

"Flora," also seen as the central head of the three sisters painted in one picture which is in the Dresden Gallery; while in the Palazzo Pitti at Florence hangs the marvellously lovely "Ritratto de Doma," for some time believed to be the portrait of the Duchess of Urbino, now generally called "La Belle de Tiziano," but without doubt the portrait of our daughter of Palma.

THE play of *Loyal Love*, in which Mrs. Brown-Potter achieved marked success recently at the Gaiety, is by Miss Isabella Harwood, who writes under the pseudonym of "Rose Neil," and promises to be the first of female playwrights. Miss Fortescue has been engaged for the new play, *The Blue Bells of Scotland*, with which Miss Harriet Jay, authoress of the *Queen of Connaught* and other popular novels, will open the Novelty Theatre.

POPE'S VILLA, the recent scene of *Midsummer Night's Dream*, at Twickenham, is the residence of Mr. Labouchere, M.P. Tickets for the performance were sold at a guinea and a half each, and the play was given for the benefit of the Charing Cross Hospital. Lady Archibald Campbell, Mr. Eustace Ponsonby, Miss Fortescue, Miss Kate Vaughan, Mr. G. A. Sala, etc., gave their services. The representation was excellent, Mendelssohn's music being performed on the occasion by a complete orchestra, the gardens lit by electric light. It proved one of the events of the late season, and a fit sequel to the performance of *As You Like It*, the first open-air rendering of Shakespeare's plays, which was originated and carried out by Lady Archibald Campbell at her country seat two years ago, she taking the part of Rosalind. She was one of the most distinguished amateur actresses in England.

MRS WILSON BARRETT, who died at Worthing recently, after a long and painful illness, was a leading actress of considerable ability, whose professional name was "Miss Heath." The last rôle created by her was that of *Jane Shore*, in the well-known drama. She was some years ago appointed reader to the Queen.

THE memory of Mary, Queen of Scots, is to be kept green in the minds and hearts of British subjects this year by the tercentenary exhibition of her relics which is now being held at the Peterborough Museum, under the patronage of Her Majesty and the Dean of Peterborough. As the first grave of the ill-fated Scottish sovereign was in Peterborough Cathedral, it has been proposed to erect a permanent memorial to her in that restored building, the subscription for which it is suggested shall be raised by contributions, limited from one to ten shillings, from every one who bears the name of Mary, Marie, or Maria. Colonial donations will no doubt be thankfully received, and should be addressed to Mrs. Perowne, the Deanery, Peterborough, Northamptonshire. Mr. Edwin Drew was engaged to produce eight fine tableaux from the history of Mary Stuart, at Fotheringay Castle, on August 1st, the scene of the Queen's execution.

OUR notice of the Salon exhibition should not be closed without some reference to the section of sculpture which, though of high technical level, still suffers much from the languid interest of some of the greatest artists of France. M. Paul Dubois and M. Auguste Bodin contribute nothing, while M. Dalon shows only two bronze busts, and Mr. Antoine Mercet a mortuary monument of minor importance. The most remarkable achievement is M. Chaper's recumbent statue of the late Monseigneur Dupanloup, destined for his monument in the cathedral at Orleans.

Mr. Ingulbert has three superb decorative reliefs, intended for the decoration of the Prefecture of Herault, which almost win the visitor over to admire the florid unrest of the Berimiesque style, so bold and exquisite is their execution, so great a charm has he succeeded in infusing into them. Few things have greater merit or display a more even power than Mr. Steiner's bronze group, "Berger et Sylvain;" it is classical, and yet thoroughly vivacious and true. Great executive ability is displayed by M. Arias in his elaborate group, "La Descente de la Croix," in which, however, the influence of Michael Angelo's unfinished "Pietà," in Sta. Maria de Fiore, is too apparent. M. Barrias contributes a striking statue of Mozart, while the veteran painter, M. Gerôme, sends an "Omphale," which, though wrought out with all his fastidious care and skill, lacks individuality and the suggestion of vitality. To M. Fremiet's consummately modelled but undecorative and horrible "Gorille," the presentment of a gigantic ape carrying off a nude woman, whose almost inanimate form hangs helpless in his grasp, the Medaille d'Honneur has, with deplorable lack of judgment, been accorded.

The success of the recent exhibition at the Salon, however, is without precedent; over half a million having visited the galleries. Of this great number it is calculated that 282,577 have paid the admission fee, while the total is made up of 280,000 free admissions. Turning to the financial side, we find the gross receipts to reach about 360,000 francs, 340,000 of which were paid for admission, this sum exceeding by 30,000 francs the amount received last year. After the expenses of superintendence, organisation, installation, etc., have been paid, there will remain about 190,000 francs to be added to the available capital already possessed by the Society of French Artists.

