### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Shea opened in the Opera House, Monday evening, to a good house in his popular play, "Escaped from Sing Sing." He met with a good reception, which would no doubt have continued through the week had his engagement not been closed by the news that his brother was at the point of death. Shea took the evening train Monday, and the death of his brother a day or two later, cancelled his engagement for this city. I understand that he will appear later in the season.

This is apparently the dull season in the provinces as well as in the States I do not think there is a company on the road in this section, unless the "Crust of Society," working homeward. Even Mr. Ashton has left us, the daily press says, after quite a long visit.

One of the good stories in connection with Mr. Haystead's maritime tour that escaped publication was the closure placed roon him by a Halifax hotel which he and sie patronized quite liberally during their past and present tours. When the company got into difficulty the hotel sent Mr. Haystead his bill, amounting to some twenty odd dollars and unmindful of the fact that he had left them many hundreds and always squared his account with them requested "spot cash," before dinner. Haystead had a heavy roll tucked away somewhere and he lost no time in squaring his account and getting out forthwith, to the surprise and chagrin of the proprietors.

A niece of Ellen Terry, who was trained by her aunt, has just made her debut in

Mme. Modjeska carries in "Henry VIII." a handkerchief which is said to have been the property of Queen Isabella. The handkerchief is one of the rarest pieces of old Spanish lace in existence.

One lady suggests apropos of the big theatre hat that women will cease to wear it when men leave off going out between the acts. There's a chance for a needed reformation in two directions.

The oldest actor in England is believed to be Mr. James Doel, 90 years old, who played First Gravedigger to Edmund Kean's Hamlet, and has played with Mac- is the last you possess, and there is no ready, Sheridan, Knowles, Buckstone, Miss | chance of getting another. Cushman, Miss Fanny Kemble and Mrs. Keeley.

Octavia Allen, an old time actress, died last week at her summer home in Fort Lee, N. J. Some years ago she was a personator of old women roles in the support of Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Edmund Keene, and other tragedians. Walter Allen of "The Isle of Champagne" company, and Harry Allen, manager of the Academy of Music in Washington, her sons, survive her.

was an actor before he became playwright; as that one I did not smoke." Mr. H. A. Jones pegan as a commercial traveller; Mr. R. C. Carton, son of the famous oculist, Mr. Critchett, has been an actor.

One of the marked changes in opinion during the last few years is shown by the notices of Mr. Booth given in the religious papers of the country: There was once a tae in time within the memory of quite young be sword. newspaper readers when no religious paper, whatever the opinions of its editor, would self; the hadmission have dared to devote an editorial to the sir," said the showman. consideration of an actor's life and death. His profession would have blotted out all his virtues to such a class of readers. One of the warmest tributes to Booth's memory was given by a leading evangelical paper and it has done more than many sermons to prove that a man may be valued for what he is, and that the man's character is the thing. Truly the world does

### Tones and Undertones.

Paderewski has left Paris and has gone to his native Poland tor the rest and recreation. He will be in London early in October, bringing his heir with him.

Miss Florence Nightingale has just celebrated her seventy-third birthday. Altoough for many years confined to her house by coustant ill-health, she is ceasely at work for the welfare of her fellow crea-

Dr. Hans von Bulow has no admiration or even toleration for the prevailing style of light opera. He says the composers may be divided into two classes—those who plagiarize from the hand organs and those

Though it is a curious fact that several eminent musicians, as for instance Handel, Hayden, Cherubin, Verdi, Rossini and Spohr, passed the three score years and ten by considerable space, the average professional musician only reaches 40 years, while doctors lawyers and clergymen average 60.

Messrs. Carl and Theodor Rosenfeld have arranged to bring to America the Royal Bohemian National Opera company for a twenty weeks' tour next season. The contract was signed by Theodor Rosenfeld n Prague last week. There are one hundred and eighty members of the company. The season will begin in October with an eight weeks engagement in New York. The company will produce but one opera, "Prodana Nevesta" (The Sold Bride), by Friedrich Smetana, a Bohemian composer. After the New York season the opera will be given in Boston, Chicago and some oth-

er cities. Mr. Arthur Lloyd, who, with his company, sails from London, August 2, will open his first American tour the latter part of that month. Mr. Lloyd has, through the medium of his popular comic songs. a world-wide reputation, and his appearance in this couniry in his own funny and successful musical comedy, "Our Party," in which many of his newest compositions will be heard, is sure to be a successful one. Mr. Henry Irving, on hearing of Mr. real business office. Lessons in Rapid Llyod's coming American tour, writes: "I writing and Simple shorthand by mail. sincerely hope your tour in America will be | Snell's Business College, - - Truro, N. S.

thoroughly successful, and I am the more sanguine of this, as I know by long experience that your talents have only to be understood to be widely and deservedly appreciated.

