

**Music and
The Drama**

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

There is some diversity of opinion regarding the ability of a musician—one Ole Theobaldi—who created quite a little furore here some time ago among musical people. Everybody evidently doesn't regard him as a great genius as for, instance a critic on the staff of a New York publication. Musical America has this to say of the man whom Mr. Robert Melvin exploited some months ago. Under the title of "Wizard of the Violin" the criticism says:

"Forty-three music hungry souls assembled at Hardmann Hall last Saturday evening to listen to Mr. Elliott Maxwell's "Wizard of the Violin"—Ole Theobaldi. Forty-three souls, no longer music hungry are now enabled to account for the recent strange proceedings of Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany; for has not Ole Theobaldi played private concerts for the Kaiser, and for the royal families of Russia Denmark, Norway and Sweden. At least his manager Mr. Maxwell thus informs all music lovers who may be inclined to doubt the brilliant career of this newly acquired wizard. When Ole Theobaldi stepped upon the platform to play his first selection—"A Visit to the Mountain"—an awesome hush fell upon the audience. The forty-three souls beheld the man of genius that had thrilled kings and queens, and incidentally had his "diamond studded bow" stolen quite recently as an excellent means of introduction to the general reading public.

"Among the many novel effects which the programme announced, Mr. Theobaldi would introduce in his various selections, I could only detect the unpoliphonic utterances of a distressed nightingale, and the persistent note of a hungry Cuckoo. For the edification of one of those small boys who like to see the "wheels go round," Mr. Theobaldi started a brooklet whispering and a Norwegian cow a-lowing. Later in the evening he set a big Swedish mill a going, and saw to it that a milkmaid performed her duties with ardor and despatch; but I had fled.

Ole Theobaldi was wondrously clad—in itself unmistakable evidence of the rights and flights of genius. A breastplate glittering in the electric light was doubtless some mute token of a King's regard. His velvet "dress coat" and dancing pumps were most appropriate for his first solo—"A Visit to the Mountains"—though they seemed somewhat out of place in other selections, such as, for instance, "The Soldiers March Across the Vera Bridge."

"Without wounding the pride of Wilhelm, Sarasata, Ysaye, Thomson and all the other great artists who have been heard in New York within the last ten decades it can honestly be said that Mr. Theobaldi presented a programme such as never before has been offered to music lovers in this great metropolis. What a pity that only forty three souls will keep green in their memories this unique programme and its unique performance. There are men and women with very meagre ability, who, having been misled into choosing music as a profession, and discovering their mistake when it is too late to retreat, startle intelligent listeners with their lack of skill and musical capacity. Such unfortunates should not be harshly dealt with. They arouse compassion.

"But here is a man, one Ole Theobaldi, who, if he put knew how to play the simplest scale with acceptable accuracy, would prove a very prince of his kind. As it is, his attempts are so incredibly absurd, that no attire, however grotesque, no advertising, however imposing to the public eye, will ever enable him to hoodwink even the least musical people of the United States. Did not his manager, Mr. Maxwell, seem so earnest and honest in his efforts to exploit this "wizard of the violin," the people who were lured to Hardmann Hall might justly wreak vengeance on his inexperienced managerial head. The only safe thing for Mr. Maxwell to do is to forget that Ole Theobaldi ever existed and to make a post-election bon-fire of his advertising matter.

The Williams Band concert which took place in the Opera House on Wednesday attracted a large and brilliant audience. It was the band's first appearance, and expressions of approval of their work were heard on every side. From the opening to the closing every number on the well arranged programme was thoroughly enjoyed and soloists of the evening Mrs. F. G. Spencer, Mr. John Kelly, and Mr. W. C. Bowden, violinist, were as usual exceedingly good and won most enthusiastic applause and encores. Professor Williams is to be heartily congratulated upon the excellent manner in which the band of which he is the leader, acquitted itself,



"A SCENE IN WORTH A MILLION."

and it is to be hoped we may have the pleasure of listening to it very soon again.

