"H. M. S. PINAFORE."

A Sketch of the Opera which has Created such a Furor.

The Pittsburgh (Pa.) *Leader* gives a sketch of the opera under the above name, written by W. S. Gilbert, an English dramatist, and the music furnished by Arthur Sullivan, an English composer. First brought out in this country in Boston, it at once became very popular there, and when taken to New York it was performed in half a dozen theaters at the same time, while it is being sung by traveling operatic troupes all over the country. The *Leader* says:

The object of this comical, nautical operatic trifle, on a subject of such ponderositee as the queen's navee, is to show the hollowness of official pretensions and the bombast that bolsters up rank and station; and to laugh down ignorance and stupidity in high places. The deck of the Pinafore becomes the battle-ground of a comical engagement between hard-fisted sailors' service and official bombast and emptiness. The action on board is brisk, and is continually interrupted with the bursting bombshells of laughter. The farcical element is always present in a variety of guises and happy surprises. It stalks about on deck in the lord high admiral—always accompanied by his sisters, and his cousins, and his aunts, and the whole "gang" of his female relations. He is a stickler for naval etiquette, "if you please;" tells how he rose to be "the ruler of the queen's navee," and presents the crew with a song of instruction, setting or singing forth that "the British tar is a soaring soul" whose "energetic fist should be ready to resist a dictatorial word." He loves the captain's daughter and she loves a common sailor. To win the girl he tells her that love levels all ranks and stations. She takes him at his official word, offically expressed, and instead of soaring up to him she flops down into the arms of the sailor, whom she has previously rejected because of incompatibility of rank and station—a result of the admiral's official blunder. Official "pomp and circumstance," and rank and station are played with like shuttlecock and battle-door. Baby-farming Buttercup makes a regular social revolution on board the Pinafore, when she sings:

"Two tender babes I nursed,
One was of low condition,
The other upper crust,
A regular pa rician,
A many years ago.
Oh, bitter is my cup!
However could I do it?
I mixed those children up,
And not a creature knew it.

Well, the up-shot of the mixing was that the patrician became the sailor and the babe of low condition the captain—startling. Then the admiral decides that the sailor is really the captain, and the captain is the sailor, and so changes their places on board according to birth—more startling. The admiral declines to marry the deposed captain's daughter because of her low degree, and officially gives her to the sailor now elevated to the captaincy. The ex-captain now turns to Buttercup, who had farmed him as a baby and got him mixed, and being a widower, he tells her:

"I shall marry a wife
In my humble rank of life,
And you, my own are she—
I must wander to and fro,
But wherever I may go
I shall never be untrue to thee.

All: What never?
Captain: No, never!
All: What, never?
Captain: Hardly ever!
All: Hardly ever be untrue to thee."

And that's where an oft-repeated joke hits hardest.

The whole business is a setting up and knocking down of rank and station, and laughing at the wreck. The poor sailor who loves above his station, while he bewails his low condition, is proud of being an Englishman. He sings:

"I am an Englishman; behold me!"

Then others chime in:

"He is an Englishman,
For he himself has said it,
And it's greatly to his credit
That he is an Englishman;
For he might have been a Roosian,
A French or Turk or Proosian,
Or, perhaps, an Itali-an;
But in spite of all temptations
To belong to other nations,
He remains an Englishman—
Hurrah for the true-born Englishman!"

That's something to be proud of, even in the shackles of his low estate. When the admiral comes on board with his retinue of female relations, the humor of the situation flows in song as follows:

"Admiral: I am the monarch of the sea,
The ruler of the queen's navee,
Whose praise Great Britain loudly chants.
Cousin Hebe: And we are his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.
Chorus: And we are his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.

Admiral: When at anchor here I ride
My bosom swells with pride,
And I snap my fingers at a foeman's taunts.
Cousin Hebe: And so do his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.
Chorus: And so do his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.

Admiral: But when the breezes blow,
I generally go below
And seek the seclusion that a cabin grants.
Cousin Hebe: And so do his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.
Chorus: And so do his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.
His sisters and his cousins,
Whom he reckons up by dozens,
And his aunts.

