

HALIFAX GRAND OPERA.

A COMPARISON OF HISPIANIA AND LARA THE CORSAIR.

Two Clever Young Men who Compose Operas for Local Production—Why St. Luke's Organist was Angry—A Little Incident Not in the Programme.

HALIFAX, Jan. 23.—The Hispania club scored a distinct success with "Lara, the Corsair" last week. There was criticism but it was of the comparative kind, not whether "Lara" was good in itself, but whether or not it was equal to "Hispania," which was produced last year. As the week wore an opinion crystallized into something like this: "Lara is good in itself—its music is pretty and catchy, both in the songs and choruses. It is of a higher order of merit than "Hispania," at the same time it lacks in some of the particulars which made so great a success of "Hispania." It lacks much of the life and fun possessed by "Hispania." Messrs Johnston and Ward are excellent comedians, but there must be much of the comedy, if not the positively comic, all through such a piece to make it universally popular. "Yes people want to laugh when the day's work is over, especially when they pay 75 cents per head to see comic opera." Let the opera be good, but let it be comic from start to finish, and there will be no doubt about success. The plot of "Lara" is principally defective in its lack of proper connection. The music was arranged by W. F. Compton, and that gentleman also trained the company and conducted the opera performances. Mr. Compton has reason to receive with complacency the congratulations of the admirers of his work.

R. P. Greenwood was "Lara's" librettist and stage manager. Mr. Greenwood has a genius for matters of this kind; for organizing pageants and shows generally, which places him head and shoulders above any one else in Halifax in these respects.

So much for "Lara" and its authors and managers.

In connection with the opera's production there was behind the scenes a piece of genuine comedy of which the public never dreamed. The central figure was Frank Gatward, assoc. mus. L. C. M., organist of St. Luke's Cathedral in this city. The choir of St. Luke's has a number of chorister boys who sing very well. The management of "Lara" decided that the opera required eight of these boys, and they were brought before Mr. Compton, who picked out the youths he wanted. Mr. Gatward heard of this and waxed indignant. He was angry because "his lads" had been invited without his consent first obtained, and, secondly, he was aggrieved because they were going as boys and not as boys of St. Luke's choir. Rev. Mr. Crawford the rector, soon settled the second little matter, for he privately announced that under no circumstances would he allow them to advertise as St. Luke's choir boys, though he was willing that it should be stated that they had been trained by Frank Gatward, mus. assoc., L. M. C. Subsequently Mr. Gatward expressed himself satisfied that the youths should take part in the opera if the programmes and printing matter gave credit to him for the youths' efficiency. The "Lara" management, by this time, was on its dignity and they would consent to nothing of the kind, one reason assigned being that the programmes had gone too far to be changed.

Thereafter Mr. Gatward set about to prevent the boys from keeping their engagement with "Lara." His command to them to retire was unheeded so he made a canvas of the parents in order to accomplish the purpose. This device might have succeeded, but the "Lara" people soon met the little game by a similar move. They appointed a committee also to do some parental canvassing. The parents were seen by the committee, resulting in cordial permission being given to take part as previously arranged, and Mr. Gatward found himself beaten at his own game.

On the night following the first performance Mr. Gatward, in a brief note to the papers, expressed surprise that his boys had been taken by the company without his consent and he charged the opera management with "a breach of etiquette."

There is, thus, war between the organist of St. Luke's, Frank Gatward, assoc. Mus. L. M. C. and the fifty young men who form the company of "Lara," but the hidden hostilities are most sanguinary between the committee of management and the organist who has the many letters after his name.

Someone speaking of Mr. Gatward the other day asked how it was that he pursued the plan of wearing a gown and academic hat on the street on Sundays while on his way from his residence to the cathedral, when the said gown and hat must be laid aside before entering the church. The questioner asked further what was the meaning of the blue ribbon in the scholastic hat storesaid. The reply came that these were the outward insignia of the degree of association Mus. L. M. C. They must, therefore, be all right.

The gross receipts of the week's engagement by "Lara" were \$1650. The club stand immediately getting to work on a

new opera in which the experience just gained will be put to good advantage.