THE Academicians have decided this year to take their holidays in August and September instead of in September and October, so that Paris at this season is forsaken both of literature and art. M. Pasteur is at Arbois; François Coppée is hard at work on a tragedy for the Odeon, at Marlotte; Sardou, as usual, is spending his summer in the vicinity of the French metropolis; Dumas is at Puy; Gounod has been on a visit to M. Jules Simon, occupying his leisure hours in flying kites with the younger members of the family. The directors of the Parisian theatres have followed the example of the dramatists, who provide them with pieces, and

are taking a holiday also, as well as the members of their different companies; while all the theatres are being rearranged to obviate every possible danger from fire.

A COMING Paris sensation is approaching in the marriage of Mlle. Helene de Rothschild, the daughter of the late Baron Salomon, one of the richest heiresses in the family of millionaires, with Baron van de Haar. The young lady seems to be extremely independent. She inhabits with her mother a splendid mansion at the corner of the Rue de Balzac, a portion of which is built on the site of the house wherein the author of *La Comedie Humaine* lived after his marriage with Countess Hanska, and where he died. A wing of this building is entirely occupied by Mlle. Helene, and she has a separate staff of servants and special carriages and horses of her own apart from those of the baroness her mother.

THE funeral of Signor Depretis, late Italian Prime Minister, on the 4th of August, at Stradella, was conducted amid imposing ceremonies, and accompanied with evidences of the profound affection and respect with which this statesman was regarded by all classes. Over fifty wreaths were placed upon the coffin, among them being a magnificent garland of flowers sent by King Humbert. Deputations from all the political and military associations of the Province of Pavia, with their banners, attended, and the cortege was followed by over twenty thousand persons. Signor Depretis left very little fortune. King Humbert has settled a pension of £400 a year on his widow, who was many years younger than her husband, and was formerly his ward.

THE one-hundredth anniversary of the production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* occurs this year, and arrangements are being made at most of the leading German opera houses to celebrate this occasion with special performances of the masterpiece. The most important commemorative representations of the work are those to be given at the Imperial Theatre at Salzburg, the composer's native town, under the auspices of "The Mozartenne." Two performances were announced in the theatre in question for the 21st and 23rd of August, the actual date of the original production of *Don Giovanni* being anticipated in order that the most competent artists might assist in the representations, many of whom are engaged elsewhere on the precise date of the anniversary. The original interpreter of the part of Don Giovanni was Luigi Bassi, an Italian, and in connection with the forthcoming celebrations the tomb of that artist at Dresden has just been restored by the Dresden Tonkuirotte-verein, and provided with a new cross, the existing inscription being supplemented by a notice of the Society who effected the restoration in 1887, "in remembrance of the artist for whom Mozart wrote *Don Giovanni*." Arrangements are also being made for a centenary performance of the same work at the Paris Opera in the month of October, when the original manuscript score, which is in the possession of Madame Viardot Garcia, will be exhibited in the foyer.

E. S.

CURRENT COMMENT.

THE SEA-MEW.

Soft as a summer cloudlet, the sea-mew
On foam-white wing sails thro' the noontide air
No creature of ethereal mould more fair,
While she her upward soaring doth pursue,
Translucent to the sunbeam in the blue:
Anon, as one refreshed by draughts of prayer
Descends to daily toil, she sinks to bear
The buffets of the billows whence she flew.

I, like the sea-bird visiting the sky,
Enjoy my holiday of hours serene;
And on the shore, or from the cliff sublime,
Inhale the air of heaven; or, musing, ply
Sweet paths to seek in some sequestered scene
Embowered ruins of the olden time.

—Herbert New, in the *Spectator*.

THE attempt of some stockholders in a Louisiana newspaper to get an injunction restraining the editor from "supporting" the nomination of one of two candidates for an office, on the ground that the paper was naturally or constitutionally Democratic, has an absurd air, on the theory that the campaign editor is a sort of prophet, laying his soul's convictions before a bewildered people. But it is not in the least absurd on the theory on which campaign journalism is usually conducted. There is rarely a canvass for a high office in which scores of editors do not turn round, after the nomination is made, and cover with laudation a man whom they had previously been abusing and proving to be unfit for any office, even if his election were possible. In some, but rare cases, an editor avoids this humiliation by "going to Europe" until after the election, or nominally handing the editorship over to some one else. Generally this delicacy is not thought necessary. During the Blaine canvass in 1884, for instance, many of his chief eulogists were writers and speakers whose contempt for him and distrust of him had previously been proclaimed on the house-tops, or were well known among private friends. The truth is, that the editorial "support" given to candidates by party newspapers is not a moral, but a purely mechanical agency, which is therefore really a perfectly proper thing for the courts to lay hold of and either enjoin or mandamus. There is no more reason why a party editor should not be made to stop supporting by injunction or made to keep on supporting by mandamus, than why he should not be compelled to refrain from cutting off an ancient