Madame Adelina Patti made her last appearance in London this season on July Madame Patti will not sing again in London until after her return next May from the farewell tour which she is about to make in the United States and Canada. On this tour she is to sing at forty concerts, for which it is said, she is to receive the of \$200,000 During her American tour, Madame patti contemplates appear-ing in a new opera which is being composed expressly for her by Signor Pizzi, The work is to be entitled "Gabrielle," aud the libretto has been written by Charles A. Byrne.

IT SUGGESTED LIFE INSURANCE.

The Doctrine of Probabilities Evolved by a Game of Cards. A game of cards suggested the idea of

lite assurance. More than two hundred years ago a Flemish nobleman attempted to divide equitably the money staked upon an inter-

rupted game of chance. He was assisted in the task by a Jesuit priest, one of the most accomplished math-

ematicians of any age.

Pascal solved the problem, and in doing so enunciated the "doctrine of probabilities," or laws governing insurance of all select any ten of the books in the list and kinds.

The theory is illustrated by the throwing of dice. When a single die is thrown the chance of turning up an ace is precisely one out of six, or one out of the total num- | the books, free. ber of sides or faces. In a larger number of throws the chances are in the same pro-

From this Pascal laid down the proposition that results which have happened in any given number of observed cases will again happen in similar circumstances. provided the numbers be sufficient for the proper working of the law of average. The life of a single individual is one of the greatest uncertainties, but the duration, or rate of mortality, of a large number of | Sir Samuel Baker. individuals may be predicted with ....

curacy by comparison with the observed results among a sufficiently large number of persons of similar ages, occupations, and climatic influences.

### Bismarck's Last Cigar.

"The value of a good cigar," said Bismarck, as he proceeded to light an excellent Havana, "is best understood when it

"At Koniggratz I only had one cigar Clarence M. Boutelle left in my pocket. which I carefully guarded during the whole of the battle as a miser Miss M. E. Braddon. does his treasure. I did not feel justified in using it. I painted in glowing colors in my mind the happy hour when I should enjoy it after the victory. But I had miscalculated my chances."

"And what was the cause of your miscalculation?"

"A poor dragoon. He lay helpless, with both arms crushed, murmuring for something to refresh him. I felt in my pockets Mr. Sydney Grundy is the only living and found I had only gold, and that would dramatist who seriously embarked in play- be of no use to him. But, stay-I had writing as a profession; Mr. G. R. Sims still my treasured cigar! I lighted this for was first a journalist and remains one; Mr. him, and placed it between his teeth. You Henry Pettit started life as a schoolmaster; should have seen the poor tellow's grateful Mr. Pinero was brought up to the law, and smile! I never enjoyed a cigar so much

### Couldn't Teach him Spelling.

A showman had an announcement stat-"Come and see the greatest sawed

A learned gentleman read it, and informed the showman that he had made a misin the word sawed;" that it ought to J. Maclaren Cobban.

"Yer'd better come in an' see fer yerself; the hadmission is only tuppence,

So the learned gentleman paid his "tuppence," went in, and was shown a large codfish sawn in halt. Yer ain't the fust gentleman wot has

tried to teach me 'ow to spell; but I tell yer I've 'ad a good eddication, an' I'm runnin' this show jist to prove to people I 'ave ," grinned the showman. The learned gentleman left, deeply in-

ignant with the world in general, and the showman in particular.

### The Place of Danger.

·How did this happen?" asked the surgeon, as he dressed the the wound, in the cheek and applied a soothing poultice to the damaged eye. "Got hit with a stone." replied the pat-

"Who threw it ?" "My-my wife," was the reluctant

answer. "Hum-It's the first time I ever knew a woman to hit anything she aimed at,"

muttered the surgeon. "She was throwing at the hens next door," explained the sufferer. "I was B. L. Farjeon

It is to Dr. Von Bulow that is debited the curt criticism of a young and very pretty girl's effort on the piano. When she had struggled through one of Bach's fugues after the fashion of the ambitious maiden aspirant, and asked the great master what he would advise her to do. "Go and get married," he answered, as he turned away and lett her.

It is only a poor sort of happiness that could ever come by caring very much about our own narrow pleasures. We so In the Heart of the can only have the highest happiness, such Major Arthur Griffith. as goes along with true greatness, by hav-ing wide thoughts and much teeling for the rest of the world as well as ourselves.— George Eliot.

One of the most distinguished medical practitioners used to say that he considered a fee so necessary to give weight to an opinion, that when he looked at his own 104 Her Only Brother. ongue in the glass, he slipped a guinea F. W. Hume. from one pocket into the other.

### "Progress" in Boston.

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Frank Barrett.

123 Kit Wyndham. J. M. Barrie. 161 Better Dead.164 When a Man's Single.165 Auld Licht Idylls.

Walter Besant. 47 Armorel of Lyonnesse. 72 The Demoniac. 86 St. Katharine's by the Tower.

William Black. 77 Stand Fast, Craig Royston! 134 Sabina Zembra.

143 The Man Outside. 91 The World, The Flesh, and The Devil. 95 Whose was the Hand?

Charlotte Bronte. 128 Jane Eyre. Rhoda Broughton.

