

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is printed and published every Saturday by THE BURLAND LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY (Limited,) at their offices, 5 and 7 Bleury Street, Montreal, on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum, in advance; \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance.

All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General Manager.

NOTICE.

OUR Mr. Nolan is about to start this week on a Western tour for the purpose of collecting subscriptions and canvassing for the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. We trust our friends and subscribers will give him every assistance, and facilitate his work as far as may lie in their power.

TEMPERATURE

as observed by HARRIS & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

Feb. 5th, 1882.			Corresponding week, 1881		
Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean
Mon.. 28°	6°	17°	Mon.. 6°	-8°	-1°
Tues.. 34°	22°	28°	Tues.. 9°	-6°	1°5
Wed.. 23°	14°	18°5	Wed.. 8°	-8°	0°
Thur.. 37°	16°	26°5	Thur.. 2°	-15°	-8°5
Fri.. 23°	11°	17°	Fri.. 10°	-6°	2°
Sat.. 8°	-5°	-1°5	Sat.. 22°	8°	15°
Sun.. 14°	2°	8°	Sun.. 20°	2°	11°

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

A few weeks before the close of last year we addressed an appeal to those of our subscribers who consider that the fact of their having ordered the paper to be sent to them does not impose upon them any corresponding obligation to pay for it, requesting them to change their opinions upon that subject and forward us without delay the amount of their subscriptions in arrear.

It is an old story, but one it seems that must be repeated until it is taken to heart, that no newspaper can possibly continue long without prompt remittances on the part of its subscribers. We have every week to meet large expenses incident upon the publication of an illustrated paper, and we need large sums of money for this purpose, for which we not unnaturally look to those who owe us money. It is not fair or reasonable to suppose that in addition to the expense of supplying the paper we should be put to the inconvenience and cost of collecting small amounts throughout the country.

Our recent appeal has been only partially successful, and while we thank those who have promptly responded to it, it becomes necessary to warn those who are still in arrears that it will shortly become necessary to discontinue sending the paper to all persons who have not settled for their subscriptions of the past year. This step has become imperative, and we trust that those who wish to continue upon our subscription list will see the propriety of promptly settling their accounts.

This notice is not intended otherwise than as the announcement of a disagreeable necessity,—the impossibility of our going to the expense of supplying the paper to those who will not pay for it. We feel that, as the only Canadian illustrated literary paper, we have claims upon our subscribers which their patriotism should lead them to recognize, and we hope that we shall not be disappointed in our expectations of support from those who owe it doubly to encourage and pay for the paper.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 11th, 1882.

THE WEEK.

THE question of women's rights is again being brought rather prominently before the public. The ladies have, indeed on this continent, experienced of late years very little difficulty in filling many positions which were formerly monopolized by men. We have lawyers and physicians, and clerks by the score, and last week we heard of the appointment of two lady lay readers by a certain Bishop in Minnesota. Nor is that all. ANNA DICKINSON, the actress, appeared in Rochester, a few days since, in the rôle of "Hamlet," a character hitherto (mainly, we should suppose, on "Ophelia's" account) invariably represented by a male creature. After this who shall say but that "the ways of women are wonderful."

The subject has been discussed lately mainly upon the question of the retention of female clerks in the London Post Office, which the *Court Journal* describes as having become "one of the greatest evils of the day." Many and specious are the arguments urged for and against. We are reminded that the women of to-day are placed by the laws on an equality, as regards the commission of crime, of which fact they avail themselves by getting imprisoned and otherwise dealt with as the law directs. In the ancient *regime* the proof given by the revolutionary *sans culottes* of the gallantry of Frenchmen was the fact of the condemnation to the guillotine of women as well as men. This feeling has certainly been satisfied of late in Ireland—for do we not see the ladies of the Land League carried off in batches to prison for all the world like gangs of coiners? And we have ladies brought before the magistrates, condemned without any extenuating circumstances founded on the weakness of their sex, to the full penalty for libel, for shop-lifting, and for every other small offence for which "their small capacity," according to Brantôme, has fitted them. We have, to be sure, female forgers, and even a female burglar. Indeed, we make no doubt that should the ladies take to this latter profession their proverbial delicacy of manipulation would enable them to leave their male competitors far behind. All this, however, is not in disparagement of the Post Office scheme, which has worked admirably, and which we should be indeed most sorry to see dropped.

