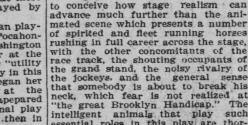


really becoming too much of a bore for the gentle nature of even a drama-tic critic-this constant comment on their operas. But what the deuce is a man to do about it? I have given my-self the habit of writing a Sabbath message about the theatres and I am afraid that if I yielded to the prostra-

talking about one's own opinions. I hope every reader realizes how much more blessed I am than he, in my calling. Think of the audience a critic calling. Think of the audience a critic has! You, dear playgoer, go and buy your seats or get in on a billboard pass and then you criticise the performance on the street cars going home. Next day at luncheon you also ald digestion by conversing with those near you in the restaurant about"last night's show." If you have ever studied yourself in these moments, dear playgoer, you will find that you make these comments in a tone more audible than is absolutely necessary. Without perhaps realizing your own motive you are seeking for an audience. You will it that your opinions should enlighten the many. It other people. Therefore, you can rea-lize what a delight it is to me to take up an entire column in voicing my views. I have you on the hip! You canviews. I have you on the hip! You can-hot crush me with argument or knock me down. Your only method of retort will be to throw the paper on the floor and fume about the matter-unless in-deed you adopt the mean and pusil-lanimous plan of leaving this column unread. You see how infinite are the joys of a critic and therefore you yill currection the complexite of my store.

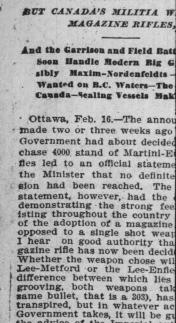
appreciate the emphasis of my state-nemt when I say that the works of Smith and de Koven make me wish I out her sister Susan. She met with

message about the theatres and I am afraid that if I yielded to the prostra-tion with which Smith and de Koven affect me and remained silent for a week, the public might forget all about me. And then if is such a blessed pri-vilege to be a critic; to get up on one's high horse, perfectly conscious that no one else knows anything but oneself; and speaking in an authoritative tone to the benighted players and the benighted playgers. No! One cannot give up the weekly pleasure of condemning folk to oblivion and of talking about one's own opinions. I



bends over the subdued and humbled devoted to a deserving cause has not Kundry and kisses her softly on the been wasted in supporting a vain sen-brow-her wild kiss in the garden had timent in the profession." (3) That the kindled in him fierce fire, mingled with professions standing highest in public the bitter wound-pain; his is the seal respect "are just these, the members horses The grand stand, the noisy rivality of the offer value part in the distance the great bells of the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each other, where a code of ethernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each othernal pardon and peace. In the distance the great bells of and each othe





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same build, that is a 303), has transpired, but in whatever ac Government takes, it will be gu the advice of the Imperial aut Communications have recently relved from Col. Lake, Quarter General, at present in Englar speaks in high terms of the as which the War Office and the Guards are remaining to him Guards are rendering to him. spires that the purchase of a simply one phase of the Gove simply one phase of the Gover policy regarding the militia. T modern equipment in the shap guns is to be procured for and field batteries, and possibly ply of Maxim-Nordenfeld gun total appropriation which Pan will be asked to vote will be vicinity of three million dollar vicinity of three million dollar A Gunboat in B.C. Water representations are

made to the Government to revenue cutter on B.C. waters prevention of smuggling and t tection of the valuable fisheries by the Dominion. Col. Prior f matter in hand and is being s backed up by his fellow member British. Columbia. As a preli step it is expected that when t minion steamer Quadra goes int mission in the spring she will be out like the fishery cruisers on i lantic coast. Hitherto the Gove steamer in Pacific waters has b together unarmed, a condition undesirable should she be requi police duty anywhere along the A short time ago cutlasses and kiss rifles were sent out by the ment here and the crew are to structed in their use. Besides is understood that a nine poun fled muzzle loading gun simi those used by the Canadian Fiel

teries is to be mounted on a pit the Quadra's deck. This gun co used if necessary for signallin bringing to vessels sus of smuggling and would used if necessary for signallin bringing to vessels sus of smuggling and would is expected, overawe them if the disposed to offer any resistance rest. Such an equipment h times been found necessary in lantic waters, especially a short ago, when the whisky smuggle the Lower St. Lawrence were a the authorities considerable tr Hitherto in British Columbia v there has not been anything in there has not been anything shape of an armed vessel when the warships were aw The Lepers of Canada. An effort is being made to induc Dominion Government to transfe nine lepers now held in restrain British Columbia, to the new laza recently erected at a cost of \$20,0 Tracadie, N.B. In this institute are nine male and 16 female patt Three died during the past year. many years Dr. A. C. Smith has in charge of this institution. Re-ing the result of his experience leprous patients, he says: 'No real-for leprosy has yet been discov My predecessor, Dr. Nicholson, after him myself have treated se of our lepers with colored water, to if the influence of the mind over body would cause a change, an every instance it did so. For a tim symptoms of the disease were in a

symptoms of the disease were in ance, and there was a decided imp

ance, and there was a decided imp ment, but, of course, only for a. and it seemed to me that the di made up for lost time afterwards Atter the seals. Mr. Earle, M.P., whose firm has sailing vessels in commission in waters of the Pacific, received yesterday that nearly all vessels the Victoria fleet have left por take part in the coast catch. will meet the seals off the coast

will meet the seals off the coast California, as far south as San I and follow them up the coast until May 1, when the close se

Some Work for Mr Laske.

