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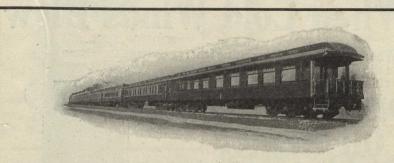
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### GOSSIP ABOUT ART FOLK

M.R. MARK HAMBOURG, whose playing at Queen's Hall the other day was so praised by the critics, has had a good many interestcritics, has had a good many interesting experiences in the course of his professional career. One day, in a town very far out west in America, two people were held up and robbed of the contents of their pockets. Among other things that they stole were two tickets for Mr. Hambourg's concert in the town that night. The concert in the town that night. The pianist's surprise may be imagined when, in the course of his recital, a note was handed to him from the robbers stating that they returned the tickets that they had stolen, and "much regretted that they were unable to make use of them"

able to make use of them."
While touring in Africa some time ago, Mr. Hambourg got into conversation with two Boers, who were much impressed with the size of his grand piano, which he was taking with him on the tour. When told that it weighed 1,850 pounds, they were astounded. "1,850 pounds?" they echoed "How many people does it echoed. "How many people does it take to play it?" They thought that an instrument of such weight must certainly require more than one person to use it properly.

### A SELF-MADE ACTRESS.

MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER is a striking example of the self-made woman. It is not so very many years ago that she was appearing in the Gaiety chorus; but she did so well that she was shortly able to fulfil her ambition of leaving musical comedy and becoming a "serious" actress. Miss Collier's first appearance on any stage was made at the mature age of eight, when she so over-acted her "thinking" part that she was forced to retire for rest, and afterwards returned school. Since those early days her successes have been innumerable, and successes have been innumerable, and some of her best work has been done with Sir Herbert Tree—her Nancy in Oliver Twist being a thing that will live in the minds of playgoers for many a long day. It is interesting to note, by the way, that, like most artistic people, Miss Collier is somewhat superstitious, and she has, or had a mascot in the shape of a little had, a mascot in the shape of a little rag doll.

#### FIRST FIDDLE.

AN amusing story is told about Herr Kubelik, who has always been not-ed for his witty repartee. It is not gen-erally known that his wife is herself a remarkable violinist, and were it not that she is overshadowed by the genius of her husband, she would probably have played more in public. Some time ago Kubelik and his wife were discussing the latter? were discussing the latter's gift, when she modestly said: "Oh, I play the second fiddle." "Ah," broke in Kubelik with a sage smile, "but sometimes she plays the first.'

### BEERBOHM TREE'S JOKE.

WHEN Miss Collier was playing Roma in *The Eternal City*, Mr. Hall Caine was anxious to get a powerful effect in a scene she was taking with the late Robert Taber, and taking with the late Robert Taber, and the former was himself in a vein of reminiscence. "I once saw," said Mr. Caine, "a very striking bit of business. The man picked up the woman and threw her over his shoulder." Miss Collier looked at him in consternation, for she would be rather a heavy person to throw about. However, they did their best, but their futile efforts were interrupted by Tree. "That reminds me," said the actor-manager. "I saw a play in Italy once in which the hero caught hold actor-manager. "I saw a play in Italy once in which the hero caught hold of the heroine by the legs and banged her head on the floor. "Splendid—a

magnificent idea!" interpolated the enthusiastic author. "What was the play?" "Punch and Judy," replied Tree."

#### A FAMOUS CONNOISSEUR.

MR. JAMES ORROCK, the famous connoisseur, who has just presented to the Nottingham Art Gallery a series of paintings by Morland, Constable, and others, once described himstable, and others, once described himself as "a voice crying in the wilderness of British Art." Mr. Orrock's enthusiasm was largely responsible for the renaissance of interest in antique furniture. When he first began to collect fine old pieces of Sheraton and Chippendale, he suffered the usual fate of pioneers—he was laughed at. This, however, did not damp his zeal. "You may laugh," he used to say, "but I shall laugh louder than you some day, when my 'roomy' old chairs and sideboards shall be appreciated at their true value." How completely his judgment has been vindicated may be seen from the fact that an Elizabethan chair for which he paid 10s. bethan chair for which he paid 10s. years ago sold some time since for £150.

### KYRLE BELLEW'S UPS AND DOWNS.

FEW leading men of the present genthan Mr. Kyrle Bellew, who has been seriously ill in America, and few actors of any kind have had a more varied life than he has. He was originally intended for the sea, and trained on the Conway. After some years' experience of a sailor's life, during which he had many exciting years' experience of a sailor's life, during which he had many exciting adventures, he went to Australia, where he tried gold-digging, lecturing, and journalism. On the death of his father, he returned to England, and as he had for long desired to shine as an actor, he went on the stage, and made his first professional appearance at Brighton. Since then he has played numerous parts and he he has played numerous parts, and he is considered to be the ideal stage

Mr. Bellew tells a good story of how he was once walking in London and saw a man who used to act with him, but who had lately had very bad luck. This man was standing outside a pawishop having a housed arguluck. This man was standing outside a pawnshop, having a heated argument with a policeman. As he approached, Mr. Bellew overheard the latter say: "Come along, young fellow, move along! You can't stay here outside this shop all day!" "And why not?" asked the poor actor defiantly. "I think I have got a perfect right to look into my own clothes box, haven't I,"

### A BANKER MUSICIAN.

BARON FREDERIC D'ERLANGER, who composed the music to the operatic version of Thomas Hardy's "Tess," is a famous banker, besides being a musician. It is not often that art and finance go thus hand in hand, but the Baron has have accusally a property of the state of t been equally successful in both, and his latest work has opened the eyes of the critics considerably. The Baron is a born musician, and could play the piano well when he was only a child. He wrote numerous charming songs as a young man, and his first opera, Jehan de Saintre, was an immediate success. immediate success.

The opera of Tess was not, as many The opera of *Tess* was not, as many people suppose, first produced at Covent Garden. It was seen in 1906 at the San Carlo Theatre, in Naples, and while it was being performed, a panic was going on in the town owing to the fact that Vesuvius was in eruption. So panic-stricken were the people that the theatre had to closed on the following night.

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