After the admiral has officially fooled himself out of the ex-captain's daughter, and he has officially disposed of the sailor and his love, and the captain and Buttercup, he turns to Hebe:

Admiral: I'm the monarch of the sea,
And when I've married thee,
I'll be true to the devotion that my love implants.
Hebe: Then good-bye to his sisters and his cousins and his aunts;
Especially his cousins,
Whom he reckons by the dozens—
His sisters and his cousins and his aunts.

Chorus: For he is an Englishman,
And he himself hath said it.
And it's greatly to his credit,
That he is an Englishman.

These extracts will give some idea of the tyle and purposes of the opera and the comic character of the doings on Her Majesty's Ship Pinafore.

The French historians describe a clock sent to Charlemange in the year 807, by the famous eastern caliph, Haround al Raschid, which was evidently furni·hed with some kind of wheelwork, although the moving power appears to have been produced by the fall of water. This clock was a rather wonderful affair, and excited a great deal of attention at the French court. In the dial of it were twelve small doors forming the divisions for the hours; each door opened at the hour marked by the index and let out small brass balls, which falling on a bell struck the hours—a great novelty at that time. The doors continued open until the hour of twelve, when twelve figures representing knights on horseback came out and paraded around the dial plate.

The Danger of New York.

Those interested in tenement-house improvement are advised to make an excursion in New York and regard its vast extent of five and six-storied tenemental squalor. The route may be as follows: Study the entire range of the city occupied by dwelling-houses below Eighth street, the only relieving feature of which is the oasis of respectable houses about Waverly place and Washington square. Then explore Avenues A and B. Remark here miles of grime, narrow halls, curb-stone ash-heaps, five-cent whisky-shops below and misery's garret above. Travel up First avenue, the upper portion of Second, and the whole of Third to Harlem. Survey mile after mile of five and six-storied brick boxes. Remark the constant lager beer and whisky saloons, the uncarted ash heap, the dead cat below and the narrow halls and labyrinthian system of garrets on garrets above. Jump over to Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth avenues, and study the proportion of comfortable homes to the stratifications of humanity piled on each other in layers from three to seven stories deep. Now survey the limited area from Fourteenth street to Central Park, embracing Fourth, Fifth, Madison and Lexington avenues, the nucleus of New York's wealthiest class. Add to this, say twenty blocks on Second avenue, and possibly twenty-five on the west side of Broadway, above Tenth street, and between Broadway and Tenth avenue, and with a few trifling exceptions, you have the comparatively limited area of New York's comfortable homes. Remark its small space as compared with that occupied by the swarms who do not move in first or second society circles, covering as they do the ground from the Battery to Fourteenth street, and all along the miles on miles of Avenues A and B, First, Second, Third, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth. Note the beer saloon, the bakery and corner grocery already creep into Fifth avenue and are driving fashion into Westchester county. Note the dress, bearing and general address of the thousands daily crossing the Brooklyn and Jersey ferries, on their way to and from their homes, and contrast them with the general average found on the New York street car. Add up both columns, find the sum total of social standing in each, subtract these amounts from each other and keep the balance to yourself. Remember, also, that this is a world and city of changes; that the nucleus of New York life has in less than twenty-five years changed from the city hall to Madison square; that the nucleus of fashionable homes has in thirty years moved from the now tenement-tenanted Bleecker street to Murray hill. What next? Send a hundred or two thousand more of the best of our people to seek comfortable homes in Brooklyn, where there is room to spread; change a few ocean-steamer landings to the Brooklyn side; erect there a few Fifth avenue and Windsor hotels, build a few first-class theaters and an opera house worthy of the name, and possibly fashion may shift its center of gravity from Manhattan to the long and spacious boulevards of Long island, and New York may become the suburb and be given over entirely to factory, warehouse and tenement. The fashionable promenade of 1900 may be nearer Manhattan beach. There are great possibilities for Brooklyn when its people make their tea stronger and wake up to their chances.—*New York Graphic.*

"Important Business."

A man with a comforter tied around his waist and a whip in his hand called at the postoffice for a letter yesterday, and for reasons which no human being may ever understand he suddenly decided to have his boots blacked, and not to pay more than five cents for the job, either. The first boy invited to begin work took a cool survey of the boots, and then softly replied:

"I'd like the job, mister, but you see I haven't time. The secretary of the treasury has made another call for outstanding five-twenties, and I've got to go to the bank."

