

Music and The Drama

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

Cora Tanner, according to report is to forsake the dramatic for the operatic stage.

Grace Cameron has been secured for Castle Square Opera company's Chicago engagement.

Hilda Clark who has been studying in Paris; has signed as prima donna of the Bostonians next season.

The Boston Ladies' Military band will tour next season under management of the Star Lyceum Bureau, New York.

Katherine Bloodgood has been singing in Nova Scotia, where her audience were charmed with her magnificent voice.

Charles L. Young will give a series of concerts at the Paris Exposition during August and September. None but American artists will appear.

W. S. Gilbert applied in London on Friday for an injunction to restrain Janette Steer from playing Pygmalion and Galates, Mr. Gilbert complains that Miss Steer has altered the business of the piece.

Augusta Lehmann once a popular opera soprano died at Santa Cruz, California last week. She was born in Germany and came to America with Parepa Rosa singing in all the principal cities. Recently she has been teaching vocal music.

Edward Straus and his orchestra were a frost in the United States a few years ago but there has been such steady progress in the appreciation of music—whether profound or popular—that the visit of the famous leader next autumn may be more successful.

Lilla Vane who succeeds Viola Allan in The Christian (Eastern Company) is a sister of W. S. Harkins and is said to be a wonderfully clever woman. Miss Vane was five years leading woman for Charles Frohman, who this season wished to secure her return to his ranks but circumstances prevented.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Excellent holiday houses greeted W. S. Harkins, upon his return the first of the week, for a weeks engagement here. "The Magistrate," the opening bill, is one of the unmitigated, brightest things seen on the opera house stage in many years, and provoked that feeling of genuine mirth which made the hearty applause and expressions of approval wonderfully spontaneous and free from restraint. All the principals were seen in roles that called for special ability and those who had seen them in "Quo Vadis" and "Sowing the Wind" were surprised and charmed beyond expression at the versatility displayed. "The Magistrate" was given two performances, and on Tuesday evening drew an excellent house, something which does not often occur following a holiday. "Sowing the Wind" was played on Wednesday and Thursday. Today the engagement closes with "Dandy Dick" one of Pinero's brightest and best comedies. Mr. Harkins had an especially successful trip through Nova Scotia, and from the various towns and cities in which he played some warm words of praise for the splendid work done by his company. Tonight the St. John theatre going people will say au revoir to Harkins and his company for another year, and he and they may bear with them assurance of deep regard and promise of a great big "hand" upon their return next season.

Mr. E. L. Breeze left this week for a two weeks stay in New York on business connected with the forthcoming elaborate production of Monte Cristo, in that city later in the season.

Revels Humpty Dumpty company will play a short engagement here next week. It is largely pantomimic, and has drawn largely wherever produced.

Billy Van's minstrels have been holding

forth at the Institute this week, and attracting very fair audiences.

Julia Marlowe is summing at her cottage in the Catskills.

Bruce McKee is spending the summer holidays in Europe.

Christine Langford will play lead for Gus Hill next season.

Della Fox is rapidly regaining her health in a New York sanatorium.

Hobart Gosworth will be with Blanche Walsh next season playing lead.

"Lost in Egypt" will have its first New York production late in November.

Ada Rehan sailed for England on June 29. She may play on the other side.

Madame Helene Modjeska is spending the summer at her ranch in California.

Bessie D. Beardsley has been engaged for soubrette roles with Thomas E. Shea.

Neva Harrison has been reengaged for the part of Fan Fan in "Two Little Vagabonds."

Gertrude Elliott has been engaged with Forbes Robertson as leading lady next season.

Hodge Podge & Co. will be the title of the play in which Peter Diley will star next season.

George Clarke who was with Augustin Daly's company for many years has decided to go into vaudeville.

Helena du Carte will star next season in a repertoire of society plays under direction of George W. Howe.

Marie Wainwright will have a new one act play by Justin Hanley McCarthy to use in vaudeville next season.

Edwin Gordon Lawrence is to star next season in a new romantic play by A. P. Sellbawer, entitled "A Soldier Corsica."

Lillian Mortimer will be featured in Camille, From From, Oliver Twist and the Pearl of Savoy with J. E. Toole next season.

Henry Irving was warmly welcomed to London upon his return, and a banquet was given at which many distinguished people were present.

Lizzie Evans will not be seen in vaudeville next season, but will be featured as Georgia in Coon Hollow and will star in a new version of "Foggy Ferry."

Thomas A. Wise, the "Tom" of pleasant memory, will return from England early in August to originate the leading role in the new Broadhurst Comedy "The House that Jack Built."