68 Alas ! Robert Buchanan. 110 The Heir of Linne. Mrs. H. Lovett-Cameron.

25 A Lost Wife. Lady Colin Campbell. 4 Darell Blake. Rosa Nouchette Carey. 19 The Search for Basil Lyndhurst.

26 Merle's Crusade. 62 Lover or Friend? 88 Mary St. John. 109 Not Like Other Girls. 154 Wooed and Married. 155 Wee Wifie. 160 Heriot's Choice.

162 Averii. 163 Our Bessie. Bertha M. Clay (Charlotte M. Brazn.e).

13 Dora Thorne. 57 Weaker than a Woman. 59 A Woman's War. 82 Wife in Name Only. 132 The Duke's Secret.

34 Master of His Fate. Wilkie Collins. 33 Blind Love. 93 Miss or Mrs.? 116 The Legacy of Cain. 136 The Evil Genius.

M. J. Colquhoun. 6 Every Inch a Soldier.

Hugh Conway. 124 Living or Dead?

Marie Corelli. 73 Wormwood Oswald Crawfurd.

30 Sylvia Arden. B. M. Croker.

69 Two Masters. A. Conan Doyle. 92 The White Company F. Du Boisgobey.

147 Fight for a Fortune. 151 A Mystery Still. 'The Duchess." 22 A Troublesome Girl.

40 April's Lady. 85 A Little Irish Girl. 90 A Little Rebel.

92 The Duchess. 113 A Modern Circe.

Sara J. Duncan. 84 An American Girl in London. Alex. Dumas, Jr. 10 Camille.

Mrs. Ewing. 115 A Flat Iron for a Farthing. 114 The Peril of Richard Pardon. G Manville. Fenn.

101 The Mynn's Mystery, Jessie Fothergill. 37 A March in the Ranks. 43 The First Violin. 81 Kith and Kin.

Mrs. Alexander Fraser. 2 Daughters of Belgravia. Lady G. Fullerton. 103 Ellen Middleton.

Charles Gibbon. 9 A Dead Heart. 120 Was Ever Woman in this Humor Wooed? Maxwell Gray. 82 In the Heart of the Storm.

139 The Wrong Road. Thomas Hardy 108 The Mayor of Casterbridge. Joseph Hatton.

49 By Order of the Czar. 145 The Abbey Murder. Nathaniel Hawthorne.

159 Scarlet Letter.

150 Mystery of a Hansom Cab. 158 Man that Vanished. Jerome K. Jerome. 54 Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow. 61 Three Men in a Boat. E. K. Johnson.

5 Matron or Maid. Rudyard Kipling. 46 Plain Tales from the Hills. 52 Soldiers Three. 56 Phanton 'Rickshaw. 78 The Light that Failed.

152 Tangles Unravelled.

Mrs. Edward Kennard.

ST. JOHN, N. B. Edna Lyall.

15 Knight Errant.
10 Donovan.
20 We Two.
21 Won by Waiting.
23 In the Golden Days.
24 Derrick Vaughan.
126 A Hardy Norseman. Justin McCarthy. 28 Roland Oliver.

> Hugh McColl. 3 Mr. Stranger's Sealed Packet. Frank Merryfield. 140 Molly's Story.

David Christie Murray. 137 Old Blazer's Hero. 153 One Traveller Returns. W. E. Norris. 45 The Baffled Conspirators. 74 Marcia. 119 Chris.

Georges Ohnet. 1 The Rival Actresses 7 Prince Serge Panine. 133 Dr. Rameau. " Ouida.

35 Syrlin. 36 Guideroy. 65 Ruffino. James Payn. 44 The Burnt Million's

F. C. Philips. 29 Young Mr. Ainslie's Courtship. 42 A Daughter's Sacrifice. 58 Margaret Byng. 99 Strange Adventures of Lucy Smith.

102 Jack and Three Jills. 105 The Dean and His Daughter. 106 Social Vicissitudes F. W. Robinson.

60 The Keeper of the Keys. W. Clark Russell. 89 My Danish Sweetheart. Olive Schreinet.

80 Dreams. Adeline Sergeant.
67 The Great Mill Street Mystery. Anna Sewell.

48 Black Beauty. G. R. Sims: 141 Mary Jane's Memoirs. Hawley Smart. 135 Saddle and Sabre.

Robert Stevenson. 111 The Merry Men. 129 The Master of Ballantrae.

Tasma. 100 A Sydney Sovereign 122 In Her Earliest Youth Annie Thomas
98 The Kilburns.
107 Love's a Tyrant.

Count Lyof Tolstoi.
71 Work While Ye Have the Light. Sophie Veiteh. 121 The Dean's Daughter.

138 Texar's Revenge. Mrs. Walford 11 A Mere Child. Florence Warden. 112 A Witch of the Hills. 131 Scheherazade.

Jules Verne.

Beatrice Whitby.
94 A Matter of Skill. 144 Awakening of Mary Fenwick. Oscar Wilde.
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