

**Music and The Drama**

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

'Barbara Frietchie' is the name of a new march in 6-8 time that is having a wonderful rage in New York.

Sam Jones, the originator of the song 'Where Did You Get That Hat,' is now the manager of a Glasgow, Scotland music hall.

De Wolf Hopper has taken a lease of the Shafterbury theatre, London, and is presenting 'The Charlatan' under the title of 'The Mystical Miss.'

Ellen Beach Yaw, who successfully created the leading role in the Rose of Persia, will not take up the part again as her health is not equal to the strain.

'The Light House by The Sea' is the title of a new musical sketch which is to be produced in Chicago for the first time next month. It is said to contain some startling novelties in the way of mechanical effects.

Mme. Webenan, a new pianist from Vienna made her first appearance in England two weeks ago under the direction of Ernest Cavour. It is said she was appreciated as a cultivated and accomplished artist but did not display any extraordinary qualifications.

The latest London success, the Rose of Persia, has caught the public fancy to such an extent that Sir Arthur Sullivan and Captain Basil Hood who are responsible for the merry opera are again to collaborate for a successor to the Rose, when it is needed in the distant future.

'The Prince of Bohemia,' a new operatic comedy was given its first production in Boston on Jan. 10. The music is by Geo. Tracy, composer of Excelsior Jr. 'The Royal Twins' and other comic operas. It is said there is a little of everything in the Prince comedy, pantomime, satire, grand opera and some charming ballads.

John William Glover, editor in 1859 of the collected edition of Moore's Melodies, and founder of the Choral Institute of Dublin, died in the latter city last week at the age of eighty-six. In 1880 he was a violinist in the celebrated Dublin orchestra and afterwards director of the cathedral choir. One of his operas based by Edmund Falconer upon Goldsmith's 'Deserted Village,' was produced some years ago in Dublin.

The parts in the Oberammergau Passion Play have been distributed as follows: The elderly men have all retired, but the mayor, Lang, is still the leader of all. His part of the High Priest Caiaphas will be played by his son, Sebastian Lang. Anton Lang takes the part of Christ, while Joseph Mayer, who preceded him, will deliver the prologue. Anna Flunger is to be Mary, instead of Rosa Lang. The leader of the chorus is Jacob Rutz, who sang the part in the last performance. Sebastian Bauer is to be Pilate, while Thomas Rende, who was Pilate, will be Peter. The part of John will again be played by Peter Rendl. The actors of the smaller parts are almost all retained.

John Coates, who was specially selected by Sir Arthur Sullivan to sing his setting of Kipling's poem, The Absent-Minded Beggar at a leading London Theatre has undergone a change of voice and from a baritone he developed into a tenor. In consequence he has retired from the theatre where he was creating a stir and will devote his time towards learning the great tenor parts and music in the famous operas and pieces of the English and foreign stage. Coates is well known in America where in 1894 he made a hit in light opera both in Boston and New York. In 1895 he played to crowded houses in all the leading American cities. In Boston where he appeared with The Artists Model he was publicly presented with a handsome souvenir. He has had prominent parts in The Geisha, and also The Runaway Girl.

Among current New York rumors is one which refers to plans for a season of English Grand opera at the Metropolitan Opera House. It is stated that the projectors of the scheme endeavored to get Maurice Grau's co-operation and that subscriptions for a series of performances next season have already been secured. In discussing the affair the N. Y. Clipper says: "Mr.

Grau has, according to statement, declined to take part in the venture, but, as his company will not occupy the house until late in the season, the promoters of the new enterprise claim that they will give their series of performances under the direction of Theodore Habelman. Mr. Habelman was, a score or more of years ago, a well known and highly favored tenor in grand opera in this country. He subsequently became stage manager of German opera at the Metropolitan Opera House, this city, and for a number of years has held a similar position in Breslau. He is well fitted for the position to which report has assigned him, and his name employed in connection with the scheme has gained for it a degree of belief. In engaging the company it is claimed that preference will be given to American singers, but it is admitted that some German singers, possessing a knowledge of English, will also be found among the principals."

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

That St. John still has a taste for good plays properly presented is evidenced by the increase in patronage extended to the Stock Company at the Opera House. Their presentation of Taming of The Shrew last week was a magnificent production heartily endorsed by good houses and the warmest commendation of all who witnessed it. The costuming was beautiful and appropriate, the stage settings tasteful and attractive—in fact these are two strong points of the company aside from its merit as a strong combination of artistic talent. Lady Windermere's Fan, a play somewhat after the style of the Crust of Society was played the first three nights of the week and later that great old English comedy, The School for Scandal, was the attraction. The company closes its fourth week in St. John this evening. Mr. Mawson, Miss Bonstelle and Mr. Webster have strongly entrenched themselves in popular favor and their every appearance is the signal for prolonged applause.

Forbes Robertson has been quite ill. Sol Smith Russell closed his season of Jan. 6.

Thomas Q. Seabrooke is being starred in The Rounders.

Lewis Morrison's Faust was in Worcester, Mass last week.

Thomas E. Shea, well known here is playing through Pennsylvania.

Martha Rudehill is Robert Mantelle's efficient leading lady this season.

Charles Wyndham is producing Cyrano de Bergerac in the English provinces.

The Bennett & Moulton company A. is said to be breaking all previous records.

Sidney Grundy says that Mrs. Langtry has made the success of her career in The Degenerates.

J. H. Shepherd author of the Senators Daughter, and the Moonshiners is engaged upon a new play.

Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon have a new play that New York may see before the end of the season.

James O'Neill is playing in Boston, Mass. this week. His stay in Montreal was very successful.

Lincoln J. Carters, Under the Dome, has caught Texas and is one of the years successes in The Lone Star State.

