

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

The audience which greeted the Banda Rossa—the Red Band, from San Severo, Italy—at Massey Hall last evening was not large, but it was certainly enthusiastic—enthusiastic to a degree. And it was a great deal more than enthusiastic. It was the most surprised audience that ever greeted a concert band. Sousa has been here, Herbert has been here, Innes and Brooke have been here, and consequently Toronto audiences have become imbued with the spirit of Banda Americana. We have become so used to hearing this great quartette of American bands that a sudden innovation like the organization of Italian musicians yclept the Banda Rossa almost takes our breath away. The Banda Rossa is as far above these as the moon is above the earth. Not only in their playing do they excel, but their programmes are full of good things, things which a musician as well as a music-lover can applaud with a clear conscience. A great deal that the band does is novel, but none the less interesting. For instance, the short rhythms, for which Signor Sorrentino is commendably responsible are delightful to anyone who possesses an acute ear; the absence of the cornet entirely, and the substitution of the original form of the instrument—the trumpet—would make an American bandmaster smile with scorn. But what an innovation this is! Cornets could never give out the splendid volume of tone and clear-cut sweetness, devoid of all ear-piercing qualities. In the "William Tell" overture one missed the wildly weird and familiar notes of the oboe, which in this band were given by the clarinet, but it is said that this is the original scoring, so we must fain be content, although one may prefer the "wood wind of the mountains."

The band's playing of the "William Tell" overture was a perfect revelation. The splendid impression they made was not enhanced by their rendition of the prelude, a duet, and the finale from "Cavalleria Rusticana," but the acme of perfection was reached in the selections from "Carmen," which were grandly given—the great volume of tone, precision of attack, delicacy in the piano passages, and an ensemble that left the captious critic in the throes of despair.

The Banda Rossa is made up of Italians, and they undoubtedly know how to play the music of their native land. It would be preposterous for a Canadian to say: "That is not the way to give 'Guillaume Tell,' that is not the way Sousa gives it." This is the first time that Canadians have had an opportunity of hearing Italian music played by an Italian organization, and so we have now a new standard to go by.

The other numbers of the band not already mentioned were the splendid Prologue, Romance and Finale from Baito's "Mefistofele"; a fantasia on Garibaldi's Hymn, which was arranged by Signor Sorrentino for the bombardino, an instrument which resembles the euphonium in shape and has the soft and sweet tone of the French horn. This was beautifully played by Signor Colaneri. Then there was a march by Signor Sorrentino himself, "Marcia Trionfale," which was original in theme and played well. Of course encores were frequent, and were generously responded to. Of these they gave a march by Morse, "Up du Street"; Gillet's dainty "Loin du Bal"; the march from Mozart's opera, "Il Seraglio"; the well-known march from Sousa's opera, "El Capitan," and Wagner's (not Richard of that ilk) march, "The Double-headed Eagle" (Kaiser March).

The little girl violinist, Miss Carlotta Stubenrauch, is certainly a wonder. Her execution is wonderful for one so young, and an impression even greater might have been effected had the young lady's instrument been strictly in tune. However, her playing was certainly clever and elicited much applause. Her number was Vieuxtemps' "Ballade and Polonaise," as an encore to which she gave a "Spanish Dance" by Rehfeld. The young violinist's accompaniments were ably played by Herr Paul F. Thourat.

The playing of the Banda Rossa is one of the greatest treats Toronto has had for a long time, and those who have not already heard the splendid organization will certainly miss something musically.

The band plays again this evening and also on Saturday afternoon and evening, when, we believe, an entire change of programme will be given.

The song and ballad recital in St. George's Hall, Elm street, last evening was so largely attended that the hall would not accommodate all who sought admission. The recital was an admirable one in every respect. The singing of the quartette composed of Miss Annette Foley, Miss Carrie Lash, Mr. Robertson Wallace and Mr. E. W. Schuch, was so artistic and well balanced as to ensure for them a hearty reception wherever they may be heard. They sang "Ah, How Charming," from Flotow's "Martha," and "Oh, May Gentle Sleep," from the same opera, and were heartily encored. Miss Annette Foley, the possessor of a very sweet and well trained soprano voice, sang Dellacqua's "Villanelle" and Millard's "Ave Maria" very charmingly. Miss Carrie Lash, who is well known in Toronto as a contralto of marked ability, sang Millard's "Waiting," and was also encored. Mr. Robertson Wallace, who sang in Toronto last year in "Rob Roy," was given a warm reception. His voice is a really fine tenor robusto, well trained and very pleasing. He sang one number from the "Messiah" and "The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond." Mrs. W. C. Haskett was the accompanist. The concert was under the direction of Mr. C. A. Gifford, and it is to be hoped that others of a similar character will be given during the winter.

