

**Music and  
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

I note the appearance of Miss Frances Travers at a recent recital given by the pupils of Katherine Evans von Klenner of New York. Miss Travers had the last number on the programme a "Chanson Lontaine" by Holmes and of her work in it the Musical Courier says: "Miss Travers who closed the programme sings with a great deal of polish and refinement and uses a pure soprano voice with a rich lower and medium register artistically."

Lovers of good music will hear with pleasure a confirmation of the rumor that upon the 14th and 15th of March, Mary Louise Clary the famous contralto, and Evans Williams, America's greatest tenor will be heard in this city. The combination is the strongest by far that has ever been announced to take place here, and the name of Mr. Fred G. Spencer in a managerial capacity is an added guarantee that the great event will be all that popular expectation anticipates. There is nothing definite yet decided upon regarding the programme, the main fact that the two great singers will appear together, being sufficient to absorb all attention just now.

**Tones and Undertones.**

Walter Damrosch is giving a series of Tuesday afternoon Wagnerian lectures at the Astoria in New York.

Marie Engle, the beautiful young American, scored a hit in Madrid in the production of Mancinelli's "Hero and Leander."

Mme. Emma Eames has declined the leading part in Saent-Saens' "Henry VIII," which will be produced at Covent Garden next season.

The Princess of Wales is not only very musical, but she is also the composer of several songs for the zither, which she has had printed for the benefit of her friends.

D'Albert will make an American tour next year.

Paderewski recently celebrated his thirty-seventh birthday. He is the wealthiest pianist.

The latest musical fad in London is orchestral concerts. They cannot get enough of them, and to secure variety conductors are imported from all parts of Europe. The Athenaeum remarks in a recent issue that the high-class concerts continue unabated and performances which twenty years ago would have commanded columns must now be dismissed in a few lines. Not many years ago the public were quite indifferent as to new composers, performers and conductors.

Weber's "Freischutz" had its 600th performance in Berlin on December 18. The Emperor wanted the occasion to be a gala night, so the opera was preceded by the "Euryanthe" overture, together with speeches and poems.

It was recently mentioned in this column that Siegfried Wagner, the son of Germany's greatest operatic composer, had for some time been working upon an opera. It is now known that the name of the new opera will be "Der Baerenhaeuter" (The Bear Skinner). The story underlying the libretto takes place during the first half of the seventeenth century, or the period commonly known as the Thirty Years War.

The well-known baritone Lassalle, who has lived in quiet retirement for almost two years, but has returned to the operatic stage has just cancelled his Berlin engagement, where he was to appear in several of his best parts for the highest salary ever paid a male singer in the German capital. In the meantime he has made arrangements to appear for smaller amounts in several small provincial towns.

The Boston Journal states on reliable authority that the successor to Carl Zerrahn as conductor of the Handel and Haydn society is likely to be Mr. Auguste Rotoli.

Mme. Clementine de Vere Sapio is to sing in London this spring.

Maurice Grau will begin the Covent Garden season on May 9. The people new to London that he will have include Mme. Gadski, and probably Mme. Heglon, and Mlle. Aekte of Paris, and Campanari and Von Rooy, baritones. Jean de Reszke is expected to sing Siegmund and Calve Ophelia. The company will include Van Dyke, Dippel, Plancon Renaud, Pringle and Reichmann, Brema and Eames. Mme. Eames has refused the part of Catherine of Aragon in Saint-Saens' "Henry VIII," and, if it is given, that part must be assigned to some other soprano. Anne Boleyn will fall to Mme. Heglon, Renaud will sing the title role. Other novelties under

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consideration are Massenet's "Sapho," Mancinelli's "Hero and Leander," and Spinelli's "A Porto Basso," a lurid story of Neapolitan life.

Philip Hale lectured in Cleveland Ohio recently on "Modern Russian Music."

Stockholm has a female tenor whose voice is loudly praised by the local journals. She is Mme. Corto Geissler and is engaged in the Royal theatre.

The present season of opera in New York has not been a very great success from an artistic standpoint. The Musical Courier says, Mr. Damrosch has attempted more than he can accomplish. The six weeks of rehearsing in Philadelphia has produced a certain celerity in the performances, but of finish, of the composers idea and of a thousand and one essentials there is no trace. The Philadelphia critics were equally severe in their remarks. This is a poor reputation to precede Messrs. Damrosch and Ellis to Boston, where they open a season of grand opera the 21st of this month. Of Madame Marie Barna the Courier says: "Barna has temperament, she has a personality and she knows what she is about. Her upper tones were forced but that was the outcome of the nervous strain, for her voice is a beautiful organ, well placed and sonorous. Her acting has plasticity and in her favor is her supple rhythmic figure. We look for much from this young American woman." Another name of interest to Canadians is that of Mlle. Toronto a portege of Melba; of which the same journal re-

marks "She proved to be a good Siebel in "Faust" and good to look upon."

