

Music and The Drama

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

Active preparations are being made for presenting the May Queen which will be sung in the Opera House April 18th and 19th. The stage accessories and scenic effects will make a series of brilliant tableaux which are certain to please, and an evening of pleasure is promised to the large audience which always patronizes Mr. Ford and the amateurs when they come before the public in opera. The Queen is a representation of the May day as celebrated in the days of Queen Elizabeth, with a love story included. Liberty has been taken with history, in introducing the Outlaw Robin Hood, who disguised as a Forester attempts to win the May Queen from her rustic lover. The lover, by the way, stands up for his rights and when things have gone too far, promptly knocks Robin Hood down. In those days, the law claimed the hand of any one unfortunate enough to strike a blow on the crown lands and in consequence the lover is in a sad and sorry plight with every prospect of being maimed for life—strains of music are heard and the Royal Barge comes down the river, bearing the Queen, who wishes to know the meaning of the sounds just heard; when told that it is a strife between two gallants for the May day Queen Elizabeth promptly orders them away that justice may be done. Then it is that the poor little Queen of the May, realizes how foolish she has been, and earnestly pleads her lover's cause, with success, for after joining their hands, and sternly reprimanding Robin Hood for his interference, Elizabeth and her court quit the scene. During the revels, the gay Morris and graceful May Pole dance will be performed. Care has been taken to have these dances as near the original idea as possible. Mr. John A. Kelly sings the lover. Mr. Robert Seely's rich baritone will be heard to the best advantage in Robin Hood's music, while Mr. Joe Rainnie is sure to make the most of the jester. The rest of the parts are in thoroughly competent hands. The stage pictures are being taken charge of by Miss Alice Lillian Butcher, and Mr. J. J. McCaffrey is looking after the scenic effects. Gay with flowers, bright with tuneful melody, the May Queen should more than delight. Mr. Ford has an excellent local orchestra and expects the piece, will excel other amateur work done under his baton by the Amateurs.

The curtain raiser, a gay little comedi-etta by Theyre Smith called "My Uncle's Will" is in capable hands and promises to be very enjoyable.

An excellent audience greeted the Euterpean Club on Monday evening, the occasion of their first appearance in public. The school room of St. John's church was comfortably filled with a most appreciative audience. The club has a membership of sixteen, included in which are our best known vocalists and with this material Mr. James Ford, the conductor, was naturally in a position to give an unusually satisfactory and enjoyable concert. The number which seemed to please the audience most was the Boat Song by Cowen, and indeed it was a charming thing, charmingly rendered. The voices blended in every number in a well nigh perfect manner and the quality was rich and full. Mr. Kelly sang two solos in so thoroughly finished and sympathetic a manner that the audience were very persistent in their demand for more. Mr. Albert Ford's violin numbers were rendered with spirit precision and that attention to light and shade which stamps his work as far beyond the ordinary.

The Euterpean club is an organization which deserves the heartiest encouragement, and it is devoutly to be hoped that it will be warmly extended to them at all times.

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SAVE YOUR HANDS

At Thursday April 13th, for which a very fine programme is being prepared the names appearing thereon being a sufficient guarantee of superior excellence. Present indications are that the concert will receive a very generous patronage.

A complimentary concert has been tendered Professor W. Edgar Buck to take place at the Institute on Monday April 24th; the programme will include several operatic solos, duets, etc, and the Miserere scene from Il Trovatore, in costume in which Mr Buck will sustain the character of the count.

It was said in New York this week that Lillian Russell was dissatisfied with the manner of her reception in Philadelphia on Monday night when Edna Wallace Hopper got most of the applause in 'La Belle Helene' The audience is said to have been made up chiefly of students of the university of Pennsylvania, who applauded Mrs. Hopper with enthusiasm, but ignored Miss Russell, who, as the prima donna of the company, is not accustomed to such treatment. Miss Russell did not demand Mrs. Hopper's resignation, but decided to get out herself at the end of the present week. Her contract requires her to remain with George Lederer of the Casino for six weeks more. But Miss Russell will in all probability return to New York one week from to-day and leave the company without a prima donna. As 'La Belle Helene' was revived for Miss Russell's sake, it is not probable that the managers in the cities in which she is engaged to appear will be satisfied to accept a substitute.

That Miss Russell will in all probability retire is a settled fact. But Mrs. Hopper's Philadelphia popularity has nothing to do with the matter. The prima donna discovered only a short time ago that the route of the company for the remainder of the season was almost entirely devoted to towns in which only one performance would be given. Miss Russell will not sing in what are technically known as "one-night stands." Various managers have in vain represented to her the great rewards that would come from such a tour. Miss Russell is known in the large cities, but the smaller towns have only seen her photographs and heard of her husbands. This is quite reasonably thought to have inspired the villages with a burning desire to see the American singer in person. Miss Russell has always been firm on this point, however. She says that the golden harvest awaiting her in the small towns can be plucked from the horny-handed agriculturist just as effectively ten years hence as it can be to-day. She prefers to wait until that time. For this reason and not because of any offended dignity she will return soon to New York.

