

excellently rendered. Miss Agnes Hewitt was rather overweighted by her rôle, and did not appear to the best advantage.

MRS. BROWN POTTER receives a more favourable notice of her performance of "Civil War" at the hands of the English Press than from the journalists of her native land. The play, which was produced at the Gaiety Theatre, say the critics, gave the lady in question a good chance of displaying her emotional powers. Her tender and sympathetic rendering of Faustine's love struggle was one of the most effective scenes in the whole play. Mr. Kyrle Bellew too meets with more encouragement from the other side of the Atlantic. We hear that England possesses no better lover than him, that his performance was fine throughout, but he requires to speak louder to make himself heard. Mrs. Brown Potter is also congratulated on the improvement she has made, the mannerisms and staginess so marked in Anne Silvester ("Man and Wife") being much less evident in her portrayal of the heroine of "Civil War." Taken as a whole, however, the actors let their spirits flag on the first night, and that dulness was at once communicated to the audience, which accounts probably for the apparent want of success attributed by the New York journals to the American actress' second appeal to a London audience. "Civil War," we are told, is beautifully mounted, and the exquisite gowns worn by Mrs. Brown Potter elicited great admiration.

MR. HENRY IRVING and Miss Ellen Terry are to sail for New York on the 30th October; their season commences at the Star Theatre two weeks later.

A GREAT success has been achieved in Buffalo by the production of Mr. Steele Mackaye's new play of "Anarchy," at the Academy of Music, which was crowded by an audience that represented the most cultivated classes of the city. An American critic says he went to see the piece prepared for disappointment, and afterwards saw it several times, on which occasions he studied every detail and every line, the result being he considered "Anarchy" one of the most powerful efforts of national genius. As a playwright Mr. Mackaye has achieved more success than any other American author; his adaptation of "Rose Michel," in which not a line of the original was retained, ran one hundred and twenty-two nights at the Union Square Theatre. "Won at Last," an original play, made a great hit at Wallack's last season, during the engagement of Henry Montague. "Hazel Kirke," another original piece, ran about five hundred nights at the Madison Square Theatre.

THERE is trouble brewing between Miss Rose Coghlan and the Wallack Theatre management; she already stipulates that she shall have first choice of leading parts, and Miss Florence Girard shall have those she rejects, an arrangement not apparently satisfactory to the latter lady.

AGAIN the New York reporter jumps heavily upon poor Mrs. Potter Brown, and foretells that her approaching tour in America will be a most unsatisfactory affair, and prove a heavy failure to Mr. Harry Miner, who has undertaken the responsibility of piloting her through America at a heavy discount.

BUFFALO BILL is still the height of fashion. We learn that the Princess of Wales and family, and a number of other members of foreign royal courts, attended an exhibition of the Wild West Show recently. They all drove in the Deadwood Coach, the Princess of Wales sitting by Buffalo Bill on the box, who was driving. Grand Duke Michael of Russia and Prince George of Wales rode horses belonging to the company, and made some excellent shooting. So great and unqualified is the success of this exhibition that the managers of the Hippodrome in Paris are arranging for it to be brought over there.

SARAH BERNHARDT is reported to have invested all her recent earnings in American securities: perhaps this is a step towards naturalisation à la Mrs. Langtry.

CURRENT COMMENT.

MR. MAPLESON is trying to reform the social customs of London. He has not only lowered the price of seats for Italian opera to the theatrical level, but he has graciously given his patrons permission to appear in the parquet without swallow-tail coat, hitherto *de rigueur*. But having changed his rule forbidding women to keep on their hats, the parquet is now invaded by high head-gear. It has been suggested that Mr. Mapleson is endeavouring in this manner to conceal the shabbiness of his scenery from the audience.—*The Epoch*.

WE shall not know how much harm has been done to Westminster Abbey in preparing it for the Royal thanksgiving service until the scaffolds have been removed. More care, it is believed, has been taken than on some previous occasions, but one wanton piece of mischief has certainly been committed. We shall scarcely be believed when we say that the Coronation Chair, perhaps to most Englishmen the most precious of all the precious relics in the Abbey, was handed over to some barbarian to be smartened up, and he has daubed it the orthodox Wardour Street brown, and varnished it! Yet this is true. The chair, made six hundred years ago to contain the stone which even then had a long story behind it, has suffered much from hard usage and from the hands of the mischievous. But not even in the perilous time when George IV. was crowned was it attempted to take away the chair's age and make a new thing of it. Now, when we pride ourselves on knowing more about old art work than our fathers did, this has been done, and the throne of twenty-six monarchs has been vulgarised into the semblance of a hall chair of a Cockney Gothic villa.—*The Athenæum*.

