Dramatic and Lyric.

The Tabernacle Choir Shows the Only Signs of Life—Last Night's Practice.—Bobby Gaylor.—Cowles Leaves Robin Hood.—General Amusement Notes.

With absolute silence at the Theatre until July 7 and 8, when Bobby Gaylor appears in Sport McAllister, with the Choral society disbanded until the fall months, and with the Wonderland artists on their summer vacation, the work of the Tabernacle choir is the only thing to give relief to the general dullness in musical circles. But the work they are doing is arduous and ambitious enough to make a very lively summer, and not even the present weather has the least effect in dampening the ardor of either the indefatigable conductor or the 250 workers who are to accompany him to the World's Fair.

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Mr. Stephens and the choir had a grand rehearsal last night, which was not only a hard working practice on the World's Fair music but a musical treat as well. A number of visitors were in attendance, among them being Bishop Preston and other members of the business committee; they were much gratified with the progress the choir has made on the competition music, especially with the manner in which it dashes off the terrific difficulties of "Now the Impetuous Torrents Rise," which is the very acme of technical intricacy. Mr. Stephens states that whereas it is not definitely settled, he has almost made up his mind to limit the number of pieces for which the choir will enter, to three: First, the grand chorus consisting of 250 voices; second, the ladies' chorus; third, the male chorus. Aside from these, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Ensign will enter the baritone solo competition, and whether Mr. Easton would enter the tenor contest would be decided when the solo chosen for tenors was received. It will be necessary to choose some lady conductor from the choir to direct the ladies' chorus, but who would be coached for that work had not yet been decided on. At the rehearsal last evening Mrs. Bessie Dean Allison added her beautiful voice to the contralto forces, and tonight, it is expected that R. C. Easton will be on hand to reinforce the tenors.

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A rare treat was accorded the members of the choir and visitors at the practice last evening, in the presence of Monsieur Arnold, the French violin virtuoso, who with his wife is passing a short time in this city. M. Arnold, has been making a tour of Australia as solo violinist in the company organized by the distinguished baritone, Charles Santley, and he is making a pause here for the benefit of his wife's health, on his return to Paris. He last night rendered two selections, one the Austrian National hymn with variations, and the other a composition by Raff. His playing awakened the most unbounded enthusiasm. He is undoubtedly a genuine artist to the tips of his fingers, and the breadth, profundity and purity of his tone are scarcely excelled by Remenyi himself. His instrument is a most beautiful one, and his manner of playing it indicates that he will yet be heard of among the musical masters of the world. He is only twenty-five as yet, and as soon as he returns to Paris will recommence the prosecution of his studies.

* * *

The return of John D. Spencer from a month's tour in the east, reminds us of the existence of a Home Dramatic club; it will do little more, however, as Mr. Spencer is booked to open business in Ogden, where a great part of his time in the future will be spent, though his family will continue to reside in this city. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer have been taking in the theatrical sights of Gotham with Mr. Burton, manager of the theatre and his bride, who are now in Chicago. It is not probable that there will be much activity in the Home club during the coming season, though there has been faint talk of Comstock's paying a visit to the city and bringing with him the manuscript of Saints and Sinners; this, in case he does not go out with Effie Ellsler, which seems to be doubtful. If home theatricals are to be relegated to the rear during the coming season, it would be altogether pleasant if Mr. Spencer and the other musical amateurs with whom the city abounds would again turn their attention to the light opera fields, in which they once ventured with so much success. From all appearances, the time for amateur opera will be very propitious next fall and winter.