A more interesting piece of theatrical news was being discussed by the actors Monday afternoon. It was said that a professional reunion of De Wolf Hopper and his former wife, Edna Wallace Hopper was a practical certainty for next season. Mr. Hopper is said to have made an offer to his wife some weeks ago and in all probability it will be accepted. Mrs. Hopper, according to the story told by a manager would have some share in determining the organization of the company. It will, at all events, be so organized as to contain no members objectionable to her on personal grounds. Not only will Mrs. Hopper return to her former husband's company, but his old manager and orchestra director—Messrs Stevens and Hiller—are also expected to resume their former work with him.

'Mr. Hopper probably believes,' said the manager 'that an actress of Mr. Hopper's kind is necessary, or, at all events, advantageous to his company. There was talk of Della Fox returning to his support, but that idea has been given up. The public has become accustomed to seeing with Mr. Hopper some such actress as his former wife. I do not believe that any contracts have as yet been signed but there is now very little doubt that Mr. and Mrs. Hopper will be found acting together next year.

In Frisco on Thursday last, Lily Post formerly of the McCall Opera Company, was locked up in a padded cell in the insane ward of the Receiving Hospital. Her friends, realizing that her mind was failing concluded to have her cared for pending an examination as to her sanity.

'Sam Toy' is the title of the comic opera which is to succeed 'A Greek Slave' at Daily's Theatre London. The author is E. A. Morton, a critic and journalist. The scene says the New York Times, is laid in a Chinese province where there is a British resident. Sam Toy is a daughter of the great Mandarin. This part will be played by Marie Tempest, Hayden Coffin is also in the cast.

Albert Hart, who has been leading comedian of 'The Bride Elect,' will be seen in 'The Man in the Moon.'

Alfredo Barill, a musician of Atlanta, and a nephew of Adelina Patti, has just

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received a letter from his aunt. He says that 'Mrs. Patti describes in enthusiastic language the manner in which she is enjoying her honeymoon, and declares that she is "as happy and as lovelick as a maiden in the first throes of the tendest passion."

TALK OF THEATRE.

Good audience prevailed at the opera house on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, upon which evenings the City Cornet Band minstrels occupied the stage and gave general satisfaction to their patrons. The circle was well arranged, and those who took part in the cake walk went through it like professionals. There was a feeling that the burlesque A Session of the Council left a good deal to be desired, though those who are familiar with the performances of that august body say that some of the features were pretty true to life. There were excellent opportunities however, that were passed over, though that perhaps was done out of consideration to the feelings of the city fathers some of whom even as it was, it is said did not quite relish the way in which the mirror was held up to nature. The management of the concerts are well satisfied with the financial results.

The theatrical season will open at the opera house on Monday evening when a burlesque company will begin a week's engagement. If there's anything in a name the company will get the benefit of it for it is known to fame as the California Bon Ton Burlesque and Specialty company. There are said to be a whole lot of clever artists in the organization, notably the California trio, and some specialty people whose names are not unknown; pretty women who have served this week as lay figures round which the vivid imagination of the enterprising press agent of the Opera house has woven some interesting facts calculated to excite interest in the highest degree, and an altogether brilliant collection of people. The company comes well recommended and as it is some time since we have had anything in this line it is quite likely that the patronage extended will be most generous.

It is evident that the return of Sir Henry Irving to the stage of the London Lyceum will be the principal event of the theatrical year. The newspapers are beginning already to print every procurable scrap of gossip connected with it. Sir Henry, judging from the elaborateness of his preparations has great faith in the new piece which Sardou has written for him, and with his son, Laurence Irving, has translated. 'Robespierre' is in five acts and eight scenes, and the action is supposed to occur between June 6 and July 26, 1794. Some of the principal scenes are La Place de la Revolution, Paris; Hall in the Conciergerie

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Pyison, and the Hall of the National Convention in Paris. In all these there are manifest opportunities for scenic display. The cast is a very long one, including more than fifty names, but it is clear that a large proportion of the personages are little more than lay figures. It is pleasant to note that Sir Henry will be supported by many members of his old company. Among the more prominent performers will be Kyrle Bellow, Laurence Irving, Cooper Cliffe, Fuller Mellish, Louis Calvert, F. Tyars, and of course, Miss Ellen Terry. The London Daily Mail says: "The two great scenes, the spectacles, of the piece are the "Fete of the Supreme Being," and the last the convention preceding Robespierre's downfall. The pageant of the fete will be of a most gorgeous character. "The Fete of the Supreme Being" was really organized by Robespierre as a protest against the atheistical tendencies of the time. It is his vindication of the supernatural; his answer to the procession of the Goddess of Reason—impersonated by a beautiful singer of the opera house. The spectacle is of an allegorical character treated in the classical spirit. Part of it is composed of representations of ancient warriors, and part of it of the members of the convention in their splendid gala uniform. It symbolizes too, the five ages of man, from youth upward, and in it also appears the Goddess of Agriculture. These revels take place in the Place de la Revolution—now the Place de la Concorde—from which the guillotine had been removed for the purpose. . . . Charles Cartwright is the author of a new five-act drama, called "Robespierre," which he has just produced at an English provincial theatre.