The second boy had already prepared to kneel down when he realized the dimensions of the boots before him, and suddenly straightening up said:

"Say, I haven't time. I've agreed to take charge of a sawmill up the river for a man who is going away, and I must be at his office to give $20,000 bonds in just four minutes. Some other boy'll be glad of the job."

The "some other boy" was near at hand, and when told that the boots must be polished off for a nickel, he confidentially whispered:

"Don't feel disappointed, but you see I was 'pinted assignee of a big firm up the street this morning, and I'm only here to buy ten thousand postage stamps to begin work on. I'll send you a boy as I go up."

"No he won't," was the blunt reply of the man as he got out doors. "I see the game now, but I can beat it! They're planning to get some fellow whose time is worth about twenty dollars an hour, to put in forty minits on these boots, and then shake me for my load of wood, but they can't come it!"—*Detroit Free Press.*

A Wealthy Beggar.

A professional beggar has recently died, in Berlin, leaving a fortune of more than a million and a half marks to his heirs. He had many children and grandchildren, and lived in splendid style, giving sumptuous entertainments. The soirees were only attended by middle-class society, and were held only during the winter. In summer the jovial old gentleman invariably left his house for four or five months. It is now known that he has regularly frequently, at least until a few years ago, the principal bathing-places of Germany, and that he gathered his immense plunder by begging. In wretched dress, with an invalid's cap, blue spectacles, long snow-white hair, and apparently palsied limbs, he used to shamble slowly along the promenades. He never directly asked for anything, but used to receive voluntary offerings from the visitors, and these amounted to a large sum, which was regularly dispatched to Berlin every week. His biggest harvests were collected in the great gambling towns, when those were in full bloom of their prosperity. It was supposed that he had formerly been rich, but had lost everything at the gaming-tables. He would pace to and fro in and around the great building at Baden-Baden, and more than once during the day some player who had made a lucky stroke of business would sympathetically press a piece of gold upon the old man's acceptance. He is said to have driven this profitable trade for thirty seasons.

It is reported that the "Chinese government has purchased machinery and engaged experienced engineers and spinners in Germany to establish cotton mills in China, so as to free that country from dependence upon English and Russian imports."

A RATTLESNAKE'S DINNER.

The Monthly Meal Prepared for the Interesting Reptiles at the New York Aquarium.

A New York paper says: Poisonous snakes very seldom take food in captivity. Of some species, no specimen has ever been found that would do so. As a rule, they obstinately starve themselves; sometimes living for nine or even twelve months without eating, growing gradually weaker, day by day, until they finally die. The rattlesnake is not that sort of a snake. He is practical, ready in adapting himself to circumstances, and if he is hungry, is so because nothing digestible is at hand to be killed and swallowed.

Mr. Bergh objects to snakes being fed with living animals. So when the rattlesnakes' monthly meal time comes he is never an invited guest. An hour was chosen when there were no strangers in the aquarium, and the dinner was served. A large, fat rat was put in the cage of a rattlesnake about three feet long. The rat manifested a cheerful indifference to the situation, that was no doubt based on the happy delusion that its companion was simply a harmless big worm. It trotted unconcernedly over the outlying sections of the snake, peered down among the coils for something to eat, and stared with innocent surprise and curiosity at the upraised, loudly-rattling tail. Its nonchalance actually seemed to astonish the snake, and caused him to hesitate about opening hostilities against such a cool customer. That situation was maintained for five minutes. All that time the rattlesnake's warning notes were sounding, and it lay coiled with its neck curved ready to strike, and its eyes fairly blazing with malignant ferocity. At last it struck at the rat—and missed. The rat seemed to think nothing more of the occurrence than that the worm wanted to change its position and was somewhat in a hurry about it. There was no apparent alarm, but only an access of curiosity in the mind of the frisky rodent about the quivering, whizzing tail, to satisfy concerning which he walked deliberately up to it and smelled it. As he did so the snake struck again, and that time caught his victim's left hind leg. A horrible thing the rattlesnake was in that moment of pouncing upon his victim. The flat, broad head was opened into an enormous mouth; in the widely distended jaws the large, hooked, venomous fangs were erected; the eyes glowed with fury. Quicker than sight could follow the motion, the deadly blow was inflicted. One instant the snake was motionless, the next its fangs were fastened in the leg of the struggling, squeaking, and now thoroughly alarmed rat, and the next it had returned to its former attitude, still threatening, but simply following with watchful eyes the movements of its victim, without essaying any further attack. The frightened rat lost instantly the use of the leg that had been struck. On its other three legs it sprang about as if in wild terror, then dragged itself around the cage more and more slowly; at length it crawled among the coils of the snake and there expired. Thirteen minutes elasped from the time it was bitten until it was dead.

