

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Thrilling melo drama and roaring comedy find more favor than anything else with theatre goers now-a-days, and Mr. Thos. E. Shea is well aware of the fact. He also knows how to make use of the knowledge. This week at the Opera house his plays were all popular, new and old, and the company far above those usually found supporting a star. In some of the plays it was necessary to have more than the star part for Mr. Shea to make his

work receive more recognition than that of others in the company, so well were the plays put on. But he was equal to the occasion, and was the star, first, last and all the time. Mr. Shea is versatile in all the word implies, and to this is due much of his success. In Escaped from Sing Sing, Tangled Up and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, he has ample opportunity and rarely fails to give a surprise. In each play his transitions are made with a different object in view, but whether for funmaking purposes or for strong dramatic effect, the result was equally successful. In Sing Sing, as Dick Fernley. married to an adventuress and last off, imprisoned, his nature changed, his desire for revenge,

his daring acts, the meetings with his wife, his coolness in trying situations, and in the last act his hope of a reconciliation Mr. Shea portrayed every phase of the character with a faithfulness that brought out the heroism for which it was created. Miss Stahl did not do justice to Eliza Sedley, the adventuress. Contrasted with the work of Mr. Shea, it lacked the force necessary for such a part. It was not always easy to believe her an adventuress, even when her words proclaimed her true character, and her outbursts seemed insincere. In Tangled Up, however, Miss become restless, the orchester plays minuet Stahl profited by this fault, and gave a time, and Dixey's legs instantly fly out of the knowledge that there are people who sight and gracefully touch the floor again. obtain a livlihood by watching houses where finished performance.

The comedians of the company caught the popular fancy, and gave the opera house patrons more new songs, all well sung, than have been heard there in one week since the house opened. Most of the plays were of that class which specialties legs are covered like Croton pumps in the viewed a man who was not ashamed to mine and gave me permission to ride over do not interfere with, and these diversions winter time. were as a rule introduced with a regard to time and place that made them enjoyable. For instance, the Bowery scene on Monday evening, was a whole variety show in itself, but it was nothing more than people would expect to see in such a place.

Wednesday evening Mr. Shea and his with. Tangled Up can supply rithere is no time for the audience to think of dignity. Mr. Shea, as the strategist, a young man with nerve enough for all purposes and ability to use it to advantage, is the central figure of the play. His sincerity under all circumstances, melted the most indifferent in the audience; an artistic rendering of the lines and wonderful control of the muscles of the face did the rest. Every member of the company added something to the general funmaking and did it in a way that made buffoonery seem something else.

The summer season, theatrically speaking, is almost over, the sound of the "call" is heard through the land and the Thespians are beginning to gather to put in rehearsal the attractions which are hoped will gather in the shekels during the coming season of 1892-3. This being presidential year the early starting companies will be fewer than usual, as the campaign affords excitement enough and the American citizen as a rule prefers the hurry and bustle of ward meetings, the noise of the brass bands, the flare of torchlight processions and all the "hurrah" incidental to an election for the chief executive to the ordinary every day amusement that the theatre

At the Tremont, Pauline Hall, with her opera Puritania, has been in possession ever since the close of the last season and will remain so until the curtain rings up on the next. Puritania is a very well written work, both as regards the music and the libretto, and should outlast many of the comic operas which have been heard of late years.

Here in Boston we have had a summer season at two theatres, the Museum and the Tremont. At the former for the last five weeks has been played a very bright little comedy called, By Proxy, and it will run for two weeks longer, to be followed by Roland Reed in a new piece, and the regular season of this house will open September 5 with Henderson's new play, Agatha, taken from his novel Agatha Page. The play made an immense success in London and was secured by Manager Field for American representation. The Museum company is almost a new one, and it is to be hoped that it will have the effect of drawing better business to the house than was the case with the old company.

The Boston theatre started off on its 38th season last Monday with Cleveland's minstrels, and Cyrene the famous high kicker. Monday next Richard Golden appears with Old Jed Prouty. Following him comes the new play Across the Potomac in the original cast of which our old friend minstrels will also appear at this house.

in a new play.

