

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

INTERESTING GOSSIP CONCERNING CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS.

How Armstrong Happened to Be Best Man at Nordic's Wedding—Ida Gray Scott in Vaudeville.

It is more than likely that the Contemporary Club Wednesday night will have quite a treat in the lecture of William Armstrong on "Unpublished Interviews with Great Musicians." Mr. Armstrong is a genius in his way and at the same time one of the shyest and most modest appearing young men this city has ever known.

It is necessary only to recall Mme. Nordica's marriage in Indianapolis last spring during the May festival to show how close Armstrong is to the people as high as \$5 a seat simply to see and hear. Mr. Armstrong arrived here the day set for Nordica's wedding. It was being kept a secret, but a report was out that the marriage license had been issued the day before and the bachelorette at the Denison had lost his breath climbing the stairs.

When Mr. Armstrong reached the city late that afternoon to inspect the festival chorus for the Chicago Tribune he heard the news about the marriage. He hastened to the Denison and was admitted to her parlor at once. He found the couple in great stress of mind, not knowing where to go to have the much-desired knot tied and afraid to venture out lest the horrid reporters would waylay them.

De Wolf Hopper will begin a two-weeks' engagement in Boston on Monday, presenting Sousa's melodious and merry opera, "El Capitán." The opera is said to be the best of the kind that Mr. Hopper has ever had in his support. Miss Nella Berger, the new prima donna, has been highly praised for her performance.

For the extra sold concert, which drew a large audience to the Academy of Music, in Brooklyn, last week, the special feature was Bronislaw Huberman, the boy violinist. His selections were Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto" and Bach's "Wagner's 'Albion' Schumann's 'Traumerei' and a mazurka by Zyrzicki. In all his recitals he has shown the most cordial approval of his auditors.

One of the most successful concerts lately given in Paris consisted entirely of Russian music. Three numbers were redemanded—a selection from Rubenstein's "Ferganora" ballet music, a ballad from Scriabin's "Rognaya," and a shepherd song from Rimski-Korsakoff's "Sueguroshka." Other composers represented were Lisinski, Moussorgski, Glinka and Tchaikovsky.

At the Hotel Drouot, Paris, recently, Rossini's own manuscript of the opera "Guilame" was sold for 470 francs. The sterling portrait of the same composer by Ary Scheffer, was purchased by the representative of the National Conservatory of Music and Declaration for £20.

ACTORS AND THE DRAMA

NUMEROUS CHRISTMAS WEEK ATTRACTIONS AT THE THEATERS.

Tim Murphy in a New Comedy at the Grand—Black Patti at the Empire—Cinematographe at Park.

The days immediately preceding Christmas are among the hardest of the year for the theaters, for it is then that every one is preoccupied with some other sort of amusement and one which bleeds the pocketbook. A play to attract anything like a paying house at this time must be more than the ordinary. It is said that Tim Murphy has just such a production this year in "Old Innocence," a comedy taken from the French, which he brings to the Grand the first of this week.

Marie Van Zandt has successfully passed through the ordeal of her reappearance in Paris, where, it is supposed, she would never again dare to sing. Twelve years ago last month there occurred during a performance of "Le Barbier de Séville," the famous scene which kept her thereafter an exile from the stage.

Champagne of the vintage of 1934 is supposed to have held the record for rapid advance in price. The lead is, however, now beyond question taken by Saratoga's red Strad. The great Spanish artist usually travels with two Strads, playing on the lighter one and keeping the red instrument for emergencies.

Walter Damrosch began his season of German opera last Monday night in Philadelphia. His artists engaged for the opera this season are Lill Lehmann, who sang in this city at the opening of Tomlinson Hall, and is remembered as one of the greatest singers ever in this country; Kraus-Ravenstein, Johanna Gadske, Ernest Krober, who takes the place of Max Lill Lehmann, and the soprano, who sang in this city; Carl Sommer, Paul Kaulsch, Fritz Ernst, Augustus, Emil Fischer, also heard here last season, "Lohengrin," "Faust" and "Lindbary." The Philadelphia season is for seven weeks with two evenings and one matinee performance each week.

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