

The Charlottetown Herald.

NEW SERIES

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"PERIQUE."

Dark Cut Tobacco in tins and packages. This is one of the

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Uncorrected by glasses, imposes a severe tax on the eyes, which are needlessly weakened by the strain involved in trying to misuse them. Defects in vision grow, like weeds, without cultivation, and it's dangerous to overlook them.

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E. W. TAYLOR,

South Side Queen Square, City.

Four Thousand People See Passion Play.

Oberammergau, May 16th.—The first regular performance of the Passion Play for this season was given to-day. The weather was glorious and in delightful contrast to that which attended the recent rehearsals, when the actors suffered severely from the cold in the open air theatre. At that time there were frequent furies of snow, but to-day was warm and sunshiny.

When the performance began there were fully four thousand persons present. The play went with its accustomed smoothness and the acting was excellent. This year it received its first official sanction from the Holy See. The nearest approach to this was in 1900 when the Pope granted an audience to Anton Lang after he had appeared in the role of Christus.

Yesterday the Papal Nuncio celebrated a special Mass for the performers, to whom he publicly conveyed a message of greeting from the Holy Father.

1910 is an Oberammergau year! A Passion Play year!

From the 15th of May this year till the 25th of September, it is estimated that a quarter of a million people will form a constant stream of restless feet, and eager faces, and divers tongues, from all over the world, pouring into and out of a quiet, quaint, out-of-the-way little village of southern Germany whose population in ordinary years is not more than 1,800 souls. This is the Bavarian village of Oberammergau in the valley of the Ammer, hemmed in by mountains, holding out no temptations to settlers, but famous all over the world as the scene every ten years, of a presentation on a large scale of the actual scenes of our Lord's Passion and death.

The deep faith of the people of Europe during the 12th and 13th centuries, the faith that built the great Cathedrals, that gave birth to the painting and sculpture and music that we glory in today, found an outlet also in the sacred drama, the mystery plays, and miracle plays that formed the chief recreation of the people of those Catholic days in western and southern Europe. Every village of importance had its mystery stage on which was portrayed by living characters, scenes from the Bible with all the accessories of appropriate dress and stage scenery. The gorgeous floats that now form so impressive a detail of our grandest celebrations are but improved copies of similar allegorical displays, seven hundred years ago as we find them described and pictured.

Of all the sacred dramas so common to the twelfth and thirteenth and even later centuries—no less than sixty Bavarian towns had their regular Passion Plays—only the Passion Play of Oberammergau to-day remains. And this it does in all the strength and purity of its first presentation. It is a perfect precious relic of the Middle Ages, come down to us intact, and preserved for future generations by the fact that it is by solemn vow limited as to time and place. The actors in it, regard it as a sacred trust and an honor. Only every ten years, and only in their own village, may it be repeated; and this is done so solemnly, that during the intervening years, the inhabitants, especially the chief participants, study to keep themselves worthy of depicting the sacred scenes. They live in the atmosphere of and their daily occupations are in line with the spiritual life. Wood carving is the most important industry of the village, and the taste and skill of the artists are the great source of pride.

Long ago, devoted to scenes from the life of Christ, and the Church. And, like the great painters of old, they are able to express the divinity of our Lord, and the holiness of saints and angels, as well as they do the most exquisite physical proportions. These people are what are called High Germans. Their neighbors of Swabia on one side, and Bavaria on the other, are not naturally so refined and intellectual a mould. The Oberammergau people lack the rough strength of the ideal German country people. As becomes people built and kept apart for an extraordinary purpose, they are extraordinary in many ways. Their simple devout lives, their keen intelligence and dramatic ability, and their utter indifference to commercial ambition, stamp them as a community different from any other in the world. None of them leave Oberammergau and they attract no permanent residents to come among them. It is believed that 250,000 people will visit Oberammergau this summer but none of them will stay longer than a week, most of them only a couple of days, or even one day. But they will carry home with them a series of pictures they will never forget, and

which they could not see anywhere else in all the world.

