

Music and The Drama

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

Francis Wilson's new opera will be based upon 'Cyrano de Bergerac.'

Camille Saint Saens has gone to Buenos Ayres to conduct a series of concerts.

Siegfried Wagner is said to be at work on a new opera, 'The Lady Judge.'

It is reported that Annie Ashley will be De Wolf Hopper's prima donna soubrette next season. A year ago she was in his chorus.

Alice Neilsen is on her way to Honolulu, where she will spend the summer. She will begin the next season in Montreal in a new comic opera.

According to the Warsaw Courier the much-married Paderewski took to himself a wife at the Polish church of the Holy Ghost on Wednesday, May 3. Not the same person as was reported as having married him last week. This bride is reported to be Miss Helen Rosen. 'The pianist came to Warsaw incognito. No friends were invited to the ceremony, and the newly married couple left Sunday for M. Paderewski's estate at Rozpizca, to go thence to Lausanne.' When the truth is known it will probably be that Paderewski is still heartwhole and fancy free, and has had no idea of entering the matrimonial state.

Before he sailed for Europe Emil Sauer told a representative of the Music Trade Review that he does not expect to visit America again. It is his plan to spend the summer at his home in Dresden. He will not play again, he said, until January next when he expects to make a short tour in Vienna, Paris, Berlin, and London.

Massenet's new opera 'Cendrillon' is said to have made a great success in Paris at the Opera Comique. It is based on the story of 'Cinderella.'

Perosi's works are reported as having been received in London with much greater favor than they found here. There is, however, a polite lack of enthusiasm in the criticisms. The Journal says that at the first performance of 'The Resurrection of Christ' at Vienna, Perosi refused to mount the conductor's stand until one of the solo singers had remedied a bodice that was too décolleté.

The Maurice Grau opera company will begin its season Oct 2 in the far West. Calve and Sembrich will head the list of singers, but it is not expected that Jean de Reszke will return to this country in time for that tour.

Paderewski's success during his tour of Great Britain just closed has been unprecedented. In London the receipts at his last concert were over \$6,000 and in Glasgow he had an audience of over 4,000 people. In Paris he broke all records by filling a house with receipts of 14,800 francs, says the Music Trade Review. Paderewski will spend his summer vacation at his home in Switzerland, and will sail for this country in October.

Frank Damrosch has proposed a grand musical welcome for Dewey, and suggests that his Choral Union to its full strength greet the returning warrior with 'See the Conquering Hero Comes.' 'But this does not go far enough,' says the Criterion. 'It is not commensurate with the measure of Dewey's exploit. Let us rather place a group of enormous and melodious whistles at the furthest end of Staten Island put a twin set at High Bridge and then let a third set be placed on Liberty Island. Have them blown by steam, operated by electricity, and played by Frank Damrosch. Then choose some grand chorus with antiphonal effects, and provided the day was clear and the winds were whist, New York would be filled with a harmony never thought of even by the late lamented Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore. Imagine the weird beauty of the thing. From Staten Island

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My little nephew, John Staunton, was afflicted for two years with the worst sores I ever saw all over his body and face and head. His head and face at times were a solid scab. John was a pitiable sight, and he must have suffered dreadfully. His father used all the remedies that he heard of, and doctored with all the doctors. Everything was done for him. He wore a tar cap, also, which did no good, but the little boy got no relief until he used the CUTICURA (ointment) and CUTICURA SOAP. Now he is a clean, healthy child.

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to the Borough of the Bronx, the metropolis would be filled with song, and jaundiced foreign critics would have another chance to say that [we measure merit by bigness.] This scheme is certainly novel, but why not add church bells, trolley car gongs, a million or two anvils, and under no circumstances exclude the thousand and one factory whistles which could come in in the chorus, or take part in the familiar 'encore,' suggests the Music Trade Review. In other words, let it be a grand Wagnerian pandemonium: then Dewey will at once take the first ship back to Philippines and remain there for the rest of his life. No wonder he has decided not to arrive until October. He is waiting no doubt, for the frost of common sense to nip the thousand and one schemes which the papers are exploiting in connection with his arrival.

