

Music and The Drama IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The Jaxon Opera Company, an unusually strong aggregation, have been presenting a varied programme of Comic and Grand opera to the music loving this week.

"Cavalleria Rusticana," Mascagni's great masterpiece was sung with dignity and refinement, the new names in the cast being Mile Diard, Madeline Lowrie and Mr. Payne Clark.

Mlle Diard, as Santuzza, sang her part with dramatic intensity, and was always true to the sentiment. Her enunciation was wonderfully distinct, and her rich, powerful voice filled the requirements of the role.

Messrs Deshon and Clark as Gaspard and Grenicheaux respectively were in good voice; the former was especially strong in his part, his thrilling work winning a well merited and enthusiastic curtain call at the close of the second act.

Il Trovatore, and Olivette were among the productions later in the week, and next week's performance will be as follows; Mikado, Monday night; Fra Diavola, Tuesday; Lucia di Lammermoor, Wednesday and Thursday; Bohemian Girl, Friday, and a grand triple bill for Saturday evening.

A year ago the musical people of this city hardly anticipated hearing two artists with the qualifications and reputation of Evan Williams and Mary Louise Clary, here in concert.



October she appeared in two concerts in the Mechanics Institute though at that time she was heard to disadvantage, the building being too small for her wonderful voice. Williams it will be remembered made his St. John debut the first of last December, and who of those present will ever forget the way in which the great singer melted the proverbially cold St. John audience.

Tones and Undertones.

J. K. Murray and Clara Lane will open their starring tour in Boston next October. They will appear in an opera by Victor Herbert and Charles Klein and will be under the management of Col. W. A. Thompson.

The Castle Square opera company made such a success in New York last week with 'H. M. S. Pinafore' and 'Cavalleria Rusticana' that they will continue with the same bill at the American theatre next week.

Carlotta Steubenrauch, the female violinist who made her debut in this country with the Banda Rossa, will appear at Keith's Boston theatre a week from Monday.

John Mason is going into vaudeville again, this time under the exclusive management of his brother, who has already secured for him two very strong vehicles for his reappearance. One is an absolutely complete musical comedy in miniature, the book by John Fowler, and the score by C. J. Wilson.

Madame Melba belongs to the noble celebrities who never read newspaper notices of themselves. Unlike most of them, though, she is sincere in it. She has no scrap-book, she patronizes no "news-clipping" agency, and she carefully avoids all reading matter that looks as though it might develop into anything of personal import.

The programme for the sixteenth rehearsal and concert of the Boston Symphony orchestra on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening is: Overture, "Dedication of the House," Beethoven; recitative and air from "Alessandro," Handel; Soli for violoncello, Cantilena, Golterman; "Dance of Sylphs," Popper; Symphony in D minor, No. 4, Schumann; songs with pianoforte; Elaine's song, "Sweet is True Love," Irish Folk Song, Foote; ballet music from "Der Daemon," Rubinstein

Mrs. George Henschel and Mr. Leo Schulz will be the soloists. The venerable Verdi is said to be at work on the revision and selection of music, written for the psalms and other church uses which he composed many years ago and is now about to publish.

Efforts are being made to organize a permanent orchestra in New York city on the same lines as the Boston Symphony. This movement has been brought about by the friends of Anton Seidl, who have taken alarm at the generous offer to him from Hamburg, Germany, and wish him to remain in this country.

Mme. Nordica has signed a contract with Mr. Grau to appear in opera during the London season next year. She will appear at Covent Garden the opening week in "Tristan and Isolde," with Jean de Reszke.

Victor Herbert has yielded to persuasion and will conduct the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Orchestra, beginning next season. This decision will result in his giving up his New York interests at the close of the summer season at Manhattan Beach, where he will conduct the Twenty-second Regiment Band.

The late Conrad Behrens was 63 years old. This well-known basso was born in Brunswick Germany, where his father was a minister. It was intended that he should follow in his father's footsteps, but he engaged in a commercial pursuit in Hamburg, and later in Stockholm. His voice attracted the favorable attention of Charles XV, King of Sweden, who enabled him to devote several years to its culture in Paris. He made his debut in Stockholm in the Royal Opera.

De Wolf Hopper returns to New York, this week, with both 'Eli Capitan' and Edna Wallace Hopper.

Adele Ritchie is to return to America in September and tour as a star in a new opera specially written by Antony Mars, music by Messager.

Rudolph Aronson and Dr. Leo Sommer have made an arrangement for the appearance in this country of the 'Black Hussars' Hungarian band, under the direction of Olah Pali.

Mme. Frances Saville, a member of the Abbey-Grau troupe at the Metropolitan Opera House, season 1896-97, has been engaged at the Royal Opera in Vienna for two years.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Says the New York Clipper "A. W. Cross, who has been in the city the past six weeks, completing arrangements for the tour of John D'Ormond and Agnes Fuller next season, left Feb. 18 to assume management of the Josie Mills Co. for the rest of the season.