In 1633 the people of Oberammergau saved from the plague that was sweeping in swaths over Europe, gratitude for their exemption made a vow to keep up their performance of the Passion Play at least once in every ten years. The next year, 1634, they gave a most devout representation we are told. Then at odd intervals till 1680 when it was definitely settled that only once in every ten years was it to be repeated. And so it has been ever since. When Passion Plays were forbidden by Acts of Parliament in England and in France and in Germany, and even the Church authorities thought it best to discontinue them, Oberammergau had to fight for its Passion Play. And so it did. The people pleaded their vow and brought their petitions from pastor to bishop, finally to the Elector, and won their case, both with the Church and the civil authorities. When the Passion Play was suppressed by law all over Europe Oberammergau was made an exception. That was in 1750. Only in Oberammergau, and mostly if not entirely for their own edification; they went through reverently all the scenes of the sacred Passion of our divine Lord, giving whole days to the performance.

It was only after the Play of 1830 that the outside world began to be interested. In 1832 the newspapers of Bavaria published an account of the Passion Play enacted in the little shut-in valley of the Ammer, and worthy of the stage of Greece in her palmy days. It was described as a living bit of the long past, a charming relic of the middle ages, and the educated world abroad began to take notice, and Oberammergau was set down for one of the places of pilgrimage for 1840.

Since then the interest grows with every performance. In 1900 nearly two hundred thousand persons witnessed the drama which was repeated three times in some weeks. This year, 1910, it is estimated that a full quarter of a million will stream in and out of that little valley. Not more than five thousand at a time may be comfortably housed over night in the village. But the people come in the evening sleep as best they can, rise early all day in the great theatre (with an interval at noon for lunch) and go away after the performance, this about three times a week for eighteen weeks.

The original text of the Passion Play was written in verse, German of course, by the Benedictine Monks of Augsburg. Alterations were made several times, by Benedictines also, of the neighboring monastery of Eitel. But in 1890 an entirely new and revised text was put together with great care by the Vicar of Oberammergau, Reverend Joseph Aloysius Daisenberger. This new edition retained the verse form but made some omissions in the longer speeches of some of the characters; and added to others which the reverend author considered needed the added dignity.

In 1860 this revised edition was used. Repeated attempts since to still further modernize the text of the Passion Play at Oberammergau have met with stern refusal on the part of the villagers, and the Passion Play Committee, to be even considered. The impatience of critics with some of the slower scenes also meets with steady refusal to alter the action any more than the words or leave out anything of the original Play.

Those who go to Oberammergau are not to be disappointed. The drama, and slow parts in the music and in the action. Time and again they have sought to impress ideas of reform on the Committee in charge. But this plea is always put forward in defence of the old-time methods and speeches:

The Passion Play of Oberammergau is not meant as a literary or dramatic masterpiece. A masterpiece it is of religious art, and the expression of religious feelings, preserved intact and alive for more than two hundred and fifty years.

It is in its way a religious service; it is a place of pilgrimage to thousands of people who know the story it depicts by heart. They come to be touched and their hearts are opened by being actual eye-witnesses, and ear-witnesses, as it were, of the great tragedy of the world.

They are not looking for artistic perfection from a scientific point of view. And yet that there is art, and high dramatic art, as well as deep religious feeling is an additional gratification. But all ambition to make of it a modern drama is religiously and sternly frowned down.

It is solemn, and will stay so, and those who do not like it may stay away from the lonely valley. The

tableaux and the stage effects are according to all accounts satisfying to the most critical.

The play was first performed in the church. After many decades the churchyard offered better facilities.

In 1830 a large meadow bordering on the Ammer was chosen and so successfully did the picturesque-ness of wood and river and mountain blend with the hallowed scenes, that it was continued to be presented in the open, the constantly increasing crowd each succeeding decade forced larger and better stage room and some shelter from the weather to be provided. In 1890 the great throng that gathered there were comfortably seated under cover of a vast auditorium whose sides could be removed when the weather was fine and a view of the surrounding majesty of the mountains added to the solemnity of the whole. There are 4,200 numbered seats in this splendid auditorium and they face an open stage backed by mountains and topped by the blue sky. On side streets are Pilate's Hall and the houses of the high priests leading to the stage and many buildings that make the spectator forget they are not actually in the Holy Land for the time being.