WHILE the Marriage Law Reform Association are making strenuous efforts for the abolition of the restrictions at present in force against marriage with a deceased wife's sister, the party in England in favor of the movement have lost a powerful ally by the death of Mr. SYKES THORNTON. It appears now, from an investigation of his books, that he spent little short of a million of money during his life towards the furtherance of that end, he himself having anticipated the passing of such an Act by his second marriage. We expressed some time since, in a somewhat lengthy article, our own views on this much debated question, to which we refer such of our readers as take any interest in the matter.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

Last year, when the daily papers were loud in their unreserved praise of the doings of the Society under Mr. COUTURE's direction, we were obliged, in all honesty, to point out many defects in its performance. It is the province of musical criticism unfortunately to find fault. Its reward is invariably to make enemies and arouse ill-feeling. Such was, to a small degree, the case last year.

Nevertheless, in writing of the Society's last concert, we expressed the belief that a great improvement was already apparent,

and that work alone, aided by a judicious selection of music within the grasp of the chorus—with perhaps the slaying of one or two members of the orchestra—was all that was needed to bring the chorus into a very different position musically from that which it then occupied.

We do not flatter ourselves that our criticism, however correct, had any direct influence upon the Society's movements. Nevertheless just what we pointed out as needful has been done, and as the result, we have to record a complete success at the concert of last Thursday. We have no hesitation in saying that the chorus, under Mr. COUTURE, sang on Thursday as they have never done before, but as we sincerely hope they will often do again.

The performance consisted of MENDELSSOHN'S 42nd Psalm, in which the Society was seen at its best, so much so that it seemed almost a pity that the two parts of the programme were not transposed. The chorus worked most steadily throughout, and Mr. COUTURE's conducting, with the single exception of the last chorus, which he begins to work up a little too soon, was most admirable.

A great element of strength was the use of the organ for the first time at the Society's concerts. Unfortunately this was less assistance than it should have been, owing to an unfortunate change of organist at the eleventh hour. Still, its effect can hardly be overrated, and without it, once or twice the orchestra would have dragged terribly. The absence of brass, too, was a great boon to many of us, and the orchestra, with this element omitted, and the organ to help them, surprised us all. Mrs. ROCKWOOD was the soloist, and sang with her usual taste, though her voice was a little slight for the work.

The "Oratorio de Noël" of Saint-Saens completed the programme (with the addition of a couple of songs from Mr. REID-TAYLOR between the parts, which call for no special mention). It is impossible to criticize in detail the performance of this work, the feature of which, perhaps, was the very remarkable playing of the piano accompaniments to the solos by Miss MULLER, especially that to the "Tecum principium." Of the chorus, when we have nothing to say, it is to say that there were no noticeable faults. The Philharmonic has made a great stride, and we are proud and happy to be able to record it. Go on and prosper, ladies and gentlemen, and may your next concert be even better than this your first.

LITERATURE FOR BOYS.

The old-fashioned stories which the unhappy boys of the last generation read have been succeeded by the manly and fascinating criminal novel. In the old story-books it was assumed that truthfulness, honesty, and obedience to parents were virtues, and that the Christian religion was not wholly devoid of merit. If these views were not directly taught in the juvenile literature of our fathers, at all events they were never directly or indirectly attacked. Boys could learn nothing from their story-books except preposterous platitudes—nothing that was of any practical use, or that tended to develop in them manly and brilliant traits. No such complaint can be made of the dime and half-dime novels of the criminal school which are now read by all our boys, either openly or secretly. In these delightful stories new forms of profanity and slang are taught in the most effective way. The pleasures of burglary and highway robbery, the manliness of gambling and fighting, and the heroism of successful lying, are set forth in what is regarded by youthful readers as glowing eloquence; while the great truths that all parents are tyrants, that all religious people are hypocrites, and that disobedience to fathers and teachers is obedience to the nobler instincts of juvenile nature, are sedulously taught. Such stories as these develop all that is manly and lawless in our boys, and teach them lessons that can not fail to be of immense service to them in whatever criminal career they may adopt.

There are a few old-fashioned people who denounce the new juvenile literature in unsparing terms; but that nearly all fathers approve of it is self-evident. They know that their boys are reading novels illustrative of the excellence of crime, but they make no effort to suppress that sort of literature, as they certainly would do did they disapprove of it. Nothing would be simpler than to drive those novels out of existence. All that it would be necessary to do would be to "Boycott" the news-dealers who keep them for sale. The truth evidently is that fathers either do not care what their boys read, or that they have no fault to find with *Jack Harkaway* and

the *Boy Burglars*. It cannot be that respectable gentlemen who dislike crime, profanity, and vulgarity wilfully refuse to know what their boys are reading, or weakly hope that by some happy chance their reading will do them no harm.—W. L. ALDEN, in *Harper's*.

