

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.

Mr. W. J. Florence has received a decoration from the King of Italy.

Miss Pauline Markham is anxious to have a chance in legitimate comedy.

"The Lingards play "Betsy," the London version of "Baby," and call it "The Tutor."

Miss Margaret Conc has taken Miss Georgio Drew's place in the "100 Wives" combination.

Miss Marie Prescott is to play an adaptation of Dumas' "The Princess of Bagdad" next season.

Mr. George Clarke has succeeded in securing the sole right to perform all the plays of the late Barney Williams. His speciality for starring purposes is to be "Connie Soogah."

Prof. Hartz continues his astonishing performances at the Royal. You have another opportunity to be amused and mystified by attending the matinee or evening performance to-day (Saturday.)

Barlow, Wilson, Primrose, & West's Minstrels, an organization well and favorably known in this city, commence a brief engagement at the Royal on Friday evening, 22nd. Make a note of the fact in your memorandum book.

Whitelaw Reid, who is soon to be married to a daughter of the millionaire D. O. Mills, is to be appointed Minister to Germany, vice Andrew White, resigned. Mr. Reid has engaged passage on a steamship leaving New York in May.

Barnum and Forepaugh are at it like a couple of overgrown school boys, pounding one another's heads through the Philadelphia papers as to whose show is the "greatest on top of earth." They are both old enough to have more sense, and as everybody knows, they are both humbugs.

The next attraction at the Royal is to be Miss Zoe Gayton, who appears as *Mazepa* for four evenings and Wednesday matinee, commencing Monday, 18th inst. *Mazepa* is always an attractive piece, and Miss Gayton is said to be the best representative of the character now on the stage.

An Authors' Festival in aid of the Poe fund is to be given in the New York Academy of Music on the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, April 23, and some of our most noted poets are expected to give their personal services on this occasion. Among those whose names are mentioned in this connection are Dr. Holmes, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Stedman, Mr. Howells and Mr. Trowbridge.

Mrs. Schayer's story, "Tiger Lily," in *Scribner*, at once established her reputation as a writer of capital short stories, while nothing of Mrs. Burnett's yet issued has been more widely read and enjoyed than "A Fair Barbarian." In May begins Mr. Cable's "Madame Delphine." The author of "The Grandissimes" has already scored so great a success as a writer of short stories and as a novelist, that there can be but little doubt as to the quality of "Madame Delphine." Every one knows Mr. Howells, and the announcement that he, too, will contribute a novelette, to begin in the June *Scribner*, with the taking title of "A Fearful Responsibility," has been received with not a little satisfaction by his large constituency of readers. Later there will be printed a short serial by H. H. Boyesen, and another by the author of "An Earnest Trifler," whose long silence since her first success augurs well for the new story. It is expected that these last two will begin in the 'Midsummer' *Scribner*.

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Literature and Art.

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

Mr. Desher Welsh, late editor of *Every Saturday*, Buffalo, has accepted a position on the *Sunday Morning World*, a new journal of the same city.

The *Penn Monthly* for April is an excellent number of a magazine which, for intrinsic interest and scholarship, is second to none in America. The articles are Civil Service Reform, Punch and the Puppets, the future of our Public School System, Aspects of Mortality Statistics, Fresco Painting, Book Reviews, &c. This magazine is published by E. Stern & Co., Philadelphia. Subscription \$3 per year.

The publisher of the *Canada School Journal* thinks that patience has ceased to be a virtue, and in the April number he has accordingly "gone for" the editor of the *Educational Monthly* in a style that recalls the valour of *Bill Nye*. The article is very severe, though written undoubtedly under the influence of what Mr. Gage considered righteous indignation. GRIP does not propose to interfere in the quarrel; he merely expresses, in a mild way, his deprecation of the use of personalities on both sides of the house.

Mr. G. Mercer Adam, as editor of the *Educational Monthly*, speaks somewhat disdainfully of certain original illustrations which recently appeared as embellishments to a story written in another Toronto periodical by Mr. Mulvany. Certainly the pictures were not such as Scribner would have gone in raptures over, but they were quite passable, and suited their purpose very well. Mr. Adam, who is a sincere friend to Canadian art and literature, ought to be the last to discourage any attempts, however crude, in the line of art. The *Canadian Monthly* would gain immensely if illustrated, even if the cuts were not of the first quality.

Sir Julius Benedict, the famous London composer who, as pianist and director, accompanied Jenny Lind on her American tour in 1850, has written a biographical and critical paper on "the Swedish nightingale" for the *May Scribner's*. The article is said to contain interesting comparisons of her with Malibran and other contemporary artists. The accompanying portrait of Jenny Lind, engraved by Clouston from an old daguerreotype, taken while she was in America, will be a striking feature of the number. At the end of his article, Sir Julius hints that he may follow this paper with another, upon the subject of musical conservatories in this country.

"Sam'l of Posen," which is termed, on the programmes, "Mr. George Jessop's New American Comedy-Drama," was given during last week, and attracted large houses, not on account of any special merit of the play, but owing to the personal popularity of Mr. M. B. Curtis, and the capital manner in which he interpreted the character of *Sam'l*, a Hebrew "drummer." Mr. Jessop is the author of "A Gentleman from Nevada," a trashy attempt at comedy, which failed even with the support of such a comedian as Mr. Polk, who did all he could to make a feature of the principal character, *Christopher Columbus Gall*—an improbable Yankee, whose want of breeding and absurdities proved him to be a clown instead of a gentleman. "Sam'l of Posen" is even worse than "A Gentleman from Nevada," because in the former there is little chance for the creation of character, while in the latter there is a good opportunity. Instead of making the interest of the play centre on *Sam'l*, it centres on a young Frenchwoman, secretly married to a trickster who is afraid to acknowledge her as his wife. The construction of the play is notably weak, and the elaboration of character bad. Mr. Curtis will be remembered in Toronto as the low comedian of Mrs. Morrison's last stock company.