

## Last Night's Entertainment

A Most Enjoyable Concert  
Given at the Opera House  
by Roney's Boys.

The entertainment given by Blatchford Kavanagh and Roney's Boys at the Myar opera house yesterday afternoon and evening tested the full capacity of the auditorium at both performances. The fact that the public were given for the benefit of the public schools, added to the unique character of the company, of course, had much to do with the size of the audiences, but it is safe to say that should they return their reception will be as flattering as it was last night. The majority of those who were present went to the opera house scarcely knowing what to expect. Boy singers ranging in age from eleven to fifteen are apt to arouse a certain amount of scepticism, but the work of these particular boys proved a delightful surprise. Mr. Roney, the director, is a specialist of many years experience in developing the vocal organs of youngsters, and the little fellows who sang their songs last night showed the perfection of that kind of training.

The children of the public schools took an important part in making the entertainment a financial success, for they sold a great number of tickets. By way of reward the schools were closed a little earlier than usual and the little ones were given tickets for the matinee. They filled every nook and cranny of the house and made their little hands sore applauding the songs of other juveniles on the stage.

No less enthusiastic was the audience at night, nearly every number on the program being encored. Mr. Roney, however, found it necessary during the rendition of the second number to stop and administer a striking rebuke to the ushers for the noisy manner in which they performed their work. It really seemed as if the employees had entered into an agreement to see how hard they could slam the seats down and create as much disturbance as possible. Moreover, this is a matter of general practice and should be consistently condemned.

The first number on the program was a violin solo by Master Tracy Holbrook. It was that brilliant but exceedingly difficult composition, Wieniawski's Second Polonaise, and it was rendered by the young artist in a manner that at once established him with the audience. The work of young violin virtuosos is more frequently than not a sort of gymnastic exercise and rapid dexterity of manipulation, but not so with this youngster. His playing showed that he was not only a master of the instrument but that he loved it. In the polonaise he exhibited a wonderful technique and fine bowing, and in Schubert's "By the Sea" a sympathy and delicacy of touch no less remarkable. He was recalled time after time and fairly captured the house with the artistic manner in which he played that sweet old song "The Last Rose of Summer." Harold, the contralto, a boy of 14, sang Rodney's "The Soldier's Dream" with fine effect and understanding. His voice was very sweet and even, the lower register being exceptionally good.

Master Harry Cockrell, aged 11, and the baby of the company, brought a smile to the lips and perhaps a little moisture to the eye by his singing. He was such a tiny tid-bit of childhood to have his place upon the concert stage; one felt that he ought to be at home and tucked up in bed. Nevertheless he did his little part in fine style. He warbled in the most remarkable way in a staccato polka by Mulder, his voice running over three octaves with astonishing ease. As an encore he sang a dainty little bit "Love Went Singing."

Then came Master Jamie Crippen, aged 13. Among the child artists there is no doubt that he is the star. With a most winning personality, a voice sweet, pathetic and true in every note, a perfect enunciation, and self-possession without forwardness, he charmed everyone present. He sang that difficult aria from Mignon, "Dost Thou Know That Sweet Land" with a conception not all it contained that was little short of marvelous. In response to the enthusiastic encore he gave the song "When I'm Big I'll Be a Soldier." Blatchford Kavanagh was entirely satisfying. His voice is a baritone of the richest quality and as it matures it will undoubtedly be a remarkable organ. He sings today with the same artistic thoroughness, added to a more mature understanding as characterized his work as a boy when he received \$1,000 a night. He feels what he sings and he makes the audience feel too. His singing of Buck's "Bedouin Love Song" and Cowley's "Forgotten" earned the warm approval of the audience, and in response to repeated demands gave "The Kentucky Home" with much feeling. In addition to the solos there were duets and trios and quartets, all of a class of music which test the vocal powers of matured and cultured singers.

The program in full was as follows:  
Violin Solo "Second Polonaise Brilliant"—Wieniawski.  
Contralto Solo "The Soldier's Dream"—Rodney.  
Song "Staccato Polka"—Mulder.  
Aria "Dost Thou Know That Sweet Land"—Thomas Mignon.  
Trio "In Old Madrid"—Trotter.  
Master's Cockrell, Crippen, Maurer.  
Songs a. "In the Dark, in the Dew," b. "Bedouin Love Song."  
Duet—"The Fishermen"—Gabus.  
Violin Solos—a. "By the Sea"—Schubert. b. "Elfentanz"—Popper.  
Trio "Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Ground."  
Masters Cockrell, Crippen, Maurer.

