Pastor Russell's Sermon

Electing Kings—Text: "Brethren, Give Diligence to Make Your Calling and Election Sure" (II Peter i, 10).

Pastor Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York, preached Sunday from the above text to a large and attentive audience as usual. He said:

Thruout the length and breadth of this land of liberty, young and old understand full well the significance of election. How strange, then, that we who are so familiar with these things should read into our text so very different a view of election!

The thought should naturally suggest itself to us that if God is electing or selecting a church in the present time, it must be with a view to the use of that church subsequently to serve in some manner the interests of the remainder of the world, from amongst whom they are elected. And this is just what the scriptures teach; namely, that Christ Jesus himself is the Head, the Captain, the Chief Ruler, and that this "elect" company are, figuratively speaking, His "members," His associates, His under-priesthood. The scriptures tell us that this selection is according to divine foreknowledge and foreordination. They tell us that God foreknew our Lord Jesus as the one who would occupy the glorious position of Prophet, Priest, Mediator and King of tht world during the millennium. They tell us also that the same God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ foreknew us also and "predestinated" that there should be a church class selected from amongst the world, to be their Redeemer's associate, His under-priesthood, His subordinate kings during the millennium.

The church is spoken of as God's "elect" now, before the election has been finished; before the testing is completed; before the called have been proven faithful and worthy. These are "elect" in the sense of having been nominated—"moved and seconded." God moved that they should be elected, and "called them with a heavenly calling." It remained for the called ones themselves to "second the motion" by presenting themselves in full consecration of heart to the Lord. But this was not sufficient; for the invited ones were recognized as imperfect and unable to come up to the requirements of the call. Hence it was necessary that the Lord Jesus Christ should become their surety and agree out of His own fulness of merit to supply all of their lack, their imperfection. And this He gladly does by applying for such the merit of His sin-atonement-sacrifice finished at Cavalry.

Once in our ignorance we thought that St. Peter had written foolishly about our making the election sure; for according to the erroneous theory which we had "swallowed" without proper mastication. God was doing all the electing himself, and had unalterably fixed our destiny as eternal glory or eternal suffering, long centuries before we were born.

This erroneous view blinded our mental sight from all the various incentives which now are so precious and so helpful. What had God elected us to be and to do? To sit upon a cloud and to play upon a harp and to sing to all eternity, cheerfully looking over the battlements of heaven to see our dear friends writhing in torment,—and striving hard to praise God for it all and to think of His course in our election and their damnation as the exemplification of justice and of love?

We read indeed in the scriptures respecting a kingdom, for which our Lord taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven," yet the thraldom of error upon us was so dense that we recognized not the inconsistency between these promises and our false hopes. Now, thank God, "the mystery" is revealed to us in God's Word and by His spirit, and we perceive that the millennium kingdom is to be a reality and that its blessing to mankind in general, "to all the families of the earth," is to be most thoro, most systematic, most complete, and in the end entirely satisfactory.

What an interest we properly take in this matter of our election, after learning that the office for which we are running is a combination of priesthood and kingship! The elect are to be priestly kings, or, otherwise styled, "a royal priesthood." The glorious service is to be for a period of one thousand years, during which they will be kings and priests unto God and will reign over the earth (Revelation xx, 4; I. Peter ii. 9).

They will not "reign on the earth" in the sense of being earthly beings, having earthly courts and thrones; their resurrection "change" will constitute them heavenly or spirit beings; they will be invisible to mankind, as now the "Prince of this world" is invisible and as the holy angles are invisible. But they will possess heavenly power and authority and wisdom and grace. By these glorious attributes they will be able to serve God and humanity by a reign of righteousness, whose uplifting or restitution influences (Acts iii, 21), will begin with the living generations, but eventually extend to "all the families of the earth," who have been going down for the past six thousand years into the great prison-house of death—"prisoners of hope," however, because of the promise of God's word and the redemption sacrifice of Jesus.

