

Literature and Art.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Our Music Editor, "Sharp Sixth," will furnish critiques of music publications sent in for review, and also critically notice public performances of high class music. Tickets for concerts, or compositions for review, must be addressed "Sharp Sixth," care of Grip Office.

Carl Schurtz is attracting attention by his editorial conduct of the New York Evening Post.

Scrivener's Monthly, it is said, will, in the June number, pay an unprecedented compliment to a young Western poet, by reprinting from the newspapers nine of her poems. The name of the poet is Miss Edith Thomas, of Geneva, Ohio.

Mr James Young, M. P. P., has assumed the control of the *Gull Reformer*. We cordially welcome him back to journalism, in which he distinguished himself before, and to which he now brings matured powers and experience.

Harrington Fitzgerald the editor of the Philadelphia *Sun*, often and widely quoted, was married a few days since to the daughter of Morgan Wills, Esq., the proprietor of the best weekly in the State of Pennsylvania, the Norristown *Herald*.

Rev. S. J. Lawson, editor of the Charlottetown *Presbyterian*, whose benign features have frequently been presented in Grip's pages, has been condemned before the presbytery for libelling and slandering respectable people in the columns of his mis-named organ.

The *Arion*, a monthly journal of music and art, edited by Mr. Davenport Kerrison, has reached its ninth issue, and appears to be gaining many friends. The writing is clear and forcible, and the selections very judiciously made. At present the *Arion* is advocating the establishment of a chair of music in Toronto University.

That veteran humorist, the London *Punch*, claims that John McCullough is the best actor that America has sent over to Europe. There are some American jokes that our English friends are frequently unable to comprehend, and there are some English jokes that to us are very dry. We sincerely hope that the statement is meant in pure fun by *Punch*.—*Buffalo World*.

This Friday and Saturday evening (with Saturday matinee) the great drama of "Hazel Kirke" will be reproduced at the Royal. All who have seen this play pronounce it one of the most thrilling and natural that has ever been put on the stage. The characters are all sustained by most capable artists, headed by Mr. Jos. H. Keane, who, by the way, is a Canadian.

It may surprise some of the young readers of *St. Nicholas*, who are enjoying the rollicking fun of the serial for boys, "Phaeton Rogers," now being published in that magazine, to know that its author, Mr. Rossiter Johnson, is most of the time engaged in the staid work of editing the "American Cyclopædia." He is already well known among older people as the editor and originator of the "Little Classic" series, and the author of some admirable magazine articles and stories. And not a few literary people remember with admiration his faithful friendship for that gifted and unfortunate poet, Richard Realf, and the kindly vindication of his memory which he gave the press a few years ago. The short stories which he has heretofore contributed to *St. Nicholas* have been specially notable for their boy-spirit and the overflowing humor of the situations and the dialogue; but in the present serial he has far surpassed anything which he has done heretofore, and no more laughable and more boy-like adventures are to be found anywhere in recent writing than those of his inventive hero, Phaeton Rogers. Mr. Johnson's power of caricature and of picturing character is so great that he seems to deserve the title lately given him by an admiring reader, "The Dickens of Boy-literature."

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By order of the Board, CHAS. DRINKWATER, Secretary.

Montreal, April 30th, 1881. 4-6-S7

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The Editor will be pleased to receive Canadian items of interest for this column.

Manager Conner closes his very successful season on Monday evening, 30th inst., when a complimentary benefit will be tendered to the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. On this occasion "Everybody's Friend," and "Solon Shingle" will be given by the members of the "Hazel Kirke" combination. Mr. Conner may congratulate himself on the fact that he has given a larger number of performances during his season than any other American manager in a city the size of Toronto, and also upon the average excellent character of these performances. We understand that the proprietor of the Royal has secured Mr. Conner's managerial services for next season.

I saw amongst the finished pictures in Mr. Millais' studio the first painting of Lord Beaconsfield, which struck me as about the strongest bit of work of the kind the artist ever did. He has drawn the head nearly in profile, and blocked it out with such tremendous force and fury of his art, that even in this rude form it looks the great man in all his sardonic, self-assured power, his deep-set dark eye gleaming with the keenest intellect, and his massive mouth and chin being set with stern resolve. Altogether it is a portrait of wonderful fascination in its rugged truth and living individuality. They say that Millais painted the portrait of Mr. Gladstone in five hours, but this must have been dashed off in an ecstasy of as many minutes.—*Baltimore Every Saturday*.

Grip, the well known and satirical paper of the Dominion completes with its issue of the 14th inst., the eighth year of its existence. From the commencement of its career Grip has not only held its own, but has steadily advanced in popularity and usefulness, until to-day it is regarded by the people of Canada as a welcome visitor throughout all its borders. It teems with wit and humor and shoots folly as it flies in political and social life. It watches well over the interests of the people, exposes all evil, prods blundering stupidity with a sharp stick, and laughs over every effort to apply the gag to its utterances. Its cartoons and other illustrations draw a broad smile, and serve, without fail, "to point the moral and adorn the tale," afforded by the actions of municipal and government statesmen. We extend our congratulations, trusting Grip may hold on for innumerable years to come.—*New Jersey Enterprise*.

The attendance at the Choral Society's second concert given on Friday evening last was not so good as it ought to have been, though no doubt the threatening character of the weather had much to do with this. The performance on the whole was very creditable to the Society. The chorus embraced about eighty voices and the work allotted to them was rendered with all the spirit and correctness which was so prominent on a former occasion. The orchestra also acquitted themselves most artistically. Of the soloists we cannot speak in terms of unreserved praise, though the efforts of Mrs. Morris, Miss Lay and Mr. Schuch won hearty applause. The tenors were the weak point. Mr. Gordon Sheriff's voice is not well adapted for soloing outside of ballad music, though he sang his numbers carefully and correctly. Mr. Deunison, of whom much was expected, failed in his first solo, which it is only fair to state was an unusually trying composition. He appeared to be suffering from nervousness, and went at his upper notes in a far from confident style. His really fine tenor was vindicated however in a later appearance in a trio with Miss Lay and Mr. Schuch. Not the least notable effort of the evening was the unusually fine rendering of the National Anthem which brought the concert to a close.