-----Music and The Drama

CONES AND UNDERTONES.

An amateur opera company from Halifax gave two performances at the Opera house this week, the interesting events occurring however, too late in the week for any notice in this department.

"Evangeline" is to be given shortly at the New Mechanic's Institute under the auspices of the Kings Daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Rodenbough of Maine are conducting rehearsals and about 125 young people will take part.

"The Giddy Throng" is having a great run in New York.

When next Josef Hofmann comes to America he will visit Canada under the management of Mr. Wolfshon.

Mr. Tom Daniel sang in Stone church last Sunday evening. Mr. Daniel went to Canso this week to sing at a local concert.

Mme. Helen Hopekirk resigns her connection with the New England Conservatory of Music at the close of the present season.

Jessie Bartlette Davis will take a month's rest at her home in Chicago, prepatory for her summer season of song at the Pan-American exposition, Buffalo.

Frederic Ranken, the author of "The Ameer," "The Viceroy" and several other operas, has purchased the dramatic rights to Winifred Eaton's Japanese story entitled "A Japanese Nightingale," which he intends to dramatize for production next season.

Sarah Bernhardt has tendered Elsie De Wolfe the use of her theatre in Paris and the American actress has accepted. Clyde Fitch's new play "The Way of the World" in which Miss De Wolfe is to make her American debut about Oct 1, will be seen in the French capital next year. This arrangement is in accordance with the policy mapped out which is that the American tour is to end in March, the London engagement beginning Easter time and end ing with the Parisian engagement.

To hear Bach at his best one must go to Berlin. Concerning a recent Bach concert given under Siegtried Och's the fol lowing has been said by a great critic. "Everything sounded superbly, and even those who had been scared a trifle over the thought of having to listen to no less than five church cantatas at one sitting, found, perhaps to their own astonishment, that their interest was held in captivity to the last. Partially, this result was due to the enthusiasm in the reproductions, chorus as well as orchestra sounding fresh and brilliant, and two of the soloists, at least, Mrs. Geller-Wolter, the alto, and Messchaert, the basso, being for above what one is wont to hear from average concert singers. But Bach's music in itself was so overpowering in its effect and so gigantic in its conceptional beauty and the unapproachable mastery of its structu ral composition that admiration could not flag for one moment during the performance of even so taxing a programme."

A determined effort, says a Birmingham correspondent of the London Empress, is being made by several London publishing firms, in conjunction with certain trades. men in the city, to force members of the musical instrument trade to increase their prices for sheet music. The nominal price for sheet music is 4s but up to now it has been retailed at 1s 4d or 1s 6d. An agitation was started a few weeks ago by some of the smaller tradesmen, and a 'ring' being formed, every retailer in the town except one has now been compelled to raise the price to a minimum of 1s 6d, under penality of the closing of his account with the publishing house. The one firm which has stood out—the largest in the town-is now being threatened with a boycott by the publishing houses. No very long existence, however, is predicted for the 'ring,' and it is anticipated that it will collapse as did the notorious 'Bedstead Trust,' which was formed in Birmingham some little time ago.

TALK OF THE THEATES.

The Harmony Club Minstrels gave to excellent performances at the opera house, on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The entertainment was characterized by brightness, snap and vim. The sengs were catchy and tuneful, the jokes new and thoroughly refined. The club is establishing quite a reputation for itself, and their appearance before the public will always be an event of interest.

An entertainment was given at the opera house on Wednesday evening, in aid of the Roman Catholic orphanages in the city. It was very successful.

Helen Helland, a lady well known in the becomes a snake once more. The success

dramatic world, is to be Mr. E. D. Mawsons leading lady when he opens here on May 20. Already the sale of seats has opened at the opera house box office, and there is every evidence that the coming engagement will be most successful.

Bernhardt and Coquelin have had a great run in Boston and L'Aiglon has captured the Hub in great style.

Henrietta Crosman has met with great success in her Boston engagement and her Nell Gwynne has made conquests by the hundreds.