* * *

The news of the retirement of Eugene Cowles from the Bostonians, given in this column last Saturday, was a great surprise to the public, which had come to look upon the singer of the Armorer's song and the Three Black Crows, as being almost as much a fixture in the Bostonians as Karl or Barnabee. But Cowles has the heavy opera bee in his bonnet, and probably knows what he is about. The *Examiner* gives him this handsome send-off: "Several Sundays ago I spoke in warm praise of Eugene Cowles' voice, and incidentally advised him to leave the [illegible] region of comic opera for the more profitable and more artistic environment of grand opera. I see that he has taken my friendly hint in earnest. He leaves the Bostonians at the end of the season—next week, presumably—and goes to London. There he will study under the best Italian masters, and after he gets his voice placed thoroughly will be heard in concert. Without doubt he will go upon the operatic stage, where he is sure to make a great success. He has a glorious natural voice, a majestic stage presence, and no little magnetism. All these gifts he can utilize to the best advantage, and when he divests himself of a certain heaviness of manner, probably caused by playing one role over a thousand times in Robin Hood, he will have gained greatly, for it is not to be denied that his acting lacks elasticity. If Eugene Cowles works hard he can become the Edouard de Reszke of America. Good luck to his efforts! His relations with the Bostonians are most friendly. I fancy Mr. Karl knows what artistic aspirations are himself. I remember with pleasure his Faust in 1878 in Philadelphia. Eugenie Pappenheim was the Marguerite. Tom has grown fat and rich since those days.

* * *

By the way, that remarkable opera Robin Hood, is closing its season tonight at the Garden theater, New York, and about the time the News is being read, there will be speech-making, hand shaking and a rendition of Auld Lang Syne by the entire company from the stage of the theater. The opera, by the way, celebrated its one thousandth performance at the Garden theater a week ago last Monday. An air of celebration was imparted to the occasion by a decoration of the auditorium with American flags in compliment to the nationality of the opera and to the occupancy by the composer of the conductor's chair. Mr. De Koven directed with his wonted energy, and the opera was never sung with more spirit and dash than it was under his guidance. Mr. Tom Karl was the Robin Hood of the occasion and Miss Flora Finlayson the Allan Dale, the night being one of those when Jessie Bartlett Davis was resting.

* * *

Everyone remembers the bright and sprightly Bobby Gaylor in his absurdity of Sport McAllister. He and his play were seen here last season, and the comicalities, the music, the dancing and the variety acts made up a very pleasant evening. The same entertainment will be given next Friday and Saturday at the Theater.

* * *

The Duke Louis, of Bavaria, the Empress Elizabeth's eldest brother, has married a ballet girl from the Munich opera. The news was sent (says the *Era*, to the Vienna papers by the prince's aide-de-camp, with the urgent request that the fact might be published without comment. Prince Ludwig is sixty-two, and looks ten years older. When a young man he gave up his titles and claim to the family property to marry Mlle. Mendel, an actress, who was afterwards created Baroness Walersee. The daughter of this marriage was a great favorite with the empress, and by being so much with her made an excellent marriage with Count Larisch. She has, however, disappeared from Vienna society, having been mixed up in the romance connected with the crown prince's death. The ballet girl is, according to a Frankfort paper, one of two sisters named Barth. Their father was a mechanic of Munich, but he disappeared about fourteen years ago, and the girls, after a term at an orphanage, went to the ballet school of the Munich opera, their mother in the meantime supporting herself and her girls by embroidery. Antonie, now married to the duke, is described as being a slim, pale and delicate brunette, twenty years of age, while her sister has a fresh complexion and a merry disposition. The young wife has received from the prince regent the "Von" title, with the new name of "Bartolf."

* * *

Of the late burlesque artist, Fred Leslie, Mr. Roberts tells the following story: Mr. Roberts was manager of the Gaiety company when in Australia, and when any one asked him for a new pair of shoes, or a piece of lace, or any other little thing, he always replied: "I can do nothing in this matter until I have cabled Mr. Edwardes, and must await his instructions." This became a standing joke among the company. One day, at rehearsal, when the whole stall was present, Fred Leslie crossed the footlights, saying: "I had such a terrible dream last night it quite upset me!" "What was it?" inquired the manager. "Oh," he replied, "I thought I was being attacked by two street ruffians. I defended myself until my strength gave out. I saw one of the scoundrels raise the life-preserver to attack me. I shrieked for help and gave myself up for lost. Suddenly I saw your stalwart form approach. Another moment and all would have been over. I gasped out, 'save me.' With a look of determination in your eye, in a stentorian voice you replied—'I can do nothing until I have cabled to Mr. Edwardes, and must await his instructions!'"