It looks very much as though the Crescent amateur athletic association were soon to breathe its last. It will be a pity if the Crescents become extinct for their existence as a rival of the Wanderers has helped to keep alive a healthy athletic spirit in Halifax. The trouble arises about their grounds. These were leased from an owner who had the right to terminate the contract at any time on giving due notice. This notice has now been given, and the club are told that they must leave at the beginning of May, unless they are prepared to buy the grounds, the price being fixed at \$6,000. It is out of the question for the Crescents to think of raising any such sum as that. They could not do it. The only other alternative is to obtain grounds elsewhere. To do so is no easy matter, and it would take more than the club can afford to build a track and put new grounds in shape even if they had them. The Crescents have only 116 members most of whom are not wealthy. The treasurer has about \$350 cash in hand, the result of a tournament held last summer. It looks therefore, as if, after May 1st, the Wanderers would have undisputed possession of matters athletic in this city.

The outlay of thousands of dollars in fencing and improving the Crescent grounds, and property which they are thus compelled to relinquish so suddenly, should prove a warning to any other organization not to lay themselves open to the possibility of a similar calamity. No permanent work, such as the erection of a pavilion or gymnasium should be carried out till a long and secure lease is an assured fact. A word to the wise, and in this case they hardly need it, is sufficient.

The Little One Would Do.

A gentleman of this city, wishing to take his family into the country for the summer, looked at a small farm with a view to renting it. Everything was very much to his mind and the negotiation was nearly completed, when the question of hiring the farmer's cow came up. She was an excellent cow, the farmer said, and even after feeding her calf would give five quarts of milk a day. "Five quarts a day!" said the city man; "that's more than our whole family could use." Then, noticing the calf following its mother about the pasture, he added, "I tell you what—I will hire the small cow. I think she's just about our size."—Louisville Commercial.

Two Wicked Men.

Two wicked men in Iowa have been amusing themselves at the expense of the prohibitionists—and also of divers toppers. They started out on the streets of a temperance town selling a suspicious looking yellow-brown fluid in bottles. They cried it as "rainwater," and charged 40 cents a bottle for it. Many old guzzlers purchased the liquor, with winks and smiles. The officers of the law were soon on the track of the men and arrested them for vending whisky. When the bottles were opened, however, it was found that they really contained rainwater and the men had to be released. The game could not be worked again in that town.

Collection of Dutch Taxes.

The Dutch have an original way of collecting taxes. If after due notice has been given, the money is not paid the authorities place one or two hungry militiamen in the house of the delinquent, to be lodged and maintained at his expense until the amount of the tax is paid.

"77"

COLDS Cold Causes.

La Grippe—"77" knocks it out. Coughs—"77" breaks them up. Influenza—"77" dries it up. Catarrh—"77" cuts it short. Running of the nose—"77" stops it. Sore Throat—"77" heals it. Pneumonia—"77" prevents it. Sore Chest—"77" soothes it. Fever—"77" dissipates it. Chill—"77" checks it. Pain—"77" quickly relieves. Hoarseness—"77" restores the voice. Short Breath—"77" aids breathing. Clergyman's Throat—"77" clears it. Vocalist's Ruin—"77" saves them. Pain in Back—"77" cures the crick. Sneezing—"77" allays the irritation. Prostration—"77" builds you up. Colds—"77" the Master Remedy. Half your sickness—"77" keeps you well.

Small bottle of pleasant pellets—5¢ your very pocket; sold by druggists, or sent upon receipt of price, 25¢, or five for \$1.00. Humphreys' Medicine Co., 111 & 113 William St., New York.

HUMPHREYS' WITCH HAZEL OIL "THE PILE OINTMENT."

For Piles—External or Internal, Blind or Bleeding; Fissures in Anus; Itching or Burning of the Rectum. The relief is immediate—the cure certain. PRICE, 50 CENTS. TRIAL SIZE, 25 CENTS. Sold by Druggists, or sent post-paid on receipt of price. HUMPHREYS' MED. CO., 111 & 113 William St., NEW YORK.

