

last effort to find a prominent position from which to conduct his band, stepped upon a bench which was instantly drawn from under him by the stage hands who had it in charge. I went to the front of the house. Ball's musicians struck up their impressive strains of the "Gloria," and the curtain slowly rose upon the cathedral at Messina as if it had been there all the time, only waiting the prompter's signal. Pandemonium behind the curtain had given place to Paradise in front. It was a triumph of willing hands under intelligent and earnest direction.

II.

NEXT day, when the success of the night had been duly chronicled in the press,² I suggested to Irving

² "The excitement of that cheerful October evening last year when Henry Irving made his first appearance in New York, was repeated last night at the Star Theatre, where 'Much Ado about Nothing' was presented, and where Mr. Irving and Miss Terry effected their re-entrance, and were welcomed by a great and brilliant company with acclamations, with floral tributes and in a charmingly manifest spirit of the heartiest admiration and good-will. The scene, indeed, was one of unusual brightness, kindness, and enjoyment, both before the curtain and upon the stage. The applause, upon the entrance of Beatrice, a rare vision of imperial yet gentle beauty!—broke forth impetuously and continued long; and, upon the subsequent entrance of Benedict, it rose into a storm of gladness and welcome."—*Tribune*.

"The performance at the Star Theatre last evening was