My beloved hearers, if your hearts are not moved by this message of God's grace and this information respecting His kingdom and of your prospects of becoming kings and priests in that kingdom, it is because you do not believe the message—because your faith does not properly grasp the "exceeding great and precious promises" of God's word (II.Pe ter, i., 4). I am aware that this whole message by Jesus and His apostles has been so long covered by the rubbish of "the dark ages" that it was lost to our sight for a long while and sadly we missed its encouragement to faithfulness. I am glad, however, that now the eyes of understanding are opening to see the length and breadth and height and depth in the great Divine plan of the ages.

Consider for a moment what fabulous prices have been paid for earthly crowns! Thousands of lives have been sacrificed and millions of money, to gain an earthly crown. And thousands who paid this price knew well that "uneasy rests the head that wears" who paid this price kne wwell that the tenure would be precarious and that the attainment of it would bring them lasting hatred from others who aspired to the same position and who considered that their right to it was as good or better.

What comparison should we institute as between the value of such a crown and the "crown of glory," honor and immortality which God has promised to His elect—to such of them as make their calling and their election sure! Has God placed too high a valuation upon the heavenly crown, in demanding that those who would share it with the Redeemer must prove their loyalty to Him and to the principles of righteousness, and to the spirit of love, to the extent of laying down their lives in His service and in "doing good unto all men as they have opportunity, especially to the household of faith?"

Our Lord asked wherein would be the profit to any man if he were to gain the whole world and lose his own soul—lose his future life. For the purpose of our present topic we might ask a modified question, namely, if one should gain the empire of the whole earth and all of its riches, and if another should gain his heaven-ly election to the heavenly kingdom of one thousand years and to subsequent eternal blessings with the Lord, which of these would choose the better part—which would show the real wisdom and which would be the foolish one? But the contrast increases when we note that the dominion of earth cannot be secured by our selling thru bloody seas, and that a mere competency of earthly wealth is attained by only one of a thousand who strive for it day and night. Surely from the standpoint of the Father's word all earthly honors are vanities, in comparison with the heavenly glories and blessings which may be surely attained by the "called" of this gospel age—if they will but follow the Divine directions.

How shall we know God? By study of His character. Our Lord Jesus it was who declared "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent (John xvii., 3). This knowledge at the present time is a secret knowledge, and, as the apostle says, a "hidden mystery," which can be known only by those who put themselves into a certain attitude of heart and mind and conduct toward the Lord and His revelation. We are to study God's character—to learn respecting His justice, His wisdom, His love and His power, by studying His revelation—the Bible. It it we see His dealings past, and His promises respecting His dealings future. And a correct appreciation of these gives us a knowledge of God's character as exemplified therein. But since His knowledge is not stated in terms for the world to understand, it follows that only those in proper condition of heart and enlightened by the holy spirit can receive this knowledge. It is taught only to the pupils in the school of Christ. "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant."

Patience must not be forgotten. In addition to moderation, "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Next add godlikeness—general goodness, benevolence, benignity toward all. All next brotherly kindness—in the natural family relationship, and also in the spiritual family, the church. "Love as brethren" (ought to love). "We ought also to lay down our lives for the brethren." Still further the apostle urges that while all of the foregoing are elements of love we superadd love itself in the fullest sense toward the Lord, toward the brethren, toward humanity, toward the brute creation and toward our enemies. While all these cannot be loved in the same degree, all should profit by the spirit of love in our hearts for all.

Now comes the climax of the advice to those seeking to make their calling and election sure (verse 8). "If these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." And then as our text declares, if these things abound and if we give diligence to the making sure of our calling and election and do these things, we shall never fail—we shall in no case fail of securing our election. God seeketh such for joint heirship with their Redeemer in the kingdom. God "seeketh such to worship Him as worship Him in spirit and in truth."

$2.10—BUFFALO RETURN—$2.10

Saturday, Nov. 20—Canadian Pacific Railway.

