

**Music and The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

In the coming tour to Canada Lieut. Dan Godfrey numbers in his military band many of the foremost soloists in Great Britain. His forty men are chosen from the leading musicians who have served in the Guards and most of them wear medals for bravery shown on the field of action. His bassoonist, Philip Langdale is the best bassoon player and has been with Godfrey for a number of years in the Grenadier Guards. He gave up a most lucrative engagement at the Royal Italian Opera Covent Garden so as to go on the Canadian tour. The Saxophone player E. Mills of the Coldstream Guards is the most talented man with this instrument in Great Britain. The cornetist F. L. Kettlewell is a comrade of Dan Godfrey of very many years standing and is one of the first three cornet players in England. The Sympani player E. Bolton of the Life Guards stands six feet four and is the champion lightning man with the drum sticks in the army and plays a drum solo. He wears a medal for bravery shown with Lord Roberts in the Khyber Pass. The solos are among the distinctive features of the programme and though Sousa and the American band are well up to date, Dan Godfrey in the production of popular effects can show the way to all the other bandmasters.

**Tones and Undertones.**

Fifty-three operas were performed at the Berlin Hoftheatre last year. As usual, Wagner heads the list with fifty-one performances of ten works, and then come in succession Lortzing, Meyerbeer, Mozart, Beset, Leoncavallo, Thomas, Weber, Gellmark, and Verdi. Mascagni headed the list a few years ago.

A new composer, who is regarded in Italy as likely to continue the tradition of the great Venetian School of Sacred Music, is Rev. Maestro Parresi, who made a success at Milan last year with his oratorio of The Passion, and has recently given The Transfiguration, in Venice. Verdi has heard some of the music, and sent the young composer a warm letter of congratulation.

Pascini, who will shortly return to Paris to conduct the rehearsal of Boheme, which is to be sung at the Opera Comique, has tried to persuade Calve to create the leading role in La Tosca. She is also mentioned for the leading in the revival of Gluck's Armida, which will be produced at the Opera during the summer of 1900 as the especial feature of the exposition year at a cost, it is said, of \$60,000.

Albani is having great success in Australia.

The Paris Grand Opera is to have an elevator for the use of its subscribers in the galleries.

The impressario Schurman, who came to America with Eleonora Duse, has petitioned the municipal authorities of Paris for permission to open the Chatelet theatre as an international opera house, in which the works of composers from all countries may be introduced to the French public. He promises to produce a certain number of new operas every year, and one-third of those are to be by French. He has asked no subvention, and merely wants the opera house free of rent and exempt from all taxation. One object of his enterprise is to enable Parisians to hear the great singers of the day. The prices paid at the opera, as well as at the Opera Bonique, are so low that it is impossible to obtain the eminent singers who can find engagements in this country, Russia, or South America. Not only new operas, but famous singers as well, will be presented at the theatre if Mr. Schurman gets it.

A daughter of Mark Twain is now studying music in Vienna. Miss Clemens was originally intended to be a pianist, but has developed a remarkable voice.

Marcella Sembrich has been singing in Germany to larger audiences than she ever drew before, and in Berlin, where she is a particular favorite, there is a demand for further concert appearances previous to her engagement at the Royal Opera.

Walter Damrosch has notified the committee of guarantors of the New York enterprise of grand opera that the report of his retirement from public life had no

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reference to the opera season, but that he would conduct and rehearse all the German operas as usual. As to the artists, Mr. Damrosch stated that it is a little early yet to speak, as the contracts had not all been closed. However, it is settled that Melba, Ternina, and Gadski will head the company. Artist Kraus will return, and negotiations are nearly completed with a very celebrated French tenor.

Mme. Bloomfield-Ziesler, of Chicago, who will make her London debut at the Philharmonic on Thursday, will two days later give the first series of pianoforte recitals.

Jean de Reszke, it is rumored, will be no longer a Faust or a Romeo to his admirers in America, having determined to resign these familiar roles to Saglinac and devote himself to Wagnerian specialties.