CARE OF WOMAN'S HAIR.

POINTS FOR LADIES WHO WOULD HAVE SOFT TRESSSES.

Some Simple Applications to the Head do a Great Deal of Good—There is one Kind of Treatment for Blondes and Another for Brunettes—Sensible Advice.

A writer in the N. Y. Advertiser says that constant and frequent brushing of the hair tends to darken it; and washing it with white of egg, though strengthening, has the same effect, and should not be used by those with light hair. This effect is due to the fact that brushing brings out the natural oil. Persons with black or dark hair, especially if it is dry and wiry, could not use a better strengthening, for the egg nourishes the roots and makes the hair smooth and glossy. Indeed, those possessing the hair just described should give it a great deal of brushing. Before retiring shake out the hair, part it through the middle, and brush each side evenly and carefully, so as not to tear it. Give at least thirty strokes to each side and brush up from the neck and off from the temples.

It may be well to suggest that the brush used should have long bristles not too close together; short closely strung bristles are sure to tear the hair. To cleanse the scalp take the whites of two eggs and rub them thoroughly into the hair; then wash the head with white castile soap, and rinse well in tepid water, changing the water until the hair is perfectly cleaned. This should be done every fortnight.

Should the scalp be in a poor condition so that the hair falls out, the following tonic may be safely used: Half pint of rum, one ounce of bitter apples. Let the bitter apples steep for three days in the rum, strain, and apply with mop to the scalp.

As is well known, the French are an authority on all things pertaining to the toilet. For the benefit of blond, light brown, chestnut and auburn hair, the following simple recipe comes from a French barber. It is one that is constantly used, but so monsieur says, "The ladies often abuse it, and then instead of it being beneficial it proves injurious." It is simply an even teaspoonful of borax in a cup of warm water—remember, an even teaspoonful, not a handful. The latter is the quantity some women use, and when their hair is injured they declare: "Borax makes the hair fall!" Undoubtedly it does when used wholesale.

When the borax is dissolved into the warm water, wet the scalp with the preparation until every particle of dandruff is loosened and the head feels entirely clean. Let the hair dry; on the following day rinse it in warm water, followed by cold; if possible, dry in the sun; when quite dry, comb carefully and brush very slightly. Borax used in the above manner every fortnight causes the hair to become much lighter; dull blond hair takes on a bright, sunny golden hue, and brown hair a warm reddish tint.

When dressing the hair, give three or four good long strokes of the brush up from the neck and back from the temples—this will keep it in a glossy condition and give it a "well groomed look," which is certainly desirable. Those who have red hair and are dissatisfied with the color should give it a good deal of brushing; persevere in the treatment recommended for black hair, and in time red hair will take an auburn tone.

Blondes by substituting gin for rum in the recipe given for dark hair will obtain an excellent tonic if one is needed. White and gray hair should be cleaned with ammonia—a teaspoonful to a basin of luke warm water; and the hair should be well rinsed in cooler water. A little vaseline, the white, rubbed into the scalp with the tip of the fingers, will keep the hair from becoming dry. Neither white nor gray hair should be washed in borax water, for the borax is apt to produce a yellowish shade, destroying the fine silvery look which gives so many women an air of distinction. While using borax or ammonia be careful to protect the eyebrows, as these reagents will cause them to become lighter in shade.

About once a month the ends of the hair should be singed; cutting is not advisable, as it causes the hair to bleed. Each hair is a tube, and cutting allows what may be termed the sap to run out, and the hair is drained of its nourishment. Singing seals these tubes and forces the fluid back to the roots. It is said that the West Indian woman follows this custom, and certainly many of them have very handsome hair; indeed, it is not unusual to see women whose faces have long bid adieu to youth with hair that many a girl might envy.