Forbes Robertson opened the London Comedy theatre last week with the new romantic play "Count Tezma" written for him by Mr. Homer.

Chauncey Olcott in Mavourneen continues to attract great audiences to the Fourteenth Street theatre and will be seen in that peice for an indifinite period.

The revival of Diplomacy at the N. Y. Empire theatre, has been received very cordially. Miss Jessie Millward and Miss Margaret Anglin are making the hits of

A new modern melodrama called "The Mandarin" by Alicia Ramsay and Rudolph Cordova was produced in London last week. Harry Stanford, Dorothea Baird and Yorke Stephens had prominent parts.

"King Washington," a new play by Robert Louis Weed, founded upon the novel by the same name, was given a special production in New York on Thursday of this week. Among the players are David Murray, Mary Harlem, George Warnock, Frank Blair, Collin Varry, Don D Orr, Maude Granger, Eleanor Carey, Gertrude Perry and Madge Otis.

The Convent of the Assumption at Passy, France, has just been sold for 1,040,000 francs. Rachel, the great tragedienne once occupied this superb residence. Dame Rumor says that the nuns were recently alarmed by the discovery of several hundred love letter which the actress left behind her in an ancient cupboard, concealed behind some tapestry.

Mr. Wilson Barrett, who ever has a keen eye for the main chance, and knows how sweet are the profits of advertisement, is evidently angling once more for the support of that nonconformist conscience which he captured with "The Sign of the Cross." The title of his next new play is "The Christian King." The topic is not yet announced, and, possibly, does not much matter.

Emily Wakeman, who is re engaged by William Brady for next season as the village school mistress in "Lovers Lane" is to be featured by Clyde Fitch a year later in a new play that he is to write during his coming vacation in Italy. Miss Wakeman is only twenty-three but has made a great reputation in eccentric character parts. She is a daughter of Thaddeus R. Wakeman president of the Liberal University of Oregon.

It is interesting to note that despite the German State theatres and their encouragement of writers of the stamp of Ibsen and Hauptmann, three farces—two German and one a translation of . The Girl from Maxim's"—were the most frequently produced plays in Germany during 1899. Of musical works 'The Geisha' was only outdone by Wagner's 'Nibelungen Ring!' 'Hamlet' was played seventy times in Germany in that year.

There can be no doubt, in view of Mrs. Fiske's experiences this season, that the public will follow a famous player to any theatre. Mrs. Fiske's last season's experience tended to establish this, but she has played this season in several cities in such circumstances as to leave no doubt as to the loyalty of theatregoers to a favorite. [In every minor theatre in which she has ap peared she has been greeted by an audience as large and brilliant as the particular city could assemble. This was especially notable in Indianapolis, a conservative city whose better class of theatregoers might be supposed to hesitate when invited to a 'popular-price' house, especially in a case in which first-class prices were

Mr. Russell Vaun's 'Nicandra,' in which Mrs. Brown Potter has been acting in London, seems to be a farce compacted out of very ancient material. The heroipe is a former priestess of Isis, who, having been transformed into a snake, is transported, in later centuries, into a London mansion, where she recovers her original shape and plays the mischief generally. All the men and women of the household make passionate leve at cross purposes. The master and an American visiter compete for the smiles of Nicandra, while the elderly mistress coquets with the butler and the serving weach sets her cap at the young heir. When the confusion has lasted long enough The announcement is made that Miss the spell is broken, and the ex-priestess of the piece appears to have been very moderate.

Mr Cecil Releigh continues to ventilate his commercial views on the theatre. He writes in a London paper: "Mr Henry Arthur Jones has pointed there is scarcely any serious drama in London leads what he calls a half starved existence. Why? Because some people have been trying to foist upon the public a sort of drama that the public will not go to see. The public most properly insists upon going its own way, and if we want to understand exactly what that way is we have got to comparethe value of shares in the Empire and shares in the Lyceum. Will any subsidized theatre on earth ever be conducted on finer lines than was the Lyceum under Sir Henry Irving? Yet Sir Henry had to give up the job with a sigh. A millionaire may give us the same thing and stand the loss himself.'