Mary Manning will present next season besides "Janice Meredith" a dramatization of Anthony Hope's novel, "The Heart of the Princess Orsa" made by Edward Rose.

Nat C. Goodwin took an overdose of morphine at Butte, last week, and narrowly escaped death. A physician had prescribed morphine for insomnia and the comedian took too much.

London's most interesting theatrical event of last week was Wilson Barrett's first metropolitan production of Quo Vadis—his own version which is said to surpass all other versions in strength and dramatic interests.

It is said that Sarah Bernhardt in her tour of America with Coquel next season, will receive \$1,000 for each performance and a percentage of the receipts above a certain amount. In addition all her expenses will be paid.

It was announced that James K. Hackett would play "Richard Carvel" by Winston Churchill but it has since been decided that he will play another season in "The Pride of Jennico." "Richard Carvel" is to be put on by Charles Frohman.

Ida Fuller is making elaborate preparations for next season. She will put on an entirely new set of dances which she believes will excel all her previous efforts in the same line. She has applied for copyrights on her new effects.

Jessie Mackaye will be featured with Jefferson De Angelis next season in a new musical comedy with book by Charles Klein in which De Angelis will star under the management of Everett R. Reynolds. Miss Mackaye has gained prominence by her excellent work with De Wolf Hopper.

The preliminary season of "The Wooing of Mrs. Van Cott," John E. McCann's new comedy under the management of Edwin C. Jepson will begin in July. These have been engaged: Eugene Jepson, Frank Roberts, Jefferson Osborne, James Bevins, Walter Wilson, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Kate Jepson. Frank L. Bixby will act as business manager.

A notable feature of the coming season will be the quantity of famous novels to be exploited as plays. Mary Manning opens her season as a star in Paul Ford's "Janice Meredith," W. H. Crane will be seen in "David Harum," Viola Allen will produce "In the Palace of the King," Henry Muller is to put on "To Have and to

"Silver Plate that Wears."



For the Sideboard

We are showing a variety of pieces in Meriden Britannia Company's "Silver Plate that Wears." This beautifully colored and decorated dish is fittingly enclosed in a handsome standard, the whole making a very attractive article. Other pieces of less or greater value in the same grade of plate in almost endless variety.

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Hold, Jacob Litt will produce "Caleb West," and Henry E. Dixey will be seen in "The Adventures of Francois." Wilton Lackaye is hard at work on his own dramatization of "Les Miserables." Daniel Frohman will have "Red Pottage;" Marie Burroughs "A Battle Scared Hero," and Julia Marlowe "When Neighbored was in Flower." Otis Skinner will be seen in "Prince Otto" and Henry Jewett in "The Choir Invisible." Sol Smith Russell will also be seen in a dramatization by Martha Morton of a well known novel.

Mary E. Wilkins is to be represented in the theatre next season by her dramatization of "Jerome, A Poor Man." This is one of the few works of the gifted actor that is a complete novel, her fame as a graphic describer of New England character having been won for her through the medium of the sketch and short story. "Jerome" is to be staged by Walter E. Perkins who has been identified for some time with "My Friend From India." The name of the dramatist has not been announced, but it is hoped he will preserve the charms of pathos and sentiment as well as the humor in which the story abounds. Miss Wilkins has a strong ambition to write plays herself. She wrote a New England drama that was acted by the ill-fated Theatre of Arts and Letters, and she has dramatized some of her own stories, but these are as yet unacted.

Facts About Finger Nails.

The detection of criminals will, it is believed, be much facilitated through the recent discovery of certain curious facts in regard to fingernails. When a crime is committed it is important to learn whether the perpetrator is right handed or left handed, and an examination of the finger nails will throw abundant light on this point. Dr. Ragnault, in a paper read before the Anthropological Society of Paris, shows that there is a wide difference between the nails of the right and those of the left hand, and that the nails of the right hand of a right handed person are broader than those of the left hand, while the opposite is the case with left handed persons.

Dr. A. Minekow has made further researches in the same direction. According to him the difference in the size of the nails of the right and left hand varies from one-fourth to two millimeters. In those rare instances in which both hands are used equally no difference in size is noticeable. The thumbnail is always the broadest in the case of adults and the middle finger has always the longest nail, next to it in order being the ring finger, the index finger and the little finger. The nails of the right hand are usually quit-

ter than in the case of right-handed persons, the index finger and thumb being most marked in this respect. On left-handed persons such flat nails are rarely, if ever, seen. Dr. Minekow finally says that there seems to be a curious connection between the circumference of the chest and the breadth of the fingernails, his numerous experiments having shown him that the broader the chest is the larger the nails are.

Feeling a Hawk.