Thatcher's minstrels, and next Monday the Globe shows burnt cork in the shape of Gorman's minstrels, to be followed by the new musical bit The Isle of Champagne.

The Tremont will begin the regular season on September 5th with the Manola-Mason company, and they will do good business here as Jack Mason is a strong favorite and Annie Clarke, late of the Museum, is a member of the company. Some way I feel as if this combination though are not to be among the winners during the coming season.

The Columbia talls in line on the usual 5th of September with a new piece called the Right Wing to be produced by the Frohman Boston stock company.

Among the items of interest in the dramatic world is one that will please many, and that is the announcement of Lotta's return to the stage. I hear also that Louis Aldrich and McKee Rankine will appear in a new piece called the Ken-PROSCENIUM.

If you ask anybody whether he has seen Henry E. Dixey in Adonis in "Seven Ages, or in his latest success, Lorenzo in The Mascot at Palmer's Theater, the inevitable comment will be, "Hasn't he beautiful legs!" says a New York paper. No two agree. In The Mascot, in the first act, the its branches. Coffins up to date." legs are aristocratic and cultured, but dignified withal, like a Spanish grandee's. Dixey glides over space, and the left leg follows the right in stately rhythm. But become defiant legs. Now he pleads with the mascot and they're suppliant limbs. But now Lorenzo crosses them, and they seem as caressing as ivy plants. Then they Dixey's jumping hurdles. He gyrates, he pirouettes, he jumps, swaying his body and swinging his arms, and those legs preserve their rhythm. In two bounds he clears the stage, and his legs gracefully bend, and that's why his jumps have the elasticity of

As he soulfully plays the baritone they hold your breath for tear that they'll be- by a-watching of 'em. come tangled in a knot and the curtain rather than of faces, he could detect his

The Empress Elizabeth and her daughter, the Archduchess Valerie, were once among the most assiduous patronesses of the Burg Theater in Vienna, both the royal ladies being great admirers of Frau Wolter and Frau Schrath, two of the best actresses in Europe. Having one day made up their minds to visit both ladies at their summer residences in the glorious Salzkammergut, the Empress and her daughter privately started off from Ischi. They had no escort and were dressed as quietly-not to say as dowdily-as any of the small tradesmen's wives and daughters of Vienna, and in due course they reached the chateau of Fraeunstein, which is situated on the banks of the Wolfgangsee. This is the abode of Frau Schratch, who had been presented to the Empress during the previous winter in the studio of the well known artist Angeli, who has painted several pictures of Queen Victoria and who, at the time of the presentation of the favorite actress to her sovereign, was engaged in transferring her lineaments to canvass—an operation which the Empress watched for a couple of hours with the greatest interest.

Well, the Empress immediately plunged into an animated conversation upon theatrical subjects, displaying an intimate acquaintance with what went on behind the scenes of the playhouses, and questioning Frau Schrath upon all kinds of stage

But the hour grew late, and there was still Frau Wolter to be visited, and she lived at Weissenbach, on the banks of the Albersee. So the "good-byes" had been said and the imperial ladies had got outside the door, when the Empress turned back and smilingly asked Frau Schrath: "How much is it from here to Strobl?

"Fifty kreutzers each, Majesty." "Well, then, Frau Schrath, I am under

the necessity of asking you to be so kind as to lend me a florin, for I've forgotten to bring by purse with me!" The money was duly produced, and the imperial lady finally departed, remarking as she tripped gaily off, "Don't forget I owe you a

A still greater surprise was in store for Frau Schrath, for on the following day who should make his appearance at Frauenstein but Kaiser Franz Josef himself, who after a short chat with the fascinating actress, produced from his purse a florin, which he handed to his consort's entertainer of the previous day, with the observation, "One should always pay one's debts, you know!" The florin is now a brooch and is worn by the fair actress with much honest pride.

