

PROGRESS.

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THE PLAYERS STRANDED.

THE AMERICAN GRAND ENGLISH OPERA COMPANY DISBANDED.

They Forget to Fill Their Fredericton Date and Fly to a Good House—A Merry Week at Halifax—Making the Acquaintance of Soldiers and Policemen.

Another opera company is stranded and rightly or wrongly the Maritime provinces have to bear the blame of the theatrical catastrophe. The American Grand English Opera Company played for a few nights in this city and excepting some rather sudden changes of programme gave fairly good satisfaction. They went to Halifax and then returned to this city where they gave one performance on Wednesday night. The next day they disbanded, forgetful of the fact that they had a date to fill at Fredericton. Salaries were not paid promptly and this is the cause of the members of the company give for the sudden break up. In Moncton there was a fuss before the opera began, and the sweet singer, prima donna Delaporte, could not be persuaded to go through the performance until she had a satisfactory interview with the manager. Then the tenor, the same night, occupied a front seat and laughed at the difficulty his absence put the company to. But the warmest story comes from Halifax, where Progress's correspondent, with his customary diligence, observed the company's movements with interest.

Never did an opera company, he writes, come to this city under more favorable circumstances, pleasing its first audiences better—which yet closed a brief week's engagement more disgracefully than the company with the long title—"American Grand English opera Company." It gave its seventh and last performance on Saturday night never again to show in Halifax if, indeed, it exists much longer anywhere else. The company had not a single aim house from Monday to Saturday; their business was good and in the early part of the week the performances were quite passable in point of merit. There are some people on whom fortune smiles in vain, and the American Grand English Opera Company goes into that category. They started on the down grade in Halifax on Thursday. Some of the parts—the tenor particularly—good before, became so poor that some explanation was necessary, and the announcement was made that Mr. Traverser was suffering from a cold. Those on the inside circle put the cause of his bad work down to a different cause, and one which he might easily have avoided especially in a town with so rigorous a liquor license law as this. The next night Traverser was just as bad, and "Maritana" was a flat exhibition. The matinee of the "Bohemian Girl" on Saturday afternoon, was so poor that those who heard it, felt as if they had had enough for the rest of their lives of that kind of thing. Strange that anyone came out that night to hear the company again, but there was a fine Saturday night house, attracted by the promise of "Cavalleria Rusticana," and the third act of "Faust." The latter was not given, and the former had better not have been heard. Instead of "Faust" "Maritana" was put on, most wretchedly. "Cavalleria Rusticana" could not have been worse on a first rehearsal. There was not a single redeeming feature about it. The musical director could be heard all over the house and those on the front rows thought he used language rather than polite, though no one blamed his righteous indignation. Those who had heard it elsewhere could hardly recognize the piece. Mr. Traverser and Miss Delaporte made a laughing-stock of what should have been a pleasant rendition of delightful music. The disgraceful work of the principals was contagious and the whole company became demoralized. How they managed to worry through, and have the audience stand it, is a mystery. Possibly the patience of the spectators may be explained on the ground that they were momentarily expecting something sensational on the stage, not provided for in the opera that was being murdered. The question is: "Was the company sober or not?" Opinion is divided.

There is no question about the condition of some members of the company Saturday night after the performance and on Sunday. Two at least fell into the hands of the police. Sunday afternoon George A. Reed visited the Wellington barracks. Actors generally fraternize with the officers, but Mr. Reed seems to have been contented with the company of the sergeants, and he had a fine time with the gallant fellows of the King's regiment. When his turn came to return the hospitalities extended, Reed invited a couple of the sergeants to take a sleigh drive at his expense. A team was engaged from Spain's livery stable; and there were five dollars to pay after the drive. A request from Spain came to the Queen hotel for the money but that night there was no money. Spain agreed to take \$3, and call it square, but a cent was forthcoming.

BIGGEST SCHEME EXTANT

FARMER ATCHISON IN RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.

He Has Tried to Induce the Newspapers to Pay Him for the Idea—Forty-two Dollars for One and Circulation Without Stint—The Possibilities of His Plan.

