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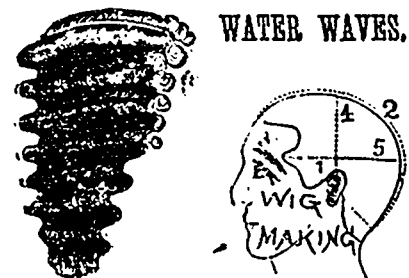
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MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

There is a melodrama which appeals to the eye and the senses, and there is a melodrama which appeals to the heart. To this latter class "The Silver King," now successfully running at the Grand, emphatically belongs. It is a strong, terse, vigorously written drama, of immense human interest, of intense human emotion, of dramatically conceived and telling scenes and incidents. The central idea of the story is found in Tennyson's well known lines:—

I hold it truth with him who sings,
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves to better things.

This idea is admirably worked out in a play which is at once remarkable for its superior literary work and its strong dramatic incidents. The literary part of the work is infinitely superior to anything we have been accustomed to in the general run of melodrama; some of its lines have already been immortalised, especially Denver's famous prayer, "Oh God! Turn back thy universe and give me yesterday!" The dramatic element is equally strong. There is not a weak scene in the whole play,—there are seventeen, of them,—not a climax that is not carefully and naturally worked up to. True, the language in several instances is rather diffuse, and one or two of the scenes might advantageously be abbreviated, and the entire play be thus somewhat shortened. But these are only superficial faults which do not detract to any material extent from the sterling merit of the work.

Having thus expressed ourselves regarding the play itself, a few words respecting the company presenting it will not be out of order. As we remarked last week, Mr. J. H. Haverly's name is a sufficient guarantee that the company bearing it is a good one. The company at present at the Grand is no exception to this rule. Mr. Haverly does not content himself with two or three so-called "stars," and a dozen "sticks." There is not a member of this "Silver King" company who could, perhaps be termed a "star," although we have seen far more pretentious actors dubbed with the title; but there, is not one that is not fully equal to the part for which he or she is cast. To attempt anything like an individual notice of a company which numbers somewhere about forty people would be manifestly impossible; but some of the leading members deserve more than a passing notice. Mr. C. A. Haswin, as Wilfrid Denver, has a most difficult role to interpret. A man overwhelmed by remorse for a crime of which he is innocent, and yet of which he believes himself guilty, separated from wife and children, haunted by the ghastly, staring face of his supposed victim—in the hands of a careless or indifferent actor such a character would be overdrawn, over-acted, and "ranted" to death. Mr. Haswin, however, is evidently a careful and conscientious actor, and his impersonation of the character is natural, free from staginess, and all appearance of effort. He met with instant appreciation, and has been honored night after night by frequent calls. Sharing the honors with Mr. Haswin, Miss Etelka Wardell, as Nellie, as the true hearted wife, next deserves notice. She has evidently given the part careful study, and although occasionally apt to be somewhat stagey, gives an admirable and effective impersonation. Some of the scenes between husband and wife are exceedingly well rendered, and Miss Wardell fully deserves the recalls she has secured during the week. Another character deserving of notice is Capt. Herbert Skinner, alias "The Spider," admirably impersonated by Mr. Wm. Morris. The coolness, sangfroid, and audaciousness of the gentlemanly leader of the burglar gang was most delightful; and no stronger evidence could be desired of the strength of the impersonation than the vigorous hisses with which it has been nightly received. Still another character deserving commendation is that of Jaiker, the faithful old servant of the Denver family, felicitously impersonated by Mr. Harry Rich, an old-time Toronto favorite. Miss Lillian Westbrook, as Olive, the unfortunate wife of the wily Spider, although her part is not a very prominent one, deserves credit for the manner in which she plays it; and the acting of the two little mites, Blanche Newcombe (who is, so to speak, an old favorite here) and Baby Barr, as the two children, is beyond all praise. These are what may be called the principal parts; but there are many others well deserving of notice, the cast being a very complete one. Of the

scenery it is impossible to speak too highly. The play is not one which depends on scenic effect, and yet it is a veritable triumph of the scene painter's art. Taken altogether the play, the acting, and the scenery, is perhaps the most satisfactory in every way we have witnessed at the Grand this season.

The attraction at the Grand next week will be the "Lights o' London" produced by Collier's company. The play is already known to our readers as a good specimen of melodramatic composition, and the company presenting it may be expected to be of a first class character. Like (J. H. Haverly, Mr. Collier always secures good artists. His famous "Banker's Daughter" combination will be remembered as one of the best on the road; and those who remember the presentation last season of the "Lights o' London" by his company well know what to expect during the coming week.

A PHYSICAL WRECK.—A hacking cough saps the physical constitution, not alone because it destroys the tissue of the lungs and develops tubercles which corrode and destroy them, but also because it ruins rest and impairs digestion. How important, therefore, is a resort to judicious medication to stay its ravages. A total physical wreck must inevitably ensue without this. In the choice of a remedy the pulmonary invalid is sometimes misled by specious representations, to the serious prejudice of his bodily well-being. The only safe resort is a tried and highly sanctioned remedy. The credentials of Northrop & Lyman's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda entitle it to the place it occupies, viz., that of the foremost cough medicine and lung invigorant sold on this continent. The testimony of veteran physicians, and a popularity based on merit, combine to give it the prestige of a standard medicine. In cases of asthma, weak chest and lungs, bronchitis, laryngitis and other throat and lung complaints, it may be implicitly relied upon.

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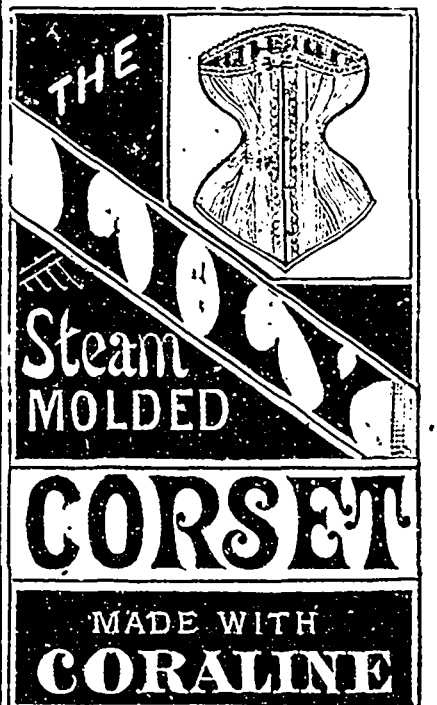
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