### Mr. Kelly's Unique Offer.

Mr. Michael Kelly of St. Martins, has moved to St. John and opened a grocery Jack Bunny had a place. Dockstader's store on the corner of Broad and Carmar- in front of us, especially in cases of unthen streets. Mr. Kelly is one of the best | natural deaths, of which they gets first Bowdin Square Theatre will open on known men in St. John county. His suc- information. It's well known as the first at the August 29th with Bob Taylor the Irish cess in St. Martins as a country merchant, office gets the fee, and men out of work comedian, and the Park will open its doors | and his remarkable facility for mental cal- | and others often beat us in a race, for they in the same date presenting Helen Barry culation have surprised everyone who is don't reckon as 'ow we 'as to make a living The Hollis Street runs up its curtain on unique offer in this issue of Progress boss some valuable hints. I always said September 5th to the opening overture of which should be read by every one.

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#### UNDERTAKERS' TOUTS.

#### Men who Make a Living by Waiting for London People to Die.

It is well known that for some years amongst a certain class of tradesmen a practice has obtained of canvassing for undertaking business. Nothing can be said of the harmless method of advertising their addresses which some undertakers adopt; a method generally less jocular than that of undertaker whose announcement, "Why live in misery? We will undertake to inter you on most moderate cash terms." the writer a short time ago came across in the North. This was to the point, and seemed an incentive to self-murder.

But the era of "new journalism" can have produced nothing more refreshing than the production of another undertaker who, during the time of an epidemic, circulated handbills throughout his district, bearing these worcs: "The burying season is now on. Don't forget to give your old men's descriptions of Dixey's nether limbs | friend a call. Funerals undertaken in all

These specimens of the business energy of the undertaker can only amuse, but the practice of those who enter a house immediately after Death has announced his su-Lorenzo gets excited, and at once they premacy, and, whilst the inmates are convulsed with grief, calmly presents his busi- money it he didn't make a nice bit out of ness card, cannot be too heartily condemned.

Yet, amongst a section, the custom exists without a doubt. To those unpossessed of death is hovering around, it has seemed strange that the undertaker should so soon

the rubber ball. In the last act Lorenzo's details of the business, the writer inter- The master mechanic was an old friend of business of an undertaker's totu. "You express. The engineer did not appear to become the contortionist's legs. They wind around the instrument so that you as 'ow I make people pop off any sooner civilly. We were behind time, the night

"We mostly gets paid by results, but will have to be rung down. And when I'm on the staff, and gets ten bob a week Lorenzo wants to throw dice for the drinks outside commission. We gets 2s. 6d. for the aristocracy of his limbs looks through news of a death; an' if the boss gets a jolly company furnished more fun than the bag covering, and you feel that if his good order when he goes to the house the large audience knew what to do old friend Matheo were a student of legs, we're in for a little more. We has to keep an eye on houses where people is dangerdiculous situations so rapidly that master by his limbs. Yes, when the obser- ously ill, an' directly we sees the blinds vant theatergoer has watched Dixey in go down, away we goes to the office, and The Mascot he's a graduate in leg culture. | the boss or 'is manager tries to get the order for the funeral.

"Of course we 'as to be quick, for other undertaking houses have their touts out, an' I've known cases where two, an' once more undertakers have met on the doorstep of the house. It wouldn't do for 'em all to go in together, so what does they do? Well, sometimes they take turns—that is, one should go, an', if he got the order, when they had a similar case the other would go in; but more generally they goes to the nearest pub. 'as a drink, an' tosses up for first chance. That's fair.

"Ow does we get our information about the condition of folks who are ill? Well, there's several ways. I always keeps triends to the doctor's coachmen, and they the first stop I clambered back into the tell me where the doctor calls oftenest. coach and stayed there."--St. Louis Pa-That is the first step. Then goes in the per. street, and I can generally find some gossips who knows everything about every-body else's business. I cultivates these tolks' acquaintances, and when I learns that matters are getting critical with the sick person I hangs about the house till I

'I'm known in some districts, an' I know some folks as would as soon 'ave a said the servant maid, "is master's library, dog howling, an' they say that's a sure sign of death, as me hanging about. I was liked the sights of a London walk, and was watching a house in just such a district as that once, when a young fellow came up to me, and asked me if I thought the man would last long. 'Not long,' says I, in-nocent like. 'I've been watching for ever so long.' 'You have, eh?' says he; and without any more words he dragged me round a corner, and kicked me, oh, for