A young man from St. Andrews, Atchison by name, was in town this week with a scheme, a cut and dried sort of a scheme, that he has been proposing to interest the newspaper publishers in, and, according to several of those easily persuaded individuals to listen to the tune of some thousands of dollars. Atchison has been a farmer most of his lifetime, but, for the past eight years, he says he has been thinking this thing out, planning how he might make money for himself and the newspapers. He has perfected his plan at last and got a hard and fast copyright that will last him some 28 years, and, if everything turns out as he thinks, make him a millionaire many times over. He will be a benefactor to the newspaper publishers and they will pay and pay for the right and the privilege to use this wonderful coupon plan of his.

Inventor Atchison was first struck with the absolute utility of advertising, the great waste that was apparent and the little or no returns the newspapers gave the merchants in return for their good money. He thought if the merchants and the press could but work in harmony, united through the medium of a common bond, what a great benefit it would be to both of them. He has found the bond and is now disposed to give it to the newspapers—for a consideration.

This is Farmer Atchison's plan. When a man subscribes for some one of the daily or weekly newspapers he gets along with the receipt for his subscription fourteen bonds signed by reputable merchants in fourteen different lines of business, each bond bearing 30 coupons, which simply state that they are worth ten cents at the counter of the particular merchant who signs the bond, that is, this coupon and 90 cents will be accepted for one dollar's worth of goods if purchased by any subscriber to the Weekly. As only one newspaper in a town or a province can possess this unique privilege, and only fourteen merchants be permitted to issue bonds and coupons, it can easily be seen that the other publishers and the rest of the merchants in those particular branches of business might just as well close their doors, put on the shutters and emigrate. In fact this plan of Mr. Atchison's threatens to revolutionize the trade of the community. Just think of the opportunities open to any citizen who is persuaded to invest a dollar in the Weekly. He gets fourteen bonds each with 30 coupons, or 420 coupons in all, each worth ten cents—\$42, in fact, or its equivalent in goods, along with eight, twelve or sixteen pages of reading matter every week.

Talk about inducements to subscribers! This beats the world. Mr. Atchison went from St. Andrews to St. Stephen. He did not give the bright and vigorous Beacon a chance to make fame and fortune by being the first to adopt his idea but went to the Courier of St. Stephen and, he says, Manager Vroom of that reliable weekly, agreed to pay him \$400 for the sole right of distributing these bonds and coupons among the toilers of Charlotte county.

Elated with his success in the border town Mr. Atchison came to St. John and interviewed the publishers of the newspapers here. He went to the oldest morning daily and offered them the right of the province of New Brunswick, excepting Charlotte county, for the small sum of \$5,000. He says they jumped at the offer and agreed to give him that amount. He is confident that within a year that particular newspaper will have 100,000 subscribers in the province of New Brunswick alone! Surely, considering that the English speaking people of the province will number about 200,000, his estimate does not appear more than four or five times too large, with every family on its subscription list. But, supposing for an instant that Mr. Atchison's calculation is simply quadrupled and that 25,000 subscriptions flowed into his favored weekly paper, just think what a rush there would be to those fourteen merchants and what a blank there would be in the stores of all the other unfortunates who could not be included in the magic trade circle.

The possibilities of the idea are simply boundless. The paper that thus monopolized the subscription list of the country could in time prevail upon all its readers to come around to its way of thinking and free trade or protection would be the motto of the entire province. This would result in the destruction of some one of the political parties. Mr. Atchison could not possibly have foreseen such difficulties as these, also no doubt he would have endeavored to counteract them in some ingenious way. Suppose, for example, that a grit news-

TO RECONSIDER HIS CASE

THE BAPTIST CHURCH COUNCIL AND DR. DAY.

St. Martin's Church Makes a Request that Dr. Day's Case Shall be Re-considered, and the Council Will Likely Meet Again for that Purpose.

The "quality of mercy" is dear to the hearts of the mass of men. The judge or master who tempers justice with mercy is admired and austere and severity are not appreciated.

It seems to be an understood thing that under certain circumstances a wrong done should not be punished. One of those circumstances is when the wrong doer is of such a nature that his wrong is of itself considerable punishment. Other circumstances are the motive for the wrong, the previous character of the person, the fact of first offence, and many other little things which, taken altogether may change the whole character of a wrong act.

It is therefore considered not an unusual thing for one who has transgressed to be let off, on account of such circumstances, with little or no punishment. And, though such mercy is indulged in, it is not thought that general discipline is relaxed any or that wrong doing is encouraged.

