

Music and The Drama

TONES AND UNDERTONES.

Rehearsals for Nell Wynne are in full blast and those who take part are enthusiastic over the opera.

Reports from New Mexico state that Edouard Strauss is much improved in health and will probably soon be on the road again.

A Bach festival is to be held under Joachim at Berlin in March. In connection with it will be an exhibition of Bach autographs and relics.

William H. McDonald, the baritone of "The Bostonians," will deliver lectures on the art of singing in several of the cities his company visits this season.

Lulu Glaser is reading the manuscript of a new musical comedy or comic opera with a view to using it as a successor to "Sweet Anne Page," in which she has just finished an engagement.

Madame Lucile Grahn, who danced in Paris in 1838, and afterwards was one of the famous Pas de Quatre, at Her Majesty's Theatre, is still living. She has just presented 400,000 marks (\$100,000) to the Burgomaster of Munich to form a fund for students and poor young musicians.

The sudden death of Belle Davis Fremont, the young prima donna of the Bostonians, ends a very promising career. The young singer was a niece of Jessie Bartlett Davis, who was so prostrated by the shock that she has been compelled to abandon her engagement in New York this week and take a week's rest at her home in Chicago.

Grip is getting in its work among the musical and dramatic profession in New York and quite a number of well known people are laid up with the maady, among them being: Joseph Wheelock, Jr., of the Empire Theatre company, Fanny Johnstone at the Casino, Lady Francis Hope, Adele Ritchie, Edna May, Hilda Spong, Cissy Loftus, E. D. Price, Chas. Dillingham, Olga Nethersole and Ethel Barrymore.

The city of Paris has decided to honor the memory of Charles Garnier, architect of the Opera, by giving his name to one of the streets of the city. It was at first suggested to give his name to one of the new streets laid out on the site of the prison of La Roquette, but better counsel prevailed and the Rue Mogador in the immediate neighborhood of the Opera is to be renamed for the great architect which is much more appropriate, because of the street being near the building which is his masterpiece.

TALK OF THE THEATRE

One of the brightest and most charming plays given here in some time was Peaceful Valley, which was the opening bill of the Valentine Stock's fourth week at the Opera House. The piece was written by a New York newspaper man for Sol Smith Russell and is replete with humor of the quiet, refined kind, and has a touch of nature breaking out here, there and everywhere all through the piece.

A feature of the production was in the appearance of Mr. Robert Evans, one of last year's greatest favorites, and to whose popularity ample testimony was given in the reception accorded him on Monday evening. So prolonged was the outburst of enthusiasm that it was several minutes before Mr. Evans could proceed with his lines. He played Hosea Howe the hero of Peaceful Valley, in a manner that left no doubt of his capabilities as a good, conscientious actor. His lines were clearly and delightfully spoken, and all through the piece his work was a source of pleasure.

Miss Kate Blanche was the dear old woman of the Valley with all its cares, its joys and sorrows under her personal supervision and so strongly did she play her part that all through her work was interrupted by outbursts of applause while again in the more pathetic parts tears paid tribute to her good acting.

Miss Nora O'Brien played the role of Virginia Rand in a charmingly easy and graceful manner and won hosts of new admirers. She and Miss Watson, who made a bright little ingenue, wore some beautiful gowns during the evening. Mr. Hagar played the villain in the clear intelligent way he interprets all his roles, and Mr. King, Mr. Chesterfield and Mr. Whitty also had roles of which they made the most.

Entirely new scenery was used in the production and added greatly to its success. The Black Flag is the attraction at the opera house to day at both perform-

ances and is a particularly strong bill. It is a play replete with human interest calls the elements that go to make up a most successful and popular play.

Ada Rehan's receipts in her first week in Sweet Nell of Old Drury are said to have exceeded \$11,000.

Henrietta Crossman whose engagement in New York terminated so suddenly was once leading woman with the Valentine Stock company, now at the opera house here.

Joseph Brennan who played here in W. S. Harkins production of Quo Vadis last spring is playing the part of the stage coach driver in Nellie McHenry's production of M'liss.

Thorold's new romantic drama "Near the Throne," is now in full rehearsal at New York. The company engaged for it is very notable. The female portion of it is headed by Frances Drake, seen here with Lytell about four years ago.

William Greet, one of the most prominent London managers, will next season extend his interests to America. He is to send another English company to America with a new play. He was the manager of Wilson Barrett's, "Sign of the Cross."

During the engagement of Maude Adams in L'Aiglon in New York, the author of the play, Edmond Rostand, received, it is said, the largest check ever paid to an author in America. It was his royalty on \$47,000, the receipts for the two largest week's of the engagement.