* * *

A FRENCH PLAY CONDENSED.

SCENE I.

Henri—O, my poor friend, it is true! I love your wife and she loves me.

Pierre—My God! is it so? You love my Mathilde and she returns your love! Come with me; I must know it from her own lips.

SCENE II.

Pierre—Is it true, Mathilde? Do you love Henri?

Mathilde—Ah, my poor husband, it is but too true! I do!

Pierre—And you love Mathilde, Henri?

Henri—My God! Yes.

Pierre—O that my life should be so blasted! But I cannot stand in the way of two such loving hearts. Take her Henri. Go to his arms, Mathilde.

Mathilde—Never! Only a minute ago I loved Henri. Now I love you, only you. Your generosity has overwhelmed me. Be always thus generous and no one shall take my love from thee. (All three embrace and shed tears.)—*Truth.*

STAGE AND MUSIC NOTES.

Maude Granger is playing in San Francisco.

John Kernell and Hugh Fay will probably be partners next year.

Sir Arthur Sullivan, acting on medical advice, has left England for the south of France.

A wax model of Mrs. Langtry, in her dress as Cleopatra, is to be one of the attractions at the World's Fair. The model will be by Mr. Clarkson.

Alexander Salvini has abandoned his summer visit to Europe. Instead, his illustrious father will come here in August to see the World's Fair.

Chicago is to have a new theater, seating 3000 persons, and called the [illegible]. It will be opened with a melodrama of the war, in which a hundred people and sixty horses will take part.

Dudley Buck has accepted the position of examiner and lecturer of the Utica conservatory of music, and Rose Booth, the English pianist and painter, will join the faculty of that institution in 1893-4.

John Drew and his company will resume their tour August 15, presenting The Masked Ball and appearing at Palmer's theater early in February in a new play. Mr. Drew, who is now in Europe, sails for America on July 29.

Aristocracy resumes its tour July 15 in San Francisco and will be seen here a few weeks later. The company will remain the same with the exception of Maurice Barrymore, who will appear for the first time in the role of Jefferson Stanton.

Among Thomas W. Keene's revivals next season will be that of The Fool's Revenge, and he will begin his tour with it at Pittsburg, Sept. 1. Edwin Arden, who has given up starring, will be a member of Mr. Keene's company next season.

At the Criterion theater, London, on the first night of The Old Lady, the frequent repetition of the word "damn" in the dialogue excited the anger of the pit and gallery, and produced some hissing. After the curtain had fallen on the last act a gentleman remarked, "It is now, I think, our turn to damn!"

Joseph Jefferson will undoubtedly be the next president of The Players, if he will accept that office. Unless his health should forbid his assuming further duties and responsibilities he will probably consent. If Mr. Jefferson should decline, however, the choice of the electors would most likely be A. M. Palmer.—*Mirror.*

Manager Al Hayman is to take the Drew family upon a tour of twelve weeks, opening in Denver on August 15. The plays given will be The Rivals and The Road to Ruin, and the company will include Mrs. John Drew, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew, Mr. and Mrs. McKee Rankin, (who have buried their domestic differences,) and their daughter Phyllis; Charles Erin Verner, who will play Sir Lucius O'Trigger; Owen Fawcett, Lionel, the fifteen-year-old son of Maurice Barrymore, who has never yet appeared on the stage, and either Robert Taber or Wilton Lackaye. Mrs Georgie Drew Barrymore is reported to be gaining in health at Santa Barbara, Cal. The company will be there on September 7, and a reunion is then to be had of all the Drew family except John, who is now in Europe. Mr. Barrymore will probably be present. He is now on the Pacific coast with Aristocracy.—*Herald.*

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