

Music and the Drama.

"Elijah."

The performance of Mendelssohn's magnificent master piece, "Elijah" on Tuesday evening last, was on the whole, one worthy of the subject, and that reflected much credit on all concerned, while at the same time exhibiting in a marked manner the defects as well as the capabilities of the society at large. This was the third production of this oratorio by the Society, and was perhaps the most successful, more especially when it is remembered that, with one exception, all the soloists belonged to the Society. The one exception was Mr. Stoddart, who, as *Elijah*, proved fully equal to the requirements of a most trying role. He has hitherto been better known to us as an operatic singer, and sometimes lapsed somewhat into the operatic style, but his interpretation was characterized by intense dramatic power and deep religious feeling. His style is broad and vigorous, and his voice admirably suited to the part. Mrs. Bradley, the leading soprano, sang her numbers in a most effective manner, appearing to great advantage; and the same may be said of Mrs. Potley, the principal contralto, who was especially happy in her rendition of "Wee unto them." Messrs. Taylor and Wilkinson acquitted themselves well in their tenor solos. The trios and quartettes, which form so interesting a portion of the oratorio, were, almost without exception, rendered in a most satisfactory manner. The chorus however was deficient in balance of tone, crispness, and precision. The sopranos outnumbered the other voices, and the tenors were entirely too weak. Some of the choruses, nevertheless, were most admirably rendered; and it is evident that only want of sufficient rehearsal is at the bottom of whatever fault exist. This, however, is due to the individual members themselves, not to the conductor, who has secured most astonishing results. The orchestra did uncommonly well, being much above the standard at former concerts; and in every way most satisfactory. As usual, Mr. Bayley led, with his accustomed ability, while Mr. Torrington wielded the baton, and kept his forces well in hand.

Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera, "The Princess Ida," is the subject of diverse opinions. Some say the libretto is no better than that of the average Christmas pantomime. The music, however, appears to be well spoken of, and its success seems assured. The plot follows Tennyson's "Princess" pretty closely. The old king, Gama, is in the opera made a hunch-back, a club-foot, and a hypocrite, and has the taking song of the piece. The first two verses run thus:

If you give me your attention, I will tell you what I am:
I'm a genuine philanthropist—all other kinds are sham.
Each little fault of temper and each social defect
In my erring fellow creatures I endeavor to correct.
To all their little weaknesses I open people's eyes;
And little plans to snub the self-sufficient I devise.
I love my fellow-creatures, I do all the good I can,
Yet everybody says I'm such a disagreeable man.
And I can't think why!

To compliment my friend I'm a withering reply,
And really I always to my heart do mortify.
A charitable action I can actually direct,
And intentional motives I'm delighted to detect.
I'm an irritating creature, I'm a celebrated miser.

I've an entertaining singer, I've a fascinating actor.
To everybody's prejudice I know a thing or two;
I can tell a woman's age in half a minute—and I do.
But although I try to make myself as pleasant as I can
Yet everybody says I'm such a disagreeable man,
And I can't think why!

We last week alluded to the approaching production of Mr. McDonnell's new opera, "Marina." We have now much pleasure in submitting to our musical readers' attention a taking little song from the opera, which is, we think, likely to prove popular. Having had an opportunity of reading the libretto, we can say that while not particularly brilliant in any way, it is in many ways far superior to the rubbish which has done duty as libretto in many of our popular operas. As specimens of Mr. McDonnell's capacity in this direction we give the following extracts:

Pity the suffering maid
Who cannot tell her love,
Whose heart is sore afraid
Like some poor stricken dove,
Who sighs alone by night and day,
And hides her grief from all away.

Here is a somewhat Utopian vision of the future:

The good time is coming when justice shall be
Upheld by the strength of the brave and the free;
No ruler or priest shall keep man as a slave,
But tyrannical rule is a dishonored grave.
Then hail to the morn when the dawning shall rise,
And right shall be had after sorrow and strife,
When justice, impartial, weighs all in the scale.

The "Metecors," recently playing at the Grand, while not as brilliant a company as one might expect from the name, gave a very good entertainment of its kind. The musical mélange of Bryant and Hoey was one of the best things of the kind, and the skatorial feats of the Fletcher trio were excellent. The concluding portion of their scene, however, was a trifle broad, and might have been dispensed with. The French Twin Sisters looked as young and charming as they were, well, we wouldn't like to say how many years ago; and little Eva French evidently inherits the family talent. "The Book Agent" as a wind up was highly amusing. C. E. Evans, as *D. Mucilage Neri*, the irrepressible book agent, being simply irresistible.

A very pleasant concert of chamber music took place at Messrs. Mason & Risch's music rooms, Thursday last, the occasion being Herr Jacobson's second Popular Evening Concert. He was assisted by Mr. Waugh Lauder, Miss Perryman, and the Toronto Quartette Club, of which he is leader. An attractive programme was presented, and the various numbers were rendered in a highly satisfactory manner.

The Toronto Amateur Dramatic Club gave two performances at the Grand Saturday last to good audiences, in aid of the Humber accident fund. The programme included "£100,000," by H. J. Byron, and "My Turn Next." The characters were, on the whole, satisfactorily sustained.