THE sum of it then is this, that as a remedy for the moral evil of intemperance prohibition is wanting in the first principles of true morality. Its advocacy on moral and religious grounds is pernicious to the last degree; oppressive to the conscience; restrictive of a true liberty of mind; dishonourable to the Christian idea of manhood; and discreditable to the Church that can write its name upon her banners. Prohibition is, or must be, a civil measure, sustained by civil reasons and looking to social ends. Notwithstanding its involvement in and suggestion by social conditions which display immoral aspects, it yet stands as a civil measure on the same level as the tariff law, and is as much out of place in the pulpits and Church courts as a discussion of the fur trade would be. Such exclusion, of course, does not bar out the discussion of intemperance or of all moral means for its removal. Intemperance is a sin loudly demanding the animadversions of the Church and her consecrated efforts for its reduction, in which she would have been more successful than she has been, but for those delusive counsels which have thrust so many obstacles in her path.—*Sanford H. Cobb, in New Princeton Review*.

No business in this day can possibly be more miserable and cruel than that of addressing large bodies of ignorant poor men as to certain ideal rights which "the world owes them," and which Government might as well give them as not, but wickedly refuses to give. Any editor or speaker who deals in *a priori* rubbish like this is an enemy to society and to the State, and a very poor friend of the honest and industrious man. His stock argument is easily written. The world is full of hardships, and poverty is the author of nearly all of them, and the State promotes poverty for the benefit of a few capitalists who are very, very rich, and as wicked as they are wealthy. Nobody labours or does anything but men who are "hired," and the earth is, therefore, theirs, rightfully, with all that there is in it. It is a short creed, but it would land us speedily back much further than the Middle Ages if it could only once be acted upon. The intelligent Americans who are feathering their nests and making themselves notorious, and the politicians who are catering to them, on its behalf, are doing a worse thing than any man does who sells a glass of beer in this city on Sunday. Unfortunately, we cannot restrain the first offence by a statute any more than we can abolish poverty by law; but it is the most eminent truth of this time that those who commit it have taken upon themselves one of the most fearful of responsibilities. The sowing of dragon's teeth and the supposed result make but a feeble picture of its natural consequences.—*The Hour*.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

GENERAL SHERMAN has given way to the pressure brought to bear upon him to contribute to the *Century's* series of war papers, and in the October number an article by him, entitled "The Grand Strategy of the War," will be printed. General Sherman's article will practically bring the series to a conclusion.

JOAQUIN MILLER's "Life of Christ" in verse will, in all probability, be first published in parts in magazine form. The work has received the poet's most interested and careful labour, and now at its conclusion he writes: "It has made me a better man, and that is reward enough for me; still, I would like to see it in print and before the public before I cross the 'River of Rest.'" The poem is in five parts.

MR. R. W. GILDER, in his recent address at Wesleyan University and Wells College, remarked that but few of the younger generation of writers in this country have been graduated at college. He doubted whether the public "yet realise how little, comparatively, the college has done directly for our present literature." "Stedman," he said, "was at Yale, but was not graduated; Bret Harte, James, Howells, Stoddard, Aldrich, Cable, Mark Twain, Joel Chandler Harris, Burroughs, Bunner, Lathrop, Edward Eggleston, Julian Hawthorne, Janvier, Marion Crawford, Stockton—a few of these started upon, but not one of them finished, a college course, while most of them never even started. Nor have the women who are now prominent in American literature enjoyed the advantage of the higher collegiate education."

MR. MOWBRAY SAUL, the manager of the New World Travel Company, has started for Europe by the steamship *Alaska*. He will stop at Liverpool and London to complete some important arrangements which will considerably increase the facilities of his company for American tourists going to Europe. From England he will go to the continent and visit the principal cities on business connected with the organisation of a regular system by which European travellers intending to visit the United States, Canada, Mexico, etc., can do so with the greatest possible comfort under the auspices of the New World Travel Co. Rumour has it also that there are negotiations pending to utilise the large net of European correspondents in favour of one or two trunk lines.

The Theatre (New York), published July 27th, is one of the most interesting numbers since its first issue. Its important feature is the full text of Molière's "Les Precieuses Ridicules," as adapted by Mrs. Charles A. Doremus for the Lyceum Theatre, and which contains two illustrations. The frontispiece is a superb engraving of a portrait of Miss Alice Lawrence, of the Amateur Comedy Club. Mr. Edgar S. Kelly contributes a clever article entitled "Poesy versus Mechanics," in which he demonstrates that there is music in a nail factory. There is a very fine engraving of M. Delaunay, comedian of the Comédie Française, and also a portrait of R. M. Field, manager of the Boston Museum, accompanied by an article by Henry Whiting. The whole is under the editorship of Mr. Deshler Welch.