**TALK OF THE THEATRE.**

The Maud Hillman Company have occupied the stage at the Opera house during the week, and have given excellent satisfaction to the large audiences that have attended. They gave an especially good performance of the "Fire Patrol," on Tuesday evening, and have since produced "Special Delivery," "The Cuban Spy," "East Lynne," etc. The company is especially strong in specialties, even the star contributing to this end of the entertainment. Miss Hillman has received splendid support from Mr. J. M. Donovan, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Deacon and others, while Jere McAuliffe the "Singing" comedian has added not a little to the pleasure of the patrons by his inimitable pleasantries and funny work. Taken all in all the company are above the average, and have received splendid patronage.

Herr Max Alvary a year or so ago had a fall on the stage at Mannheim, during a rehearsal at Seigfried, and he claimed that the accident, which prevented him from following his profession for some time, was due to the carelessness of a machinist. The authorities of the Mannheim Opera House disclaimed responsibility, but the Supreme Court at Leipsic has just decided in favor of the tenor, and has awarded him \$6,000 damages. This, it is said, is the largest sum that an artist has ever recovered for a stage accident in Germany.

Signore Duse has decided not to try to play in French at the celebration in Paris of the younger Dumas. She rightly declared that she could not do herself justice if she thought in Italian and spoke in French, which she said she would inevitably do throughout the whole of the performance. It was probably a wise decision, for the French are not charitable as to the attempts of foreigners to speak their language, and have never been trained to the meekness which characterizes American audiences, accustomed to all sorts of dialects and mispronunciations. To a parisian a wrong accent of a mispronounced word is as painful as a false note is to a musician.

Not only has Sarah Bernhardt completely recovered from the effects of the operation which she recently underwent in the private hospital of Dr. Pozzi, near the Arc de Triomphe, but Parisian rumor has it that during the last six weeks she has grown excessively fleshy. She is now at her hotel in the Boulevard Perceire, rehearsing a new play which she will produce next week at the Renaissance.

Robinson Crusoe's Island is Ludwig Fulda's latest comedy.

Quo Vadis is being dramatized by Brandon Hurst.

Henry Irving has decided not to make the American tour next season. He will hold his own in London against Beerbohm Tree. He has made arrangements to have Forbes Robertson conduct another season in the Lyceum, while he himself makes a brief tour of the English provinces, beginning in September.

Negotiations are on foot by which Anthony Hope and Edward Rose will dramatize Hope's latest novel, Simon Dale.

Next season Grace Filkins and Mary Hampton will blossom out as stars. Next!

Julia Arthur is rapidly recovering from her severe illness. She starts her next tour in October.

Sol Smith Russell is one of the richest actors in the world. He is worth a million and a half dollars.

Manager Pitou's Cherry Pickers company has made \$22,000 since starting out in September last.

Amelia Bingham has the distinction of having played in New York an entire year without a break.

Otis Skinner has been engaged for the part of Captain Absolute in The Rivals, which Joseph Jefferson revives next season.

My Friend From India and The Man From Mexico have made between \$70,000 and \$80,000 this season. Smyth and Rice have no reason to find fault with the hard times in theatrical business.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree is to respond to the toast of the drama at the Royal Academy banquet this year. This is a veritable distinction, of which the explanation, probably, is not wholly disconnected from the part which Mr. Alma Tadema had in the elaborate production of Julius Caesar at Her Majesty's Theatre.

The Swashbuckler, the new costume play which Mr. Louis N. Parker has written for Mr. I. S. Willard, and which may be played first in America, is a comedy in three acts, and is, in parts, somewhat farcical in character. The period is that of the Thirty Years' War. The scene is laid in Alsace. The Swashbuckler is a ne'er-do-well, who is disinherited, becomes a soldier of fortune, and offers himself to the highest bidder. His uncle dying, bequeaths a castle to him, on the condition that he should reach it before his cousin, Rosamund. On the way thither he meets his fair rival, allows her to ride on his own mule, and, in the end, lets her slip into the castle before him. The outcome of such a plot may be imagined.