Charlie Thropp, an actor in the "Blue Jeans" Company, while playing at Cleveland, O., was accidentally shot in the leg during the performance, recently by Miss Ballou, who was supposed to be aiming at a squirrel.

Ullie Akerstrom mourns the loss of her mother, Elizabeth, W. Akerstrom, who died, in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 8. Miss Akerstrom left her company at Lawrence, Mass. Feb. 14, and did not rejoin until Feb. 21, at Pittsfield, Mass. her date at Manchester, N. H., was cancelled, and the company laid off until Miss Akerstrom rejoined.

John L. Sullivan's Comedy and Vaudeville Co. are attracting good business in their Kentucky tour.

The Miles Stock Company are playing in Corning, N. Y. this week.

The latest dramatic news says that Frederick Warde, Louis James and Mile. Rhea will form a trio combination next season to give several Shakespearian plays as well as one new play.

Fay Templeton is still fond of acting in spite of the fact that she has come in for a part of Howell Osborne's gold, and has been engaged by cable for Weber and Fields' stock company.

Mr. E. H. Sothern begins his annual engagement at the Hollis, Feb. 28, when he will present for the first time in Boston, Anthony Hope's latest play, "The Adventures of Lady Ursula."

The latest rumor is that Virginia Harned will star next season in this play appearing for a run at the New York Gaiety theatre, when her husband, E. H. Sothern, presents a new play at the Lyceum.

Charles Frohman had seven companies playing in New York last week: John Drew

at Wallace's; Maude Adams at the Garrick; 'Oh, Sussannah,' at Hoyt's; 'Never Again' at the Grand; Henry Miller at the Garden, 'The White Heather' at the Academy and 'The Conquerors' at the Empire.

Donnelly and Girard will probably dissolve partnership at the close of their present tour in 'The Geezer' and Mr. Girard will revive 'Natural Gas' next season.

Four weeks from Saturday night William Gillette will have completed his present tour with 'Secret Service,' the last performance being booked for Brooklyn. On the following Wednesday he will sail for London, where he opens Easter week as that superlative liar, Gus Billings, in 'Too Much Johnson.' He will take with him nearly all of the original American company.

There is a remote possibility that Mr. Gillette with Charles Frohman's assistance, may go out next season in a repertoire of his own plays, giving 'Held by the Enemy' 'Too Much Johnson' 'Secret Service' and 'The Private Secretary,' or 'The Professor'. But this is merely a plan on paper so far.

'The Belle of New York' will sail for London the last of next month and open at the Shaftesbury theatre April 9.

'Nat Goodwin will open next season at the New York Knickerbocker theatre in Clyde Fitch's new play "Nathan Hale."

Charles Frohman is going to London next month and Charles B. Dillingham, Julia Marlowe's manager, will accompany him.

The Actors Society of America has drawn up and presented to the Legislature at Albany through Senator Cantor, "An act to punish frauds committed against actors," which makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not less than two hundred and fifty dollars, or one year's imprisonment, or both, for any person to engage actors or opera singers, take them out of the State and leave them stranded in some distant city.

Minnie Cass, an American actress, who has been playing at the Central Theatre, Berlin, Ger., has suddenly disappeared, and her whereabouts is a mystery. The police have been appealed to, but have been unable to trace her.

The continued ill health of Beatrice Cameron will undoubtedly compel her to retire from the stage at the conclusion of Richard Mansfield's Chicago engagement. Carrie Keeler, who is now her understudy, will probably replace her.

Fanny Davenport may appear in 'Mme. Sans Gene' next season.

Edward Harrigan will appear hereafter in standard price houses only.

Madge Lessing is still the comely Jack of 'Jack and the Beanstalk.'

Marion Manola-Mason is said to have retired temporarily from the stage.

Cissy Fitzgerald may appear in J. E. Rice's next production, 'Monte Carlo.'

William H. Crane is considering an offer to present "A Virginia Courtship," in London.

Ida Conquest will be William Gillette's leading woman when he goes to London in April.

Isabelle Urquhart presented a new farce at Keith's New York theatre last week entitled "Whose Baby?"

Modjeska is coming to Boston before long in repertoire. Mr. Joseph Haworth is her leading man.

May Irwin closed her New York engagement in the "The Swell Miss Fitzwell" last Saturday and opened Monday in Brooklyn.

Good houses are greeting the Lillian Tucker company in its Southern tour. The company recently played in Atlanta Ga., to record breaking business.

Charles Barron is to be the Bill Sykes in Elita Proctor Ois' forthcoming revival of "Oliver Twist."

Mrs. Leslie Carter is to appear at the Adelphi Theatre, London, in "The Heart of Maryland" on April 9.

Ada Rehan has played 300 parts. Irving has decided to play Cyrano de Bergerac.

Sarah Bernhardt's illness to date to a fibroid tumor.