The night before a performance is not the most restful in Oberammergau. There has been a great river of people flowing into the little village all day. To get them something to eat, a place to sleep, and tickets for the next day's performance, has been no small trouble to the Committee that takes it in hand. They may have made all their calculations as to how many can be accommodated in this place and that, and how much food and drink, and means of conveyance to and from the station are to be provided, and just how many seats are to be filled in the theatre. But they cannot anticipate, nor afterwards console, all the grumbling and the contention for better accommodations, and better views, and extras that illness or crankiness or the dignity of age expect.

But the Oberammergau is not a strenuous person. He has not lived in studied peace for nine years to lose his head on every occasion during the tenth. He needs his presence of mind and quiet dignity this year above all—so he lets the turmoil die out of itself and of itself the incoming crowd settles down to a night's rest early for there is absolutely no inducement to prowl around.

In the morning everybody is up with the dawn. Mass has been going on perhaps for hours already. For there are numbers of visiting clergymen and such one will say Mass if possible, and there are many altars in the beautiful church.

In 1900 two archbishops, two bishops and a negro priest from Natal were all saying Mass at the same time. And the church was thronged. The seats being numbered it was not necessary as in former years to rush for good places and see them for hours before the play began. So Mass after Mass is offered up from 4 till 8 o'clock. All who are to take part in the play receive Holy Communion with great devotion, so do hundreds of the visitors.

At 8 A. M. the theatre is full. The actors have been since seven o'clock in the dressing rooms, donning their garments and taking their places and collecting their thoughts. They have rehearsed a couple of times a week for some months.

Shortly after 8 o'clock the non shots ring out from a neighboring hilltop. The orchestra intones an overture in soft harmonious melodies! A deep hush is on the vast throng whose eyes are all on the stage!

Behind the curtain all the actors are on their knees around their pastor who repeats fervently according to the old custom the Lord's Prayer.

The music ceases. Right and left on the proscenium step slowly and range themselves, the "Guardian Angels," headed by the "prologue" bearing his wand. He sings impressively: Cast thyself down with bold fear, O race bowed down by God's curse! Peace be to thee! From Zion mercy here."

The Play is opened. The curtain rises slowly and discloses the first tableau. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. It is a beautiful scene and as the beholders gaze in silent awe the scene shifts. From the tree of life in the centre rises a luminous Cross and at its feet in adoration the guardian angels group themselves.

The music changes—the prologue speaks again and Christ appears away from the lonely valley. The

Heart Trouble Cured.

Through one cause or another a large majority of the people are troubled with some form of heart trouble.

The system becomes run down, the heart palpitates. You have weak and dizzy spells, a smothering feeling, cold clammy hands and feet, shortness of breath, sensation of pins and needles, rush of blood to the head, etc.

Whenever there are sickly people with weak hearts Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills will be found an effectual medicine.

Mrs. Wm. Elliott, Angus, Ont., writes:—
+ Heart Trouble. "It is with the greatest of pleasure I write you stating the benefit I have received by using Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. I suffered greatly from heart trouble, weakness and smothering spells. I used a great deal of doctor's medicines but received no benefit. A friend advised me to buy a box of your pills, which I did, and soon found great relief. I highly recommend these pills to anyone suffering from heart trouble."
Price 50 cents per box, or 3 boxes for \$1.25, at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Little Willie—Say, pa, what is a government weather prophet?

Pa.—A government weather prophet, my son, is a man who profits by his mistakes.

Beware Of Worms.

Don't let worms gnaw at the vitals of your children. Give them Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup and they'll soon be rid of these parasites. Price 50c.

"Since I've come back I find that I'm forgotten by all my friends." "Why didn't you borrow money of them before you went away?"

Sprained Arm.

Mary Ovington, Jasper, Ont., writes:—"My mother had a badly sprained arm. Nothing we used did her any good. Then father got Haggard's Yellow Oil and it cured mother's arm in a few days." Price 25c.

Him—"I thought you and Ethel had had a quarrel?" Her—"We have. I hate her!" Him—"But I saw you kiss each other when you met yesterday." Her—"Yes, but that's all we do. We hardly speak."

Minard's Liniment Cures colds, etc.

Mrs. Recentmarie—"I want half a dozen red lemons." The Fruiterer—"Red lemons?" Mrs. Recentmarie—"Yes, sir, I want to surprise my husband by making him some red lemonade."