Almost immediately the snake proceeded to the swallowing process. There was no preparatory moistening, coiling upon and pressing of the body. The snake simply seized the rat's head in his mouth, and commenced operations. His upper jaw is built in two sections, right and left, and he can move them separately, backward or forward. Hooking the teeth of one section into the rat's hide, he would slide the other section forward a little and take a fresh hold with his teeth. Then the first that made fast would let go, come to the front, and rig a new purchase. In that way, by alternate advances of the right and left sections of his upper jaw, he slowly pushed his dinner down. But it took him twenty minutes to do it.

Several other rats were fed to the rattlesnakes with little variation of incident, except that their individual characteristics were variously displayed. None was as unconscious of danger and impudently sociable as the first, and none was as plucky as the seventh, which, upon receiving the fatal bite, sprang at the snake to make fight. The poison was too active in the courageous little fellow's veins, however. Even as he reached the reptile's neck his limbs stiffened, his jaws became set, and he rolled over on his back, weakly kicking and gasping for some minutes, and then died. The quickest death was that of the fourth rat, which was bitten in the head, fell immediately, and was seemingly dead in less than a minute.

Dr. Dorner, who knows almost as much about snakes as if had made them, explains that as soon as a rattlesnake has eaten in captivity, the quantity and activity of its poison increases, quickly causing the interval between the bite and its fatal result, upon small animals, at least, to become very short indeed. But if fed too often the reptile's venom loses in activity, so that sometimes several bites are insufficient to kill.

Celluloid.

"It seems to me," remarked a gentleman in New York the other day, "that about everything we have now, except what we eat, is made out of celluloid." An investigation of the subject almost tends to persuade one that this statement is scarcely exaggerated. Although celluloid was invented nine or ten years ago (by two brothers named Hyatt), its perfected manufacture has been regularly in progress for only about five years, and it is considered to be still in its infancy; yet immense quantities of the substance are produced, it is converted into a wonderful variety of forms, and new modes of applying it are discovered almost daily.

Celluloid is a composition of fine tissue paper and camphor, treated with chemicals by a patented process. A rather common impression that it contains gun-cotton is a mistake, which arises from confounding it with collodion. Celluloid, it is said, is entirely non-explosive, and burns only when in direct contact with flame. When crude it looks like a transparent gum, and its color it a light yellow-brown. It can be made as hard as ivory, but it is elastic, and can be readily molded into every conceivable form. With equal ease it can be colored in any tint desired, the dye running through the entire substance, and being, therefore, ineffaceable.

As a close imitation of ivory, celluloid has made great inroads in the business of the ivory manufacturers. Its makers assert that in durability it is much superior to ivory, as it sustains hard knocks without injury, and it is not discolored by age or use. Great quantities are used for piano and organ keys, to the manufacture of which one company is devoted.

Celluloid can be mottled so as to imitate the finest tortoise-shell, and its elasticity renders it less liable to breakage. In this form it is used like imitation ivory, for combs, card-cases, cigar-cases, match-boxes, pocketbooks, napkin rings, jewelry and all sorts of fancy articles. The substance is employed for similar purposes as a good imitation of malachite and also of amber. It is made into mouthpieces for pipes, cigar-holders and musical instruments, and is used as the material of flutes, flageolets and drumsticks. For drumheads it is said to be superior to parchment, and it is not affected by moisture in the atmosphere.

As a substitute of porcelain, celluloid is used for the heads of dolls, which can be hammered against a hard floor without danger of fracture. Beautiful jewelry is made of it in imitation of the most elaborately carved coral, reproducing all the shades of the genuine article. Most of the coral tints are bright or dark red, however, as the makers, strange to say, have found that excellent copies of the costly pink coral are not in popular demand.

