

**Music and
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Seigfried Wagner's new comic opera, "The Idler," is announced for production in Munich in November.

Marice Grau is enjoying a holiday in Paris. He will return to the United States early next month.

Emil Sauer, the pianist, has received from King Albert of Saxony the appointment of royal Saxon court pianist.

Ovide Musin, the violinist and chief of the Liege Royal Musical conservatory, arrived in New York Tuesday intending to open a virtuoso school of the violin immediately in that city.

Edward E. Rice last week secured by cable from Willie Edouin and Frank W. Sanger, now in London, the sole American rights to "To To Ta Ta," a comic opera in three acts by Paul Bibaud and Albert Barre; music by A. Bandes; originally produced at the Theatre des Menus-Plaisirs, Paris.

I have an indistinct recollection of publishing a week or two ago the names of the soloists for the Maine Musical festival in October but am not quite sure of having done so. I avail myself of the doubt however and give them again as follows: Johanna Gadeki, Charlotte Maconda, sopranos; Katherine M. Ricker, contralto; Evan Williams, John M. Fulton, tenors; Francon Davies, Gwilym Miles baritone; Harriet A. Shaw, solo harpist, and Hans Kronold, solo cellist.

Paderewski's next American tour will begin in San Francisco in '99.

Haydn, Beethoven and Mozart are to have a monument in common at Berlin.

The Imperial Opera company, headed by Clementine de Vere Sapio, will begin its season in an English version of "La Boheme" Sept. 5, in Philadelphia.

Stavenhagen has been appointed conductor of the Royal opera in Munich.

Miss Sybil Sanderson is back in Paris much improved in health.

It is rumored that a company for the building of a Wagner theatre eight or ten miles from London is on foot.

Lillian Russell is to receive \$15,000 for 30 evening concerts at Berlin.

Verdi's new sacred works are to receive their first production in Britain at the Gloucester Festival in September.

Francis Wilson began rehearsals of his new opera with his company Wednesday. "The little Copora" will have its first hearing at the Broadway theatre, New York on Sept. 19.

The Bostonians are coming to the Boston theatre in the early fall. They open their season Aug. 22 at Manhattan beach.

The Manchester Courier says that Paderewski has lost the use of two of his fingers and will probably be unable to play again, but the report is probably an idle rumor as are most of the stories concerning this world famous pianist. In this case it is at least to be sincerely hoped so.

The Worcester Musical festival the last week in September will call all the musicians home and then take them to the centre of the state for a few days. Then the opening of the season in Boston with the symphony concerts will soon follow.

In Mme. Marchesi's opera class in Paris of ten members for this year, there are five American women. The Baroness de Reibnitz of Boston, daughter of Mr. Sebastian Schlessinger, the composer, is one of them.

A new Anglo-American alliance in the musical world is that of William H. Gardner, the Boston lyric author, and Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie, the eminent English composer, who is principal of the Royal Academy of Music, and the director of the Philharmonic society of London. These two gentlemen will collaborate on a

series of high class songs, for simultaneous publication this fall in Boston and London. Mr. Gardner is also completing a set of six songs, with Otto Cantor of London, the famous composer of "As The Dawn."

The two baritone voices which do most of the leading work in connection with the oratorio and concert work in the United States this year are Gwilym Miles and Francon Davies, the great Welsh singers. These artists are booked for the Worcester festival and Maine State festival. Fall excursions will probably be run from St. John to Bangor this year so that local music lovers will have an opportunity of hearing this great treat.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The Nancy Hanks company which played a three nights engagement here last week drew very good audiences to the Opera house, the performances generally, and performers being much better than any we have had lately.

Joseph Greene opens a weeks engagement on Monday evening in Held by the Enemy, a piece that has always proved attractive to a St. John audience. Mr. Greene has become quite a favorite here, and the manager, Mr. Harriman reports the supporting company as particularly strong this season. Matinees will begin Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Miles will spend Tuesday evening in the city on their way to Woodstock where the company will play next week. They are booked here for Labor Day.

Kittie Mitchell is seriously ill. "Elixir" is the title of Weber & Field's new burlesque.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hoyt have returned from their European trip.

Dan Daly's starring tour in "The Belle of New York" opens in Brooklyn Sept. 12.