Milburn's Sterling Headache Powders give women prompt relief from monthly pains and leave no bad after effects whatever. Be sure you get Milburn's. Price 25 and 50 cts.

"That sifter said he wanted the picture to look exactly like him," said the assistant. "If 'm' I" replied the photographer. "A man who is that well satisfied with his appearance must be pretty vain." Touch the plate up very carefully."

"There is nothing harsh about Lax-Liver Pills. They cure Constipation, Dyspepsia, Sick Headache, and Bilious Spells without griping, purging or sickness. Price 25 cts.

"I pride myself on the fact," said the haggard-looking poet, "that I have never written a line which any father might not read to his daughter." "That is," added the philosopher, "if by any chance he should think it worth while to do."

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia.

"Paw, what do they do with all the money they make the people pay for taxes?" "Tommy, my son, at last you have asked me a question I can't answer. There are limitations to your father's knowledge."

Was Troubled With Dyspepsia.

For Years Could Get No Relief Until She Tried Burdock Blood Bitters.

Mrs. Herman, N.B., writes:—
+ Can Eat. "I have used Burdock Blood Bitters and find that few medicines can give such relief in dyspepsia and stomach troubles. I was troubled for a number of years with dyspepsia and could get no relief until I tried Burdock Blood Bitters. I took three bottles and became cured and I can now eat anything without it hurting me. I will highly recommend it to all who are troubled with stomach trouble."
Burdock Blood Bitters has an established reputation, extending over 34 years, as a specific for Dyspepsia in all its forms, and all diseases arising from this cause.
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We carry the finest line of Hardware to be found in any store.

Architects, Builders and Contractors, will find our line of goods the newest in design, the most adaptable and improved, and of the highest standard of merit in quality and durability.

Also a full line of pumps and piping.

Stanley, Shaw & Peardon.

June 12, 1907.

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New Hat Pins, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Fobs, Chains, Locketts, Sterling Thimbles, Links, Bracelets, Brooches.

E. W. TAYLOR,
South Side Queen Square, City.

Dominion Coal Company

RESERVE COAL.

As the season for importing Coal in this Province is again near, we beg to advise dealers and consumers of Coal that we are in a position to grant orders for cargoes of Reserve, Screened, Run of mine, Nut and Slack Coal, F. O. B., a loading piers Sydney, Glace Bay or Louisburg, C. B.

Prices quoted on application, and all orders will receive our careful attention by mail or wire.

Reserve Coal is well known all over this Island, and is most extensively used for domestic and steam purposes.

Schooners are always in demand during the season and chartered at highest current rates of freight. Good despatch guaranteed schooners at loading piers.

Souvenir Post Cards

Are a nice thing to send to friends abroad. We have a nice selection of City and Provincial views to select from. The following are some of the titles.

One color 2 cents each.

St Joseph's Convent, Ch'town	Bishop's Palace & Church Ch'town
St Dunstan's College, "	Interior St Dunstan's Cathedral, Charlottetown
Notre Dame Convent, "	View of Charlottetown from Hillsborough Bridge
Soldiers Monument	Victoria Park

Colored Cards 2 for 5 cents.

Victoria Row, Charlottetown	Pioneer Family, five generations
Block House Point, "	Among the Birches
City Hospital, "	A Morning Walk, Bonshaw
Crossing the Capes	Trout Fishing
Str Stanley in ice	A Rustic Scene
Str Minto in ice	North Cape
Apple Blossoms	By Still Waters
Travellers Rest	The Border of the Woods
Beautiful Autumn	Harvesting Scene
Terrace of Rocks	A Shady Nook
Catching Smelts at S'Side	Surt Bathing, North Cape
Sunset at S'Side Harbor	Looking Seaward
Summer St, Summerside	
High School, "	

Peake Bros. & Co.,

Selling Agents for Prince Edward Island for Dominion Coal Company.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 21, 1909—41

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PRINCE STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN

Giving all orders strict attention.

Our work is reliable, and our prices please our customers.

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EUREKA TEA.

If you have never tried our Eureka Tea it will pay you to do so. It is blended especially for our trade, and our sales on it show a continued increase. Price 25 cents per lb.

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