Lottie Blair Parker author of the piece which Joseph Grimer elaborated into "Way Down East" was little known to the public till Mr. Brady produced the play. She was previously the authoress of "White Roses," a charming comedietta which ran through a season in New York.

John Hare's season on the American stage is proving the most successful of any he has ever had in America. The reason for this is not hard to find for The Gay Lord Quex is the most powerful play which he has ever given and has created a positive sensation both in London and New York. Following his metropolitan engagement, Mr. Hare will visit some of the more important cities of the United States and will open at the Hollis street theatre on Jan. 28.

It is said that E. H. Southern who is now playing in Chicago will within a few weeks take his production of "Hamlet" to London. Mr. Sothorn is also quoted as stating that next season his wife, Virginia Harned, who is now his leading woman, will head her own company as a star. Mr. Southern's repertory for next year will be "Hamlet" and "Richard Lovelace," a new play by Laurence Irving, a son of Sir Henry. The rumor of a disagreement between Mr. Sothorn and his manager, Mr. Daniel Frohman, was flatly and positively denied by the actor.

Says a London paper: The contractors have engaged that the New Adelphi Theatre shall be handed over complete to Mr. Tom B. Davis on April 15 next. In the belief that they will execute their bond, he has arranged to open the new theatre with an American musical comedy on April 20. It is probable that Miss Madge Lessing will appear in this piece instead of at the Lyric. It would be premature, however, to make any certain statement, as the casting of "The Silver Slipper" depends upon Mr. Owen Hall, and much as he would like both Miss Ada Reeve and the latest importation from America to appear in his new musical comedy, the final word remains with Mr. T. B. Davis, who, from economical reasons, will be hardly likely to have both these ladies in the Lyric company. Later, Mr. Tom B. Davis may arrange with Messrs. Weber & Field to send over their well known vaudeville combination, the leading lights in which at present are Miss Lillian Russell and Mr. DeWolf Hopper, to the New Adelphi.

During the absence from his company of James K. Hackett this week, Mr. Stephen Wright is playing the part of Basil Jennico in "The Pride of Jennico," which is doing a large business in Baltimore. Mr. Wright has long been known as a very capable leading man, and Mr. Hackett was very anxious that he be given an opportunity to play the part. Word comes from Baltimore that Mr. Wright's performance has created a distinct impression, which is likely to materially benefit his standing. It was in just such a manner that Miss Amy Ricard, who is now Mary Manning's leading woman, achieved success last season. Miss Ricard was playing an inconsequential part in "Jennico" when Miss Galland was taken ill. On a few moments' notice the young woman was called upon to play the role of Princess Ottilie. This she did with so much distinction as to attract considerable notice, and her engagement with Miss Manning

was a direct result. There is, therefore, a decided precedent of success for Mr. Wright to follow.

GREAT GAMBLING AT HELENA.

The Montana Legislature Is About to Meet and the Faro Limit Has Been Raised. 'I reckon,' said an old Montana gambler, 'that there is no town in the country where you can get as high a limit in bucking the tiger as you can right here in this little spot in the mountains. The legislature meets at Helena next week, and that may be the cause of the abnormal raise, but no matter what the cause is, I hardly expect to see any one kicking because he can't get all he wants to on the single turn of a card. There is a faro game right here in Helena with a one thousand dollar limit on singles, and in all my career I've seen no man holler for a bigger limit. We've run along for years with a limit varying from \$12 to \$100 in cases, and seemed to satisfy the demand, with occasional exceptions, but I understand there is to be an unprecedentedly heavy game this winter, and after a consultation we have decided to place the limit at \$1,000 on each of the fifty-two cards in the deck, and I imagine that will satisfy 'em all.

'And the raise of the limit from \$100 to \$1,000 is not based wholly on sentiment either. During the last session of the legislature we had a private game for a young man with a five-hundred-dollar limit right after the grand jury's investigation of the senatorship contest, and in just fourteen hours he lost \$75,000 or about \$5,000 an hour, which is, I guess, one of the steepest games ever played in Montana. But he came back the next day to show that he was true blue and won back \$66,000 in an even shorter time. This man sent word over that he would be here again this winter, and he wanted a one-thousand dollar limit this time, and it was partly at his request that the limit was raised, but, of course, the game is open to all, and any one can have the same privilege.

'And not only can the highest limit in the West be secured here, but you can play in the most magnificently furnished gambling house to be found in the country. I have travelled from coast to coast and while some private clubs are more elaborate, and have costlier paintings, for a public gambling house the swellest of 'em all is right here in this town. Why, the look-out has a finer chair to recline in than the Governor of the State. Yes, I've played Congress Hall at Saratoga, and dealt in all the Hot Springs resorts, and know whereof I speak.