Duet—"Love On"—Pinsuti.  
Master Crippen and Mr. Kavanagh.  
Trio—"Bright beams the Star of Morn"—Il Guiraineto—Donizetti Masters Cockrell, Crippen and Maurer.  
Song "Forgotten"—Blatchford Kavanagh.  
Grand Final—Waltz, Gloria Alla Belta—Arditi... By the Company.

### DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE.

From the Saturday Evening Post.  
Most of the great things of the world have been done in the face of the cry "impossible." To the minds of his generals Napoleon's plan to cross the Alps was sheer madness. From a conventional standpoint the winning of American freedom was impossible, and so were nearly all the great deeds of history that thrill us most.  
We find it impossible to walk around a park on a rainy night without over shoes, yet many an explorer has waded water and lain out-of-doors for weeks without catching cold. If our eating departs a hair's breadth from the routine we see no hope of escape from dyspepsia and other ills. We were, some of us, incredulous when we heard that a college president had proved his ability to live on fifteen cents a day. Yet Thoreau lived for two years at the rate of twenty-seven cents a week. When General Fremont was crossing the plains it is recorded that his bill of fare for many days was "roast mule, fried mule, deviled mule and mule." Nansen and his lieutenant lived for a whole Arctic winter on bear meat, and had one bath each in half a teacupful of water; yet they came out well in the spring.

All these things were impossibilities according to the usually acceptable standards. Looking at them we learn that so-called impossibilities are not necessarily real ones.

### THE OTHER 1094 MEALS.

From the Saturday Evening Post.  
Several hundred years ago Sir Walter Raleigh made the definition which will always exist. He said: "The difference between a rich man and a poor man is this—the former eats when he pleases and the latter when he can get it." In the natural course of things the poor will be always more or less at the mercy of the rich, and while civilization is doing great things for us, building glorious monuments in art and industry, and increasing almost incredibly the luxuries and conveniences of life, at the same time it is multiplying the poor.

Poverty is always hard, but the most awful type of it is that of which millions are victims—the lot of those who work and get barely enough to keep body and soul together. Most of them get a Christmas dinner, but the other 1094 meals know neither turkey nor dessert. It is the gradual improvement of these that is the problem in the religion and humanity of the day. The safety and the true progress of any nation are not found in the prosperity of the few, but in the soundness and the happiness of the many, and it is hard to be either sound or happy on one good meal a year.

### ARMOUR'S HATRED OF CANT.

The late Philip Armour, above all things else, hated hypocrisy and cant. A writer in the World's Work relates, in this connection, a characteristic anecdote:

On one of his many quiet trips through the poorer parts of Chicago, Mr. Armour came upon a family in great destitution. The husband had broken his leg while at work. The wife was suffering from rheumatism. The six children were without food. Mr. Armour did not stop to inquire what the antecedents of the family were, but that day sent food and money to them.

Soon afterwards a clergyman who knew of the case called on Mr. Armour and told him that he had made a mistake in succoring the hungry ones. "Why so?" asked the merchant, stroking his side whiskers in a meditative manner. "Because," was the minister's reply, "the woman is an irreverent sinner, fallen from grace and society."

"You ——" replied Mr. Armour, "you are a canting bigot unfit to teach the doctrines of Jesus Christ. Get out of this office."

### THE GREATEST IN THE WORLD.

From the Saturday Evening Post.  
Every state has increased in population, and the only city which has apparently lost is the one which added its returns ten years ago and now suffers for its folly.

The United States now has a larger population than any European country except Russia; and the average of our wealth and productive capacity carries us far beyond that kingdom in real greatness. Germany, among European countries, comes next to the United States, but it can show only a population of 52,279,501, or about two-thirds of our total. In area the United States, with its new possessions, is about as large as all Europe. In its wealth it is the richest nation the world has ever known.

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Two white deer were the features of the past deer hunting season in the Adirondacks. Prior to the killing of these no white deer had been killed in New York state for thirty years. Both were pure white bucks, with pink ears and pink eyes.

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