Very often the hair continues to fall and tonics prove of little avail. In this case it is well to massage the scalp. Not infrequently the scalp becomes tight on the head. This prevents circulation, and as a result of hair become anemic and the follicle the hair falls. The only remedy is to give the head a course of massage, which is easily and simply done. Place a hand on each side of the upper part of the face, with the thumbs pressed on the head behind the ears and the little finger just above where the eyebrows begin; then spread out the other fingers over the head, and for ten minutes gently work the scalp backward and forward. Finally with the thumb and forefinger pinch the scalp, all over, continuing until the head begins to tingle; this loosens the scalp from the bone and starts the circulation. Keep up this treatment night and morning until the hair ceases to fall. Also use the tonic given above—the one treatment will help the other.

Another piece of advice: Never pull

out a grey hair, for as the old adage declares, "Twenty will come to its funeral." The saying is quite true. When a grey hair is pulled out, the dead fluid at the root is scattered among the healthy roots, and grayness follows. Avoid all dyes! They are most injurious, and in some cases have caused paralysis of the brain. Crimping and curling the hair on irons breaks it, and causes it to become faded and sometimes grey.

AHEAD OF THE PORTER.

Ingenious Device by Which a Traveller gets Back Some of His Tips. It isn't often that a traveler gets ahead of the Pullman car porter, but it does happen occasionally.

Senator Wilson of Washington did the thing up in fine shape on one of his long rides from Spokane to this city, and the porter doesn't yet understand how he lost his bet. The Senator is an inveterate smoker, and, having run short of matches, called to the porter:

"Got any matches, Tom?" "Yes, sir," replied Tom, producing a box from his pocket. "You can't light the match unless you strike it on this box."

The Senator lit his cigar, and while smoking pondered long over the make-up of the rough black coating on one side of the box. He knew the match could not be made to strike a light except upon that particular sandpaper.

At one of the stations he procured one of those boxes, and, going back into the smoking-room of his car, moistened the sanded side of the box until it was quite soft; then rubbed it gently on the sole of his boot until the sticking substance, with the sand, was all transferred to the leather; then he waited until it was thoroughly dry and called:

"I want another match, Tom; my cigar has gone out."

"Yes, sir," responded the porter, getting out his box again.

The Senator took a match, and, handing the box back, turned up the sole of his boot.

"Ha, ha! Mr. Wilson," laughed the colored man; "no use scratching, it on your boot; you can't light it there."

"Oh, I guess I can," said the Senator, smiling.

"Bet you a dollar you can't," said the porter.

"Put up your dollar, said Mr. Wilson. "Make it \$2," said the colored official, eagerly.

"Here's \$2—and as much more as you like," assented the Senator, pleasantly. "Holy smoke!" chuckled the broom swinger. "This is too easy—softest snap I've struck this season, and my loose change was instantly emptied on one of the chair cushions."

The Senator counted out an equal amount, then turned up the sole of his left boot.

Drawing the match across the prepared place it blazed readily, and he calmly lit his cigar.

The porter dropped his broom in amazement, while the Senator gathered in the pile of halves and quarters, remarked to a fellow traveler:

"Tom has robbed me of a good many of these pocket pieces, and this is the first chance I ever had to get even with him."—Washington Star.

Catching.

Grubb (excitedly)—Did you hear that I went home late last night and caught a burglar? Clubb (calmly)—That's nothing. I went home late and caught the devil.

A smart school teacher—Miss Kate Hall, Bathurst, N. B., took 6 lessons in Fernin—Snell shorthand by mail (\$10) then came here and qualified for office work in one month—paying only \$10 more.

Go to a "real business" school. S. A. SNELL, - - - TRURO, N. S.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS. PHOTO. Office and materials, Kodaks and Cameras from \$25 to \$100. Practical instruction ensuring success, free. Save time and money by consulting us at our new PHOTO SUPPLY CO., Manufacturing, St. John, N. B.

RESIDENCE at Bathurst for sale or to rent pleasantly situated house known as the Titus property about one and a half miles from Bathurst Station and within two minutes walk of the Kennebec. Rent, reasonable. Apply to H. G. Fensley, Barrister-at-Law, Peggys Building, Bathurst.