Cissy Loftus, the famous London music hall artist, is contemplating an American tour.

H. A. Du Souchet is writing a new play which satirizes the seeker after pirate gold.

It is stated that Olga Nethersole is having Kipling's "The Light that Failed" dramatized for her.

The Liliputians have a new, extravaganza for their American tour this season entitled "Bob and Rob"

Edward J. Morgan, last season with the New York Lyceum Stock company, will be Viola Allen's leading man.

The Richard Mansfield son and heir born at Rye N. Y. last week has been named George Gibbs Mansfield, after one Mr. Mansfield's very dear friends.

Robert Edeson will be Maude Adams' leading man next season.

"The Conquerors," Paul M. Potter's play which has caused so much discussion will be one of the fall attractions at the Hollis theatre, Boston.

Langdon Mitchell is dramatizing "Vanity Fair" for Mrs. Fiske, who will produce it in New York in January under the title of "Becky Sharp."

Saul Hammillburg, formerly treasurer of Globe theatre, Boston has been engaged as business manager for Belle Archer in "A Contented Woman."

Tim Murphy will open his regular season in Washington D. C., Sept. 26, in a new play, entitled "The Carpet Bagger," by Opie Read and Frank Pixley.

William Gillette opens his season August 29 at the New York Empire theatre in "Two Much Johnson." "Secret Service" will be put on the following week.

William H. Crane, Daniel Frohman and James K. Hackett were in the flock of professional people from European shores last week.

Charles Emerson Cook, librettist of the defunct "Walking Delegate," alias "The Koreans," and also of "The Chorus Girl," was in London at last reports.

Blanche Walsh will assume the Sardou characters made famous in recent years by Fanny Davenport in Melbourne MacDowell's starring tour this season.

Alice Neilson begins her starring tour in Herbert and Smith's new opera, "The Fortune Teller," in New York in September. Her Boston engagement is in February.

Chicago is, to say the least, right up to date in a theatrical way. "The Heroes of '98" is the title of a new play which received its initial performance in that city this week.

It is reported that Hall Caine is coming to America this fall to assist in the dramatization of his novel, "The Christian," in which Viola Allen makes her stellar debut.

Louis Evans Shipman, who arranged "Esmond" for E. H. Sothern, is now at work dramatizing Stevenson's "St. Ives"

which Richard Mansfield will control when finished.

Stuart Robson opens his season the first week in September at Wallack's theatre, New York, in Augustin Thomas' newest comedy, entitled "The Meddler." John E. Kellard is one of his company.

Charles Dickson and Henrietta Crozman will play the leading parts in Grant Stewart's new comedy, "Mistakes Will happen," which opens at McVicker's Theatre, Chicago, the middle of next month.

The leading people engaged for the cast of Henry Guy Carlton's latest play, "The Cuckoo," are My Vokes, Helen Reimer, Frederick Bond, Edward Abeles, John Ward and Nita Allen.

Olga Nethersole's coming tour of the States will be under Marcus R. Mayer's direction. The principal feature of her repertoire will be Louis N. Parker's new play, "The Termagant," but she will also appear in a new comedy by Max O'Rell, as Nora in Ibsen's "The Doll's House," and in a piece called "The Mutiny."

F. Ziegfeld, Jr. has returned from Europe and begun rehearsals for the French farcical comedy, "La Tortue," (The Turtle) which inaugurates the season at the Manhattan theatre New York, Sept. 3. Such skilled players as Sadie Martinot, W. J. Ferguson, M. A. Kennedy, Henry Bergman and 'Aunt Louisa' Eldridge are in the cast.

The long standing alliance of Mrs. James Brown Potter and Kyrle Bellow is about to be broken for a time at least. Mrs. Potter has been engaged as leading lady to play Miladi his version of "Three Musketeers" in the fall and Mr. Bellow will be Charles Wyrndham's leading man in a new play by Louis N. Parker and Murray Carson.

Augustin Dily has returned from Europe and is busy in New York preparing the two new musical plays he has secured for production this season. They are: "The Runaway Girl" and "The Greek Slave," and should they prove successful they will remain at Dily's theatre and Ada Rehan will play her winter engagement at the fifth Avenue theatre. Her chief new productions will be "Madame Sans Gene" and "The Merchant of Venice."