It is expected that Emil Paur will be conductor of the Wagnerian performances of opera next season by Grau's company.

It seems that Great Britain is about to have a taste of Reginald DeKoven. According to the London Daily News 'a joint stock company has been formed for the production in London of some of the successful operas of the American musician, Mr. Reginald de Koven. A start will be made in the autumn. The composer, a native of Connecticut has enjoyed a quite a cosmopolitan training at Oxford Stuttgart, Frankfurt and Florence.'

Johann Strauss said a short time before his death that the success of 'The Beautiful Blue Danube' began in the United States. It was sung first in Vienna by a choir of male voices, and having made no great impression dropped out of use for a while. Here it was introduced as an orchestral number and was popular everywhere before Vienna and other European cities became nearly so familiar with it. The last of the Strauss waltzes to be introduced here was 'The Voice of Spring,' which the composer wrote several years ago for Mme. Sembrich. It was to hear this that the composer went to the theatre for the last time a year ago during Mme. Sembrich's season at the Carl Theatre in Vienna. The success of 'Die Fledermaus,' when it was given for the first time by the singers of the Royal Opera House in Berlin several weeks ago, was so great that it has been decided to add another work by Strauss to the repertoire of the Imperial Opera in Vienna, which probably be selected. The opera, in spite of its beautiful ballet music, was soon dropped from the repertoire in Vienna as it did not attract the public, great as the popularity of its composer was in his city. It is possible that 'The Gipsy Baron' may be chosen in its place for this Berlin honor as its involved and trivial libretto cannot interfere with the enjoyment of the beautiful and characteristic music. The same opera will be performed by the company of the Imperial Opera house in Vienna. Strauss was said to be at work on a ballet shortly before his death. He had with difficulty secured an appropriate scenario after a competition in which more than a thousand efforts were submitted to him. He was often urged to write a complete ballet score, and it was thought that he would certainly produce a work worthy to rank with Delibes' 'Coppelia' or 'Sylvia.' The difficulty of finding an appropriate subject was always urged as his excuse for not undertaking the task. But it was known that he had very little sympathy with the art of dancing as such, and although a waltz king, it is said that he had never danced himself. The Strauss operettas have not retained their popularity here, chiefly on account of the inferior librettos provided for most of them. This intererred, indeed in Germany with the success of such later works as 'Jakuba' and 'Waldmeister.' These were never translated into English and the second was never heard here except at the performance given by the German companies. 'The Merry War' was probably the most successful of the Strauss operettas here, if the number of performances be taken as a standard. 'The Bat' with all its beautiful music, never gained any popularity and it has probably been heard here more frequently in German than in English. 'The Queen's lace handkerchief' probably stands next to 'The Merry War' in popularity, as 'Prince Methusalem' and 'The Gipsy Baron' never appealed very strongly to American audiences. 'The Bat' has always been the most famous of his works in Germany and in Austria. It is chiefly the librettos that limited the American vogue of his works. Usually they were bad enough in themselves and local adapters certainly never improved them. In England his operatic music was scarcely known on the stage. Viennese operetta

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never gained a hold there even in the case of such a master as Strauss. Paris has always supplied the English demand for importek comic opera.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

On Monday evening the amateurs gave their much anticipated production of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera 'Patience,' and their work in it received the heartiest endorsement of large and critical audiences. The stage setting, costuming and general effects were excellent in every detail—in fact the stage pictures were as charming and pretty as could possibly be desired, the graceful, aesthetically draped robes of the ladies giving a quaint and picturesque effect that was most pleasing, and taken as a whole, the entire production was in every way superior to that of 'The May Queen.'

Mrs. Taylor was in the name part and interpreted the character with a sweetness and grace, which went far to atone for her enunciation in her musical numbers which was not quite what it should have been. In the role of Lady Angela, Miss Constance Vail displayed wonderfully pleasing dramatic ability and scored a most gratifying success, and one that the audience was not slow to appreciate.