Parkdale Bowling Club Excursion will leave Toronto on Canadian Pacific Railway fast train at 9.30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 20, arriving at Buffalo 12.30 noon. Tickets good to return Saturday, Sunday or Monday following. Parlor car attached to train. Train stops at Terrace Station, Buffalo. Secure tickets from committee, Canadian Pacific Ticket Offices, southeast corner King and Yonge-streets, King Edward Hotel and Union Station. ed

Wine Crop is Bad.

LONDON, Nov. 14.—This year will go down to posterity as one of the worst on record, so far as wines are concerned, with the single exception of sherry, the recent efforts to revive the popularity of which, by the way, have not been remarkably successful. All other wines show a shortage in quantity and poorness in quality, according to the statement made by experts here.

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Grateful A cup of "Epps's" at breakfast Warms and Sustains you for hours. As a supper beverage it is perfect. Comforting

IN SOCIETY.

Drawing Room Scene One of Brilliancy

Distinguished Assembly Presided Over for Last Time by Earl and Countess Grey.

OTTAWA, Nov. 13.—(Special.)—The scene at the vice-regal drawing room this evening was a brilliant one. This event, which is the chief social function of the parliamentary season, was attended by a larger representation of the dignity and beauty of Canada than has been the case for a number of years. This was probably due to the fact that it was the last function of the kind at which Earl Grey will officiate as representative of the sovereign in this country.

The senate chamber was a blaze of color. The robes of state of the judges, the military, the civic officials and their ladies made a brave scene.

The party from Government House included Earl and Countess Grey, Lady Evelyn Grey, Mrs. Jennings of Washington, D.C., Mrs. M. Cook of New York, Sir John and Lady Hanbury Williams and Miss Hanbury Williams.

After the Government House party had arrived the guests were received. Sir Wilfrid Laurier came first and was followed by the cabinet ministers, their wives and daughters, including Hon. W. S. Fielding, Sir Frederick Borden, Hon. William Paterson, Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Hon. Chas. Murphy, Hon. Mackenzie King, Hon. Geo. P. Graham and Hon. A. B. Aylesworth. After them came the senators and their wives, followed by the judges and their ladies, the dignitaries of the various churches, then the members of parliament, the deputy ministers, other government officials and representatives of the military and after that the general public. The procession, which began at 9 o'clock, continued until a late hour. Among the Western Ontario people noticed in the throng were: Senator and Mrs. Kerr, Senator and Mrs. Campbell, Senator and Mrs. G. W. Ross, Miss Helen Blake, Toronto; Senator and Mrs. Coffey, London; Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Maclean and Miss Maclean; Mr. and Mrs. Maclean of Strathroy and Miss Maclean; Miss Margaret Wrong, Mrs. Miller Lash, Miss Edith Cross, Miss Marjorie Schrieber, Miss Marjorie Fellowes, Toronto; Miss Maud Fowler, London; Rev. Crawford Brown and Mrs. Brown, Miss Evelyn Connery, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Stairs, Mrs. Ivey, Toronto; Miss McCall, Simcoe; Miss Amabel Auld, Toronto; Miss Marguerite Calvert, Strathroy; Major and Mrs. J. A. Currie, Col. and Mrs. Samuel Hughes, Miss Nanno Hughes, Miss Marjorie McKeown, Toronto; Mrs. Fair, Collingwood, Haughton Lennox, and Miss Marjorie Lennox, Barrie; Mrs. W. B. Nonthrup, Belleville; Mrs. W. E. Saunders and Miss Muriel Saunders, London, Capt. Tom Wallace and Miss Wallace, Mr. David Henderson, Mr. Lancaster, Mrs. Lancaster and Miss Lancaster.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Borden were also present.