Interest continues to grow in the month musical production, which St. John will enjoy Jan 30th and 31st. Buckley, Clary, Berresford, and Rieger, the wonderful aggregation which together with the instrumentalists will present in A Persian Garden, appeared at the Empire theatre Chicago, recently, with wonderful success.

The Murray-Lane Opera company has disbanded.

Emil Paur has abandoned his series of Sunday night concerts at Carnegie hall New York on account of poor attendance.

Mme. Calve's return to America next fall will not be merely to sing at the Metropolitan. She has made her plans for a long tour beginning early in October and ending when the season in New York begins. After that is over she will resume her tour which will continue until late in the spring. With a small company she intends travelling through the country giving Faust and Carmen.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Two crowded houses greeted the Boston Comedy company on Christmas day when it made its annual appearance at the Opera house, giving for the afternoon performance The Honeymoon and in the evening the attractive and interesting Gipsy Queen, with Miss Grey in the title role of the last mentioned piece. That the various members of the company gave excellent satisfaction in their parts was evidenced by the frequent applause. H. Price Webber of course looked after the comedy and that is equivalent to saying that there was fun to spare all around. His local references are always timely, and while intensely laughable are always free from anything that could wound the most sensitive. Miss Grey was given a very flattering reception, and the applause bestowed upon her work both afternoon and evening was well merited. Mr. Webber's company gives three performances in Carleton this week, and on Monday next will close the St. John engagement. On that day the company will give Won at Last, a bright sparkling comedy for the matinee for the first time in St. John. This play was written by Wyvert Reeve, the celebrated English actor, and on its production in London was received with unanimous endorsement by the press and public. Miss Grey has a delightfully bright comedy character in Constance Warburton. In the evening Fanchon will be given in response to a very general request.

Isham's Octoroons made an excellent impression during their three nights stay in the city, though the time—the three days before Christmas, was not favorable to business. Madam Hyers the prima donna of the organization possesses a beautiful voice, and very generously responded to the numerous encores she received at every performance.

Miss Mabel Eaton, W. S. Harkins leading lady during his last St. John engagement is successfully playing the part of Mary Bord'n in The Village Postmaster.

John J. Sully is appearing with As We See It, through the South.

It is said that Antonio Terry left all of his immense fortune to his widow Sibyl Sanderson.

Carrie Newcombe has recovered from her recent severe illness and has rejoined the Bennett and Moulton Company.

Miron Leffingwell author of The Dawn of Freedom has written the new melodramas, The Man from the South, and Suzo of Tennessee.

In a case in which Olga Nethersole was sued for extra salary, based on a contract for £15 per week for "the run of the season," the plaintiff said that that season was at least eight weeks while Miss Nethersole's experiment at the Haymarket, (London) was but five weeks in length when she was compelled to close. The judge said the season meant "as long as the theatre was open, whether for a long or short period, and closed when a piece came to an end," Miss Nethersole therefore had nothing to pay. In another court a variety performer, Kath Kella, sued for damages from the manager of the Eastern Empire Hall on account of an alleged breach of contract. He cut out her turn because her paper and printing was not all the hall fourteen days in advance, as was the rule. It arrived twelve days in advance. The manager won the case.

The adventures of Lady Ursula has passed the fifty mark at the Duke of York, London.

Ada Reeve is back in England after a long and successful Australian tour.

James H. Wallick is to revive "The Cattle King."

Beebohm Tree is to play the title role in "Monte Cristo."

Aubrey Boucicault is to appear in vaudeville in "A Scrap of Paper."

Robert Downing's new comedy "The

Butterfly and the Grab" is to pioneer in January.

Da Souchet's "A Misfit Marriage" and Russ Whytal's "Vagabondia" are to be shelved.

E. E. Rice is to produce "Little Red Riding Hood," a burlesque that has been successful in England.

During her engagement at Wallack's Theatre, New York, next month, Miss Olga Nethersole will produce among other new plays a comedy by M. Paul Blouet (Max O'Rell) entitled "The Price of Wealth."

Suart Robson is to enact a foreign diplomat at Washington in "Two Rogues and a Romance," by Theodore Burt Sayre.