As Lady Jane the loveliest spinster of uncertain age Mrs. Schofield left little to be desired either as a singer or an actress. Her solo has been spoken of as quite the gem of the evening and her true, flexible and thoroughly sweet voice gave more than ordinary pleasure. Mrs. Schofield was obliged to respond to several recalls.

In the principal male roles were Messrs Seeley and Kelly, the former as the wierd super-aesthetical Bunthorne. Somehow Mr. Seeley gave the impression, whether intentional or not, that he wasn't trying to do his best; there was a restraint about his work which marred it very much, and was in unpleasant contrast to Mr. Kelly's happy abandon, and thoroughly good conception and interpretation of the character of Archibald Grosvenor.

Messrs. Lindsay, Ritchie and Rainnie supplied a bright little bit of comedy and their work in the last act was good. Mr. Ford of course wielded the conductor's baton, and his ability to do it in a masterly way is so well known that words of praise for his work in 'Patience' are not necessary. The orchestra was small but it was a thoroughly trained one, and had as a leader Mr. Albert Ford.

Financially the affair was a success, which, apart from all other merits, is most gratifying and shows a commendable desire on the part of the citizens to encourage what is really good.

Town Topics has been the attraction at the Opera house since Wednesday evening, and is a bright breezy conglomeration of fun and jollity that is bound to please, and is free from whatever might be regarded as in the least suggestive or coarse. There will be a matinee this afternoon and the engagement will close this evening.

Next week the W. J. Butler Company will appear in repertoire and promise something good in the way of standard plays.

M. Butler is very well known in this city having been here several times with the John E. Miles company and his excellent work won much approval. Mr. Butler's leading lady is Miss Henriette Browne formerly with Miss Claxton. Terry, Lambert and other artists, will look after the specialty work, and the plays to be produced during the week include 'Hazel Kirke, All a Mistake, Colleen Bawn, The Editor, Romeo and Juliet and others.'

Mrs. Langtry is to return to the stage again next season.

Frank Daniels intends to take 'The Idol's Eye' to London in 1901.

TO THE DEAF.—A rich lady, cured of Deafness and Noises in the Head by Dr. Nicholson's Artificial Ear Drums, has sent £1,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Apply to Department O. Q. The Institute, "Longcott," Gunnersbury, London, W., England.

Blanche Walsh bought the jewels of the late Fanny Davenport last week for the neat sum of \$10,000 and it was a bargain at that, for the collection cost Miss Davenport many thousands more than the \$10,000 realized.

A subscription season of Shakespeare's plays will be given at the London Lyceum next winter while Irving is making his American tour.

Sir Henry Irving has transferred the English rights of Ogilvie's version of 'Cyrano de Bergerac' to Mr. Charles Wyndham, and Louis N. Parker is to revise it for him.

Marie Wainwright was married a week ago Friday to Franklyn Boberts, formerly her leading man. They have gone to Europe with Mrs. Wainwright's two daughters.

Viola Allen's long engagement in 'The Christian' closed last week, and the Boston Museum will now remain dark until August when Roland Reed in a new play will open the season of 1899—1900.

Oлга Nethersole sailed for Europe last week on the St. Paul and will make a yachting trip through the Norwegian fiords this summer. Her company will be composed of American actors next season.

One hundred and fourteen new plays were produced in New York last season.

Louise Thordike-Boucicault is going abroad shortly to secure a play in which she expects to star next season.

Maude Adams will not play in England this season, and when she does it will not be as Juliet, but in a new play by J. M. Barrie.

When 'The Christian' is produced in London next fall, the author's daughter will have a part in it. She calls herself Miss Hall Caine. Evelyn Millard and Hubert Waring, now acting in 'The Adventures of Lady Ursula,' will play Glory and Storm.

It is said that William Gillette's dramatization of 'Sherlock Holmes' will not deal with any one of the detective stories in particular, but will introduce Holmes as the central figure in what will be an almost original play.

SEEKING QUIET.

