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EVENING BULLETIN.

Monday, November 30, 1868.

THE PANIC AT CONCERT HALL.

During Miss Kellogg's concert at Concert Hall, on Saturday afternoon, a quantity of smoke found its way into the room from the store below, where a fire was being kindled in a stove, the pipe of which was out of order. The cry of conflagration was at once thrown into the wildest confusion, grown men and women behaving like children or idiots, screaming, rushing, and crowding, losing everything but the one proper thing to be done on such occasions, namely, to sit still, to ascertain if there is any danger, and then to move calmly and quietly, which can always be done if people will exercise a little coolness and common-sense. There were men and women in the crowd on Saturday, who behaved as grown people should, and who did much to allay the needless alarm; but a very large number, a majority we believe, lost all presence of mind, and rushed for the doors, crazy with excitement and fright. The attendants, knowing that there was no danger in the Hall, very prudently closed the doors, and so prevented the accidents and probable loss of life that would have resulted from a stampede on the stair-ways. The whole panic was over in a few minutes, the audience subsided, and the concert went on. At its close there was a general restoration of opera-glasses, muffs, fans, handkerchiefs and other valuables which had been thrown away in every direction, for some subtle reason, known only to the weaker sex, and which was possibly from an instinctive impulse that it would afford an opportunity and excuse for replacing them with the very latest styles.

It is ground for much self-congratulation, with a panic-stricken crowd; but now that their fright is over and nobody is hurt, it may not be amiss to call attention to the folly of such proceedings as followed the scare on Saturday afternoon. Concert Hall is by no means the best of our public buildings, in the matter of convenient exits. The stairs reaching to people converge, instead of diverging, as they approach the doors, and the stair-ways, while they are lighted enough and of an easy grade, require four turns before reaching the street. The exit at the north end is not usually available for any sudden emergency, as it opens directly into the private dressing-room, and thence by a narrow stair-way to the hall below. We do not see how any change could be made in the main exits; but the rear of the building could be very easily remodeled, so as to give two broad and straight stair-ways, opening directly on to the back street. This could be done, still leaving space for a convenient dressing-room, and without interfering materially with the value of the stores on the first floor.

But, taking Concert Hall just as it is, it certainly requires no very abstruse reasoning to convince any one that it can be emptied in a very few minutes, if people will keep their wits about them, and, if there is a necessity for it, move directly out, each for himself, not stopping to look for other people or to walk over a weaker person, but pressing forward and opening the way for others by every one getting out of the way, himself and herself. If a fire were really to occur at Concert Hall, it would require much longer for it to get any considerable headway, than it would for the largest audience to leave the building, provided that men and women, instead of indulging in senseless shouting and screamings, will gather themselves up and "stand not upon the order of their going, but go at once." But the very first thing to do on all such occasions is to sit perfectly still,—and we know some very sensible women who did so on Saturday—until it is ascertained whether there is any necessity for leaving the building.

WANTED—AN ORCHESTRA.

Metaphorically, a great many of the professional musicians in this city are engaged in the unprofitable work of amputating their own noses to gratify a foolish spite against their faces. A rivalry has sprung up between various organizations, and there is such mining and countermining, attack and retaliation, that the ultimate result is likely to be the defeat of part of the contestants, and the serious maiming of the others. It is a very singular but well established fact, that professors of harmony are nearly always lovers of discord. In this instance the antagonism of the two or three leading orchestral organizations in this city is one to be lamentable and remarkable, because every consideration of interest—financial as well as professional—appeals to a union, as in the highest degree desirable and necessary. We should like to see a resolution of the discordant elements into harmonious accord, if for no other reason, because it would tend to the advancement of musical science in this city, and to the greater culture of our people. If the orchestral performers in this city, and the various societies and cliques to which they belong, could be induced to lay aside and forget the jealousies, animosities and jiques which they cherish, and combine to form one grand musical association, it would benefit them directly in the pecuniary results of their performances, and indirectly by exciting fresh interest in musical culture among the people.

We need in this city a large and well-drilled orchestra, which shall be capable of giving every description of music in the best manner. Now, we have half a dozen enterprises in progress, in different places, at various times, and only one or two of those can possibly be completely successful. Besides these, there are many musicians who are not identified with any organization, but each of whom fiddles and toots upon his own individual responsibility for his head and butter's sake, whenever opportunity offers. If all these organizations and individuals were consolidated into one powerful association, we should have a superb orchestra, which would win respect for its greatness, and which would be enabled to make its performances so attractive, that the profits would be larger than the aggregate gains of the separate societies and persons. Other cities have such associations, whose position is international, and whose success increases with every year of their existence. We have accomplished musicians enough here to make our society one of the greatest and most proficient in the United States. It would prove advantageous to its members, by preventing rivalry and consequent depreciation of prices among individual players; such a society could dictate its own terms. It would give performers such practice as they could not obtain under any other circumstances, and it would give each man professional imp ortance that the larger number could not possibly attain under any other circumstances. If the association was properly conducted, it would be enabled to collect a musical library that we hardly need, but such as no smaller society could afford to procure at present. Every musician will recognize the immense advantages which would accrue to the profession from the presence of a valuable collection of musical works in this city. The society could give weekly or semi-weekly performances in the Academy of Music, and, under judicious direction, that magnificent building would not crowd upon every occasion. Again, under the dispensation of rival cliques, the musicians are scattered about in various good, bad and indifferent halls, and their loss and season are as variable as the weather. The profits are all on the side of union; the disadvantages and losses remain with separation. When the best interest as well as the demands of art, point in the same direction, it is folly not to heed their warnings, and choose that path.

