

THE DRAMATIC CONCERT.

The dramatic Concert under the auspices of the O. N. C. Histrionic Club, which had been looked forward to with pleasure for some time, was held Friday evening, March 2, in the Assembly Hall, and proved an unqualified success, both financially and in the excellent character of the entertainment provided.

The programme consisted of two dramatic representations, "The Trial Scene" from the Merchant of Venice and a comedy in three acts, entitled "Tom Cobb, or Fortune's Toy." At intervals during the progress of presentation, a number of vocal and instrumental solos were rendered.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the high degree of merit exhibited in each of the dramatic performances which repeatedly evoked the strongest demonstrations of approval from the audience and in every way reflected most creditably on the histrionic ability of the amateur participants. Much is due too to the careful supervision of the instructors, Mr. Cleworth in the case of Tom Cobb, and Mr. Coons in that of the Trial Scene; also to the untiring energy of Mr. McKenzie.

In spite of the lack of convenient stage facilities, the attractive costuming and judicious scenic arrangements served materially to heighten the general effect.

In the representation of the "Trial Scene," it fell to Miss Kyle's lot to sustain the difficult role of Portia. Her dignified bearing and clear, well-modulated enunciation of the various speeches, rendered her admirably fitted for the effective interpretation of Portia's noble and impressive character. E. Coons, in the personation of the vindictive and inexorable Shylock, evinced a strong mastery of that exacting role, and a keen insight into the true interpretation of the old Jew's subtle nature. His clever and graphic acting added fresh lustre to his former reputation, and aroused

hearty applause. Miss W. Evans made a very pretty and graceful Nerissa, while J. S. Wren in his impersonation of Gratiano was irresistibly captivating and quite took the audience by storm. The acting of Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Eagle was markedly effective in their impersonation of the characters of Antonio and Bassanio. Mr. H. F. Cook acted in the august capacity of Duke of Venice.

On the conclusion of the "Trial Scene," the stage was quickly transformed for the farce "Tom Cobb," which received a peculiarly hearty reception.

E. H. Young's inherent geniality served him well in the personation of the unfortunate Tom, the victim of the cheating Colonel O'Fipp and the toy of embarrassing vicissitudes. The part of Matilda, the much-wooed daughter of the Colonel was cleverly sustained by Miss Amy Morrison. Miss McLellan's vigorous and masterly personation of the unhappy but romantic Caroline formed a decidedly conspicuous feature of the play. Miss Taylor and Mr. Carter represented the ecstatic and picturesque heads of the Effingham family, while Mr. MacTaggart played the sombre role of their son, Bulstrode. Mr. Munro and Mr. Huyck showed a thorough mastery and appreciation of the ludicrous situations in the characters of Col. O'Fipp and Dr. Whipple.

The humorous element was everywhere wholesome and refreshing. The acting was excellent throughout, and the numerous startling and ludicrous situations kept the audience in a continuous ebullition of merriment.

The attendance was nearly 800, and the Club will have a small balance in the treasury.

Don't forget to read all four covers of the MONTHLY. If you look closely enough we think you will find something to interest you.