By many in the Baptist denomination it is believed that such mitigating circumstances were associated with the recent transgression of Dr. Day in appropriating sums of money, to the amount of about \$4,000 from the convention funds in his charge, it is believed that the action of the council, held last fall at Yarmouth, in suspending him from the ministry was rather too severe an application of the quality of justice and not sufficiently tempered with the quality of mercy. Some, in fact, think that it was unjust. Whether the action can be denominated injustice in the legal sense of the word is a question, but it was certainly not merciful.

The council was called by the Yarmouth church. According to Baptist polity the individual church in a unit of itself and is thoroughly independent. The church inflicts its own discipline and the standing of a minister or layman is in the hands of the church it represents. The church called the council to advise them, the council advised that Dr. Day be suspended from the ministry and the church adopted this opinion.

Now in connection with these proceedings it is claimed that there was one irregularity. Dr. Day received no official notification, nor even private information, that a council was to be held on his case. He was given no hearing before his judges, he had no chance to make his defence before them.

More than this, it is claimed that it had been represented to him previously that no action would be taken against him. He had made complete restitution of the money by mortgages on his property and by notes, and when the negotiations had been completed it was told him that discipline would not be enforced upon him. When he saw what the council had done he was very much surprised. He thought that in view of the circumstances, that sickness and other needs had caused him to fall before temptation which seems to be one of the hardest to resist, the appropriating of funds held for another, his church would have been more lenient.

Among those who have expressed their dissatisfaction are the people of St. Martin's where Dr. Day has been residing for some time. Their feelings have carried them beyond the stage of mere having an opinion and to that of expression and action.

On Wednesday evening last a church meeting was held. It was a very representative meeting and there was considerable enthusiasm. It was there decided to ask the council to meet again at their earliest convenience and to reconsider their decision.

The meeting may possibly be held in St. John if the council agree to meet again as they of course will. It consisted of about twenty members of the denomination, very representative of the body. It included Rev. A. C. Chute, Dr. Parker and Mr. John Burgoyne, of Halifax, Mr. Pinos, of Wollville, Rev. G. O. Gates and Mr. T. S. Simms, of this city, and a number of Yarmouth Baptists.

They Know How To Kick.

Paglist White and his manager came from Halifax to take part in the boxing exhibition and after doing their share of the work and the punching took back a handsome sum in memory of the event. But they were afraid from the start that somebody was going to let them have it "in the neck," in the language of the fraternity. White was almost sure that if he gave Power an opening his neck would catch it and so he kept a pretty good guard up all the time and in spite of Jack's coaxing in an undertone to let his right out and give the boys some fun he kept his right well up and always on guard. He was pretty sure that Power would have had some fun with him had he followed his advice. He found

THEY WEREN'T ON THE LIST.

Many Present at the Bicycle Ball Whose Names Did Not Appear.

A "clerk" gives expression to his views on some of the members of society in another part of Progress today, while another reader of the paper who was, doubtless, a guest at the recent bicycle ball, has something to say about the list of names printed in the last issue of this journal.

He and some other, lady friends of his, were present at the social affair, and yet their names did not appear in the "list." Why was it? Who suppressed some names and put in others, and why was it done? These were the pertinent questions put to Progress but many hours after it appeared last week, and for the benefit of the querist and any others who may have wondered at a similar omission and yet did not care enough to enquire about it, a representative of this paper began to investigate the matter.

In the first place it may be said that the list of names was taken directly from the official book of the club's secretary, copied on a typewriter, and sent to the printer. It was possible that the names had been missed in the copying, and the investigation began there as a probable source of error. But no, the list that appeared in the paper was exactly the same as that of the secretary, with the exception that it was more complete.

Progress's list containing three more names than the secretary's. This was due to the fact that three young ladies who had enjoyed the ball took the precaution to send their names in to the office to be included in the long array that found their way into the account of this social event.

Still that did not explain why the names of a score or more could be called up by one reader as being present and not recognized. A few words from a member of the club explained the reason. Not more than three out of four of those present sent written acceptances in reply to the invitation cards. Those who did so were included in the official list of the secretary because every name was entered as the acceptance was received but those who neglected the usual courteous recognition of the invitation and still were present were not "on the list."

The Shoe is on the Other Foot.