Some hope has been entertained that the Philharmonic Society, recently organized, would lead the way, and work out this desirable reformation. It has hardly begun its operations yet, and it is too soon to predict it. But it does not do this thing, or attempt to do it, it can be of no possible advantage to anybody; it will only add another to the existing rival organizations. We hope it has in the higher aim; and that under its judicious dispensation,—and if not, then under some other,—we may soon have a huge consolidated orchestral organization in this city.

The Pollard tragedy, in its sequel, has brought out another trait of Southern chivalry that is worthy of notice. At an examination of the case before the Mayor of Richmond, on Saturday, the prisoner, James Grant, was admitted to bail in the sum of $10,000. Edward A. Pollard asked that this action of the magistrate be reversed, on the ground that murder was not a bailable offence. He said he had witnesses to prove that an intermediate party had applied to his brother to suppress the article relating to Grant's wife, and that he had replied that he had no animosity against the Grant family, but the difficulties of the Pollard family, when he should have been involved, had been thoroughly ventilated by the press, and that he had determined, whenever he came in possession of facts of the character of the article in question, to publish them. He, however, said that if Mr. Grant would accept a refusion of the article, it should be published; also, that he would permit his wife to make any alteration in the wished, no matter what it might be. The Mayor did not grant Pollard's request. But he did say, while, before reaching on it, gives Pollard's fate, to bear in mind his declaration, that because the Pollard difficulties about women were discussed by the press, he was determined to publish whatever rumors he heard about other women. His scandalous article about Miss Grant appears to have been false in many particulars; but in pursuance of his resolve about women in general, he published it, and his surviving brother pretends to justify it. This is the latest phase of Southern chivalry, and in view of it there are a good many who will think that Rives Pollard deserved to die as he did.

We do not propose to discuss Judge Brewster's interesting charge to the jury in the Hasbrouck case. It is as remarkable for some of its omissions as it is for some of its positions; the most remarkable of the former being that of a fact within the judicial knowledge of the Court that a commission appointed by his Court last year, consisting of William B. Hanna, commissioner, and six jurors, William B. Kern, Lewis Bhin, William Lyon, Wm. S. Poulson, Samuel P. Hancock and Frank S. Johnson, declared upon oath, "that, at the time of taking this inquisition, Theodezer Haskell is a lunatic, and hath been so since the twenty fifth day of May, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty six. That he does not enjoy lucid intervals, and that at the time of his becoming a lunatic he was not seized or possessed of, or entitled to any real estate, tenements, goods or chattels."

We desire, however, to call attention to, and to commend Judge Brewster's severe but well-merited rebuke of the assaults that have been made upon the worthy and accomplished physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital, both by the absurd testimony that was dragged into the case by one or two witnesses and by others who joined in those most unjust attacks. Judge Brewster very properly says: "I need hardly disclaim any intention of reflecting upon the excellent physicians in charge of the hospital. They are deservedly in high repute here and elsewhere, and they had no part in any of these proceedings."

General Grant's annual report is a model of brevity, and yet it contains, within its one hundred lines, the most important suggestions. He urges, once more, the transfer of the control of the Indian affairs to the War Department; he opposes the idea of reducing the number of troops in service at the West; and he declares that troops are still needed at the South. This last assertion is a practical contradiction of "the other Johnson's" recent declaration that there is no more risk of life and property in Texas than in any Northern State.

We trust that General Grant will maintain his delightful habit of brevity when he becomes President, and give us messages and other public documents of such length as the

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Our Pianos have maintained their high reputation as the best Pianos manufactured in this city, for the past twenty years, by the most experienced workmen, and are pronounced by the finest and most highly-improved instruments made in the country.

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And we hurry to eat
Such a luscious treat,
Fit for a king to devour.
The griddle she's greasin',
The cakes are in season,
The savory odor's a-wafting.
They're crisp and they're brown,
And we swallow them down,
As fast as they come from the kitchen.
Oh! happy are we,
As soon as we see
The smoking hot buckwheat cakes.
Right hot from the fire,
And we truly desire
To eat them as fast as she bakes.

Truly, the cakes constitute an appetizing dish. But what would a man do with a barrel of buckwheat cakes, if he had no clothes? Better have clothes and no cakes, than cakes and no clothes.

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