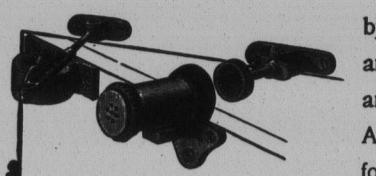
STAMPS For Hand Printing Banks, Railways, Manuf. and Merchants supplied. Lin. Gen. Markers, Monograms, Stencils, Seals, etc., to order. BARRINGTON PRINTING & STAMP WORKS, St. John, N. B.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS. Printing and general finishing for amateurs. Develops, fixing and firing solutions for sale. LORAIN PHOTO STUDIO, 28 Charlotte St., St. John N. B.

STENOGRAPHERS WANTED Five applications from merchants have been received in the last few days. Three of these were for YOUNG MEN who could write Short Hand. This is an indication of the demand of the times. Book keeping is good. Short Hand is good, but the combination is better. Our revised terms give excellent opportunities for those who can spare time for the combined courses. Send for Catalogue giving terms etc. S. KERR & SON, Odd Fellow's Hall, St. John Business College.

WANTED. We pay highest prices for old Postage Stamps used before 1870. From \$1 to \$100 paid for single extra rare specimens. It will pay you to look up your old letters. Remittances first mail after receipt of stamps. A. F. Hausmann & Co., 19 Leader, Ontario, Canada.

Doors Left Open



by careless people and doors that slam are alike annoying. A desirable device for closing doors without noise, and keeping them closed, is the ECLIPSE CHECK AND SPRING. The sample we have shows that it is simple and durable. Come in and see it.

W. H. THORNE & Co., Limited, Market Square, St. John, N. B.

Housekeepers SHOULD SEE IT.



A nice Medium sized family RANGE. The oven is large and operates perfect. For Beauty and design this Range is unequalled. Made in 4 Styles.

EMERSON & FISHER.

English Cutlery



Knives, Razors, Scissors, Shears. A large and well selected assortment at reasonable prices. T. M'AVITY & SONS, King St., ST. JOHN, N. B.

The Blickensderfer Typewriter.

FINE ART PRINTING is the way to describe the work, striking without ribbons. A Clear Saving of \$5.00 to \$10.00 a Year. VISIBLE WRITING AND DIRECT INKING, GOOD DUPLICATOR. Price Only \$45.00. The Visible Writing is worth the money.



A Full Key Board Machine, 24 Characters, Capitals, Figures, Fractions, French, German and English, Change Wheels! It will do all that can be done on the \$120 Ribbon Machine. For years a large majority of the people have been looking for a practical, priced, portable, key board machine. A machine that equals any of the high-priced ones in capacity and quality of work, and excels them all in convenience. This is the purpose of the Blickensderfer No. 5.

MANIFOLDING. Heretofore it has been found impossible to manifold satisfactorily on a type writer of the wheel class. The Blickensderfer No. 5, while possessing every desirable feature of the wheel machine, has the direct powerful stroke of the lever class, thereby manifolding with unequalled force and clearness.

DUPLICATING. This machine will do excellent Mimeograph work. The annoyance of cleaning the type can be avoided by having an extra type wheel for this purpose.

DURABILITY. The Blickensderfer is a marvel of simplicity and strength. From 1,000 to 3,000 parts in other key-board machines. The Blickensderfer has about 200. Our automatic power machine for operating the No. 5 machines makes 480 strokes a minute, 28,800 an hour, 288,000 a day. One of our No. 5 machines has been operated by this automatic power machine for months, making many millions of strokes, and yet no perceptible wear is apparent.

EXTRACT FROM JUDGE'S REPORT, CHICAGO COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, 1893. BLICKENSDERFER SMALL TYPE-WRITER. Excellence of a small type-writing machine, designed to meet the requirements of general office and clerical work.

It is a type-wheel machine; the wheels are interchangeable and inexpensive, writing is always in light; has very few parts; can be adjusted to any width between lines; is a good manifold, and has a light, well arranged key-board. It shows lightness, simplicity, scope, inexpensiveness and strength.

IRA CORNWALL, GENERAL AGENT FOR MARITIME PROVINCES, AGENTS WANTED. Board of Trade Building, ST. JOHN, N. B.