Miss Alexandrina Ramsay, who is filling engagements in the large cities and towns of Great Britain, appeared before a Liverpool audience on Nov. 25th ult. at the concert of the Liverpool Caledonian Association in honor of Scotland's patron saint, Rev. John Watson (Ian MacLaren) chaplain to the society, occupied a box in the hall, which is the largest concert room in the United Kingdom, on this occasion filled to overflowing. From The Liverpool Courier's report of the entertainment we clip the following:—"A feature of all Scottish concerts is the recitation, and this branch of the entertainment was delightfully supplied by Miss Alexandrina Ramsay. Her accent is that of the Lowland Scot to be heard near 'Auld Reekie,' distinctive enough for the people of Scotland, yet not too broad to be thoroughly understood by English folks. Both the recital and the more dramatic selections were given with much artistic taste and great elocutionary ability, in which mere gesture played a very minor part."

"Jack and the Beanstalk" had the largest audience of the week last night, and was received with great applause. The wonderful electric ballet in the last act almost made a sensational hit. The dog in the first act is almost human in his intelligence and well deserves the applause he gets. Dainty Madge Lessing has become a great favorite, and that bundle of nerves, Nelly Lynch, catches everybody with her bright face and graceful dancing. Nelly Lynch and Harry Kelly, as Muffet and Sinbad, do a wonderful piece of work in the last act, and are recalled until they are almost exhausted. The

matinee on Saturday bids fair to be the largest of the season, as the audience sale is enormous.

The following programme, illustrative of the musical work of the Toronto College of Music, was given under the auspices of the Epworth League in the Metropolitan Church school room last night under the able direction of Mr. Torrington. The various numbers drew forth great applause. Miss Burns, in her readings, proved herself to be a refined and talented artist and met with an enthusiastic reception:—
Mendelssohn—"I would that my love"Vocal duo
Misses Mahaffy and Gibbons.
Goltermann—"La Reve"Violin
Miss M. Taylor.
Trotiere—"I dream of thee".....Vocal
Miss Alice Fieldhouse.
Raff—"La Fleuse"Piano
Miss Lillian Porter.
Behrend—"Daddy"Vocal
Miss Eleanor Kennedy.
Ritter—Op. 70 (trio) Piano, violin, 'cello
Miss Lillian Porter, Messrs. Harry and Otto Torrington.
Anon—"Molly"Reading
Miss Lillian Burns.
Cantor—"O Fair, oh Sweet and Holy"Vocal
Miss F. Paul.
Mayer—(a) Grazioso, (b) Scherzo
.....Piano
Miss Eleanor Kennedy.
Haynes—"Off to Philadelphia"....Song
Mr. James Richardson.
Verdi-Liszt-Rigoletto..... Piano
Miss Mabel A. Tait.
DeKoven—"Good-bye to the Leaves"Vocal
Miss Dolly Gibbons.
Merrill—"Soul of the Violin".....Reading
Miss Lillian Burns.
Herold—"Air d'Isabelle"Vocal
Miss Eileen Millett. Violin obligato,
Mr. Harold Bayley.
Mendelssohn—"I'm a Roamer".....Vocal
Mr. W. J. A. Carnahan.
Liszt—RhapsodiePiano
Miss Ethel Husband.
Wallace—"On Fairy Wand"
(Maritana)Vocal duo
Miss Millett and Mr. Carnahan.

The junior closing of the fall term of the Toronto Conservatory School of Elocution and Dramatic Art takes place on Saturday next, the 18th inst., in the Elocution Hall. The senior closing follows on Monday evening, the 20th inst., in the main music hall, and that of the dramatic class on Tuesday evening, the 21st inst., on their pretty little stage. It has been found necessary to have the three evenings mentioned, such has been the growth of the school under the skillful direction of Mr. H. N. Shaw, B.A.