Mrs. Billtops knows where she would like to go this summer.

'Ezra,' said Mrs. Billtops, 'are sanitariums quiet?'

'Well, I guess, Elizabeth,' said Mr. Billtops, 'that that depends a good deal on the sanitarium; some are quiet and some are not.'

'Well, Ezra,' said Mrs. Billtops, 'if you can find some quiet sanitarium where I can go this summer I want to go there instead of to the seashore.'

And this was all on account of the children. The hour was 8:30 P. M., and the smaller children had just gone to bed after a day of unbroken and unflagging uproar and activity. The noise of a planing mill would have been as the buzzing of lazy bees in a summer garden compared with the noise the children had been making all day long. The silence fell now, cool and grateful, after the turmoil of the day, but the reaction had left Mrs. Billtops a little limp.

'It isn't rest I want, Ezra,' said Mrs. Billtops; 'it's quiet.'

'I know it, Elizabeth,' Mr. Billtops said; 'I know it, and I wouldn't object to a little quiet myself now and then. I should like it if we would have quiet in the house after dinner; if I could smoke my cigar in peace and tranquillity; but somehow the meal that makes me calmly happy seems to fill the children with boisterousness and to make them noisier than at any other part of the day. Am I right, Elizabeth?'

'You are,' said Mrs. Billtops, 'but I hear it all day long.'

'I know it, Elizabeth; I know it,' said Mr. Billtops, 'and I have never heard you speak of it before. I don't see how you can possibly stand it, and I'll look up some quiet sanitarium sure.'

And then they settled down on either side of the table to read, very comfortable, both, and both thankful in their hearts for the children who had been given to them, and who were now sleeping quietly.

Obliged to Him.

Mr. Gladstone, when he was staying at Oxford for the last time, in 1892, had been dining in hall, and afterwards attending common room, which was just over, most of the company having dispersed. The distinguished guest was standing with his back to the fire narrating some reminiscence of his university days.

'Yes, sir,' he was saying, 'I set eyes on him then for the first an' last time, and that must have been—let me see—fully sixty years ago.'

At this point a young man, who was sitting at the corner of the fireplace and was afflicted with a cold, happened to cough slightly. Instantly Mr. Gladstone wheeled about, and, making him a courteous bow, said, with his usual emphasis—'Thank you, sir; thank you. I am

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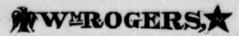
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obliged to you for that correction. I did exaggerate the lapse of time. I have no doubt. I should have said fifty years, or fifty-five at the outside.'

The confusion of the young man, who had not the honor of the great man's acquaintance, and from whose mind nothing was further than to interrupt his reminiscence, may be imagined.

Anger Works; Great Changes.

'Few studies,' said a thoughtful physician to the writer, 'are of more profound interest to me than the chemist of the human body.'

'We have a vast amount to learn yet regarding the action of its different constituents upon each other. Already it is beginning to be recognized that anger and other unpleasant feelings create important evil chemical changes in the body, just as on the other hand, fine generous emotions enact on the organism with health giving effect. Every evil motion is a veritable poison, and this is nowhere more vividly shown than in the effect on the blood, which actually undergoes a chemical change during the fits of excitement, anger grief or despair.'

'Undoubtedly and equable condition of mind is the most favorable to health and longevity. A good rule is to be neither elevated nor depressed, for even pleasurable forms of excitement have to be paid for in draughts on the vitality.'

With Least to Do.

Two bluejackets were once overheard arguing as to who had the least work to do on board a man-of-war.

'It's the parson,' said one.

'Ow d'ye make that out?' queried the other.

'Cos 'e's got no work to do, and all day to do it in.'

'You ain't quite got it, Bill,' retorted his friend, while an inspired grin illumined his features; 'it ain't the parson, it's the cap'n o' marines.'

'O's that?'

'Well, as you say, the parson's got no work to do, and all day to do it in; but the cap'n o' marines 'as nothin' to do, and all day to do it in and 'as a lewtenant o' marines to 'elp 'im do it.'

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