Margaret Mather died a poor woman. She left nothing but debts and the scenery in the production of Shakespeare's 'Cymbeline,' say her legal adviser.

E. S. Willard is recovering from his illness and will be brought from Chicago to Lakewood in a few days and rest there for awhile before returning to England.

The first American actress to be elected governor is Miss Ada Rehan, who has been chosen permanent governor of the Shakespeare memorial society at Stratford-on-Avon in England.

Vesta Tilley has purchased the English rights to the "The Devil's Auction," A Bachelor's Honeymoon," and "A Tarrytown Widow." She sailed for London last week, but will return to America in the fall.

Blanche Walsh and Annie Ward Tiffany have been engaged for Carl Haswin's revival of 'Little Lord Fauntelroy.'

Julia Arthur will begin her next season at Detroit on Oct. 3, where she made her stellar debut in 'A Lady of Quality.'

Charles Coghlan will pass the summer at Prince Edward Island where he will put the finishing touches to his new play.

Miss Lettice Fairfax the English actress who was brought over from London this season by Augustin Daly, will join Richard Mansfield as his leading woman in 'The First Violin' at the Garden theatre, New York.

Sol Smith Russell has leased Marie Burroughs residence at Martha's Vineyard and will spend the summer on the Massachusetts coast, which means that Joseph Jefferson, W. H. Crane and Mr. Russell will make up a jolly summer party.

'The Adventure of Lady Ursula' is soon to be brought out in London.

The metaphysical society drama 'Truth' at the Park was unique to say the least.

'The Belle of New York' is going to Australia at the close of its present London season, it is said.

Grace Mae Lambkin has succeeded Isabel Evesson in the leading role of 'A Southern Romance.'

Mabel Amber has been engaged to support James K. Hackett in his starring tour beginning October 14.

Mansfield began life as a painter.

Marie Van Zandt is to marry a Russian nobleman.

Mary Hampton will star in an Indian war drama.

Blanch Walsh has joined a New York popular price stock company.

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Charles Frohman is endeavoring to secure another Barrie play for Miss Adams.

The suit of Mrs. Ernestine Boniface, wife of Actor George C. Boniface, for absolute divorce, names Miss Bertha Waltzing as co-correspondent.

A report that has been circulated that Virginia Earle has had severe hemorrhages. This is denied at the theatre, where it is said that Miss Earle is only suffering from ulcerated throat.

Oiga Nethersole is negotiating for a lease of the Lyric, Theatre London. Louis Parker and Murray Carson have undertaken to provide her with a play with a romantic Spanish background for production this season if necessary.

Louis James has received a cablegram from Kyrle Bellaw and Mrs. James Brown Potter inviting him to become a third star for a triple alliance proposed for next season, but Mr. James replied that many contracts already made prevent him from accepting.

Harry Guy Carleton will write a new comedy for the company now presenting "My Friend from India."

Another American play has scored in London. "Too Much Johnson," according to cable advices, has caught on immensely. The Prince of Wales visited the theatre the second night—an unusual proceeding—and Gilette has been universally praised for his portrayal of the gay husband.

Life among the Irish gentry will be the theme of the new play which Augustus Pitt is writing for Chauncey Olcott. There will be no peasants, the comic element being contributed by the servant characters. Mr. Olcott will be seen in the character of a young Irish gentleman and will have an opportunity to do more love-making than in any of his previous plays.

Belasco already has a new play finished for Mrs. Carter, and in view of the emphatic hit she has made in London it is now generally believed that the play will have its first production before the company returns to America.

Sadie Martinot is no longer leading actress in "A Stranger in New York" Company. Cause, Amelia Stone. Miss Martinot's songs were cut, and she refused to play on the same stage with Miss Stone. The lady of the diamond garter buckles has accordingly left the company.

