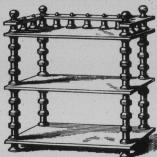
The adjutant reads the charge, the witnesses deliver their testimony and then comes the inquiry, "Jones what have you got to say?"

The prisoner, evidently an old offender, but in much trepidation, proceeds to make an explanation. Then the colonel, after delivering a short lecture to the culprit, pronounces the sentence, the tones of the sergeant-major are again heard, "left turn! quick march! left wheel!" and the prisoner is marched out, a sadder if not a wiser man.

USE FOR THE SPOOLS.

Whatever can we do with all our empty

whatever can we do with an our empty spools? It seems a pity to burn them and they are of no use." Gently, ye who thus complain, the spools may be transformed into a pretty piece of furniture it you will follow the directions of the Season. The



small etagere with its shelves made of cardboard, the tops covered with plush and the bottoms with glazed black calico is formed out of empty spools stained black, each of which is an inch and a-half high. The shelves are 14½ inches long and 7 broad. The columns are strengthened by the spools being threaded on a thin stick 15 inches high, it also goes through holes made in the cardboard for the purpose, and the top knobs are spools cut in half. The top railing is made of the spools glued on, and then connected at the top, with a strip of plush covered cardboard, stud-headed nails serving both to strengthen and beautify the arrangement.

Ha. my dear! I'm back again— Vendor of Bohemia's wares! Lordy! How it pants a man Climbing up those awful stairs! Well, I've made the dealer say Your sketch might sell, anyway! And I've made a publisher Hear my poem, Kate, my dear.

In Bohemia, Kate, my dear—
Lodgers in a musty flat
On the top floor—living here
Neighborless, and used to that—
Neighborless, and used to that—
So our little home receives
Only quests of chirping cheer—
We'll be happy, Kate, my dear!

Under your north light there, you At your easel, with a stain On your nose of Prussian blue, Paint your bits of shine and rain; With my feet thrown up at will O'er my littered window-sill, I write rhymes that ring as clear As your laughter, Kate, my dear

Puff my pipe, and stroke my hair— Bite my pencil-tip and gaze At you, mutely mooning there O'er your "Aprila" and your "Mays!" Equal inspiration in Dimples of your cheek and chin, And the golden atmosphere Of your paintings, Kate, my dear!

Trying? Yes, at times it is,
To clink happy rhymes, and fling
On the canwas scene of blies,
When we are half-famishing!—
When your "ilersey" rips in spots,
And your hat's "forget-me-nots"
Have grown tousled, old and sereIt is trying, Kate, my dear!

But—as sure—some picture sells,
And—sometimes—the poetry—
Bless us I How the parrot yells
His acclaims at you and me!
How we revel then in scenes
Of high banquetting!—sardines
Salads—olives—and a sheer
Pint of sherry, Kate, my dear!

Even now I cross your paim,
With this great round world of gold!—
"Talking wild?" Perhaps I am—
Then, this little five -year-old!—
Call it anything you will,
So it lifts your face until
I may kiss away that tear
Ere it drowns me, Kate, my dear!

James Whitcomb R

ш ZZY

Salmon. Lobsters. Oysters. Corn. Tomatoes Peas. Beans. Peaches.

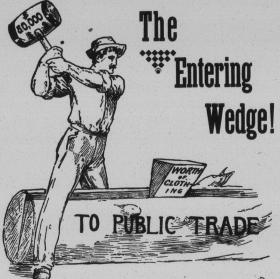
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What are your going to have for Fall and Winter Wear?

JUESTION FOR ALL!

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 0^{UR} COUNTERS are piled up high now with goods, and more are coming. Talk about assortment! Why, we've got two tables the whole length of our store filled up with Overcoats and Ulsters alone!



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65. 67, and

25

Jo

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The finest stock to be found in the Maritime Pro-

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Hosts of them. Four Button Cutaway for \$7 to \$15 Sack Suits in Tweeds and Worsteds, \$4 to 16; Double Breasted Frock, in fine Black Corkscrew, \$18, \$20 and \$22; Double Breasted Sack Suits, \$8, \$12, \$16. Boss

Boys' and Children's Overcoats

In all kinds of Cloth suitable, made up stylish and gay; run from \$2.50 to \$12.

If you don't know

Our prices we will have to tell you. 2000 Overcoats, some at only \$4; Men's Chinchella at \$7 and \$10; Flannel Lined and Silk Finished Meltons, all wool, \$10, \$12 and \$18. Cape Ulsters, long, 30 in. Cape, beautiful pattern \$7.50, \$10, \$12 and \$15; cheaper Ulsters, \$5, \$7, \$10,

REEFERS,

In Chinchillas, Naps, Presidents, Beavers, Meltons and Tweeds, from 36 to 48 in. breast measure, from \$4 to \$10

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Specially invite Visitors to the City during the Exhibition (or at any other time) to call and inspect their Large and Varied Stock, embracing

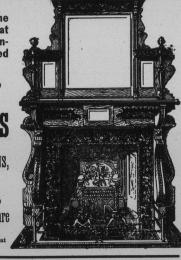
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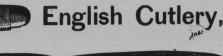


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T. McAVITY & SONS, 13 and 15 KING STREET, . ST. JOHN, N. B.

pertunity of hearing next week at the M Wiley's impersonation

next week at the 1 Wiley's impersonation Billee Tuylor will long her name memories at was occasionally favor company, and not left. Years at a stretch with On Tuesday evening call it that still lot regular club member programme a success of Boston, contribute solos. A Romance band something by P Boston, sang "Oh, and a pretty little son and a pretty little son and a pretty little son programme in the programme of the programme of the programme of the programme of Boston, contribute solos. A Romance by Boston, sang "Oh, and a pretty little son made a pretty little son and a pretty little son and a pretty little son with the programme of the prog

uccess.

Miss May Elise Fell

Lawton and Miss
ers by the State of M
Miss Sarah Drake,
ended visit in the city iday morning.

s Lizzie Smith is
. Wm. Bowden
Babbitt, of Parr

promise to be of m All the local athl Ferguson has been ments that will sati grounds during the made changes in should meet with still events will be still events will be the races, which w relieve the monoto which is expected day, O'Rielly an entered and the e race are well found

Another new id approval of the p blackboard placed stand, on which w of every contestar time made. This v of the sports. T been engaged to fu

The medals for handsome, and no sign. In all the ev be awarded, and th to time of writing in be worth trying for

The A. A. club I the membership bei and the finances in ball has helped the year, as the 24th quite a sum, and th able games to absor-

Secretary Alling crosse club arrived trip to Montreal wh tunity of seeing sev his favorite game prominent members teur athletic associ much interested in letics. They say made to increase th vincial sports. La: vincial sports. Las sociation sent a m compete in some 0 result a number of the Montreal groun annual sports, am White of this city. proposes to send m held in the maritime the fill probably in

The Y. M. C. A. ommunication with view of arranging g

The directors of association have decracing during exh Wedz, say and Th 8, for which \$1.100 fered. Following is Stake race for money, \$50; foals trotting, purse, \$1 under, trotting, pulse, \$150; 2.40 cl \$300; running race

class, \$160; 2.40 ci \$300; running race close with W. P. Fi October. No mone forwarded, but each 10 per cent. of purs The following are that are mentioned in these races: D Wilkie, Bessie Cla George All Right, C Of these, three or entered in the St. J to allow horses to tr at St. John and F.