After Fishery Fakirs.





≪ THE GREAT ▷

Brooklup Nandican Dinnulli Manning

innocence. organized. (2) That "It is furthermore In that solemn moment Parsifal a satisfaction to feel that the energy

I suppose though that there is noth-ing to be done but to repeat the old reproaches. "Rob Roy" I found, on a second view of it. is dull; no opera which ever achieved even a modicum of success could wear worse than this one. It is only made palatable by the very finest artists that can be not but of it is that can be put into it; it is too anaemic a thing to bear an inferior performer in any to bear an interior performer in any one role. This year we had the ma-jority of the cast which seemed so ex-cellent last year, but inferior per-formers in two secondary roles ex-posed the real shabbiness and cheap-hess of the work, and the other actors, having become accustomed to going through their work in machine-like fashion, could not give the nice that Tashion, could not give the piece that gloss of inaugural enthusiasm which carried "Rob Roy" into success last year. The libretto, with its poverty-stricken plot and its multitudinous coincidences, is heavy and cumbrous enough, but the music is worse; it is pretentious in addition to being cum-brous. Once or twice there are snatches of inspiration—in the "Mar-jorie" song and in the whistling song of the last act—but for the most part fashion, could not give the piece that of the last act-but for the most part the aim seems to be meretricious glitter and noise. Only the efforts of the artists involved lift the piece out the artists involved lift the piece out of the slough. Messrs. Pruett and Mc-Laughlin as Rob Roy and Lochiel are two Scottish chieftains of ideal ap-pearance. It is positively inspiring to see two such brawny, real flesh-and-blood warriors on the stage. The only thing I objected to in them was their pink knees. They should have had thick beam bairs knees like saturs pink knees. They should have had thick, brown, hairy knees like satyrs. Mr. Pruett's voice, too, was never more mellow and delightful. If one loves clowning that is light and bright I do not know where he could find a better exponent than Mr. Richard F. Carroll. He has grace and quickness and agility, and withal a plaintive note in his merriment that adds to the charm of it. After all, "Rob Roy" probably succeeds because it fulfijis probably succeeds because it fulfis the American ideal of comic opera--a good deal of sound differentiated and arranged on harmonic principles; a tale told by an idiot (in Chicagoese) signifying nothing; a large number of girls of a well-nourished quality; some pretty costumes, some sweet singing some pleasant foolery—there you have "Rob Roy" or any of the other operas which are so boring to write about. r operas

Please, gentle reader, if you don't mind, I'll stop writing now. If read-ing this gives you as little pleasure as

Smith and de Koven make me wish j was not a critic. It is such a bore to keep on penning the same thing over and over again. If I say that the li-bretto of "Rob Roy" is dull and slip-shod for the most part and that its music is reminiscent and lacks both thought and spontaneity, I will only be speaking what countless critics have penned concerning every opera the two gentlemen have put forth since their success in "Robin Hood." One has to say it if one is sincere, but the critic feels the "damned itera-tion" of it when he has to repeat the criticisms three or four times in a sea-son. I suppose though that there is noth-ing to be done but to repeat the old reproaches. "Rob Roy" I found, on a second view of it, is dull: no opera





POOR

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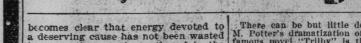
Progressive Euchre, Progressive Ped The Harold A. Wilson Co., 35 King-st

Boston, Feb. 16.—The comet whose covery was announced Saturday by a cal gram from Klei. Prussia, proves to be new once. It has been observed by P Perrine, who is at Lick Observatory, is not the one discovered by him in Ndv ber. The object has a notherly motion is the first comet of the year.

Ploated Off Oyster Island. New York, Feb. 16.—The steamer E rado, before reported ashore on Oyster land, was floated at high tide last nl after discharging part of her cargo. vessel lost two blades of her propel Otherwise she was not injured.

Tankee Puzzle, the latest out. Try The Harold A. Wilson Co., 35 King-st.

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Some Work for Hr Larke. Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian Com sioner to Australia, has been insu ed to report upon the land system of the different Australian colo and their practical workings. action is taken at the instance of British Columbia Government, thre Hon. E. G. Prior. The Governmen British Columbia is paying special tention to the matter of agricult development, by the establishmen a system of small holdings and ot wise, and efforts are being mad secure the advantage of the experi-of other parts of the British don lons in similar directions. lons in similar directions. After Fishery Faktr. The fishery protection service wear experienced considerable tro with evasions of the law by licer vessels flying the Stars and Stri Their practice was to buy sup and bait in port, as entitled to, outside the three-mile limit tran them to unlicensed American sels. A clause will be added to modus vivendi license making s practices an offence rendering the lender liable to confiscation.

Personal Matters. The Captain-Superintendent of Quebec cartridge factory returns for England this week, where he has b studying the methods of manufact of ammunition for the Lee-Meth

The report was in circulation yes day that Lieut.-Gov. Mackintosh resigned. Enquiry in official circu however, elicited the statement t there was no truth in it.

A Comet Hunter in/Luck.

Easy to order-"Salada" Ceylon Tea.