'The Montana anti gambling law? Yes, there is one, and it is probably as strict in its provisions as any to be found in the country. But don't you know that old adage about mining camps and faro games, that is, where you find the first named you will also find the other? And do you suppose that after having played faro in Montana all the years since the first discovery of gold in Alder Gulch in '63 these men would send a man to the penitentiary for simply indulging in their favorite pastime? Preposterous! There has not been a conviction under the law, and there never will be. In fact the law is such a dead letter that it will probably be repealed this winter.'

'Any high rolling lately?' asked the reporter.

'Yes, we have had a pretty stiff play all the year. Swede Sam is \$300,000 to the good inside of sixteen months, which is not a bad record by any means, and there are several others who have won and lost fortunes in that time.'

'But I mean individual plunging,' said the questioner.

'Yes, had some of that, too. Young fellow came over here from Butte on a special train not long ago to clean up the town after having won a big stake there. He arrived at about 4 o'clock in the morning after most of the sports had retired. He didn't do a thing but hire some hacks and send for a few friends with the request that they join him in a game of poker. The game was for table stakes and between \$15,000 and 16,000 changed hands before 10 o'clock that morning. That is, he carried that much back to Butte with him in addition to the stake he had on arrival. His train cost him \$800, but he could easily afford that after winning over \$15,000.

'Then, again, a Utah mining man lost \$22,000 at roulette in one night, after having been \$30,000 to the good at one stage of the game. He had a fifty-dollar limit on numbers, which pay 35 for 1, you know, so that when he won he received \$5,250 in return.'

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THE COON'S WARNING.

Trouble For a Bear That Refused to Take Advice and Change His Home.

The coon was fast asleep in his hollow tree when he was awakened by a scratching on the trunk below, and looking out and down he perceived a bear at the foot of the tree. Hurrying down he said:

'Good gracious, but who would have expected to see you here! Why I haven't seen a bear around here for over two years!'

'I've come to make my home here for the winter,' replied the bear, 'and being told by the woodchuck that you occupied this tree I thought I'd wake you up and have a little talk. How are things around here anyhow? I lived here one winter four or five years ago, but there are many changes since then. Do you think I'll be safe for the winter.'

'My dear friend, I'm glad you came to me,' said the coon as he took a seat on a log. 'When you lived here years ago there was only one farmer about, and the forest was all around. Now you can see for yourself that there are five farmers, and that the woods have almost been cut away. It will be dangerous for you to stop for even one day. Just the minute a dog finds your tracks the farmers will turn out to hunt you down.'

'But I am not afraid of dogs and farmers,' said the bear. 'I can kill a dog with one blow of my paw, and after I have clawed and bitten one farmer I guess the others will leave me alone. Besides, I shall be asleep most of the time. You know how it is with bears. As soon as the real cold weather comes on we curl up somewhere and sleep most of the winter. If I don't stir out how are they going to find my tracks?'

'But you will move about when a warm day comes. I know your habits. Don't you think of stopping around here. I am only a coon and my pelt is worth but 50 cents, and yet they are after me all the time. Your pelt is worth \$10, and if you don't heed what I say somebody will make a rug of it before spring comes.'

The bear was obstinate and ridiculed the idea, and within an hour he was hunting for a home. As he could find no cave he made his lair in the top of a fallen tree, and the weather coming on very cold he went to sleep for several days and was not heard of. After about a week, however, a thaw set in and he started out for a ramble. There was snow on the ground, and left a broad trail wherever he went. He was wondering if he could not run across a calf or a pig to breakfast, when all at once he heard the barking of dogs and the shouts of men, and it was only a moment before the coon came scurrying along as



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hard as he could go and called out: 'I told you how it would be! They have found your tracks and are after you, and now you must run for your life.' The bear turned and ran, while the coon climbed the nearest tree. It was not a long race. The dogs soon overhauled the bear, and he had to stop and fight them. While thus engaged, two farmers with guns came hurrying up and though it took five or six bullets to kill the bear they kept firing away 'till he was dead. That night, as the fox was wand'ring about, he met the coon and said:

'How foolish of the bear to wander out as he did! Didn't you warn him of the danger?'

'Of course I did,' replied the coon, 'but he would have his own way about it. You see the result of obstinacy. If he had taken advice he would have been a live bear tonight. As he wouldn't his skin is nailed on a barn door to dry and there are no mourners at his funeral.'

Her Preference.

Jack— 'Don't you think that woman, as a rule, prefers a man who is her master?' Ethel— 'Not at all. She prefers one who thinks he is.'

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