The social season at Niagara Falls, Ont., was ushered in with a ball given by Mr. and Mrs. Duncan S. Merwin of Pasadena, Cal., son-in-law and daughter of Mayor and Mrs. R. P. Slater of Niagara Falls. It was the fifth anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Merwin's wedding and they came from Pasadena especially to celebrate that day among Mrs. Merwin's girlhood friends. The two lower floors of Lafayette Hotel were used for the event, and were so effectively decorated with palms, ferns and old rose chrysanthemums that one easily imagined one's self in a Pasadena flower garden. Mrs. Merwin was assisted in receiving by her mother, Mrs. R. P. Slater, Miss Edmand and Miss Houston. Mrs. Merwin wore a becoming gown of old rose satin with bodice of cloth-of-silver embroidered with old rose poppies, a long scarf also embroidered with poppies and an amethyst necklace. Mrs. Slater looked extremely well in black silk and point lace with pearl ornaments. Miss Edmand wore a handsome gown of ivory satin with real lace and touches of pink. Miss Houston's gown of black satin with sequin embroidery was much admired. About 150 friends were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Smith, 43 Hambly-avenue, Kew Beach, entertained a party of young people at a progressive euchre Thursday evening. The prizes were won by Miss La Page, Mr. N. Collett, Miss R. Smith, Mr. B. McMurtry. Others present were: Miss Collett, Miss E. Gray, Miss Ramsay, Miss D. Smith, Miss M. Gray, Mr. Jack Tait, Mr. A. Collett, Mr. Kinnear, Mr. Mearns, Mr. Hamn, Mr. Mortimer, and others.

Mrs. Charles H. Neely will receive Tuesday, Nov. 16, and after the first and second Tuesday of the month.

Mrs. Arthur F. Clubb, 74 Chestnut Park-road, will receive on Tuesday next, the 16th inst., for the only time before leaving for California.

Mrs. J. Latter and Miss Harriet M. Latter of Montreal will be at home at the residence of Mrs. D. A. Coulson of 86 Woodlawn-avenue, on Thursday afternoon and evening. Miss Latter is on her way to Kong Moon, China, as a missionary from the American Presbyterian Church of Montreal.

"HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER."

The following verses were composed and read by Will M. Maupin at the printers' smoker in Victoria Hall Saturday evening:

O, it's hands across the border, and it's hands across the sea;
"God Save the King," you're singing, we "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."
Blood is thicker e'er than water, and we know what friendship means,
For we've tried each other's mettle—Lundy's Lane and New Orleans.
So we clasp our hands like brothers as we press the forward track,
While Old Glory waves and ripples by the side of Union Jack.

O, it's hands across the border, and it's hands across the sea,
For we've learned to know each other in the wars for liberty;
And where'er you see those banners waving 'neath the vaulted dome,
You will always find true fighters for the cause of right and home.
By the old Star Spangled Banner and the Red Cross of St. George,
We have welded stoutest friendships in the fires of Freedom's forge.

O, it's hands across the border, and it's hands across the sea!
"Rule, Britannia," "Yankee Doodle," "Home, Sweet Home," where'er we be;
And we carry freedom's banners 'round the girdle of the earth,
Till in ev'ry heart and conscience love of liberty has birth.
So, it's hands across the border, and it's hands across the sea!
While "God Save the King," you're singing, we "My Country, 'Tis of Thee!"

—Will M. Maupin, No. 209.

Toronto, Nov. 13, 1909.

University Sermon

"And when even was come, the boat was in the midst of the sea, and He was alone upon the land." (Mark vi., 47.)

"Unless we are persuaded that God really cares for us, really enters sympathetically into our cares and troubles, would it not seem almost better to believe in no God at all?" declared Rev. W. T. Herridge, D.D., of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, preaching in convocation hall on Sunday morning.

"The purpose of the church," he said, "is to show how very near He is to every one of us, how He writes His scriptures day by day on the glowing page of our lives. The incarnation is the true response to the cry of man for God, who shall still be God, and yet be near Him.

"Christ possessed in a unique measure the qualities which make for comradeship, yet the leaders of the Jewish opposition would have nothing to do with Him. He stood above the threat of prejudice. Unfolding God's truth, He refused to turn aside from His high purpose.