Fanny McIntyre, now leading lady at the BowJoin Square Theatre, at Boston, was married on Monday to E. L. Snyder, the leading heavy man of the same company.

Rose Coghlan will make her vaudeville debut in "Nance Oldfield" at Keith's Boston Theatre on May 9.

The only novelty to be presented by the New York theatres next week is the production by Mrs. Fiske, of two new plays at the Fifth avenue. They will consist of Mrs. Oscar Beringer's "A Bit of Old Chelsea," which had a year of success in London, and Margaret Merington's English adaptation of a German drama hitherto called "The Right to Happiness," but which Mrs. Fiske has rechristened as "Love Finds the Way." Mrs. Fiske has put off till next season her appearance as Becky Sharp in a stage version of Thackeray's "Vanity Fair." The rumored explanation is that she didn't like Lorimer Stoddard's scenario and advised collaboration. He refused, and the work is to be done by somebody else.

Surdou's "Pamela," has already ended its Parisian career. Not since "Marquise" has the eminent dramatist met with such a downright failure. Even Rejane's acting and all its spectacular effects could not save it.

**ALCOHOLIZED GEESE.**

A North Dakota Farmer's Strategy Brings Him Abundant Returns.

A farmer on the Fort Rice reservation, about ten miles below Bismarck, N. D., on the Missouri River, has a liberal supply of wild geese, both dead and alive, as a result of an experiment upon which he has been pondering for some time, and which worked to his entire satisfaction and greatly to the disadvantage of the geese. The season for the flight of the great Canada geese from the South to their summer haunts in the North has begun, and thousands of the honkers stop at different places along the river en route. The sand bars in the morning are black with the great flocks of geese, and they make short pilgrimages from the bars to the fields of the farmers adjacent to the river for feed. They remain several days in the locality and furnish abundant amusement for sportsmen.

At the farm of the man in question there is a huge sand bar projecting into the river but so far from the shore that no hunter can steal upon the geese which congregate there near enough to get a shot. Aware of their immunity, large flocks of the birds settle there every morning and sun them-

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selves for several hours, and then migrate to the interior for food.

Having observed the movements of the geese for several days the farmer resolved to accomplish by strategy what he could not accomplish by stealth, and every morning before the arrival of the birds he distributed about a peck of corn about the bar. Upon the return of the geese this would be speedily devoured, and the process was repeated every morning for several days, greatly to the satisfaction of the geese.

Saturday night the farmer came to the city and secured a quart of the best alcohol, which he said would be sufficient to saturate a peck of corn quite thoroughly. He placed the corn in the alcohol over night, so that it was thoroughly soaked, and in the morning at the usual time he spread it over the bar and concealed himself in the brush along the shore of the river and awaited the coming of the geese.

They came as usual, and also as usual ate up the corn. Soon after there was a great disturbance manifest among the feathered denizens of the bar. The alcohol had a swift effect and soon the bar was covered with sprawling, waddling, maudlin geese in all stages of intoxication. Those that had eaten most freely of the doctored corn were speedily affected, and in various ways. Some of them were immediately overpowered and lay helpless in the sand in a sort of drunken stupor. Others attempted to fly and were unable to do so, their wings refusing to perform their usual functions, and the only result of their efforts being an aimless flopping about the bar. Others staggered off like tipsy men and finally succumbed to the influence of the liquor and lay down in the sun in a drunken sleep. A few were able to fly and soared off for a few moments, but the alcohol was too much for them and they were forced to circle back to the bar and settle again on the sand.

After waiting for the liquor to have effect the farmer emerged from his hiding place and approached the drunken birds. They seemed to have lost their usual fear and many of them were inspired with a remarkable pugnacity, flying at him and endeavoring to beat him with their wings. It was a laughable sight and none of the realized their danger, but were inspired with all the drunken courage of men in the same situation. The farmer knocked over a number of them with a club and captured as many as were totally stupefied with the liquor, alive, for decoys.—Deo Moines Leader.

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