Within the last year and a half another branch of the celluloid manufacture has been developed which promises to reach enormous proportions. This is the use of celluloid as a substitute for linen or paper in the making of shirt-cuffs, collars, etc. It has the appearance of well-starched linen, is sufficiently light and flexible, does not wrinkle, is not affected by perspiration and can be worn for months without injury. It becomes soiled much less readily than linen, and when dirty is quickly cleaned by the application of a little soap and water with a sponge or rag. For travelers and for wear in hot weather the celluloid linen is especially convenient. It has lately been much improved by the introduction of real linen between two thicknesses of celluloid. Shirt fronts have been made of it, as well as cuffs and collars, and it is believed that these will prove equally desirable.

Bagdad's "Date Mark" Malady.

No account of Bagdad would be complete or even honest, which omitted mention of the Bagdad "date mark," a mysterious malady which affects everybody, whether citizen or stranger. It is a dry, eating sore, which comes generally upon the face, lasts for a year, and then goes away forever, leaving an indelible mark about the size and shape of a date, as evidence of the visitation. The *cicatrix* is just skin deep; and the spot appears as if the surface had been seared away with caustic or a hot iron, and it by no means enhances the beauty of the victim. The sore generally comes in childhood, and then it commonly settles upon the face. The cheek of nearly every man or woman brought up in Bagdad shows the unmistakable mark.

Sometimes it settles on the nose, and then the disfigurement is considerable, sometimes on the eyelid, and blindness is generally the result. Strangers are attacked even after a brief residence; but if they be adults, they get the sore on the arm or wrist. It is more painful there than on the cheek, but of course there is no disfigurement. In every case the attack runs its conrse for a year; no treatment, no ointment or medicine has the slightest effect upon it. Once the sore makes its appearance, the sufferer knows what to expect, and as he may as well resign himself philosophically to all it involves. The Arabs say that every one that goes to Bagdad must get the "date mark;" if he does not get it while in the city, he will get it after he leaves; and if he does not get it while alive, he will get it after he is dead. It is not to be avoided.

In Aleppo the disease is known as the "Aleppo button," and there, as in Bagdad, the favorite theory is that water is the cause of the evil. But two European physicians, who went to the city to investigate the matter, were themselves attacked within a fortnight after their arrival in the town, though they took the precaution of having their drinking water brought from a distant place, where its quality was above suspicion. Another suspected cause is a supposed deficiency of iodine in the salt used in the country. Some people are inclined to think there is something in the defective sanitation of the town which predisposes to the attack.

The visitation is not as a rule painful, unless it happens to fix upon a spot above a joint or a muscle frequently brought into exercise. The irritation occasioned by movement of the affected part is often considerable, and gives rise to a great deal of suffering. The general health is little, if at all, disturbed in ordinary cases. The children play about the narrow streets and make mud-pies quite joyously, with great ulcers, the size of a crown piece, on their little cheeks; it gives them no concern that they are being marked and disfigured for life, and of pain they feel nothing.—*Geary's "Through Asiatic Turkey."*

People make too much fuss altogether over these athletic exhibitions. In his greatest match O'Leary didn't walk as far by seven miles as a weak woman out in North Hill did while she was trying to match the shade of a ribbon.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

The girl who had two strings to her beau made an arrow escape from matrimony.

Not Symptoms, but the Disease.
It would seem to be a truth appreciable by all, and especially by professors of the healing art, that to remove the disease, not to alleviate its symptoms, should be the chief aim of medication. Yet in how many instances do we see this truth admitted in theory, ignored in practice. The reason that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is successful in so many cases with which remedies previously tried were inadequate to cope, is attributable to the fact that it is a medicine which reaches and removes the causes of the various maladies to which it is adapted. Indigestion, fever and ague, liver complaint, gout, rheumatism, disorders of the bowels, urinary affections and other maladies are not palliated merely, but rooted out by it. It goes to the fountain head. It is really, not nominally, a radical remedy; and it endows the system with an amount of vigor which is its best protection against disease.