"What wonder that He was misunderstood? What wonder that He, forsaken by His own disciples, was hounded onto Calvary, to suffer alone?

"Some solicitude is inevitable to lofty souls. An idealist must run the risk of being mistaken, by some at least, for either a madman or a fool.

"Solitude has its fine points. The race has been nurtured by those eastern sages, who gazed into the stars, doing nothing, people said. Yet that was the best school for action at the proper time. They saw the star and followed it. Cultivate the contemplative, if you wish best to accomplish what is called the practical.

"There is a mysterious inner shrine of human life, into which even the most intimate of friendships cannot penetrate, a reminder known only to God. Yet it is a misfortune not to cultivate human companionship, and not wish to seek it. There would be no such thing as world progress if those who might help were content to stand with folded arms on the shore.

"The noblest way to break solitude is by the compassionate service of others. Obviously the weak need sympathy; the strong are stronger by it. It was a brave soul that cried in the garden of Gethsemane, 'What, could ye not watch with Me one brief hour?'

"It is never impertinent to help the helpers, to cheer on the the vanguard, to make their heroic work easier. Yet, if Christ had kept His solitude until He could have gathered around Him disciples who understood Him, those toiling fishermen of Galilee would never have disturbed His serene repose, the world would never have known its great Redeemer.

"I commend this ideal of life to the student whom I am privileged to address to-day. Christ challenges everyone to be like Him. He bids us prove the truth of His great paradox, that he who loses his life shall find it.

"Of course, we will have conflicts to wage against passions that assail us from within and without. The best way to break the bond of the baser passions is to come under the fine compulsion of the higher ones. It is impossible for any youth to examine the scriptures of his own being and not find something divine written on them. Then, having read, it is equally impossible to sit still or or make a wretched scepticism over what is not yet written there.

"If we are convinced that there is anything to believe, let us believe; if anything to do, do it then.

"In spite of the paganism of the times, we are being slowly taught to shift our definition of greatness. So far from Christianity being merely disguised selfishness, the only way to save one's soul, nay, to keep a soul at all, is by saving the souls of others, from ignorance, from the paralysis of sorrow, from the drag of doubt, from the awful burden of sin.

"We run the risk of pressing the utilitarian idea too far in our schemes of education. Greek and Latin are still rightly called the humanities; but kind words, lofty aims, deserve the name still more.

"'Art for art's sake' is in its way fine enough, but art and science and religion for the sake of the world's problems is still finer. The best secret of the renaissance was a reformation. If we remember this, perhaps we shall be saved from the ruts into which the select circles of our universities are apt to fall at times.

"Show that you are not mere thinking machines. It is the altruistic passion in culture that has changed it from intellectual attainment into spiritual grace.

"History shows that it is never safe to be more in love with speculative theory than with our fellow-man. It is a mistake to suppose that there is any necessary antagonism between, for instance, capital and labor, or between the mystic and the realist. It is the exclusive emphasis of the egotistic point of view which makes so many wrongs to redress, so many problems to explain away.

"'All legitimate interests are harmonious,' said the great French economist. When the spirit of Christ, the world's greatest, sanest socialist, enters into our life, it teaches us more and more to serve one another.

"Too long has the reproach of Christendom been the glaring inconsistency between the beauty of its creed and the ugliness of its conduct. I count it an encouraging sign that so many earnest young Canadians are waking up to the consciousness of this.

"See life by all means, but be sure that it is life you see, and not a hideous caricature of it. Cultivate most of all the spirit of Jesus Christ. In our moral forces, in character we seek our permanent exaltation."

Two New Vessels for G.T.P.

WINNIPEG, Nov. 14.—Two vessels, the Prince Rupert and Prince George, the nucleus of the G. T. P. Pacific fleet, are being built in England, and next spring will run between Prince Rupert and Seattle.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH POWDER 25c. is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. 25c. blower free. Accept no substitutes. All dealers or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

Public Amusements

Fannie Ward.