The play which David Belasco has written for Mrs. Carter to appear in next year has been named "The Queen's Drawing Room."

Eugene Cowles sprained an ankle so badly on the stage at Baltimore that he could not act again for ten days.

"Zaza," in which Mrs. Leslie Carter will play the chief part, was acted for the first time in America at Washington last Monday night.

The New York opera for the week comprises "Romeo et Juliette" (Sembrich and Jean de Reszke), "Die Walkuere" (Eames, Lehmann, Van Dyck, Van Rooy) and "Tristan und Isolde" (Nordica and Jean de Reszke).

The English version of the successful German Comedy, "At the White Horse Tavern" made by Sydney Rosenfeld, will be produced at the Wallack, New York in February next.

Ois Harlan has decided to withdraw from the management of Messrs Hoyt & McKee at the end of this season. Mr. Harlan is considering several plans for the future, but he has decided on nothing yet.

"Cyrano de Bergerac" is to be given an elaborate production in German at the Irving Place Theatre, New York, with Herr Eugen Schady, a new member of the company, in the title role.

Isabella Ivesson is to be the leading woman of A. M. Palmer's comedy company, which is to appear in a farce called "That Man" on January 16 at the Herald Square, N. Y.

Sydney Booth, now playing in "A Dangerous Maid" of the New York Casino, is to originate the juvenile role in James A. Herne's production of "The Rev. Dr.

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Griffith." In the play Rev. Dr. Griffith (Mr. Herne) and his son (Mr. Booth) have a spat because they disagree on the slavery question.

John Oliver Hobbes' new one act drama, "A Repentance," is to be cast in London as follows: The Countess Des Escos, Julie Opp; a Friar, George Alexander; the Marquis of Monfero, a Carlisle leader, H. B. Irving; Captain Avion, a Carlisle, C. Audrey Smith; Captain Sobrato, a "Christinist," Alfred Brown; Bianca, an attendant on the Countess, K. Sargeantson. The scene is laid near Bilbao, in Spain, in 1835.

George Alexander has accepted a play by a Miss Margaret Young, entitled "The Leaden Casket."

Haddon Chambers' war comedy, "The Tyranny of Tears," is to succeed "The Jest," at the London Criterion.

Forbes Robertson has now got into approved form the play he has drawn from "The Egoist" of George Meredith. He will himself appear as Sir Willoughby Patterne, Mrs. Patrick Campbell as Letitia Dala, and Irene Vanbrugh is spoken of for the part of the heroine, Clara Middleton. The piece is in five acts.

A Zoological Garden of a novel kind is to be one of the features of this year's Drury Lane Pantomime. The cages will be occupied by human beings who have achieved fame or notoriety, and the spectators will consist of members of the animal creation.

Lawrence Irving and Lena Ashwell have the principal parts in the English version of the French play, "The Organist," which will be produced in the London Princess.

Recently at Campobasso, in Calabria, there was performed at the Margherita Theatre a translation in verse by Signor Gamberale, director of the Royal Lyceum of Browning's "A Blot in the Scutcheon."

There is a stock company in Albany that not only gives two performances a day, but changes the bill twice a week.

Eddie Girarde's "Natural Gas" company went to pieces at Little Rock.

Miss Pauline Hall telegraphs friends in New York from Topeka, Kan., that there is absolutely no truth in the story that she was one of the women whom Lieut. Hobson the man who was once famous, kissed on his way to the Pacific slope. From all accounts, what this young man stands most in need of at the present moment is a large overdose of George Dewey, but if it be true that his kissing tour is merely a preliminary step towards his resigning from the navy and adopting the stage as a profession, the next time that Miss Methersole revives "Carmen" what's the matter with his applying for the part of Don Jose?

The Miles Ideal Stock company has been strengthened recently by the addition of the Prentice trio, who are being featured. A Queen of England, a new romantic play founded on Dumas work, by Chas. A. Clarke was given its first production in London, England, a week or two ago.

Clyde Fitch is to write a play for Julia Marlowe on an imaginary episode in the life of the imaginary Barbara Fritchie.

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