

**Music and  
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Christmas music prepared by the choir of St. Stephen's church was so exceptionally good that it was repeated last Sunday evening in response to numerous requests. Miss Lake who is rapidly taking high rank among our vocalists sang a solo that was greatly enjoyed by the congregation.

In the Cathedral last Sunday morning Miss Brennan sang the Adeste Fideles with much sweetness and purity of tone. Her enunciation is very clear, and while nervousness was evident upon the occasion referred to, her singing in the main gave much pleasure.

An event of interest to music lovers will be the appearance here next month of William H. Rieger, one of the leading tenors of America, at two concerts, to be given by the Vocal society on February 15 and 16th. It is understood that elaborate preparations are being made for these concerts at which local vocalists will assist, the names to be announced later.

**Tones and Undertones.**

Opera at popular prices is the latest innovation in New York, and it is an immensely popular one too, as the great results attending the inception of the venture have proved.

Mme. Sembrich is positively to return to the United States next season. Mme. Sembrich is the highest paid woman singer in Europe, next to Patti. When she sings at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, it will be at a figure proportionate to her European salary.

Alexander Siloti and Henri Marteau are the next virtuosi whom American music lovers are to hear. Siloti, the young pianist, has just finished a tour in England. He also played quite recently with Nikisch in Leipzig and Berlin. He will make his first appearance with the Seidl Orchestra in New York on January 16. Marteau, the violinist, will make his reappearance at the Philharmonic concert this week, when he will play a new suite by Wormser, which was especially written for and dedicated to Marteau.

A new comic opera by Chapi, "La Hiel del Diablo" (The Devil's Skin), was a magnificent success at Madrid last week. The libretto is by Federico Jacques. Critics speak of the music as most charming and admire the apparently inexhaustible inspiration and astonishing productivity of the young Spanish Maestro. The great wealth of melody, and the curiously beautiful music of the new comic opera created such an enthusiasm that after every act there was an endless ovation to the composer, who conducted in person.

Bruneau's opera, "Messidor," the libretto of which is taken from one of Zola's novels, will be performed at Munich for the first time in Germany next month.

The Emperor of Germany is said to have expressed a desire to hear "Diarmid," the opera of Hamish McCunn, the libretto of which was written by the Marquis of Lorne his kinsman. Since the wishes of the Emperor are ordinarily followed closely by their execution it is not to be wondered at that the rehearsals for this work have already been started.

A commemorative tablet has been affixed to a house in the Sulzburger Strasse, Ischl, bearing the following inscription in German: "The great tone-poet, Dr. Johannes Brahms, inhabited this house during twelve summers." There is nothing recording the further fact that here he wrote a number of his minor vocal and chamber compositions.

Italian news includes the announcement that Mascagni has completed the score of a symphonic work entitled "Melancolia." Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci" has been privately produced in Rome as a drama without music, and it is stated that many Italian managers are negotiating for the right to perform the work in this form. It will be remembered that Leoncavallo was his own librettist, so he secures double honors. Spinelli is engaged upon a new opera to a libretto by Illica, and Floridjo is reported working upon an opera with an American subject, which last named announcement must be pleasing to the sturdy Americanism of the Bohemian Dr. Antonin Dvorak.

Carl Goldmark has completed the score of a new opera in two acts, which will be produced at the Imperial Theatre in Vienna during the present season. It is entitled "The Prisoner of War," and the subject is taken from Greek legend, with Briseis, the favorite slave of Achilles as heroine.

It is reported that Petchnikoff, the Russian violinist, has been engaged for a tour of this country this season, and that it is

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practically settled that Arthur Nikisch and his Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra will be among the season's attractions.

Miss Anna Williams, a well known English singer, has retired from professional life. Her explanation for her step is to be commended to the many that have outlived their attractiveness to the public, for she says: I have been before the public for twenty three years, and I intend retiring into private life before my voice loses its power. I think twenty-three years is a long enough time for any woman to be in active work as I have been. Such artistic honesty is as deserving of commendation as it is rare.

Signor Campanari of the Damrosch-Ellis Opera Company has just signed a three years' contract with Maurice Grau for the New York and London seasons, and next May makes his initial bow to a London audience. Mme. Sembrich has complimented him most highly on his impersonation of Figaro, and has promised that he will create the greatest enthusiasm in Vienna if he will appear there with her.