LOCAL CRITICISMS.

I have often been greatly amused at the concert reports which appear from time to time in local newspapers. It seems to me that the unfortunate reporter must have a hard time of it, and especially so, when any entertainment is given by residents of his particular town. Even should he be capable of criticising a concert (which is seldom the case), he has no chance to display his ability; he must praise everybody, good, bad, and indifferent, or bring down upon his devoted head a perfect storm of abuse and ill-nature, perhaps even the loss of his situation. People won't hear the truth in these cases, and if they do hear it, they don't believe it; for who so vain as the amateur musician who is thought by his admiring friends to be "so talented;" but who, in reality, hardly knows his notes, and scarcely ever, his time.

I know a gentleman who was once asked to write a criticism on a local concert; he was a good judge, conscientious withal, so he told the truth, sparing no one; but he was never requested to perform the like favor again.

Some of the expressions made use of in these local reports are remarkable for their ignorance and absurdity. For instance, "Mr. A's song was in good time." "The style in which Miss B rendered her number elicited a hearty encore;" "The rendition (a favorite expression) of the piano duet by the Misses C was very skillful and well in time;" "Mr. D next gave the well-known song," etc., "in his usual voice," (alas, it were often better had Mr. D sung in his unusual voice, methinks); "Mr. E, always so great a favorite, next appeared in violin solo, and showed himself a perfect master of his instrument"—in this case you may be quite sure that Mr. E never has and never will master his especial instrument so long as he draws breath. Now, here is a sentence which is a tremendous hit, and the man who invented it is a benefactor to his brother reporters: "Where all did so well it is needless to particularize." If people would only content themselves with this amount of praise. How easy for those amongst the audience who did not enjoy the "well-doing" of the vocalists, to substitute, in their own minds, "Where all did so badly," etc., etc. Some criticisms are immense, such as, "The quartet by * * * was a perfect gem, the deep basso of Mr. F rolling forth like the thunders of Niagara, while the clear soprano of Mrs. G seemed like glancing flashes of vivid lightning!" This is neither exaggeration nor hearsay. I read it myself some time ago, and many a laugh have I had over it. One aggravating feature in this sort of reporting is, that when a good thing really comes in the way, there is no distinction in the criticism. In fact, the praises are, if anything, rather fainter than those given to the "local talent"—another very favorite expression, by-the-by.

Writing of a well-known German violinist, whose playing is remarkable for energy—sometimes, even, at the expense of perfect accuracy—but who is, nevertheless, a really fine player—I read the following review: "With a little more fire, Mr. H might rank amongst the heads of his profession!" I told an accomplished brother musician of his of this criticism, and he replied, with a hearty laugh, "Why, H. nearly tears himself to pieces with his energetic playing."

A lady friend of mine, a first-rate pianiste, played at a local concert Mendelssohn's "Andante and Rondo Capriccioso." It was thus reviewed: "Miss J. played, in a pleasing manner, that beautiful piece, 'The Songs without Words'."

A young vocalist (I think from Boston), who had a really beautiful voice and pure style of singing, far superior to anything that had been heard for many a long day in the town where she sang, was thus patronizingly noticed: "Miss L sang very pleasingly; with more cultivation and experience she may attain a good position," etc., etc. Now, if a "local talent" had wailed forth a touching melody, or screeched an Italian scena (not one word of which she understood), she would probably have been described as follows: "The town has cause to be proud of such a singer as Mrs. M, who can favorably compare with many a first-class professional vocalist. Whenever this lady appears she may be sure of a cordial reception."

I might go on quoting for all time, but I desist, and hope no indignant local reporter will challenge me to mortal combat, for I won't fight.

GRETCHEN.

LORD RONALD GOWER has forwarded to the Crystal Palace his masterpiece, the Shakespearean monument which was first shown in the Salon at Paris. The bust of Shakespeare, which forms the central object, is admirably executed, and the figures of Tragedy and Comedy, which present him the trophies of dramatic success, are very happily conceived. The plinth on which these figures are grouped is guarded by four Shakespearean characters—Hamlet, Falstaff, Lady Macbeth and Prince Hal. Of the four, Lady Macbeth and Hamlet are the best; but the whole work is a decided success.