There is a critic in Aslesund, Norway, who at least has the courage of his opinions. He went to the play the other night and thus delivered himself in the next edition of his paper: 'The travelling theatrical company at present visiting this town gave last night a representation of a play styled 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' by a person called Shakespere. The play is said to be a comedy, but is terribly monotonous in its effect, especially the first two acts. An uncouth and besotted cavalier, who flirts and spoons with a bevy of demimondaines, but who becomes a victim to their absurd intrigues-such is the sum total of the plot. We can only say that such a play is poor fare to invite an educated public to. It was a relief when the curtain dropped, and we had an opportunity of listening to a selection of humorous

The rumor that Miss Charlotte Crabtree is to reappear upon the stage does not carry with it an air of conviction. Having been absent from the stage for so many years it is doubtful if Lotta would prove nything like the attraction. She used to be though she were as good as ever in her line of work. Says the Boston Transcript regarding the rumor:

She would have to enter the lists as a newcomer. She would not have an equal chance with a newcomer. She would find herself handicapped by a reputation which it would be practically impossible for her to live up to, not because she has deteriorated, but because she would have to woo a new generation that knows not Lotta and which is wedded to other and new stage favorites, and because her surviving old admirers have changed in taste as they have grown older and what pleased them once is pretty sure to bore them now. If it is true that Lotta is coming back to the stage, her intention reflects more creditupon her courage and her love for the tootlights than upon her judgment.

Marketing on the Amur.

A traveller upon the Amur River says in A New Way Around an Old World' that the method of obtaining supplies on the little Russian boats is both primitive and entertaining.

The approach to a village was a matter of much interest, both to those on ship and to those on shore. When within an quar ter of a mile the captain would blow a tremendous blast on the whistle, to summon every man, woman and child within

They would all respond with promptness, and come streaming down the bluff to the shore, each woman hugging two or three bottles of milk, or carrying a pail of butter a basket of eggs, a bowl of sour cream, or a great loaf of black bread with a hole in the middle like a huge doughnut.

Sometimes a woman would appear, holding a large goose in her arms as tenderly as if it were a baby, the body of the bird being concealed in her blouse, while its long neck craned out, the goose exhibiting as much interest in the passing show as any on shore.

The passengers would all congregate on the upper deck, many of them with empty bottles in their hands, to exchange, with ten copecks added, for the full bottles on

There are no docks or piers at these villages along the Amur, and to make fast to a bank, in this swift and shallow water, is a work of time and patience. First the anchor is thrown about a hundred yards from the shore, and cable enough is paid out to allow the boat to drift within twenty feet of land. Then a bowline is carried ashore in the ship's boat, and made fast to a tree or post.

A stern line is treated in the same way. and by this time the steamer is near enough for the long gunplanks to be pulled ashore. A wooden horse is put underneath to steady them, and then the eager passengers stream ever, and for a time there is a lively barter in milk and eggs, curd choose and black bread.

Tommy—I hate to have me whip me. Jimmy—Aw—wimmen can't hit hard. Tommy-That's it; pe thinks she don't do it—se he allus gives me some, too.

A KENTUCKY FEUD OVER.

Continued from page two.

for county school superintendent and spent \$15,000 to get the place, although it pays only a few hundred dollars a year. In 1886, Gen. Garrard opposed John Lucas for isilor because the Whites were for Lucas and although Lucas had been jailer for twenty eight years he was defeated by thirteen votes.

In recent years, Gen. Garrard's bitteres fight was made to prevent Will White from being elected sheriff. White wa elected and was killed by Tom Baker, Garrard sympathizer. Will White was succeeded by Bev. White, who has just resigned. It will be remembered that while Tom Baker was on trial for killing Will White he was shot down in the court house vard, the shot coming from the sheriff's house.