Melbourne MacDowell, recognizing the impossibility of his wife, Fanny Davenport, appearing on the stage this year, owing to the severe illness she is just passing through, has arranged to star during the coming season, supported by a prominent actress, in one of Sardou's plays owned by Miss Davenport. The tour will open the last of September, under the management of Ben Stern.

Mary Tucker has been re-engaged with the Bennett & Moulton Co.

Ed. R. Salter and Lottie Williams were united in marriage Aug. 1, in Chicago, Ill., Judge Hall officiating. Mr. Salter will be on the executive staff of Broadhurst's "Why Smith Left Home" Co., and his wife will be a member of Davis & Keogh's "Heart of the Klondyke" Co.

Charles Coghlan has completed his new play and rumor has it that it is a dramatization of Dickens' "Tale of Two cities," and that he will appear as Sydney Carton. Mr. Coghlan will open his season with a revival of "The Royal Box," and the new play will follow that.

Hall Caine is making two versions of "The Christian." The one in which Viola Allen will star makes Gloria the central figure and the other version, which Wilson Barrett will have, makes John Stern the centre of interest.

Adolph Sonenthal, the noted Viennese actor, who is the doyen of the famous Hofburg theatre company, of the Austrian capital will come for a brief season next spring.

Anna Held arrived in New York Tuesday on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Gross. She is under special contract to F. Ziegfeld, Jr., at a salary said to be 30,000 francs a month. In January she will appear in a new comedy at the Vaudeville theatre, Paris.

Reading Character.

"I distrust that man at first sight," said Tomkins, meaningly. Tomkins is one of the men who think they are born detectives. "Yes, sir, I would not trust that man with a saucypan-lid." "Hum," said Yabsley who happened to know the man in question and held a very different opinion. "And why not, may I ask?"

In the first place, do you notice the stooping insinuating way in which he carries his shoulders?

"That's craft."

"Oh!"

"In the second place you observe that he clutches his fists, as though he had a grip upon something that nothing would persuade him to loosen. That's cupidity."

"Ah!"

"In the third place, do you see how furtively he glances from side to side?"

"That's guilt."
"There was a pause."
"I happen to know that man," said Yabsley.
"And I am right?" demanded Tomkins, triumphantly.
"No, you are wrong. He has just become proficient enough to go in the street with his bicycle. Nearly all bicycle riders have these signs."

In Pleasant Company.

One evening Sir Arthur Sullivan went to see Rubinstein at his house in London. The Russian composer asked his visitor to step out on to the balcony and smoke a cigarette. They sat down, twisted their cigarettes, and puffed the blue clouds into the air. After a long pause Sullivan observed:

"You are a great admirer of Beethoven, I presume?"

"Yes," answered Rubinstein.

"And Wagner?"

"No," was the reply.

That was all. Not another word was spoken. They rocked themselves in their chairs, and smoked away. After a long time Sullivan remarked:

"I think it is time for me to be going."

"Don't say so," said Rubinstein. "Stay a bit longer; it is so nice to talk to you."

Sullivan remained, went on rocking himself and smoking into the small hours, when he at length got up and said:

"I must really be off now; I think we have chatted long enough."

Rubinstein drew out his watch, and shook his head in blank astonishment.

"Half-past two," he said. "Strange how quickly time flies in pleasant company!"

Barbers of Importance.

The barber of India is a man of much importance. He has no shop, and does not solicit customers by signs or symbols.

If the tourist in India observes closely the stream of life in the streets, he will now and then notice a man of quiet demeanour strolling along near the bazars, carrying a small bag or rolled up bundle under his arm, apparently not very solicitous of the attention of the passers-by.

This is the Hindu barber, who visits certain families early every morning. He performs bleeding, cupping, and undertakes surgical operations. It is he who bores the girls' ears and noses for putting in rings. No religious rite can be performed without the presence of the family barber. At the birth of a child the barber carries the good news to the relatives of the family. He plays an important part at a wedding, it being his duty to dress the groom. On the occasion of a funeral the barber shaves the heads of the living and of the dead.

Amended.