Rejane has scored a new success in Sardou's, "Pamela."

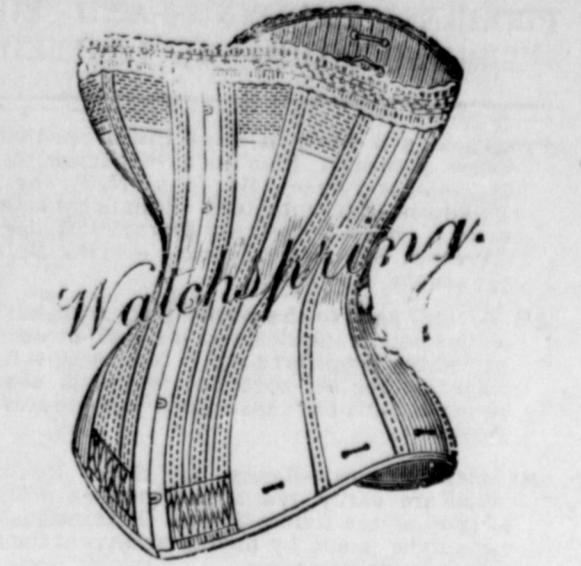
Walter Jones is to star as the crushed tragedian of 'In Gay New York,' backed by ex President Hayes's son.

George Alexander's revival of 'Much Ado About Nothing' has been voted a great success by the London critics.

James K. Hackett this week made his first appearance as Nigella in 'The Tree of Knowledge.'

Even the stage realism of a snowstorm is attended with peril. Joseph R. Gristmer, stage manager for the Manhattan Theatre, New York, met last week with a severe accident at a performance of "Way

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Down East." During the snow scene he was manipulating an electric fan which distributes the fine pieces of paper and his fingers of the right hand came in contact with the blades, almost severing them.

Plays to be introduced by Mansfield include "St. Ives," the "First Violin," and "King Frederick and William II."

"I am getting tired," says Mr. Mansfield, 'of appearing in the guise of men who have only unpleasant attributes. People begin to think that I am that sort of man myself. Hereafter I am going to play lovers that all the girls will rave over. Seriously, I think public taste shows a healthy incline toward the stage characters that one would not be ashamed to know in real life, men of kindly nature, brave and lovable; men who make love brilliantly, fight cheerfully and live in an atmosphere of roses and romance.'

The latest recruit for vaudeville is Miss Cora Tanner, who, assisted by Louis Masson, will appear in Sir Charles L. Young's sketch 'Dripping Apart.'

Ada Rehan is soon to reappear as Kate Verity in Pinero's 'The Squire.'

Fay Templeton, who is now in Paris, will shortly appear at a New York music hall.

Nary a Toll or Spin.

The choir was singing a new arrangement of the beautiful anthem, 'Consider the Lilies.' The pure, sweet voice of the soprano rose clearly and distinctly in the solo:

They toll-oil-oil not, They toll not, They toll not, Ny-y-y-ther do they spin.

She patted and the tenor took up the strain:

Nee-ee-ee-ther do they spin; They toll-oil-oil not, They toll not, They toll not, Nee-ee-ee-ther do they spin.

The tenor ceased, and the basso, a solemn, red haired young man, with a somewhat wordy looking eye and a voice like a foghorn, broke in:

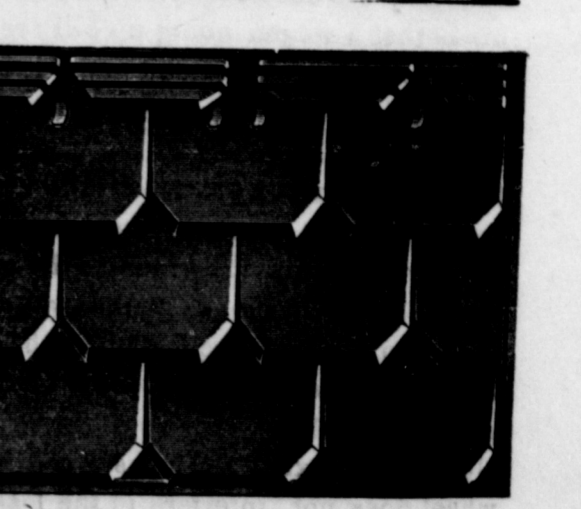
Nay-y-y-a-ayther do they spin. They toll-oil-oil not, They toll not, They toll not, Nay-y-y-ther do they spin.

Then the voices of the three were lifted up in semi-chorus:

Ny-y-y-her Nee-ee-ee-ther Nay-ay-ay-ther do they spin They toll-oil-oil not, They toll not, They toll not, Ny-y-y-ther Nee-ee-ee-ther Nay-ay-ay-ther do they spin

'Brethern,' said the gray-haired old-fashioned pastor when the choir had finished, 'we will begin the service of the morning by singing the familiar hymn, 'And Am I Yet Alive?'—Chicago Tribune.

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