Charles Evans, of Evans, Bryant and Hoey's Metecors, is building himself a \$25,000 house at his home, Rochester, New York. Charles married one of the French Twin Sisters; Mr. Hoey married the other, while Mr. Bryant, not to get left, married Miss Hoey.

Mr. J. D. Kerrison will give a course of six lectures at the College of Music, commencing on the 25th inst. The opening lecture will treat of the Bach and Handel period, and will be illustrated by selections from the piano works of these masters.

Frederick Ward, the young tragedian, is meeting with a most flattering reception through his western circuit. His repertoire is varied, and his assumption of Richard III. is spoken of as a particularly fine piece of acting.

Our old friend Oliver David Bryant will commence a brief engagement at the Grand Thursday next in "Across the Continent."

The Ladies' Journal Prize Questions.

COMPETITION NO. 2.

More Gold Watches, Silver Watches, and Other Jewelry to be Given Away.

We want to get our present subscribers, as well as the general public, to interest themselves in this Bible Competition. No one can be better employed during these long winter evenings than in searching the Scriptures. This competition is open to old or new or non-subscribers, and we want to give these valuable prizes to somebody. Who will be first?

Each of the following questions must be answered correctly to secure a prize. The prizes will be awarded in the order the correct answers are received. That is, the first one sending the correct answer to each of the Bible questions asked below will receive the first prize, and the second sending correct answers to all the questions will receive the second prize, and so on. Remember all the three questions must be answered correctly, and FIFTY CENTS IN SCRIPT OR COIN must be sent by each competitor, and for this half dollar they will receive the LADIES' JOURNAL for One Year. In the case of present subscribers, their term of subscription will be extended one year. If you are already a subscriber, please say so when sending your answers and half-dollar.

The following are the questions, and they are really not so very difficult if you know anything at all about the Bible:—

CAN YOU ANSWER THEM ALL?

No. 1.—How many letters are there in the Bible?

No. 2.—How many words?

No. 3.—What verse in the Bible contains all the letters in the alphabet, count I and J as one?

The Old and New Testament are included in the word Bible, but not the Apocrypha.

LOOK AT THESE PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE.—One Solid Gold Hunting Case Lady's Watch, cases elegantly engraved, retailed about \$60.

SECOND PRIZE.—Lady's Very Fine Hunting Case Coin Silver Watch, retailed about \$20.

THIRD PRIZE.—Gentleman's Solid Coin Silver Hunting Case watch, retailed at about \$18.

FOURTH PRIZE.—Gentleman's Solid Coin Silver Hunting Case Watch, retailed about \$16.

FIFTH PRIZE.—Gentleman's Solid Coin Silver Hunting Case Watch, retailed about \$14.

SIXTH PRIZE.—Gentleman's Nickel Silver Hunting Case Watch, retailed about \$10.

SEVENTH PRIZE.—Gentleman's Open Face Nickel Watch, retailed about \$8.

EIGHTH PRIZE.—A Pair of Beautiful Heavily Lated Gold Bracelets, retailed \$7.

NINTH PRIZE.—A Solid Gold Gem Ring—a very pretty article.

Remember these prizes are only given you in order to get you to take an interest in the LADIES' JOURNAL, and also to get you to study the Bible. You will get extra good value for your half dollar investment even if you don't secure one of these valuable prizes. This competition will remain open only till 20th January. No information whatever will be given to anyone beyond what is contained in this article. Winners' names will appear in the February issue of the LADIES' JOURNAL. The annual subscription to the LADIES' JOURNAL is FIFTY CENTS. Single copies five cents.

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SUBSCRIBER,

If your term expires during January—and you can ascertain by reference to your address label,—you should at once send \$2, in competition for the valuable prizes offered in our new Bible Problems. See page 22. If you don't care to do this, send \$2 and get one of those beautiful books. You will not regret the outlay. The circulation of TRUTH is so rapidly extending, we will be able to very largely improve the paper in every respect during this year. Renew now.

Holiday Pastimes.

Following are the answers to the enigmas and charades which appeared in our "Holiday Number."

Enigmas: No. 1—The letter R. No. 2—Eve.

Charades: No. 1—Non-sense.—No. 2—Sham-rock.

"Headquarters."

This is the popular name of that well-known and favorite resort, the Toronto Shoe Company's Establishment, 144, 146, 148 King St., East. This is one of the most favorably known business houses of the kind in the city. The stock of boots, shoes, and slippers, of all sorts and sizes kept on hand is something immense, and no one need have any fear of not being able to suit himself as to fit or price. Cash prices only prevail—which means that you can buy goods cheaper than you can at a credit store. Square dealing is the motto—which means that the goods are exactly what they are represented, and that when you pay for good leather you won't have shoddy palmed off on you. Call, or write. Letter orders receive prompt and careful attention.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 15th, 1880.

GENTLEMEN—Having been a sufferer for a long time from nervous prostration and general debility, I was advised to try Hop Bitters. I have taken one bottle, and I have been rapidly getting better ever since, and I think it the best medicine I ever used. I am now gaining strength and appetite, which was all gone, and I was in despair until I tried your Bitters. I am now well, able to go about and do my own work. Before taking it, I was completely prostrated.

MRS. MARY STUART.

"Yes," said Mr. Brickhandler, "my bulldog has wonderful artistic taste. He wouldn't attack a tramp the other day because the cloth of the man's trousers wouldn't harmonize well with the color of his jaws."

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