Miss Fannie Ward, the distinguished young English actress, who will be seen at the Princess Theatre to-night in her new play, "Van Allen's Wife," arrived in Toronto yesterday afternoon in her private car, accompanied by her company of twenty-five players and two carloads of special scenery and property. Miss Ward was plainly pleased to get back to Toronto, not only because, as a British subject, she was delighted to be back again on British soil, but also because she remembers with keen delight the cordial welcome she received here last year when she appeared in the "New Lady Bantock." Altho "Van Allen's Wife" is really the first great serious role that Miss Ward has undertaken, the reports which have preceded her from cities where she has been seen in the role agree in declaring that a new, real and genuine emotional actress has been added to the English and American stage.

"Going Some."

In every play that contains a race scene it is always the proper thing for the hero to win, but in "Going Some," which comes to the Royal Alexandra this evening, it is always a question with the audience whether it wants the hero of the play to win or not. And, as there is always a possibility for a dramatist to do something unexpected, the performance of "Going Some" is unusually interesting in that the play can end happily whether the hero wins or not. And in "Going Some," whether he does win or not, the play ends happily for him and for the audience, that have laughed at his plights for four acts. With Walter Jones and Laurance Wheat heading the company, the performance of "Going Some" should be high class.

"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch."

"Oh, Lord, whatever happens, keep me from gettin' sour!" This is one of the many optimistic and prayerful expressions of that dear, cheerful soul, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," who forms the central figure of that quaint character play, dramatized from the book of the same name, which appears at the Grand this week. Here is, indeed, an everyday gospel of contentment, a rebuke for grumblers and an inspiration to every one who is striving to exemplify in his own character and conduct the true American spirit of "never say die." And it is the cheerfulp hilosophy of this bright-faced little woman, who seeks sunshine always behind the darkest cloud, which grips the heart, challenges the admiration and charms the audiences at every point in this play of humble Kentucky life.

Majestic Music Hall.

The sale or seats for Miss Cissy Loftus' engagement, week of the 29th, at the Majestic Music Hall, is the largest in the history of the theatre. Those who want good seats had better go get them at once. Much interest naturally centres on Miss Loftus' engagement here, as it is said she has become a really great artist in her new creations. Miss Loftus is remembered for her fine work with Sir Henry Irving, in London; also we remember her as a co-star with E. H. Sothern in "The Proud Prince." Chicago and New York have rendered their verdict that Cissy Loftus is to-day the queen of the stage. On Monday evening, Nov. 21, Wm. Morris will offer a big vaudeville show, with the great French pantomimist, Severin, as a feature. This act comes direct from the Plaza, in New York, where it has scored the greatest hit of recent years. Nine other big acts will complete one of the most evenly balanced bills seen in this city in a decade. Seats also on sale.

On this week's bill are John C. Rice and Sally Cohen, fun-makers of international reputation; Sager Midgeley and Gertrude Carlisle, in their new comedy skit, and eight other big acts of the world's best talent.

Sam Chip and Mary Marble at Shea's.

At Shea's Theatre this week will be seen Sam Chip and Mary Marble in vaudeville's best novelty, a Dutch skit, entitled "In Old Edam," which was written for them by Anna Marble. The special attractions for the week will be Lola Merrill and Frank Otto, presenting their dainty playlet, entitled "After the Shower," and Les Cadets de Gascogne. The French quartet of operatic stars, composed of three men and a handsome young woman. Other acts included in the big vaudeville bill are Johnson and Hatty, Hill, Cherry and Hill, Hermany's Cats and Dogs, the Chadwick Trio and the kinetograph.

"The Lid Lifters."

Among the best of the many attractions of the burlesque field on the road this season is "The Lid Lifters" Company at the Gayety Theatre this week. The entertainment will consist of two rollicking burlesques and an olio of excellent vaudeville acts. The burlesques will present the ensemble in a melange of mirth and melody. There will not be a moment during the action of the burlesque that there will not be something doing in the way of good comedy business, musical and dancing numbers and entertaining specialties. The burlesque will be staged with new and attractive settings, and the costuming will be found a revelation of gorgeousness.