"I was hoaxed once. The folks had planned the job nicely. I was told as a man was a-lying dangerously ill at a certain house, an' I watched as usual. Well, blinds were drawn, and I went and told my boss. He went to the house, but the first person he saw when the door was opened was the man we thought was dead, who got hold of him by the coat collar, and remarking as 'ow he'd teach him for placing a man to watch his house,' gave the boss one of the best thrashings he'd had in his life. The boss said he wouldn't have cared much if nearly all the folks in the street hadn't turned out to see the fun; the matter seemed to have been properly arranged. I'd a warm time of it I can tell you, and I'd to be very careful in my information for

"Sometimes the boss, when he knows a person's dead, goes to the house and claims to have had an acquaintance with the deceased. Then, having struck a note of sympathy, he can lead to the business, gently dropping a hint as to 'ow he would be deeply obliged if the interment arrangements were left in his hands. This often

## The "QUADRANT" as a Roadster



May be estimated by the following items, which have come casually under our notice in the newspapers. No doubt a very large number of similar cases would be forthcoming if we sought for them. The following gives the results of the 100 miles Road Race at Philadelphia, 1891:-

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for when I last heard of 'im he was living in a common lodging-house at Liverpoolthrough drink, folks said it was, but I don't

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If the business is as contemptible as you says, sir, tolks can soon put a stop to it themselves by not giving orders to them as canvasses. I know the boss wouldn't pay the information. Good-day, sir."—English

#### Perilous Riding on the Iron Horse.

"Did you ever ride on a locomotive?" asked O. G. Haskins. "I tried it once and have no desire to repeat the experiment. It was out in Colorado, where you present himself after a sad event. When sometimes run so close to bottomless investigation is made the strangeness chasms that you could drop your hat into them, and make turns so short and sudden With the object of ascertaining the that it nearly disjoints your spinal vertebrae. confess that he followed the despicable the road on the engine of the lightning was black as Erebus, and a terrific thunder storm was raging. The engineer was determined to go in on time, and the way he rushed around those curves and across canons was enough to make a man's hair

"The peculiar thing about those mountain engines is that they do not take a curve like any other vehicle. They go plunging straight ahead until you feel sure that they are clear of the track and suspended in mid air, and then shoot around and leave you to wonder by what miracle you have been saved. The trucks take the curve in the orthodox manner, but the superstructure is so arranged that it consumes more time in making the turn. With the lightning playing about the mountain peaks and half disclosing the frightful gorges and swollen torrents, the great iron leviathan swaying and plunging along that slippery, serpentine track, I first realized the perils of railway travel and the responsibility of the sullen man who kept his hand on the throttle and his eye on the track. I stood with my heart in my throat, admiring his nerve, but not envying him his job. At

#### Great Pedestrians.

Wordsworth, Dickens and Longfellow were immense pedestrians. Wordsworth did the major part of his writing in the open air; a visitor who called to see the poet's study was show a small room, the home of a few tattered books. "This," but his study is out of doors." Dickens also fond of a tramp on the sea downs. Carlyle invariably covered several miles before beginning work, and enjoyed riding inside an omnibus, while Victor Hugo preferred the outside No weather could detain Buckle from his fitteen minutes' constitutional before breakfast, and Macaulay was likewise a great walker, always accompanied, however, by a volume of some sort.

#### Women of Sense.

This age has probably produced more vigorous minded and what is known as thinking women, than any other age in the world's history. This will in a measure account for the unprecedently large sale of the Rigby porous waterproof cloth for Ladies' cloaks and wraps.

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My work has always given excellent satisfaction.

culation have surprised everyone who is acquainted with the fact of his unfortunate infirmity, total blindness. He makes a unique offer in this issue of Progress which should be read by every one.

And others offen text as in a face, for they don't reckon as 'ow we'as to make a living at the business. I know a doctor, too, who used to make a nice bit by giving the boss some valuable hints. I always said that doctor were no good, an' I was right,

And work has always given excellent satisfaction.

For quality of work done by me I would refer the enquirer to Mr. Herbert C. Creed, or Mr. John Brittain, both of Normal School, Fredericton, N. B.

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