

College of Music was given on March 16th assisted by Mrs. Lee and Miss Topping pianists; and Miss Rutherford and Miss May Taylor, vocalists.

New York is to have Grand Opera again next season as a new company has been formed with a capital of \$1,050,000. A magnificent building will be erected on the site of the one recently burned, so ideal representations of German Opera in the near future is an assured fact for which all music lovers will feel thankful.

The mother of Madame Sophie Menter, the famous Bavarian pianiste, recently died near Munich, in consequence of which M^{me}. Menter has cancelled all her engagements. She is a pianiste of great gifts, probably the greatest of her sex, and was for a time teacher of the piano in the St. Petersburg Conservatory, but now lives in a beautiful castle near Vienna.

It seems the Philharmonic Society have abandoned their intention of going to Chicago to sing a few choruses at the World's Fair. We fail to see any advantage in going over there to interest visitors to the Fair gratis, or any particular benefit to be gained for the musical reputation of Toronto. Good chorus singing is valuable in its way, but is no extraordinary evidence that the people are musical or are even fond of the best music. Any city of the size of Toronto or even smaller could get together a good chorus, and by diligent practice could do efficient singing, but this in no wise proves that the people are genuinely musical, or are even cultivated in music. Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Leipzig, or New York have not made their reputation as musical cities by their choruses singing, and the few towns in England where chorus singing is made a specialty are not considered to be musical in a really artistic sense. Of course, a chorus Fair would acquaint some people with the name "Toronto" who had not heard of it before, but it would readily be forgotten if nothing more tangible than chorus singing did not impress it on their mind.

THE GRAND.

During this week Charles Frohman's company have been holding the boards of Grand Opera House. The company is good all around, and each member of it has an ample opportunity of displaying his or her talent in "Jane," not to mention that bright comedietta "Chums." Mr. Alf. Fowler as "Lieutenant Jack Bandle" in the former and as "William" in the latter is really admirable. "Jane" is not a very brilliant comedy, there are features in it which belong more properly to the farce than to say to the burlesque, but such as Mr. Herbert Fortier as "Mr. Charles Shaktleton" is decidedly a success. His manner is free from staginess and he delivers himself of stage lies with a smoothness worthy of the old comedy. Mr. Arthur Boylan as "Claude" is not at all bad, while Mr. W. Henderson's face (as "Plix-ton") is a draw in itself. "Jane" herself is played by Miss Lena Merville, and it is the nerve and artistic vulgarity of the lady which keeps the thing, that is to say the plot, going from the first line to the last. Mr. Harris as "Mr. Kershaw" is worth looking at. Miss Lucy Norton is captivating and acts with a certain restrained grace which is an admirable foil to the more pronounced character of "Mrs. Chadwick" so ably impersonated by Mrs. John Peadar.

Next week the Hanlon Bros.' Grand Fairy Spectacular Fantasma will visit the Grand.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

Mr. Riley is popularly known as the "Hoosier Poet" and his pathetic and descriptive ballads, together with his dialect verse, have given him a wide and deserved reputation as one of the sweetest, most natural and popular poets of the United States. Though Mr. Riley has already appeared before a Toronto audience his name as the chief attraction on the programme

of the third concert of the Kleiser Star Course drew a large and appreciative audience to the Pavillion on Thursday evening last. In appearance the poet is not poetical, one would rather take him for a shrewd, determined and forceful commercial traveller than for the author of the humorous, pathetic and charming lyrics with which his name is associated. A decidedly United States voice and delivery, at first, rather marred his efforts, coupled with the length of some of the recitation prefaces. It soon however became evident that the reader was master of himself, his subject and his audience, and whether in presenting the humorous, dialectic, or pathetic phases of his poetic work, could at will, touch the hidden springs from whence issue the laughter and the tears of men. The grumbling and grudging farmers, the rough romantic squire, the afflicted Dutchman; the precocious stripling and "That old sweetheart of mine" were all graphically pictured and poetry was diversified with effective anecdote to the thorough enjoyment of the auditory.

Miss Lillie Kleiser's sweet, sympathetic, mellow voice and modest demeanour added much to the charm of the entertainment.

Mr. Kleiser is winning deserved success in making such excellent provision for the enjoyment of Torontonians, he has shown enterprise, judgment, and tact, which augur well for the future.

Mr. Lincoln, the renowned mimic, will appear in this course on Tuesday the 11th of April.

LIBRARY TABLE.

A WILFUL HEIRESS. By Emma Scarr Booth. Buffalo: Charles Wells Moulton. 1892.