All these evenings promise to be of a most interesting character, and friends of the pupils will no doubt be present in large numbers, in spite of the fact that entrance is by invitation. The dramatic class will give, among other things, "The Cape Mail," scenes from Othello" and "The Scarlet Letter," and the two comediettas, "Cheerful and Musical" and "Little Emily."

"The Land of the Living" is announced for Christmas week at the Toronto Opera House. Frank Harvey is the author, and the present work is said to excel in power and interest of story both of his other great hits, "The Wages of Sin" and "Woman Against Woman." All of the thrilling realism of modern drama, and the superb scenic production of the scene painter and stage carpenter are brought to bear upon the imagination. The scenes and characters are picturesque and well chosen. It possesses an abundance of comedy and sensation, strong of plot and elaborate of scenic effects. "The Land of the Living" appeals with all the power of realism to the public taste. In fact this remarkable play is said to bear the palm for a moving plot and realistic stage effects.

The Grand Trunk Railway department of the Y. M. C. A. gave a grand concert last night in Association Hall, but owing to several counter attractions the talented artists who took part were not greeted with as large an audience as they deserved. The fact that Mrs. Caldwell was to sing should itself have filled the hall, but those who were not there missed a musical treat. Mrs. Caldwell's rendition of "La Parfaletta" and cuckoo song was irresistible, and she graciously repounded with an encore. Mr. Grenville P. Kleiser, as is his wont, delighted the audience with several well-chosen readings. Mr. James Fax, the Toronto Male Quartette and the Harmony Quintette Mandolin Club supplied the balance of the programme in a very acceptable manner. The concert was given under the vice-regal patronage and the proceeds were devoted to the gymnasium fund.

"Charley's Aunt" will be the Cummings Stock Company's Christmas week's production at the Princess Theatre, beginning on Monday next, and continuing through the week. "Charley's Aunt" is probably the most popular comedy known to Toronto theatregoers. It has always been a big favorite here, and as the Cummings' production will undoubtedly be a good one, the company may feel confident of receiving their full share of patronage. "Charley's Aunt" was secured by Manager Cummings during his recent visit to New York City, where he secured the Canadian rights to this comedy, as well as a number of other first class plays, which will be produced in rapid succession.

The many friends of Miss Pauline Johnson will be glad to learn that she is having a highly successful season in Manitoba, where she is appearing before large audiences. Her versatility is shown by taking the whole programme, and her time is booked for several weeks into the new year. Although just returned from a trip to the coast, she is being re-engaged for all the towns along the line of the C. P. R. and will give her recitals as far west as Regina or Calgary. The press of the west award her high praise for her platform work.

The Bijou has provided a good programme for Christmas week. The Francis sisters will head the Twentieth Century Sports Company. The sisters are clever character change artists, who have achieved a wonderful reputation. The three Bartells, sensational artistic acrobats, will do some clever work, while Will and Minnie Lorenzi will appear in their original act entitled "Troubles at a Lunch Counter." Others on the programme will be the O'Dells, in an acrobatic comedy, and Frank Whitman's comedy trick violinist.

The sale of seats for the Duff Opera Company, which will appear at the Grand Opera House next week, begins at the box office this morning. The opera which this famous organization will present, "Shamus O'Brien," is one that will present an unlimited amount of comedy to its hearers, and has been a great success in London, where it was produced at the Opera Comique, under the management of Sir Augustus Harris. There will be a special matinee on Wednesday afternoon and also on Xmas day.

Mr. Clarence Eddy, an American organist of high reputation, will give an organ recital in Elm Street Methodist Church this evening, assisted by Mrs. Charles Crowley, Mr. W. E. Rundle and the Elm Street Male Quartette. Mr. Eddy comes with the highest notices from the American press and should be heard by a large audience here.

At the recent concert of the Ottawa Amateur Orchestral Society Mr. Frank Burt, the well-known soloist of this

city, took part. The Citizen has this to say of his work:—"The singing of Mr. Frank Burt (basso) of Toronto was much admired, he receiving a hearty recall each time he appeared. Mr. Burt is a finished artistic vocalist. Perhaps his most appreciated effort was in "The Armorer," given in response to an encore in the second part.

The free musical improvement class of the Mental Science Institute met last evening, when an enjoyable programme was presented by the pupils of the Provincial College of Music, Miss M. J. Morcon presided. These meetings are held every Thursday evening, and are free, the object being to develop the talents of promising pupils.