Herr Sonnenthal, the renowned German actor, made his first appearance at the Irving Place Theatre, New York, on April 6 in 'Nathan der Weise.' This will be followed by 'Junggesellen,' then will come 'Wallenstein.'

'The Weldons,' a new four-act society drama by Hubert Henry Davis, will be performed at the final matinee of the American Academy of the Dramatic Arts on the afternoon of April 10, in the Empire Theatre, New York.

The New York Lyceum company will present both 'Trelawny of the Wells' and 'John Ingerfield' on its annual spring tour, which will begin a week from Monday. Mr. Daniel Frohman is so pleased with the reception of 'John Ingerfield' that he has decided to open the stock company's season with it next autumn.

Norman Forbes himself is the author of 'The Man in the Iron Mask.'

Digby Bell, the actor, who recently took advantage of the bankruptcy law in Chicago, was given a benefit in that city last week.

Mr. Alexander is rehearsing Edward Rose's 'In Days of Old.'

A copyright performance has been given in England of Mr. George Bernard Shaw's new play, 'Caesar and Cleopatra,' with Mrs. Patrick Campbell and Nutcomb Gould in the principal characters. The play is in five acts, several of which have more than one scene, and introduces 37 characters exclusive of supernumeraries.

A dramatic version of Egerton Castle's romance, 'The Pride of Jennico,' has been accepted by Daniel Frohman, according to a London announcement, and is to be seen in New York next season. Mr. Castle has written also a four-act play of modern life called 'A Mere Peccadillo,' which will be produced before long by Mr. Forbes Robertson. This latter piece seems to be something in the nature of a problem play.

Ivanovitch Polivanoff, who died at Moscow on February 11, in his sixty-second year, was the founder of the Russian Shakespeare Society, and the translator of Moliere, Racine and Corneille into Russian.—New York Evening Post.

Haddon Chambers has just received a commission to write a new play for George Alexander, who made such a success in 'The Idler.'

Charles Cailey-Fernald, author of 'The Cat and the Cherub,' has written a Japanese play, a comedy with serious interest, in which Forbes Robertson intends, it is said, to appear, Page has written the illustrative music.

Charles Brookfield is adapting 'La Loi de l'Homme' for the English stage.

'The Purple Lady,' an adaptation by Sydney Rosenfield from the German was produced at the New York Bijou Theatre last Monday night. The title refers to a picture, and the story deals with the complications ensuing between the subject of it and the painter. Maud Harrison, Etienne Girardot and Minnie Dupree are to play the principal characters.

Cissie Loftus is suing her husband Justin Huntly McCarty, for divorce. Edna May also wants a divorce.

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Peter E Studebaker, wagon manufacturer, of South Bend, Ind., has written a romantic drama, called 'Sword and Sceptre.'

Loie Fuller is going blind. She is beyond all hope, and within a few months is feared, she will be sightless. This news has been suppressed out of consideration of her feelings by her friends but it can no longer be denied. This loss of sight has been caused entirely by the strong lights which have been turned on her while she is dancing.—London Cable in New York Telegraph.

It is rumored that the New York Casino is after Will H. Sloan to play Dan Daly's role in 'The Bells of New York.'

The cast of 'Mother Goose,' which is to be revived at the Fourteenth Street Theatre New York, shortly will include Arnold Kirtaly, (Jack), Amelia Glover (Jill), Bessie Bonehill, (Jack Horner), Ella Chapman, Ida Mülle, Jessie Villars, Alexander Clark and Gilbert Sarony.

'Report for Duty,' produced in New York last week, did not score a hit.

May Howard will not be seen at the head of her own company next season as heretofore, but will play dates instead.

Henry Hermann has replaced Henry Lee as Richelieu in the Leibler production of 'The Musketeers.'

Charles Frohman has secured the dramatic rights for 'David Harum,' a novel by Edward Noyes Westcott.

Easter Monday witnessed the American premiere at Wallack's New York of 'The Cuckoo,' adapted by Charles H Brookfield from Henry Meilhase's 'Deuore.' Mr. Brookfield's adaptation is a little less flippant than the original, but much more cynical.

Chicago, of the New York Morning Telegraph, speaking of the new play by the Sidmans, which will be one of the star features of Keith's Boston, this week, says: 'It is a good thing to sit down and take things quietly for awhile, even in the midst of the horseplay of the average variety theatre, and this episode from the life of a farmer seems to appeal to those who are mixed up in the bustle of city life, and comes like sleep to tired eyes.'

Oiga Nethersole is said to be considering a play dealing with the present war in Philippians.

The New York Lyceum Theatre company in 'Trelawny of the Wells' will open at the Hollis Street theatre, Boston, April 10.

Anna Held, whose travels are nearing an end, has transferred her private car to Nat C. Goodwin for the rest of the season.

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