

HEWITT COSTUME PARTY

One of the Most Novel and Amusing Events of the Year.

CLEVER CHARACTER ACTING

Musical, Artistic, and Historical Char- acters Portrayed by Soci- ety Persons.

One of the most amusing entertainments for many years past in New York was given by the Misses Sarah and Eleanor Hewitt at the residence of their parents, 9 Lexington Avenue, last evening. For three years past an element of New York society, in which the Misses Hewitt are prominent, has found its chief pleasure in the organization and carrying out of clever costume suppers and dances.

The members held entertainments in the studio of James L. Breese, in West Sixteenth Street. They are known as the Carbonites. Another faction calls itself the "One Hundred Club," and gives its entertainments in the studio of Howard Constable in East Sixteenth Street, and a third has held amusing affairs in Mr. Carroll Beckwith's studio in the Sherwood.

The Misses Hewitt devised the scheme of a vegetable and flower party last Winter. Their guests impersonated familiar garden flowers and vegetables. This year the young women hit upon the idea of a travesty on operatic and musical events and incidents of the past season.

They drew for their guests upon the fun-loving Carbonites, and the Constable and Beckwith elements, and so there assembled at the Hewitt mansion last evening 150 men and women, most of whom had entered into the spirit of the affair, and had arrayed themselves in some costume and with such appointments as to carry out the idea that they travestied some musical event or incident, character or work.

The house was decorated. The guests after they had entered the door passed to the rear of the parlors. Through these parlors, extending the whole length of the house, an aisle had been formed by two ropes, behind which on either side the guests, as they arrived and finished their acts, took their stand.

The earliest comers had the best of it, as each guest was supposed to walk down the aisle performing on some instrument, or so acting as to carry out the character assumed until reaching the west end of the parlor, where ex-Mayor and Mrs. Hewitt stood to receive them.

In this way late-comers had to pass through an ordeal, as by 11 o'clock the space behind the ropes was crowded with guests who had already arrived and performed their parts. When all invited and who had accepted had assembled the ropes were removed. Some very clever acting was done, and the audience greeted the performances with shouts of laughter.

The chorus of the Rhine maidens, the Valkyries, and the band of negro minstrels were perhaps the most effective of the groups. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Barlow as the essence of French comic opera, Mr. Barlow as Gen. Boum, Mrs. Barlow as Mme. Angot, and Mr. Clyde Fitch as Siegfried were among the best characters taken.

Mr. Edward Valpy was a Scotch piper, in a very original costume which was most amusing. His kilt was of dark green and blue plaid and his jacket of scarlet with brass buttons, on which were pinned strange devices, among which was a great medal with the legend, "I am hungry."

Under his arm he carried a bagpipe, on which he executed pibrochs. A red wig, a long red beard, and a Glengarry bonnet completed the attire. As Mr. Valpy is very tall, he towered head and shoulders above others in the procession.

"Songs of the Nations," under the leadership of Mrs. Stanford White, were represented by Mrs. White as "Columbia," Mrs. Earl Dodge as "Britannia," Miss Evelyn Sloane as "Scotland," Mrs. Henry P. Loomis as "Poland," Miss Ives as "Italy," Mrs. Charles W. Cooper as "The French Republic," Mrs. George de Forest as "Spain."

Mrs. Edmund Baylies had organized a pavanne, which was danced by young persons, in costume.

Mrs. Stanford White, who impersonated "Hail, Columbia," and whose gown was of red, white and blue, the costume completed by a Liberty cap, looked a striking figure as she led the procession of the countries.

The participants in this procession sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" as they marched down the aisle. The chorus of monks and nuns was the next most interesting feature. The women who impersonated the nuns were Mrs. Henry G. Trevor, Mrs. Frederic Coudert, Jr., Miss Alice Van Rensselaer, Miss Sarah Hewitt, Mrs. Goodhue Livingston, Miss Mamie Field, and the Misses Gurnee.

The dancers in the pavanne arranged by Mrs. Edmund Baylies included among others Mr. Charles Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Hewitt, Mr. Murray Young, Mrs. John E. Cowdin, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Barlow, Mrs. Carroll Beckwith, and Miss Hewitt.

Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" was interpreted in costume by Miss Elsa Bronson in white, trimmed with Spring flowers, and carrying a garland of clover blossoms. Miss Lila Sloane wore a white gown, with a sun hat covered with pink flowers. Miss Morton, whose white gown was trimmed with valley lilies, and others.

Miss Anna Sands represented "Autumn" in an olive gown trimmed with Autumn flowers, and bearing a sheaf of wheat. Mrs. J. Frederic Tams was dressed as a Neapolitan Girl, Miss Bishop impersonated a Turkish Maiden, and Mr. Francis Bishop, accompanied by Miss Mabel Gerry, appeared as "Folly," dressed as a Turk. Mr. Henry Bull was costumed as Louis XV. A group of sailors opened the programme by singing "Nancy Lee."

A band of negro minstrels excited much amusement, especially when they gave a "cake walk." Among the members were Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Conkling, Miss Ives, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Lee Tailer.

The makeup of these men and women was admirable, and now and then they sang familiar "coon" songs. Mrs. Sydney Dillon Ripley was an effective French dancing girl. She wore short skirts, striped with the French national colors, a bolero jacket of black velvet, her coiffure was decorated with a tricolor cap, and she carried a tambourine.

A number of the guests wore Louis XIV. costumes, among them the Misses Morton and Miss Evelyn Burden. The chief characters in Mother Goose were all impersonated. Mr. Victor Sorchan was Tom, the Piper's Son, and carried a stuffed pig under one arm, and Mary with her little lamb. Mistress Mary, Little Bo-Peep, and Old Mother Hubbard were also represented most laughably.

There were many guests not in costume, and in fact those present were divided into actors and audience, about one-third being the former.

After the groups and single characters had performed or sung, supper was served, and informal dancing followed. Music was furnished by a string orchestra.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Oelrichs, Mr. and Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Sorchan, Mr. and Mrs. Prescott Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Godkin, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dana, Miss Breese, Mrs. James Kernochan, Mr. and Mrs. Benton Harrison.

Mr. and Mrs. H. McK. Twombly, Gen. Lloyd Bryce and Mrs. Bryce, Mrs. Burke-Roche, Miss Turnure, the Misses Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Lorillard Ronalds, Miss Clews, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Mrs. De Castro, Miss Godwin, Miss Anna Sands, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Bronson, Col. Jay and Mrs. Jay.

Mr. and Mrs. Suffern Tailer, the Misses Morton and Miss Kernochan, Messrs. Creighton Webb, Charles A. Munn, Robert Gerry, E. Livingston, and Frederic Coudert, Jr.