

acts, as usual, the fire-proof curtain was lowered to show that it was in perfect working order. Across it was painted in large letters "Asbestos." A girl behind me said to her companion :

"Say, 'Melia ! what does 'Asbes'os' mean, anyhow ? "

"Oh ! don't you know ? " replied 'Melia loftily. "It means Tragedy and Comedy and all that—the Dramer, in fact ! "

Last night we had an electric storm of marvellous beauty. At sunset the clouds looked angry and lurid, lying low on the horizon and flushed at the edges with an ominous light. The birds went early to bed and the cattle huddled together in the shelters. When the black curtain of night fell, it was ripped asunder with spears of lightning that pierced the sides of the mountains and zigzagged sharply across the sea. Thunder rumbled like an angry god, but no rain fell. About ten o'clock hundreds of stars popped out—peace after the battle of the elements. Up the road jogged a party of merry-makers, celebrating the glorious "fourth of July," smiting the stillness with weird "cat-calls" and songs, sleigh-bells, and the beating of tin pans. Their fun and laughter echoed down the valley and were lost in the distance, and soon this happy village was fast in the arms of Morpheus.