John R. Rogers will shortly leave London for Russia, India, China and Japan for a tour with Mrs. Bernard Beere.

Vera De Noie has written two new plays for next season. They are called "A Bandit's Son" and "A Tory's Daughter."

Captain W T Parkias at one time a power in the music hall world of London was found dead in his room at Kew recently.

It is said that Tod Sloane has signified his intention of backing DeWolfe Hopper for any amount in a new venture he has on hand.

Mrs. G. H. Gilbert recently celebrated her 80th birthday in New York, and actors, artists and authors called to congratulate her.

A sister of Joe Greene, the actor, who was a favorite here for two or three seasons, dropped dead in Cambridgeport, Mass, last week.

Edward Terry has not come to any decision regarding his American and Australian tours. He will appear in his own theatre in March.

Hans Ravene, a German actor, was instantly killed in Cleveland, Ohio, last week by falling down stairs in his board-house and breaking his neck.

James K. Hackett was seriously wounded in the hand while rehearsing for The Pride of Jennico in New York last week. He was practising a fencing bout with another actor and for want of more suitable weapons they used a pair of sharp rapiers. In

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parrying a thrust Mr. Royce's rapier slid down the steel held by Mr. Hackett and coming in contact with his hand inflicted a deep and painful wound.

Amelia Bingham has been engaged for the role of Lady Winifred in Hearts are Trumps. This is the part which it was originally intended Ada Rehan should play in the London production.

Wesley Mantell is preparing the scenic effects for the dramatization of The Merry Musketeers which opens its season in Chicago on Jan. 15. The tour is booked for the Pacific coast and return.

William Ringold, the veteran English actor, has been compelled to retire from the stage through the failure of his eyesight. He was sixty-one years of age and has been on the boards since he was four years old.

W. A. Brady has purchased a play in which to star Mrs. Brady who is known on the stage as Grace George. The piece is an adaptation from the French by Harry St. Maur and is called Man and Wife. It is a serious drama with some very strong scenes and an excellent part for Miss George.

Alfred Shirley has rewritten the last act of The Absent Minded Beggar in order to bring the play into accordance with the present state of affairs in Africa. A play has been produced in Brussels by the way which upon the Boer side and shows the follower of Kuger downing the British at the end of every act.

Richard Mansfield has already decided upon his play for next season. It will be Shakespeare's Henry V. and the production will be made in New York in October. Next spring Mansfield intends to produce a play in which the central figure is King Frederick William of Prussia. He has also commissioned Stephen Phillips author of Paoli and Francesca to write a play for him.

Thomas Kite formerly parish clerk at Shakespeare's Church has just died in his 91st year. He had succeeded to the post held by his father and grandfather but resigned it about forty years. He was known to all the dramatic celebrities of half a century ago and had conducted to the tomb of the poet such celebrities as Edwin Booth, Hawthorne, Irving, Sir Walter Scott, Emerson and Macready.

The old question as to where Wilson Barrett sought inspiration for The Sign of The Cross having been revived in America and making in many cases a charge of plagiarism, Caleb Porter, Mr. Barrett's private secretary, has set the matter at rest for once and all. He has conclusively proved that the novel, Quo Vadis, to which it is said he owed his inspiration for his famous play was not published as a serial story

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**GRIP**

until one year after the production of Barrett's play.

Paris is much interested in the change of base of the well known actor M. Gioutry who left the vauville to become a 'soctaire' of the Theatre Francais. He will have a large salary and pension on retirement Gioutry was 'discovered' by Sarah Bernhardt in St. Petersburg and is considered the best stage lover in France. His fault is that he will ignore the other actors and declaim to the audience and this was very notably so in his appearance in the French version of Secret Service when he made most of his speeches from the edge of the footlights.

Jacob Litt, manager of the N. Y. Broadway theatre, has made arrangements to form an extensive organization known as the Broadway Stock Company, which will produce on a very elaborate scale melodramatic plays. A contract has been entered into with Cecil Raleigh, the English playwright, to furnish one melodrama a year, and in conjunction with this arrangement an effort was made to bring about a deal with the management of the Drury Lane theatre in England to produce their melodramas in this country on the same plan that existed between the late Augustin Daly and the English people. But the latter effort to secure enormous royalties from Mr. Litt by advancing their figures from 15 to 35 per cent caused the deal to fall through. Joseph Kilgour has been engaged to play the leading roles in the productions and other prominent actors and actresses are under consideration.

Henry George's First Friend.

In the late seventies, Henry George, the single-tax reformer, came East from California. He was desperately poor and had but few acquaintances. Shortly after his arrival he lectured before the Saturday Ethical Club New York, where his brilliant oratory and shabby attire made so striking a contrast as to excite the sympathy of those present. After he left, the club appointed a committee to aid him in getting up a public lecture. Among others, the committee included Seth Low who was then engaged in business. He was in consultation at the time, and the committee were in a hurry, so he told them to send him a lot of tickets. They forwarded twenty to him the same day, and felt happy at having secured twenty dollars for the lecture fund. The next morning came a letter of thanks from Mr. Low, praising the lecturer's intellectuality and inclosing a check for \$250. The affair was a success, netting about \$300, so that President Low may be said to have been the first man to start Mr. George on his eastern career.

Twenty years later, in 1897 Mr. Low was the citizens' candidate and Mr. George the labor candidate for Mayor of New York. The latter made a vigorous campaign, and in all his speeches advised the citizens, if they could not vote for him, to vote for his friend, Seth Low; and on one occasion he said that if it had not been for the latter he would not be there as a candidate. Few understood his full meaning.

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WM. T. H. FENETY, GEORGINA C. FENETY, FREDERICK S. SHARP, Executors and Executrix

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