

**Actors, Orators and Musicians.**

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

Only eleven "Uncle Tom's Cabin" troupes on the road.

RUSKIN's latest theory is that a theatre should be educational and not commercial.—*Sunday Breakfast Table.*

John Bright, despite of all his Quaker antecedents, was beheld a fortnight ago moved to tears by Modjaska's impersonation of Mary Stuart at the court theatre, London.

It has been found impossible to fill the orders for Miss NELSON's photographs since her death. Next to hers the largest number sold are of MARY ANDERSON, and the next in popularity are of MAUD BRANSCOMBE, many of whose pictures are bought by artists as studies, and are used by young ladies in their first attempts at crayon portraiture.—*Sunday Breakfast Table.*

Mr. DENRICKSON, Associated Press Despatcher, gave a costume entertainment in the Town Hall, Yorkville, this week. It is not everybody that can be an actor, an orator, a press despatcher, and wear long hair at the same time. However Mr. DENRICKSON has had considerable experience as an actor, and no doubt that portion of humanity that hybernate in, around, and about Yorkville were greatly edified and instructed.

The RIVE KING CONCERT COMPANY will hold the boards of the Royal Opera House on Dec., 17th and 18th, with Saturday matinee. This is one of the finest Opera Companies now in America, and Torontonians may expect a rare musical treat. As a violinist HERR REINHARD RICHTER is said to equal WILHELM, they both belonging to the same school. American papers claim Mrs. JULIA RIVE KING to be the Queen of pianists, while as a soprano Signora LAURA BELLINI has few equals on this side of the Atlantic. Besides these the company contains such names as Miss MABELLE, contralto, Mr. BRODEUR, basso, and other well-known star performers.

When the Fisk Jubilee singers held their concert in Montreal, last week; they were refused admission to two of the best hotels in the city, the St. Lawrence Hall, and the Ottawa Hotel, owing to their colour. At the concert which was well attended, Mr. LOUDIN spoke at some length, the audience hissing loudly when the two above mentioned hotels were named, but cheering warmly when he said "they were the guests of the Windsor Hotel, the manager of which did not think his hotel too good to receive them, though it had at times been patronized by H. R. H. the Princess Louise, and than which there was not a finer hotel, or one with better accommodation in Europe or America."

The production of the Passion Play in New York, is causing a great deal of excitement in ecclesiastical circles. The clergy, almost to a man denounce it as sacrilegious, and blasphemous; and at the Baptist conference held in that city, a resolution was introduced and passed unanimously, protesting against such use of the most sacred things in religion. On the other hand SALM P. MONSE, author of the play, together with JAMES O'NEIL and LEWIS MORRISON, actors in the play, claim that so far from being sacrilegious, it is supplementary to the cause of religion; that it is acted throughout with a spirit of reverence and awe; and that to use Mr. Monse's own words, "it will do more for religion than half the preachers in New York." In this they are borne out by some of the ministers in San Francisco, where the Passion Play has lately been produced.

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

Mr. JAMES FAHEY late of the Stratford *Herald* has accepted a position on the editorial staff of the *Mail*. Mr. FAHEY is a keen incisive writer, and will be a decided acquisition to the working force of our big contemporary.

There is to be a congress of journalists to be held at Brussels, Belgium, at some time in the coming year. *GRIP's* comic almanac for 1881 will be laid on the table and discussed. By the time they are through it will likely be discussed without the dis.

The *Gowanda Enterprise* loses its bright star, Mr. ED. DEMING, the paragrapher; who has severed his connection with that journal, leaving the editorial management entirely to Mr. J. J. HORTON. We presume there will be considerably less "Pinafore" used about that office in the future.

Mr. JAS. HUGHES' book "Mistakes in Teaching" has been re-published in two of the leading cities of the Southern States. Dr. MACLENNAN's algebra has also been most favourably reviewed in the English *Educational Times*—the leading organ of the Teaching Interest in England. *GRIP* records with satisfaction this success of Canadian Educational Writers.

We clip the following from the *Waterloo N. Y. Observer*:—Messrs. J. W. BENGOUGH & Bro., proprietors of the *Grip* of Toronto, Ontario, propose to issue a paragraphic and comic almanac for '81. Judging from the style of paper they publish this will be the coming event of the year. Every family on the western continent who wants to have a good laugh should not fail to have a copy. We predict a large sale as they are the wittiest chaps in Canada.

Mr. A. J. GRAHAM, artist of this city, leaves next week for Montreal where he takes the management of the *Canadian Illustrated News*. Mr. GRAHAM has a good reputation as an artist, and has in addition a good literary reputation, being a graduate of Oxford College, and having for some time filled the position of editor of the *New York Literary Table*. Some of his sketches will appear in *GRIP's* Comic Almanac. We wish him every success in his highly responsible position.

The December number of the *Canada School Journal* was laid on our table this week. It is, as ever, full of interesting and instructive reading matter; and the addition of the Rev. C. P. MURPHY, M. A., to the staff of writers, adds considerably to the large stock of talent engaged upon it. The article on "Co-Education of the Sexes," in answer to *Bystander* of November, and also that on "The Teachers Renewal of Strength," both by the above named gentleman, are especially worthy of commendation, and should be read by every teacher in the country. As a help to teachers the *Journal* is invaluable.

We cannot but regret the degrading effect likely to be produced by the class of cheap illustrated papers known as "comic," with a dismal misapplication of that much-abused phrase. It is not only the degraded literary type of the Jack Harkaway and Dime Burglar class of juvenile literature of which we wrote in our November issue, but it is the ugly, fatuous, leering griminess of the illustrations. Surely it were wise to furnish our school-rooms with a few cheap statuettes and outline drawings representing the higher ideal of art. In the above we distinctly exempt the *Illustrated Canadian* and *Grip*. The former ought to be taken in every public school; and if the same thing were done with our comic contemporary, the scholars would have the advantage of a most amusing comment on current events, and wit which is always pure and never irreligious or malicious, and a type of art of which the country has reason to be proud.—*Can. School Journal.*

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