A young club man who occupies a responsible position as a trustee of a large estate that has been before the courts for some time, seems to have been so unwise as to show his feeling to an employe of the club who was at one time in the employ of the estate in question. He entered the club a few days ago and rang the bell for an attendant. The one referred to appeared and was somewhat astonished to be told that he could not wait on him. Then the steward put in an appearance in response to the clubman's request and was asked to dismiss the employe. The clubman was asked to place his complaint in writing and it would be considered. This was not done, and, of course, the club committee having charge did not take any notice of the demand for dismissal. But last Sunday the same member objected to the employe waiting upon him and a number of friends and there was some feeling about the matter among several members who did not think his action was justifiable. At any rate a somewhat formal complaint against the member for his conduct toward the attendant will be investigated in a day or two.

THE RESULT OF EXTRAVAGANCE.

A Father Buys His Property to Pay His Son's Debts.

HALIFAX, Feb. 8.—Sad stories of the dread consequences of extravagance living can be told of people who are not in what is called swell society, though generally it is in so-called "upper tenor" that the evils of wild extravagance; of a determination to get anything no matter whether it is paid for or not, are most frequently seen. The facts given by Progress in the following sentences concern a young man brought up in a humble way by hard working, honest parents. The young man was not known to have any evil habits, and his fatal fault seems to have been merely an insane desire to make a big show of expensive dress and luxury in household affairs. His conduct has resulted in making his father a poor man, taking away from him the hard-earned savings of a lifetime. The climax came to a long series of peculations some weeks ago, but it was kept so quiet that it is only to-day a whisper of it was heard.

Alexander Duffield is one of the leading oil merchants of the province, and the agent in Halifax of the Eastern Oil Company of St. John. He employed a young man named Knight as book-keeper, reposing the utmost confidence in him. Mr. Duffield seems to have accepted Knight's word as gospel, and to have taken for granted that the books were as correct as appeared by a casual glance on their face. He was doomed to a sharp awakening, and to the discovery that his trusted book-keeper had swindled him out of more than \$2,000! How the dishonest clerk succeeded in getting away with so large an amount without Mr. Duffield's suspicions being aroused is mysterious but is none the less a fact. He systematically falsified the books and continued his nefarious work for a long time.

The discovery was made when, one day, Duffield looked over his books and found a customer credited with the payment of a certain amount. Mr. Duffield, it happened, had taken in the money himself and knew all about the account. He saw that only a part of the payment had been credited by Knight. Forebodings of evil came upon him like a flash. To make sure, Mr. Duffield employed an expert accountant and the condition of the books was investigated. A terrible state of affairs was discovered. Wholesale falsifications had been made, so that Knight's shortage reached over \$2,000. The thefts were confessed when concealment was no longer possible.

Knight's father had a little property, and the poor man, to save his son from prosecution and punishment, mortgaged his house for \$1,800, the balance of the shortage being secured from what could be obtained in Knight's house. The money was paid over in full. Duffield thus lost nothing, but the young man's father was impoverished. Knight skipped to the States.

He was in receipt of a fair salary and he had no excuse for his delinquencies. The young man was extravagant in various ways, but the most of the money he stole seems to have been spent in his house and on his back. He dressed luxuriously, and furnished his house handsomely, though it was found that but a small part of the \$2,000 could be realized from his household purchases. The spectacle of a son thus ruining his father,—a parent so devoted that he made the sacrifice he did to save his boy from the penitentiary, is not frequently seen and happily it is not often a fact.

Knight has been married less than two years and is about 21 years old. His young wife has had to return to her parents.

Mr. Dixon and the Hanford Estate.

Mr. M. B. Dixon says that he is prepared to abide by the decision of the court in the matter of the Hanford estate. If the court decides that the contention of the estate is right he is prepared to pay according to its accounting. Mr. Dixon's friends claim that he will come out all right in the matter. He is at present the vestry clerk of St. Paul's, having succeeded Mr. G. Herbert Lee. It is said that the sentimental considerations back of the present business are sufficient for the plot of an interesting novel.

Half Hour Lenten Services.

The business of the workingman who can find a few minutes to spare at noon hour every day is invited to attend the short mid day service held from 12.30 to 12.55 in the Church of England Institute on German street. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has arranged for the six weeks services by Revs. Canon Bripstone, J. de Soyres, E. W. Sibbald, J. M. Desjardis, A. G. H. Dicker and W. Estabrook.

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