Fay Foster Burlesquers.

This week's attraction at the Star is the Fay Foster Burlesquers. This year they are presenting their new successful comedy, "Who Owns the Baby?" in two burlettas. These vividly depict the troubles of two old sports, who ran away from their wives to have a good time. The latter follow them, and then the fun waxes fast and furious. The leading role is played by Sam J. Adams, a popular comedian. Mr. Adams is an old Toronto boy, and his many friends are planning to give him a royal welcome during his week's stay. The olio is also one of the best. It is composed of many European acts, while the headliner, Senorita Ciotto, is said to be one of the best exponents of sensational Spanish dances in America. Miss Martha Hableman, who was once a member of the Manhattan Opera Company, is also another special attraction for the vaudeville program.

Seats for Grand Opera Season.

Altho the coming of the National Grand Opera Company has scarcely been announced, the number of enquiries received in reference to the engagement next week at the Royal Alexandra show that an immense amount of interest is being taken in the engagement here. A different opera will be sung at every performance, with the exception of Saturday matinee, when Aida will be repeated. The sale of seats will commence at 9 a.m. next Tuesday at the Bell piano rooms, 146 Yonge-street, and the theatre.

Two Great Artists.

Toronto will this season hear the two greatest lieder singers and interpretative artists, Miss Tilly Koenen and Dr. Hans Wullner. Last year the latter was the vocal sensation of the American season, and Miss Koenen has come this year to astonish the public by her miraculous contralto voice, which is said to be unique in its absolute flawless purity in the lowest register. Miss Koenen comes to Massey Hall on Friday of next week in a recital program.

Mistake Ku Klux Klan for Ghosts.

A ludicrous scene in "The Clansman," which will be presented at the Grand next week for the first time in Canada, is one where a couple of darkies, detailed to spy on the Ku-Klux Klan, report their experiences. "Dey wuzn't Ku-Klux; dey wuz ghosts!" whisper the awe-stricken coons. "Dey riz up out o' de ground, mounted white horses, an' sailed clar fru' de air right up to de sky!" It is impossible to convince these black brothers with their wobbly knees and chattering teeth that the weird night riders are mortal men.

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Thumb Box Exhibition

If some of the enthusiasts put a little of the money into art which they invest in stock certificates they could look with more satisfaction on the framed-up effect, and be conscious that they had values upon which the unearned increment, if they bought with as much appreciation of artistic excellence as in the case of the stock certificates, would eventually astonish them. These more or less sarcastic remarks are suggested by the second free annual Thumb Box Exhibition which is open for two weeks at 95 East King-street. The exhibition is a decided advance on last year, and the observance of thumb-box dimensions is more marked. Forty-five artists are represented.

Out of the whole collection 29 pictures which appealed to the cupidity of the present scribe were rated by the catalog at $455, an average of about $15 each. The prices indeed run from $10 to $25, like the non-dividend paying mining share per hundred.

