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MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A LEADING feature of the Pyke Opera Company, now singing at The Victoria, is the orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Richard Stahl, well known as the author of "The Sea King" and "Said Pasha." Without one single exception so long as the memory of the writer runneth, Mr. Stahl's orchestra is the most powerful and the most efficient which has ever been at The Victoria. This is not said with any intention of belittling the regular orchestra of the house; every one who is familiar with the difficulty Mr. Finn has experienced in keeping capable musicians here, will accord him his due meed of praise.

As to the rendition of "A Night in Venice," it might be said that on the whole it was a delightful performance. It is understood that it is the latest addition to the Pyke repertoire, and this being the case, it will be conceded that under the circumstances, a remarkably smooth presentation was given. It is not often that an opera company with so many capable musicians as are to be found in the Pyke organization visits Victoria, and the chorus work left nothing to be desired. Miss Laura Millard, the prima donna, has been heard several times in Victoria, but never to greater advantage than in "A Night in Venice." She threw her whole voice and heart into the part of the little fisher maiden. The name of Miss Louise Manfred, only a few years

ago, and she is a young and a remarkably handsome woman yet, was a household word in Victoria. She has lost none of the charm which made her popular in former times, and as Ciboletta, she received repeated tokens of appreciation. Miss Schiller, Miss Avery, Miss Lincoln and Miss Davis added immensely to the production. Mr. Chas. M. Pyke sang the part of Ricardo, and although comparatively a stranger to the role, he did well. Mr. Francis Giallard possesses a capital baritone voice, which was conspicuous throughout the entire production. In "Love Me For Old Love's Sake," Mr. Stahl's composition, he displayed a wonderful range and volume. Mr. West added to the enjoyment of the evening by his good singing and grotesque antics. The others particularly deserving of mention are Arthur Royce, F. L. Severance, Al. Leech, Jas. A. McGrath and Henry Hanlon. To those who love good music, we would say go and hear the Pyke opera company.

Mr. John F. Cordray is to be congratulated on his success in having organized such a capable combination of artists as are to be found in the company of which he is manager.

Friday night, "The Beggar Student;" Saturday matinee, "A Night in Venice," and Saturday night, "Tar and Tartar."

Katie Putnam played to fair houses during her engagement in this city. Her company is about the same that has been with her for the last five or six seasons, and the performances were as heretofore enjoyable.

Thomas Keene, the great tragedian, supported by a first-class company, comes to The Victoria January 11 and 12. Friday night, Hamlet; Saturday matinee, (popular prices), Merchant of Venice; Saturday night, Richard III. Since the death of Booth, Keene stands unrivalled as an interpreter of Shakespearean plays.

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