

Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

This department acknowledges with pleasure the receipt of a copy of No. 786 of The Parish Choir, a pamphlet devoted to church music and issued weekly in Boston, Mass. It is naturally cosmopolitan in character and the limit of nationality does not apply where cleverness and real merit are involved. This reference to the Parish Choir at this time is because No. 786 contains a "Magnificat" in C. and a "Nunc Dimittis" the author of both being Prof. Athos, organist of the Mission church in this city. These compositions are characterized with the true spirit of the words for which they were written, the music presents no particular difficulty and the harmony is so excellent, that every church choir should have both these works in their libraries.

The supply of music in the city this week was to say the least most liberal. No political reference is intended in the use of that word. The sounds of Jubilee that were heard here might be regarded as an echo of the songs of gladness and thanksgiving that arose from all other parts of the great British Empire simultaneously, in honoring the Diamond Jubilee of Victoria, Queen, Mother, and Empress. The spontaneity of the rejoicing was music in itself. The chord was struck alike in the breasts of the lowly and the exalted and the response was instantaneous. "God save the Queen" was sung on Tuesday last with a true heart interest, and as a prayer, were the words uttered "Long to reign over us, God save the Queen."

Tones and Undertones.

The Promenade Concerts in Music Hall Boston still continue to retain their popularity—Last Tuesday was "Harvard Night."

The big organ in Music Hall Boston originally cost \$60,000 and was recently purchased by E. F. Searles for \$5,000.

Marshal Pike one of the founders of minstrelsy and the composer of "Home Again" is still living at the age of 80 years. William Wolff whose immense bass voice has often been heard in Comic Opera in this City was married a short time ago to a lady who was a nonprofessional.

M. Placide Flammario, a member of the Boston symphony orchestra, recently received much credit for his singing of "Dio Possente" from Gounod's "Faust" Sig. Flammario is of Italian birth and came to the United States at an early age. He was concert master of the Boston Ideal at the age of 17 years, being then an accomplished violinist. He studied singing under his friend Campanari the baritone.

When the estate of the late Sir Augustus Harris was provisionally probated it was valued at \$100,000 but as the realization progresses it is believed the next probate will indicate the estate to be worth \$500,000.

It is feared that the financial success of the Bayreuth festival this season will be seriously affected by the mourning among the French aristocracy, because of the disaster at the charity bazaar in Paris. Nearly all the bookings made by French families have been cancelled.

Marie Brema, the prima donna, has made a decided hit at Covent Garden. In all the roles she has sung viz., Amneris, Ortrude and the mother in "L'Attaque au Moulin," she has received the heartiest of applause.

Mesdames Melba and Calve sang at Covent Garden during the Jubilee festivities in London, but it is much doubted that "L'Attaque" is one of the operas in which the latter was heard.

Chopin's memory is about being honored in Paris by the placing of a tablet on the house in the place Vendome, where the musician died in 1849. His body lies in Pere-la-chaise.

Mascagni hopes to have his new Japanese opera "Iris" finished in time for its production by Ricordi in Rome before the end of the year.

Prof. Villiers Stanford has undertaken the music of a new ballet on the subject of "Pocahontas" which is intended for production in the United States.

So successful has been the season of Mascagni's opera "Zanetto" at the theatre Politeama in Ancona that a complimentary marble tablet has been wallled into the theatre.

A monument to the great musician Robert Schumann will shortly be erected in Leipzig. A wealthy lady amateur of that city, whose name is withheld, gave the order for the work.

Miss Leonora Jackson, a young violinist

from the United States, recently made a success at a festival in Cothen, Germany, and was engaged for concerts to be given in Dessau, next winter.

Miss Rose Ettinger, a short time ago, made a very unsuccessful appearance in Berlin and is now spoken of as "the coming singer."

The first comic opera of the Covent Garden season is "Inez Mendo" with Madame Frances Saville singing the leading role. It is the work of the banker composer Baron Erlanger. Miss Margaret Reid and Jane de Vigne are also engaged in it.

A good story is told about the last Mottl rehearsal in London, when the distinguished conductor, whose politeness is proverbial astounded an unfortunate English performer by shouting at him "Ass." It appeared however, that Herr Mottl merely wanted him to play A flat—in German "As."