"Buffalo Jones," who caught and tamed great numbers of the wild animals of the plains, knew perfectly well how his life received its first bent in that direction. He says, in his "Forty Years of Adventure:" "When a lad of twelve I was sent to the woods, with the hired man, to saw off logs. My father was to come with a sled in the afternoon and haul the logs to mill. As we were working, I looked up into the tree, and saw a fox-squirrel swinging on a limb. I dropped the saw and climbed.

Soon the beautiful little creature was high up in the branches; and when I pursued him to the end of a limb, he gave a spring and caught in the boughs of another tree. So I descended, and climbed another tree, and as the squirrel repeated his tactics, I did mine, until the greater part of the day was gone.

At last the little fellow took refuge in a hole in a large bur-oak. I thrust in my hand, seized him and held on, even though his long, sharp teeth nearly took off the end of my finger. I kept a firm grip until I reached the ground. Then I put him in my pocket, and pinned it together with some honey-louise thorns.

When my father returned and found no logs to load, he demanded an explanation. That was duly given, and then a boy of my size received a good thrashing, meanwhile managing to keep his cap over the squirrel to protect it, preferring to receive the blows himself.

I tamed that squirrel and loved him; but finally I sold him for two dollars to a gentleman who had a crippled son. That transaction seemed to fix in me a ruling passion which has never deserted me, and I began catching and taming wild animals.

Her Right.

An exchange tells a true story of a little girl, the daughter of a clergyman, who was ailing, and in consequence had been put to bed early.

"Mamma," said she, "I want to see my dear papa."

"No, dear," said her mother. "Papa is not to be disturbed just now."

"I want to see my papa!"

"No," was the answer, "I cannot disturb him."

Then the four-year-old parishioner rose to a question of privilege.

"Mamma," said she, "I am a sick woman, and I want to see my minister!"

Poking Fires for a Living.

The trades of London are many, and some of them seem very strange to an American. One occupation by which scores of Britons are said to earn their livelihood is that of "poking fires." It is thus described by a London exchange, and whatever else may be thought of the story, it speaks well for the Jews of England as faithful keepers of their law.

By the Rabbinical law, no Jew is allowed to kindle or mend any fire on the Sabbath; and in certain places in England, where Jews are very numerous, this prohibition makes it necessary that persons shall be employed from sunset on Friday to the same hour on Saturday, in going from house to house lighting fires and attending to them.

One woman in the east end of London often has as many as fifty houses to attend to, and draws small fees from each of them. It is not long since a male "fire-

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poker" in that quarter died worth more than three hundred pounds, which he had saved out of his earnings. It often happens at the east end that a strict Jew goes out into the street and says to some christian passer-by, "Would you be so kind as to come indoors and light my lamp? The 'fire poker' has failed me."

Many a tip do the police constables get for services of the kind. One of them said that he had received scores of small presents for putting kettles on the fire.

Absolutely Dependable.

"Can you depend on what Bondword says?"

"You bet your life! Why, man, I've known him to quit a poker game loser just because he'd promised his wife he'd be home early!"

The Weak Link.

"Our woman's base ball club went to pieces."

"Game too exhausting?"

"No; but we couldn't find a lady umpire who would give a decision and stick to it."

"Just interviewed a centenarian today,"

"Man or woman?"

"Man."

"Did he say he had been using tobacco since he was ten?"

"No."

"Say he had never paid a doctor's bill in his life?"

"Not a word."

"Say he had been drinking whiskey ever since he was a kid?"

"Never heard him."

"Well, you can stake your life that he is no centenarian at all."

"And what little boy would like to be president?" inquired the new teacher, as she toyed with the big globe.

No hands went up.

"What?" she continued, "is it possible no little boy would like to be president?"

"Der might be some," spoke up the boy who had been put on the bench for cartooning the blackboard, but dey ain't a going to say so. Day remembers Dewey."

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"Have you got an ambulance call in the house?" asked the young man, shyly.

"Yes; it's in the next room," replied the rich man, as he stopped, for a moment, cutting off coupons.

"Well, let's go in there; I'm going to ask you for the hand of your daughter in marriage."

"What makes the Armless Wonder so surly this morning?" asked the Living Skeleton of the Fat Lady. "The Snake Charmer got him to go and have his fortune told, and after he had paid his fee at the door he discovered that the fortune teller was a palmist."

"My son always explains the railway time tables to me before I leave home."

"That is kind and thoughtful."

"Yes; he knows I never understand anything he tells me but it makes us both feel safer."

"She moves like a swan on the water."

"Do you think so? Now my idea has always been that she moves like a duck going after a grasshopper.—Herald."

"It pays to be honest."

"Yes, but that is a mighty low-down reason for being honest."



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