The Bakers and the Philpots have always been allied with the Garrards and the Howards have been allied with the Whites. The fights between the Bakers and Howards have augmented the bitterness between the Garrards and the Whites The Whites regarded it as their duty to aid with money and by other means any Howard that got into trouble with a Baker, while the Garrards felt the same way to ward the Bakers.

The killing of Jim Howard's father by Tom Baker and the murder of old man Baker, Tom's father, by Jim Howard, to avenge the death of his father, only added to the fury of the vendetta. It is said, however, that the senior Baker in his last hours said he forgave Jim Howard for shooting him and that he blamed no one but his own son who had brought death to his father by killing the elder Howard.

John G. White of this place is authority for the statement that his family has spent no less than \$1,000,000 in fighting the Garrards. Some years ago, when Gen. Garrard tound that he had spent all his money in fighting the Whites, he pulled up stakes and went to California where he made \$100,000 in mining deals. He came back to the Kentucky mountains and has spent about all of that money in keeping up the fight.

During the Civil War the Union army took possession of Gen. Garrard's salt mines and he has had a claim before Congress for about \$30,000. He has spent about \$40,000 in trying to collect the

During the years of the warfare several of the Whites have married into the Garrard family. There is not an instance where the marriage has not proved happy and when the Garrard girls married Whites they at once became strong White partisans.

Respectability's Disadvantages.

An extensive owner of city real estate was called upon at his office one morning by a stranger, who asked him:

'Is this Mr. Philpot ?'

'Yes, sir,' he replied.

'You own the property at 575 Bumblehorpe Avenue, I believe.' 'Yes.'.

'I am told you are trying to sell it.'

'I am.' 'I should like to buy it, if your price is

reasonable enough.

'May I ask who you are ?'

'I am Professor Goodkind of the univer-

sity. I have bought the place next to No. 575 on the south, for a residence, and to be trank, I don't like the kind of tennants you rent your house to. I wish to buy it and select my own neighbors.'

'No, sir!' answered the owner of the property. 'That puts a different aspect on the matter. I don't care to sell the place now. I shall keep it, and raise the rent on the ground that the neighboorhood is improving.

Fire.

It seems almost a wender that the world is not burned up, when one realizes what strange circumstances may cause a disastrous fire. In one case the peaceful crawling of an insect set a building on fire. Some cotton waste had been used with mineral oil, and then thrown away.

An unlucky insect crawled through that oil saturated waste, and came out again with some of the oily fibers adhering to its body. Then it perambulated round th building, coming at last to the gas-jet to meet its fate. The cotton fibers, still adhering to its body, caught fire and the unfortunate insect dropped blazing to the floor, setting the place on fire.

Cotton waste was also partly responsible for another curious fire. This time an electric spark did the mischief, passing from a belt to some conducting substance near it and communicating with the cotton.

The Railway and Engineering Review. borrowing from an English exchange, gives two instances of fire caused by water. In the first case a flood caused the water to rise inside a factory until it reached a pile of iron fillings. When they came in contact with the water, they oxidized so rapidly that they became intensely hot, and at last set fire to woodwork near them, and the building was destroyed.

In the other case the water from the engines during a fire found its way into a shed containing quicklime. The heat caused by the slacking of the lime set fire to the shed, and this to other buildings.

Glass globes, which act as lenses, often cause fire, and it has recently been said that the convex glasses used in pavement lights are dangerous, and should be abandoned in favor of lights with flat tops.

Heard Them, Anyhow.

A musician and his wife were on their way home from a concert, and were overheard discussing the merits of the enterainment.

'It sets my teeth on edge,' the husband said, 'to hear the orchestra playing 'Yankee Doodle' and 'Dixie' at the same time. The idea is all right, of course, and even commendable from a sentimental point of view, but the two pieces, when played together, are full of discords.'

'But didn't you notice,' said his wife, who is something of a musician herself, 'that where certain notes or passages would have been discordant they were omitted from one air or the other, and left to the drums ?'

'Of course I noticed it,' he testily rejoined, 'but I could hear the discords in my mind just the same ! Ach !'

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