D. A. Bonta is said to have purchased all the American and foreign rights to the comic opera "Wang" for \$2,000.

The comic opera "Captain Cook" is now in active rehearsal for production at Madison Square Garden, New York on the 7th July next. Helen Bertram will be the prima donna and there will be a chorus of one hundred voices.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Miss Ethel Tucker, supported by H. P. Meldon and company close their engagement at the Opera house this evening. The business done has been remarkably good despite the disadvantage they were placed at by the general and extensive preparations for the queen's jubilee that have been occupying the attention of all for the past fortnight. Miss Tucker is undoubtedly an emotional actress of a high order of talent and as she is a student as well, her interpretations may be relied upon as correct in every particular. Every one who has seen this lady's work readily endorses this expression. She is already well established as a dramatic favorite in this city. Mr. Meldon also is popular, and spares no effort to please and entertain his patrons. He is a hard worker and deserves all the recognition that industry and energy merits. Mr. Dennithorne has done some excellent work during the week, especially in "The Queen's Money" which was given by request on Wednesday. Miss Russell's work emphasized the favorable opinion formed of her performances of last week. Miss Belle Vivian, the soubrette, is one of the most industrious and painstaking members of the company and always receives an enthusiastic encore for her topical songs and other specialties, among which is a very charming serpentine dance. Of Mr. Brennan as a comedian it is unnecessary to speak, every one knows both his powers and his popularity. The little Vavene, every lady's "pet," is truly a remarkably clever child. She gives many difficult dances with perfect ease, and her skirt and tambourine dances are very pretty. The company will be always accorded a welcome in this city.

W. S. Harkins begins a return engagement at the Opera House next Monday evening the bill for the evening being "Shall we forgive her." This play was done when the company first appeared here this summer, and was one of the best plays presented. The company will remain all next week. I notice the prices of admission for the engagement have been reduced.

Juliet Cordon, once a member of the Bostonians, will return to the stage next season and will probably be seen in "The Highwayman," at the Broadway theatre, N. Y.

The American right to "Chaud d'habits" a work by Catulle Mendes, have been purchased by Richard Mansfield. Mr. Beerbohm Tree produced this piece at his new theatre some weeks since but unsuccessfully.

Andrew Mack is to produce early next January a new comedy upon which John J. McNally is now at work. Another new play which Ramsay Morris has written for him will receive its initial in Chicago, next September.

Miss Ada Rehan and the members of Augustin Daly's company as previously mentioned intimated are to give an open air performance of Shakespeare's "As you like it" at Stratford-on-Avon on the 26th of August next. The performance will be in aid of the Shakespeare memorial.

Jack Mason and his wife Marian Manola have effected an amicable separation,

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for business and other reasons. Jack has gone to his farm in Michigan and his wife seeks restoration to health in a New York institution.

McKee Rinkin is another who has left the ranks of the legitimate to enter the vaudeville circles. The medium of his appearance in his new field will be the presentation of a charming sketch entitled "The Counsel for the defence." Nance Oldfield, who is one of the most talented soubrettes on the stage will support him.

Isabelle Evesson and Estelle Clayton, who are to be Joint stars in "A Puritan Romance" next season, are sisters despite the difference in their names.

Victory Bateman who was known as one of the pretty girls of the stage, has recently been divorced from her husband on the ground of desertion. The ex-husband's name is Wilfred Clarke. The court permitted the wife to adopt her old name.

Madame Modjeska is playing again having recovered the use of her arm, of which she was deprived when taken ill last year.

"The Cherry Pickers" will be put on for a run at the Boston theatre early next season and Gattie Daves (Mrs. D. Moore) will be the soubrette of the company.

Emma Ivins, a prominent society woman of Philadelphia and who is a recent recruit to the stage under the name Virginia Surt, has secured a divorce from her husband Dr. Ivins.

Robert Mantell will open his next season in Philadelphia on 7th, September next. He will produce a new play entitled "A Royal Warrant."

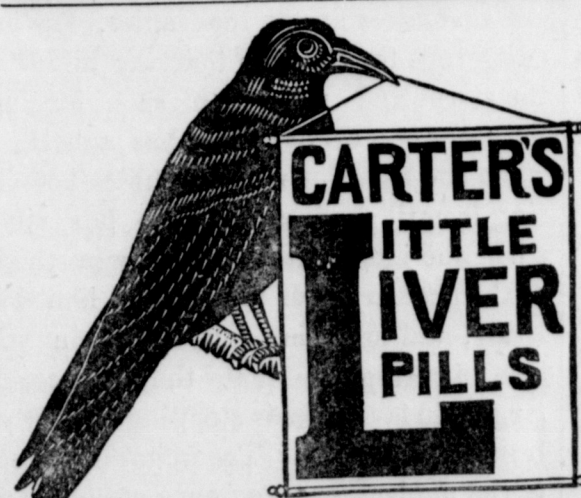
Says a dramatic writer recently "There is no more distressing spectacle than that presented by an elderly actress endeavoring to assume the roles of juvenility." True indeed!

AN ALBANIAN TRAGEDY.

The Savagest People in the World are not in Africa.