There is a story told of a very talkative lady who met with a well-deserved rebuke at a social gathering not long ago. Her husband is a man of high standing in the world of science, but the lady regards him as a dreamer of impossible dreams.

"Do you know," she remarked, "that genius and imbecility are twin brothers? The world regards John as a genius. Now there are times when I believe him to be an idiot."

A painful silence followed, broken by a blunt old doctor who had overheard the remark.

"Are we to understand, madam," he said "that Professor Y, though your husband, is so lightly esteemed by you?"

"I say what I think," she retorted. "At times John is unmistakably an idiot."

"Merely because he is your husband?"

"Sir!"

"Oh very well, was the grim rejoinder. 'We will put it another way. He is your husband because he is an idiot. Will that do?"

Why The Park Was Closed.

It is said of a certain Royal Duke that he is not in the habit of spending twopence where a penny will do. On a wet afternoon he hailed a cab in Bond Street, and requested to be driven to Victoria Station. Arrived at that terminus, he handed the cabman a shilling. Then of course came the inevitable, "Ere, what's this? Can't you make it another tanner?"

"Certainly not," said the noble tare. "And what is more, you came the wrong way. What made you go right round Hyde Park Corner and Grosvenor Place?" The cabbie saw that he had no chance, and chaffingly replied: "Wot for? 'Cos St. James's Park is closed—that's wot for!"

"Closed? St. James's Park closed? Why, how's that?"

"Oh, they say as how the Dook dropped a threepenny-bit a-comin' across the park last night, and the park's closed till they find it!"

Laughter Strictly Prohibited.

Some time ago, at a Saturday night entertainment associated with a place of worship in a poor district in the Midlands, one of the lay-workers, an energetic, but not otherwise particular brilliant individual, was elected to the chair. It was his first experience of the dignity, and he determined to show that he was quite equal to it. His conduct was all that could be desired until, in the course of a humorous recitation, the audience began to laugh. "Silence please," called the chairman, in a persuasive tone.

The recitation proceeded, and, as in the case of Oliver Wendal Holmes's printer's



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boy, the laughter developed. This was to much for the chairman's dignity.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I will have no laughing," he growled, "and if this unseemly conduct continues I shall stop the proceedings."

Had Used Him.

Six-year-old Tommie was sent by his eldest sister to the corner grocer's to buy a pound of sugar. After the proprietor of the shop had given the little lad his change he engaged Tommie in conversation.

"Tommie," said he, "I understand there is a new member of your family?"

"Yes sir," replied the boy, "I've got a little brother."

"Well, how do you like that, hey?" inquired the grocer.

"Don't like it at all," said Tommie; "rather have a little sister."

"Then why don't you change him, Tommie?"

"Well, we would if we could, but I suppose we can't. You see, we've used him four days now!"

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Widnes is in the proud position of selling the cheapest gas in the world, and doing it at considerable profit to the ratepayers. Last year Widnes held the world's record for cheap gas, the price being 1s. 9d. and 1s. 9d. per 1,000 cubic feet, and the make of gas increased from 181,900,000 cubic feet to 202,000,000 cubic feet; while the number of consumers increased from 4,322 to 4,884. After defraying the cost of the public lighting of the borough, £1,457 14s., the net profit on the gas undertaking was £2,073. From July 1st, the price of gas will be reduced to 1s. 4d. and 1s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet.

The Largest Locomotive.

The largest locomotive in the world is the Giant, of French type, on the Mallet compound articulated system, that was constructed by the Belgian State Railway Administration for the sharp gradients near Liege, having been shown at the Brussels Exhibition of last year. This engine, carried by six pairs of wheels, weighs in running order 108,000 kilos, equal to 106 tons, which weight is entirely utilized for adhesion; but the arrangement is such that each pair of wheels only loads the rails with 18,000 kilos equal to 17½ tons.

Traffic At London Bridge.

It is computed that about 200,000 pedestrians and 20,000 vehicles cross London Bridge every day. Each leaves behind a little shoe leather or a little iron—just a trifle. But when litter and dust are added to these minute losses the whole fills between three and four carts. The most surprising fact of all, however, is that the incessant traffic across the bridge reduces to power about twenty-five cubic yards of granite every year.

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