Massenet's new opera, "Sappho," based on Alphonse Daudet's romance, which will be sung in Paris shortly with Calve in the principal part, is another illustration of feminine wild blood. French novelists, composers, and librettists of the day seem unable to find any other theme.

**TALK OF THE THEATRE.**

The Boston Comedy Company played a return engagement here on New Years day, giving a matinee and evening performance. Despite the unfavorable weather large audiences turned out to greet the old favorites; for the evening the S. R. O. sign was out about five o'clock and many were turned away. In the afternoon "The Stranger," was played with Mr. Everett King in the title role. Edwina Grey interpreted the role of Mrs. Haller, in a thoroughly true and consistent manner, the audience showing its appreciation by frequent applause, and a curtain call, which, honor was shared by Mr. King, whose work in the title role was excellent. It was a well thought out and conscientious interpretation of the part, and gave very general satisfaction. Mr. Webber supplied the comedy both afternoon and evening, and it is needless to say kept the audience convulsed with laughter on both occasions. Every member of the company contributed to the success of the engagement. Mr. Webber was in Frederickton for three days the beginning of the week after which he and his company left for St. John's Newfoundland where they will spend three or four weeks.

An interesting little story, from the point of view of the drama, is given in the new biography of Cardinal Wiseman which Messrs Longman have just published:

When Charles Kean was in course of his Shakespearean revivals at the Princess', he was at a loss how to dress for Cardinal Wolsey in "Henry VIII." In his difficulty he drove to York Place and consulted Wiseman, who thereupon promptly summoned his servant and secretary and had himself vested in all his robes, giving for the actor's benefit a kind of extempore lecture on the name and history of each as it was put on. Charles Kean was very anxious that the Cardinal should see him play Wolsey, and proposed to drape a private box in such a manner that Wiseman should be present without being visible to the audience.

It scarcely ten months since Leon Herrmann, the nephew and successor of Herrmann the Great, came to this country to fill the place left vacant by his uncle. That time the only English words he could speak were "good morning" and "good evening." Now he gives his entertainment in English and speaks as distinctly as many persons who have been in this country twenty years.

Ethelwyn Hoyt, a daughter of Eugene F. Hoyt of New York city, will make her debut on the stage Jan. 17 at Hoyt's theatre in New York, appearing in "The

Cup of Betrothal," which will then be acted by the students of the Stanhope-Wheatcroft Dramatic School. Miss Hoyt is a direct descendant of Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. She is described as handsome and talented.

Sol Smith Russell occupies a unique position among players. He has a line in which he has neither competitors nor imitators. His style is so distinctly his own as to make him an exceedingly interesting figure on the current stage. There is no apparent effort on the comedian's part to touch the hearts of his audience. There is no striving after effect. But in many of his scenes tears come to the eyes of the audience almost before the smiles has left their lips.

It appears that it is not true that Mr. Clement Scott has been dismissed from his position as dramatic critic of the London Daily Telegraph for his expressions of opinion regarding the morals—or, rather, the immorality—of actresses. All the same he seems to have put himself and the newspaper he represents in a rather awkward fix.

Be erbohnm Tree defends himself against the charge of tampering unduly with the text of "Julius Caesar." He declares that it will be treated with the utmost respect in his approaching revival at Her Majesty's Theatre in London.

Lord Rosslyn has announced that he will soon appear on the stage in one of Mr. Piner's new plays.

Lottie Gilson is in Berlin. Alice Judson is seriously ill. New York is to have another theatre.

Josef Hofmann sails for America on February 15.

Franklin Fyles is writing a play for Charles Frohman.

Sam T. Jack has leased the New York Jonah Theatre.

Helen Bertram has scored a hit in "Cinderella," at London.

Sydney Rosenfeld's new play is called "A Divorce Colony"

Franklin Fyle's "Dumberland 61" is to be produced in London.

Next season Matthew and Bulger will be seen in a new play.

Frederick Paulding is a member of a Frisco stock company,

Sam Bernard will star next season in the "Marquis of Michigan."

Corbett will appear in a new play by Henry Guy Carleton on January 30.

Laura Burt will be seen in the London production of "Blue Jeans."

Dumas' comedy, "Les Jeunesse de Louis XVI," has been revived in Paris.

Robert Hilliard and Marie Burroughs will play the chief roles in "A New Yorker."

A Boston stock company is to act "Diplomacy," "Prisoner of Zenda" and "In Mizzoura."

The three Hawthorne sisters are in the cast of "Aladdin," now being produced in Dublin.

The Alice Neilson Opera Company will produce a new work by Victor Herbert next season.