There is a general idea that the most savage races now on the earth have to be looked for in Africa—somewhere in Dahomey, Ashantee, in the Benin country, or among the tribes of the Congo. This is a mistake. By a journey of inside of five days from Paris by railway one can find one's self among some of the most cruel and bloodthirsty people in the world. A traveller has only to take a ticket from Paris by the Oriental express to Belgrade, Servia, and continue the journey to Uskub, in northern Macedonia, to find himself on the borderland of savagery. Uskub is one of the ancient cities of the world that has been little heard of, for the reason that it stands somewhat off the beaten track of history. It is only in the last few years, since the construction of the railway from the city of Salonica to Nish in Servia, where it joins the Turkish and Bulgarian railway system, that Uskub has become a place of modern importance. It is now a Turkish fortress something after the style of Plevna during the Russo-Turkish war of 1877, and is a junction of three lines of rail—that to Salonica line to Nish, and the third running through the tunnels under the mountains that separate the plain of Uskub from the celebrated plain of Kossova, on which the great battle was fought in 1389 between the Servians and the turks that ended in the Servians empire.

About thirty miles north of Uskub, on the railway line, is the Albanian town of varosh, also called Verisovitch by the Servians. On the railway line, is the



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Alban town of Varosh, also called Verisovitch by the Servians. On the outskirts of this place a tragedy was enacted some seven or eight years ago which will give an idea of the ferocity of the ideas and customs of the Albanian Muzzalms of those parts. The story begins at Uskub had married an Albanian woman of Varosh, and on the outbreak of the Turco-Servian war of 1876 was called away to join the army. The Russo-Turkish war that followed in 1877 took the husband into Bulgaria, where his regiment formed part of the army of the hero of Plevna, Osman Pasha Ghazi, the victorious. During the war the poor woman heard nothing of her husband, and it was not until the disbandment of the army after it was over and the return of some of her husband's comrades that she learned of his having been killed in battle. She was in a state of destitution and, her condition becoming known to a gypsy of the town, he offered to take her as his wife. In Uskub the gypsies, or "Tziganes," as they are called all over the east of Europe, are the principal workers in metals, in copper, tin, and iron, and are also the gunsmiths of the place, as in most other towns of Turkey. They are in matters of religion practically heathens, and for that reason are held in the lowest esteem by the Turks who respect all religions having a book, such as the Bible is among Christians. The widow agreed to the offer, of the gypsy on condition that they should leave the place at once which they did. They took the train to Salonica, and from there went by steamer to Constantinople. For some reason or other their evil genius induced them to return to Uskub after they had been absent about eighteen months, and the gypsy went back to his old business. They had not been long in the place when the woman was seen by one of her Turkish sisters-in-law entering the gypsy's house. It was then remarked that her disappearance some eighteen months before had been coincident with the departure of the gypsy, and the brother of her former husband went one day to the gypsy's house and soon found out the truth of the situation. The woman marrying a non-Mussulman, but especially a gypsy, was an unpardonable offence in both of them in the eyes of the Chariat, the sacred law; so, in conformity with usage, a family council was held, and in due course, both the man and the woman were condemned to death. The unlucky pair were taken up to Varosh, where the woman's family lived, and the late husband's brother, as the avenger of his memory and of her crime, was appointed to kill the woman while another member of the family was deputed to perform the same duty on the gypsy. In due course the wretched couple were taken outside the town into a field near the railway line, where the brother-in-law cut the woman's throat and the gypsy's life was ended by a pistol bullet into his brain, and the two corpses were left to fester in the sun and become a prey to the carrion crows, and vultures. A few days after the odor of the putrefying bodies became so offensive to the railway people who had occasion to pass up and down the line that a party was sent up from Uskub to bury. They had hardly, however, begun their work, when the townsmen, armed to the teeth with their guns, pistols, daggers, and handjars that give every Albanian the appearance of a walking arsenal, came out in force and warned them off the ground, as burial of the bodies was not allowed in such a case. The burying party was obliged to desist and returned to Uskub.

I happened to be at Uskub just about the time of the events I have described. One morning one of the railway officials with whom I struck up a friendship looked

in on me at the hotel near the station, where I was stopping, and said that if I would like a trip up the line with him there was a section train going up to Varosh, and he would show me something that would interest me. I was very glad to accept his offer, and we started. When we arrived near the spot where the terrible tragedy I have narrated had been enacted, he stopped the train and told me to come with him. We only went a short distance from the line, when he stopped and pointed out to me the dried remains of two human beings lying a short distance apart on the stubble field. "That is what I wanted to show you," he said, and we returned to the train that was waiting for us; and as we went back to Uskub he told me the story I have just penned.—George Freeman.

Much Impressed.

Some persons never can make an investment in any article of apparel without finding an excuse for calling everybody's attention to it. Occasionally this proceeding meets with a merited rebuke.

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