Somebody's Child.
Somebody's child is dying—dying with the flush of hope on his young face and an indescribable yearning to live and take an honored place in the world beside the companions of his youth. And somebody's mother is thinking of the time when that dear face will be hidden where no ray of hope can brighten it—when her heart and home will be left desolate—because there was no cure for consumption. Reader, if the child be your neighbor's, take this comforting word to the mother's heart before it is too late: Tell her that consumption is curable; that men are living to-day, aged, robust men, whom the physicians pronounced incurable at the age of twenty-five, because one lung had been almost destroyed by the disease. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is a most efficient alterative for separating the scrofulous matter from the blood and lungs, and imparting strength to the system. It has cured hundreds of consumptives.

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Chew Jackson's Best Sweet Navy Tobacco.

The Grand Central Hotel, on Broadway, New York, is a big house, and it takes a great many people to fill it. In order to do the latter, and to please everybody, the hotel is now kept on both the plans; the American at to $2.50 $3.00, and the European at $1.00 and upward per day. An elegant restaurant, at moderate prices, is conducted by the hotel.

Prices are a little higher for the Mason and Hamlin Organs than those of very poor organs, but the quality is a great deal better. It is certainly good economy to obtain the best when there is no more difference in the price.

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NEW YORK.			
Beef Cattle Native	08	@	08¾
Texas and Cherokees	07½	@	08½
Milch Cows	20 00	@	45 00
Hogs: Live	04	@	04½
Dressed	05½	@	05¾
Sheep	05¾	@	05¾
Lambs	06½	@	06¾
Cotton: Middling	09¾	@	09¾
Flour: Western: Good to Choice	4 00	@	6 75
State. Fair to Choice	3 95	@	5 50
Wheat: No. 1 Red	1 11	@	1 11½
White State	1 14	@	1 16
Rye: State	58½	@	61½
Barley: State	75	@	80
Barley Malt	1 25	@	1 30
Oats: Mixed Western	33½	@	33½
Corn: Mixed Western Ungraded	45½	@	46
Hay, per cwt	35	@	40
Straw, per cwt	45	@	55
Hops 76's—08 @15 75's	07	@	15
Pork: Family Mess	9 62½	@	9 87½
Lard: City Steam	06.50	@	06.50
Fish: Mackerel, No. 1, new	18 00	@	20 00
" No. 2, new	7 00	@	7 50
Dry Cod, per cwt	3 75	@	4 50
Herring, Scaled, per box	17	@	18
Petroleum: Crude 08½@08¾ Refined			09
Wool California Fleece	20	@	22½
Texas Fleece	20	@	23
Australian Fleece	38	@	42
State XX	32	@	34
Butter State Creamery	16	@	25
Dairy	19	@	21
Western Creamery	17	@	28
Factory	07	@	16
Cheese: State Factory	05	@	09½
State Skimmed	03	@	09½
Western	06	@	09
Eggs: State and Pennsylvania	17½	@	18
BUFFALO.			
Flour	4 75	@	4 35
Wheat No. 1 Milwaukee	1 14	@	1 14
Corn Mixed	39½	@	39½
Oats	27	@	27
Rye	50	@	50
Barley	70	@	75
Barley Malt	1 10	@	1 20
PHILADELPHIA			
Flour Pennsylvania Extra	5 00	@	5 00
Wheat Red Western	1 14	@	1 14
Rye	53	@	54
Corn Yellow	44	@	44½
Sail Mixed	44	@	44½
Oats Mixed	24	@	24
Petroleum Crude 08 @08¾ Refined,			09½
Wool Colorado	17	@	20
Texas	17	@	20
BOSTON.			
Beef Cattle	04	@	04½
Sheep	03	@	04½
Hogs	08½	@	08½
Flour Wisconsin and Minnesota	6 50	@	8 00
Corn Mixed	50	@	58
Oats "	31	@	32
Wool Ohio and Pennsylvania XX	34	@	38
California Spring	17	@	21
BRIGHTON, MASS.			
Beef cattle	04½	@	04½
Sheep	04½	@	04½
Lambs	04	@	05
Hogs	04½	@	04½
WATERTOWN, MASS.			
Beef Cattle—Poor to Choice	[illegible]	@	[illegible]
Sheep	[illegible]	@	04½
	04½	@	04½

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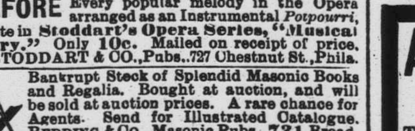
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