Here is a book which recalls the old form of novel-writing by means of letters. "Clarissa Harlowe" was universally read in the days of Dr. Johnson. It would be too much to say that this method has ever been entirely discontinued, but it has become infrequent. Here, however, is a specimen of story-telling by means of correspondence, which is not at all bad. We cannot say that the characters are particularly probable, but the letters are good, and the situations are not bad. We can hardly let the reader know any of the plot without revealing the whole. The "heiress" was not exactly a fool, but she was rather easily taken in. The gipsy, whose relation to the real hero we can guess, appeared in time, and all ends quite well. We read a good many worse stories than this.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST IN THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT, 1805-36, from the letters of Mr. John Pritchard, with notes by the Rev. Dr. Bryce. Middle Church, Manitoba, Rupert's Land Industrial School Press, 1892.

This pamphlet of 25 pp. was set up by Indian boys. Its price is fifteen cents or \$1.50 per dozen. It contains six letters written by Mr. Pritchard, an authority quoted by all Manitoba historians. As early as 1805 he was stationed at the X. Y. or new North West Company's Fort at the mouth of the Souris. He appears to have been a devout Christian man. Apart from this pleasing consideration, he was a pioneer in the wilderness, and his contemporary records of the early settlements, though in small compass, are full of interest. It was a good thought to place those relics in permanent form, and it is to be hoped the Industrial School will gain by the circulation of the pamphlet, which does the boys credit.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SUB-SECTION OF THE BIOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR 1890-91. By the Editing Committee. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Company. Price twenty-five cents.

The Ornithologists of Toronto send their large octavo, 63-paged pamphlet to The

Week with their compliments. These scientific gentlemen are very numerous, so that one fears to make enumeration of them from a survey of the various reports, lest some one, as important as the others, should be left out. The document is largely a diary of observations, telling when new birds arrived at or near Toronto, but many other places, very far distant, are included in the observations, and many facts of abiding interest are chronicled for the benefit of posterity. The English sparrows have not driven all the native birds away by any means. Reliable and very interesting data are furnished, so far as all kinds of birds go, for a gossipy book in the line of White's Natural History of Selborne or Gosse's Canadian Naturalist.

STIRRING THE EAGLE'S NEST, AND OTHER PRACTICAL DISCOURSES.

By Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D. New York: The Baker and Taylor Company. Toronto: William Briggs.

This handsome 12mo volume of 313 pp., bound in blue and gilt topped, contains eighteen sermons, the last being Dr. Cuyler's valedictory to the Lafayette Ave. congregation. Everything Dr. Cuyler writes is worth reading by those who read sermons and similar productions. There is nothing very novel in his matter nor startling in his style; but he puts old truths in new dress, and his language is chaste and simple. There is something very devout in all his utterances, and his great aim, to build up pure Christian character, is one that all right minded people must sympathize with. For printed sermons, which generally lack the personality of the living preacher, these are very readable, and the reading of them cannot fail to do good. The valedictory is peculiarly interesting as a piece of modern Christian autobiography, which many who are familiar with Dr. Cuyler's name would not willingly miss.

THE CRUSADERS: By Henry Arthur Jones. Price 75 cents. New York and London: MacMillan & Co; Toronto: The Williamson Book Co. 1893.

While this volume comes into our hands we read of the success of a later play of Mr. Jones's on the London stage, "The Bauble Shop;" and our readers may remember a favourable review in The Week of an earlier production of the same writer "Saints and Sinners." Mr. Jones, then, is a successful dramatist and his work may be studied from various points of view. It would be quite easy to be morally indignant with Mr. Jones because of his turning into ridicule the philanthropists of the day who are bent upon making London—England—the World—good and happy by short and easy methods. But we are not quite sure that Mr. Jones is not right in what he does. Of course, most of his characters are caricatures, but it would be very difficult to interest the public in characters and incidents like those represented here without a touch of caricature. Upon the whole, we may say, that we have here living work, and work decidedly interesting. If the reader wishes to see its limitations, he will find them set forth in the Introduction by Mr. William Archer.

THIS CANADA OF OURS and other Poems.

By J. D. Edgar, M. P. Toronto: William Briggs. 1893.

We have read this volume of Mr. Edgar's from cover to cover and we can honestly declare that we have not found a single page of it uninteresting. Of course there are themes in which the author is more at home than in others, but at his best he is very good, and his second or third best is never bad. A prominent place is held in the volume by two ideas, the enthusiasm for the Canada to which he belongs, and for the Scotland from which he draws his origin. The first poem, which gives its name to the volume, has the true patriotic clash and clang and at the