The honored names of Ontario art are well represented. George A. Reid, R.C.A., has eight studies in his later manner. Mrs. Reid also has eight, of which "Lowlands," a tender moonlight effect, is a gem. F. H. Brigden in "At Low Tide" gets proper warmth of atmosphere. There is fine dashing motion in "The Incoming Tide," and "A Summer Day" is pleasant. J. W. Beatty's most notable piece is the "Souvenir of the North." Mrs. Gertrude Spurr Cutts has a nice collection, including the delightful "Bale St. Paul" and "On Quai Rosaire." Emily Elliott has an effective "Sunset, St. John's, Newfoundland." T. G. Green's "Midsummer Sunrise" is very good. Edward J. Hopkins shows three very charming pictures. "The Quiet Hour" is the best of these, but the exquisite tints of "Sunset" and the lovely "Moonrise" should draw admirers. R. H. Lindsay, Brockville, has four equally worthy of attention. "Autumn Splendour" and "Gold and Brown" excel the other two, these lacking warmth of atmosphere for the season they depict. J. E. Laughlin in "Autumn Tints" and "The Sandhill" is faithful to the Canadian spirit, and "An Autumn Oak" by James E. H. Macdonald is in the same class. Among C. M. Manly's exhibits, "September Mists: Valley of the Conestoga" stands out. Marion E. Mattice, Hamilton, in "Summer" has a fine bit of work. Ottilie Palmer's "A Windy Day" is a careful study and catches a difficult phase. The spring light in "In the Woods" by Albert H. Robson is delicately done. J. T. Rolph's "Near Wickham Station" is a happy bit of color, and Leslie Victor Smith in "A Misty Day: Rye Harbor" and "Quai Vert, Bruges" finds satisfactory subjects. W. G. Storm in "Spring Plowing" has a glorious sky magnificently suggested. There is life and vigor here and not the death and decadence which so many of our artists seem to think beautiful. Faded grass and washed out mountains, blurry trees and blotchy foliage are not the prevailing tones of Canadian landscape. Life and warmth and color are surely not taboo to the artistic soul! The fine stately gloom of "In the Pinewood" by J. E. Sampson is a perfectly legitimate effect because it is normal life, but many of our artists seem to think that normal death is characteristic of Canadian scenery. Mary E. Wrinch is one of those who look out of cheerful eyes as "Autumn Sunlight" exemplifies. Sidney S. Tully has gone abroad for her subjects this year, but one does not grudge her the experience with such results as "Laborers, Jersey."

This admirable exhibition sets an example to the more ambitious exhibitions by providing free catalogs for visitors, the idea being to encourage the public to take an interest in the pictures. This idea would do the big exhibitions no harm if they had the courage to be popular.

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STRING QUARTET

Cultured Audience Delighted With Musicianship of Artists.

Saturday night at Conservatory Hall, a cultured audience listened appreciatively to the first concert in the fourth season of the Toronto String Quartet. The organization is now under the guiding hand of H. C. Cox, who has made so great a success with the Toronto Symphony Orcheestra, both from a musical and a business point of view. If, as said, the audience was cultured, it did not appear, judging by the number of auditors present, that the genuine lovers of music in Toronto yet know that string quartet music is the very acme of absolute music, and that to appreciate and support it is the first sign of refinement in enjoyment of the most exalting art. Let this remark play its part in awakening the musical conscience of Torontonians.

The quartet provided the best program so far in its history, and in pure musicianship rivaled the famous Kneisels. The novelty was Sinigalia's op. 27—a composition most brilliantly diversified both in melodic and harmonic structure, suggesting thruout Magyar audacities in conception and rhythm. In this regard it contrasted delightfully with the sweet serenity of Haydn's well-know quartet in E flat. The Grieg sonata for piano and voln, in G minor, is one of the most beautiful compositions that ever came from the mind of the master; and Mr. Frank E Blachford (violin), and Mr. Frank S. Welsman (pnano) displayed faultless musicianship in interpreting its lovely nuances in feeling and imagination. The third number was the perennially winning Saint-Saens serenade for violin, viola, piano and organ. And in this Messrs. Blachford, Welsman and Atkinson (organ) showed their auditors how spiritually eloquent may become "a little band" of artists who can use technical perfection to express the ethereal aspirations of the human soul. If local music lovers only knew what self-sacrifice and labor the Toronto String Quartet display in perfecting the musicianship they show at their concerts, large audiences would greet these devotees of art. Come ye all to the next concert and hear something faultlessly beautiful. J. D. Logan.

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The pianos are all in good condition and are marked at $50, $75, $90, $100 and up to $150, a mere fraction of the original price. 51

Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Concert Massey Hall, Thursday, Nov. 18, at 8.15 p.m. Sergei Rachmaninoff composer-pianist, assisting artist. ed