

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Special correspondence of THE HOME JOURNAL.

**CHICAGO, APRIL 10.**—The managers of the Chicago theatres intend to provide plenty of attractions for the hordes of visitors that will pour into the city for the next six months to view wonders of the earth at Jackson Park. The unfortunate experiences of the Philadelphia and Paris managers during the terms of the World's Fairs in those cities seem to have had a stimulating rather than a deterrent effect on the men who guide the fortunes of Chicago's houses, and there is unshaken confidence that the approaching season will be phenomenal. Every class of amusement, from the cheap and nasty exhibit of the dime museum to the dazzling splendor of the spectacle, will find its patrons in the cosmopolitan throng that is coming to the World's Fair city. McVicker, the "dean" of the managerial corps, will divide the season between the "Black Crook" and the "Old Homestead." Dave Henderson has arranged to revive his burlesques from the "Arabian Nights" down to "Ali Baba." Lillian Russell and troupe are to sing light opera at Hayman & Davis' Columbia. Uncle Dick Hooley will stick faithfully to legitimate comedy and drama. There will be an abundance of farce comedy at the Grand, and the manager of the Schiller has the latest "adaptations" by Mr. Frohman. Abbey, Schoeffel & Grau, the renowned triumvirate of Grand opera impresarios, are preparing to put a spectacle on the vast stage of the Auditorium that will attract and astonish theatre-goers from one end of the country to the other. Only a few details are as yet known about the piece, but these are sufficient to stamp it as the most colossal, unique, and magnificent work of the kind known to the modern stage. Plans for its construction were laid a year and a half ago under the guidance of Imre Kiralfy, whose successful management of spectacular productions has gained him international fame. It comprises a prologue and thirty tableaux, bears the title "America," and has for its subject the rise and progress of this continent from the time of Columbus' landing to the present. The historic theme will be illustrated by scenery, music, ballet and mimetic action. Dialogue will be used to some extent, but will be subordinate to the other features. The scenes, which are described as enchantingly beautiful, were painted in Paris by the corps of famous artists connected with the Grand Opera House. Antonio Venanza, a celebrated Italian composer, wrote the entire musical score, and is at present in Chicago directing the preliminary rehearsals of this particular department. The costumes, exquisite in design and texture, were made in London, Paris and New York, and cost a fortune alone; cost, in fact, does not seem to have been a consideration in the creation of this gigantic scheme. One hundred and twenty thousand dollars will have been the outlay before the curtain rises on the opening night, and goodness only knows what the expense will be thereafter. Seven hundred persons have already signed contracts to appear in the piece. The ballet, numbering 200, is to be a vision of loveliness—a ballet worthy the name—fresh from Vienna, Milan and Paris, where the delightful thing was born and where it now exists. Luigia Cerafe, of the Hof Theatre, Vienna, will be the premiere dancer. Others of no less celebrity, from the other side of the Atlantic, will assist her. The "coryphees," who arrived with the chorus from Europe the other day, are a lot of beauties, representing every nation in Europe, principally Italy and France. The principal dramatic and vocal parts will be assumed by Louise Beaudet, Lottie Gilman, Miss Russell, Miss Malcolm, Herr Barnemann, and Signors Brighenti, Otavi, Biagirelli and Campani. The first performance is announced for next Monday, April 17, and the season will continue for six months following that date.

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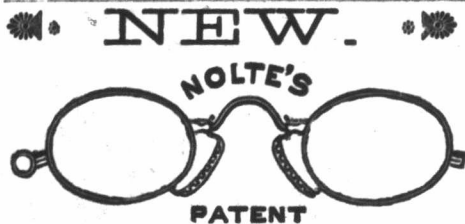
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The rehearsals for Monte Cristo are proceeding satisfactorily, and the prospects at present are that Mr. Philo will score an artistic success.

Manager Jamieson has booked the Caroline Gage company for April 26. The play has not yet been decided upon.

Uncle Hiram drew a half house the first night and less the second.

Our Boys, local talent, will receive a rendition April 19,

Patti Rosa met with a hearty reception last night.

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