Estelle Clayton will make her first vaudeville venture in a new sketch founded on Anstey's "Tinted Venus."

In France the doctor of the theatre has a seat given him for every performance. He must be there every evening.

May Irwin has accepted a new play for

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next season by Glen McDonough, which she may produce the latter part of this season.

Augustin Daly has purchased "La Poupee," the opera in which Anna Held played the title role at Hammerstien's Olympic.

Jacob Litt has bought the melodrama "Sporting Life," by Cecil Raleigh and Seymour Hicks, and will present it in New York within a short time.

Jane Hading's jewelry, recently sold at auction; must transcend in its variety that of any stage celebrity. The catalogue itemizes a lapdog's collar, studded with diamonds, that fetched \$1000; and a dog collar, with superb pearl and diamond pendants, that was sold for \$7000.

Mrs. Leslie Carter's next creation will be the leading role in a new play by David Belasco. Eventually she will appear in "A Winter's Tale," "Camille" and "Much Ado About Nothing."

It is likely that Julia Marlowe's new piece will not be called "The Countess Valeska," after all. It is not an historical play, but as it is laid in the times of Napoleon the title first selected would be likely to suggest misleadingly a certain Polish lady who was more or less concerned with the imperial terror of Europe at one stage of his career.

On the opening night of "The Prairie King," at the Sydney (Aus.) Lyceum, the canoe in which Maude Williamson was supposed to escape from the Redskins capsized, the actress being precipitated to the bottom of the tank, 15 feet deep. She was rescued by one of the company diving and bringing her to the surface. It was a narrow escape, and a good advertisement.

The widow of the Spanish dramatist Zorilla, who lived in abject poverty during the last few years since the death of her famous husband, is now out of her misery. The Queen Regent of Spain devoted a large amount to redeem the golden crown and other trophies of Zorilla from the pawnshop, whereto they had found their way, and now the city of Grenada has decided to settle an annuity upon the widow for the rest of her life, and to donate a snug sum toward the dowry of her two daughters when they should get married. Besides this the widow received for herself and her heirs a dwelling house overlooking the Alhambra in the handsomest part of the beautiful city.

Julius F. Peterson has composed a national guard march entitled "The Cherry Pickers," and has dedicated it to Mr. Joseph Arthur, the author of the play.

R. A. Barnet is working on his extravaganza "Simple Simon" and expects to have it ready for production the first of the next season. He may possibly change the title, but that has not been fully decided upon.

Hilda Clark, the prima donna of the "Highwayman" company at the Broadway Theatre in New York, was presented with a costly diamond locket and pendant at the close of the performance on Dec. 18 by the New York Athletic Club. Miss Clark has many friends and admirers in the metropolis.

R. A. Barnett is negotiating for an adequate and gorgeous revival of his opera, "Prince Pro Tem." The piece has not been played for two seasons and practically not out of New England and Boston. It had a period of nearly 200 performances in Boston.

Lillian Carlsmith, the contralto, who has been engaged to sing an important part in Sousa's new opera, "The Bride Elect," is a pupil of George Henschel and Signor Randegger. She has had very great success in opera and concerts and has appeared with such artists as Nordica, Eduard de Reszke, Mme. Albani, and Clementine De

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Vere. Last year in London she sang at a concert in honor of the Duke and Duchess of Teck.

Grand Opera in Philadelphia, under Damrosch and Ellis has been a brilliant social and pecuniary success, the large organization being fully equipped to present in fine style every opera in their repertoire.

Kittie Bingham, a well known little actress joined the Katherine Rober Company on Christmas Day, to do ingenue parts and a singing specialty.

Ned Wayburn of May Irwin's Company and Agnes Soye were married in New York Dec. 24.

The Ethel Tucker Company is booked for five days beginning January 12th at the Star Theatre, Elizabeth N. J.

Lulu Tabor, Charles French and H. B. Bradley who were here with Harkins '96 are with the "In Old Kentucky" Company, now playing an engagement in Kansas city.

Kathryn Kidder is ill in St. Louis Mo., of nervous prostration.

"The Adventures of Lady Ursula" with E. H. Sothern and Virginia Harned in the leading roles, is doing a magnificent business in Chicago.

Miss Katherine Rober who this week has been playing an engagement in Lewiston has been elected an honorary member of the Lewiston lodge of Elks. She is the fifth woman in the world to attain to such an honor, and the first to it by the action of any New England lodge of Elks.

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