

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Sol Smith Russell tried his new play, April Weather, to an appreciative audience one night last week, at the Chicago Grand Opera House. As is Mr. Russell's custom the play had been so thoroughly rehearsed that it went off as if it had been produced for a whole season. April Weather is by Clyde Fitch, author of Bean Brummell, A Modern Match, etc. It is a three-act comedy, brim full of sunshine and considerable clouds. Mr. Russell appears in the character of an interior decorator who is possessed with the idea that he has genius and is ambitious to become a great artist. In the first act he is a lovable, careless, happy-go-lucky fellow, looking carefully to the wants and needs of every one but himself. This act is rich with good points of comedy and Mr. Russell carries the character of Raphael Reed through scenes of pathos and sentiment in the most realistic and touching manner. This act of the play is laid on the top floor of a New York apartment house. The second act passes amidst the most luxurious surroundings—the drawing room of one of New York's wealthy and fashionable homes. The room is a Louis XVI. interior. The artist, Raphael Reed (Mr. Russell), has just finished this beautiful piece of decorative art. This scene is complete in every detail, and the staging has been prepared with great care. Here Raphael Reed assumes the same happy, light-hearted vein until unexpected clouds begin to hover about him. He succumbs to a strong temptation, and to shield himself from the misfortunes which appear inevitable and of a threatening character he lies, and thus brings misery up on another, and the curtain falls upon an act with almost tragic situation. In the third act the silver lining to the dark cloud breaks forth with rare radiance, and Raphael atones for his misgivings, throws off his burden, and the play ends with bright smiles for everybody. The staging and general scenic effects of the play were prepared with much care. Mr. Russell is supported by a strong company of 15 persons, and when he comes to Victoria with April Weather, it will be fresh from what promises to be a successful world's fair run of a summer season. Mr. Russell's unquestioned triumph was shared by Miss Minnie Radcliffe, and the supporting company acquitted itself most creditably. Speeches were made by Mr. Russell and Mr. Fitch.

The infant, accompanied by the prince and suite, and escorted by Commander Davis, went to the Fifth Avenue theatre, New York, the other evening, and saw "The Isle of Champagne." When Thomas Q. Seabrooke sang his topical song, "The Prodigal Son," he added the following improvised verse:
 "A princess fair, as you can see,
 She is; she is;
 As gracious and kind as she can be,
 She is; she is;
 We'll drink her health in the best champagne,
 And hope that when she returns to Spain
 She will change her mind and come back again—
 Sing Eulalia, Eulalia—la-lee."
 The audience interrupted the song with a burst of applause, and the princess rose and bowed and laughed heartily at the lines.

The lovers of music will have an opportunity of enjoying one of the most delightful concerts of the season next Tuesday night, when the violinist, Edouard Remenyi, appears with some famous soloists. The solos of Remenyi have won the admiration of the whole world. The other soloists render their parts with unusual skill.

Nat Goodwin and his clever company gave two most enjoyable performances at The Vic-

torian Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The attendance was small.

A Chinese opera company will occupy The Victoria to-night. It will no doubt afford much amusement for those who attend.

Ada Dyas, who has been playing with Henry Irving at the Lyceum, London, is in America on a visit.

Olea Bull, daughter of Ole Bull, the famous pianist, will soon appear on the operatic stage.

Dr. Eddy will materialize the spirits at The Victoria to-morrow night.

Two Old Cronies is booked for the 28th at The Victoria.

The Philo benefit concert occurs on the even of the 13th.

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