**TALK OF THE THEATRE.**

Ray Rockman, the young California girl who went abroad as a protegee of Sarah Bernhardt, has won the unanimous praise of the London critics by her excellent impersonation of Eudoxia in Peter the Great, at the London Lyceum.

Reginald De Koven who has been ill with gastric fever, at Aiken, S. C., was reported last week to be convalescent.

Mr. and Mrs. John Webster (Nellie McHenry) contemplate a professional visit to the Klondike in March, and expect to give the first regular dramatic performance seen in the land of gold.

Seymour Hicks is becoming tired of English burlesque and proposes to appear before long in an English adaptation of the successful French farce, "Jalouse."

Jules Lemaitre, quoting Edmond Bostand, says that Bernhardt is the Queen of Attitude and the Princess of Gesture.

It is announced that Henrik Ibsen is writing a play called "The Rat Children," that will be completed in the spring.

Adelaide Ristori is to have control of the theatrical department of the exposition to be held in Munich next year. She will send to the exhibit the rare collection of autographs which she possesses in addition to her costumes and jewels. Autographs articles written by the elder Dumas, Cavour and other noted men are in the collection.

The investigations of the committee in Paris which was preparing a monument for Frederic Lemaitre, the famous dramatic artist, resulted in the singular discovery that he was not born in Paris, and that his name was not Frederic. His birthplace was Havre, where his father was an architect, and his home was Antoine Louis Prosper Le Maitre.

A gag which threatens to become epidemic runs like this: "Did you hear that Sousa the bandmaster was drowned the other day?" "No; how did it happen?" "He was playing 'On the Banks of Wabash' and fell in!"

The Ethel Tucker Co., have been playing the New Jersey towns recently and the Elizabeth N. J., correspondence to the N. J. Dramatic Clipper says of the recent engagement at the Star Theatre in that city:

"The Ethel Tucker Co., in repertory, came 17-22. This company opened with a good house, but did not give satisfaction and it was expected that the local management would cancel, but the strength and quality of the company was improved, and during the week the attendance grew, as did Miss Tucker in dramatic ability, until at the close of the engagement she became a prime favorite, as did her entire company, several of whom were ill. The numerous specialties were excellent and the company includes Louise Muller, Carrie Southwood, Mrs. H. St. Martin, Little Lottie Blackhurst, John Webber, A. H. Kranz, Harry Winsman and Cooke and Schrage."

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Green's company were both in Pittston Pa., last Sunday and the managers and members of the two combinations spent the day together very pleasantly.

Joseph Girard who has played in St. John upon different occasions is with the Coon Hollow Co. this season, and is winning numerous friends by his careful work.

Julie Opp was brought over by Mr. Frohman, it is understood, as a possible substitute for Miss Mannering in case she should wed or go starring. Imagine the manager's horror when soon after Miss Opp's arrival it came out that she had married Robert Lorraine before leaving London!

Minnie Durpee has been engaged for the ingenue role in the London production of The Heart of Maryland next summer.

Thomas W. Keene will play a New York engagement during the week of Feb. 21.

The Sawtelle company has been playing in Lynn, Mass., this week to fair business only.

Mora, whose sudden and severe illness caused the closing of her company at Burlington, Vt., Jan. 13, was taken to her home in Brighton, Mass., Jan. 18, where she is now slowly recovering. She expects to resume her tour Feb. 7.

Harry Markham who is starring in his own play "The Ladder of Fame" is meeting with excellent success.

The Earl of Rosslyn, the first English peer to adopt stage work as a profession, appeared in Arthur W. Pinero's new four act comedietta, "Trelawny of the Wells," when it was originally acted at the Court Theatre, London, Eng., Jan. 20.

The latest theatrical novelty in Paris is a piece at the Nouveates, called "Mme. Jalouette," in which a mother-in-law, contrary to the usual plan, is in mortal terror of her son-in-law, she having contracted a second marriage without his knowledge or approval.

In a circus at Christiania there is a clown who is disguised to look like Ibsen. The newspapers have protested vigorously against this irreverence, but the public is said to enjoy it highly.

William Archer and Miss Diana White have completed a translation from the Danish, of Dr. George Brandes critical study of Shakespeare. Dr. Brandes is frequently regarded as the most important dramatic critic of the day.

Pinero is now 42 years old. He was a lawyer and an actor before he became a dramatist. He is a hard worker, rewriting a great deal. It is said that he was ten months writing "The Princess and the Butterfly."

## "77"

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