

OBERAMMERGAU SUFFERS A LOSS

ACCIDENT TO JOSEPH MAIER, THE CHRIST OF THE PASSION PLAY.

HOW HE WON DESERVED FAME—A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR IN PETER RENDL, WHO PLAYED ST. JOHN—THE PRODUCTION IN THE YEAR 1900—IMPRESSIONS OF THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN PREVIOUS PERFORMANCES.

Many persons must have felt deep regret a few days ago at the news of the serious accident to Joseph Maier, the Christ of the Oberammergau Passion Play. He was employed with others in hauling some heavy timbers, when one of them fell and crushed his leg so badly that it had to be amputated. His misfortune will be the cause of sorrow, not because it will deprive his admirers of any future privilege of seeing him or his acting, but because every one who saw him as the Christ learned to admire and respect him, and to remember vividly, happily and almost affectionately his wonderful impersonation. He would never play the Christ again in any case. He might play some other part in the drama, but it is doubtful whether, having been the central figure for so long, he would wish to take any subordinate place.

Maier first appeared as the Christ in 1870. It is the custom in the year when the Passion Play is given to act it on certain days of each week all through the summer. In 1870 the series of performances were interrupted, after only three or four had been given, by the Franco-Prussian war. Maier and his associates had to leave their theatre of the Passion and serve as soldiers. The next summer, 1871, the series of representations were taken up again at the point where it had been interrupted, and was carried through the season. Maier played the leading part in it again in 1880, and it was then that his fame was spread all over the world, and his name became known wherever newspapers and books were read.

SIX HIS EXQUISITE PERFORMANCE. Six years ago Maier did indeed look a trifle too old for the part, but his performance was exquisite, and in the simplicity, the refinement and the dignity of his acting and the sweetness and gentleness of his voice he made those who saw him forget any disappointment that they felt at the first sight of him. When it was over the spectators felt that he had seen the Christ, and it took an effort, if he thought such an effort worth making, to recall his old ideal of the face and to prove that it was not the face of Maier.

People go to Oberammergau with all sorts of views and opinions as to the good or the bad taste, the reverence or the irreverence, the propriety or the impropriety, the right or the wrong of the Passion Play. Not one in a thousand of them leaves Oberammergau without being convinced that the performance is good and noble and reverent. In these last thirty years Joseph Maier has done more than any other to convert those who doubted to this view. He has not done it all, for the Passion Play is a consistent whole, and his has been only one part of it. But it has been the central, the pivotal part, and the rest, while all worthy of it and in harmony with it, have been subordinate to it.

In the performance of 1890 the first impression which Maier produced when he came upon the stage was that there was something indifferent in his manner and something stern and unsympathetic in his face. As the play went on the indifference was seen to be passive patience. The active part of the life of the Christ is all but done when the play opens. Maier represented Him as one who had little more to do, but much more to suffer, as one who waited calmly and silently for the fulfilment of His destiny and the end of pain and sorrow. All thought that there could be anything stern or sympathetic about the man vanished when he spoke. There was something about him more winning than his voice. It was not that his delivery of long speeches was so fine from an oratorical point of view. It was the way in which he spoke, whether he had much or little to say, the tenderness of the tones, the earnestness and sympathy of the utterance, that expressed more than anything in his look or his action, the depth and the purity and the sweetness of the character he was playing.

PREPARING FOR 1900.

There is no place too small, if there are three people in it, for ambition to enter. Even in Oberammergau there is rivalry. Sometimes two or more persons want to play the same part in the Passion Play, and only one of them can be chosen. Then the others, being of human mould, are sometimes jealous. And so it has been said that Joseph Maier is one of a clique that controls the Passion Play, and assaults on his character have been made which would be in bad taste even if they were true. No one who has seen him play his part in the play will readily believe anything against him, and Canon Farrar, who stayed at his house on his visit to Oberammergau, writes in the highest terms of his personal character and repels every insinuation against him with warmth and vigor. At any rate the man is modest. He is greatly annoyed, it is said, by curiosity-seekers, and while the series of performances is going on and the town is full of visitors he never shows himself outside his own house and the theatre.

It is the custom of the Oberammergau players to make the characters which they are to play parts of themselves by long study and attention to every detail of manner and appearance. In order that they may grow into the characters, as it were, they are chosen for them two or three years in advance. It was thought while the play was going in the summer of 1890 that the successor of Maier as Christ would probably be Peter Rendl. He then appeared as St. John. His chief qualification for the part was his beautiful face. Physically he was a model for St. John. His acting, though adequate to the small part which he played, was not conspicuously fine. He was clearly trying to do his best, and he was young. He was then about 20, and he will therefore be of the right age to

play the Christ in 1900. If he is chosen for the part there is no doubt that he will give it diligent study and serious effort. But he will have a hard task to satisfy those who have seen Joseph Maier.—Catholic Standard and Times.

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

British Guiana was once a Catholic country. It is now cursed with penit anti-Catholic laws.

The Pope has just inherited \$300,000 under the will of Sig. Tongiorgi, former minister of finance at the Vatican.

May 10th is given as the date upon which Archbishop Kain, of St. Louis, will be formally invested with the pallium.

The Catholics of Livermore, Iowa, will build a church next summer to cost about \$10,000. Rev. Father McInerney is pastor.

Archbishop Corrigan, accompanied by his private secretary, Rev. James N. Connolly, is visiting the Bahama Islands, which are subject to his jurisdiction.

When the late Bishop Conroy of Albany died it was supposed that he was intestate. A will made August 8, 1871, has been found in which he leaves his property to Archbishop Williams of Boston.

Father Bernard, of Andermatt, Minister General of the Capuchins, has sent a circular to the superiors of the convents of his order informing them that the general chapter, which takes place every twelve years, will be held next May in Rome.

John J. Lucas, colored, has purchased 300 acres of land in Prince George county, Virginia, from W. W. Taylor, of Brandon, upon which he will erect a school for the education of colored youth under the auspices of St. Joseph's college of missions.

Miss Alice Feehan, in religion Sister Mary Ambrose, daughter of Dr. Feehan, of St. Louis, Mo., and niece of Most Rev. P. A. Feehan, of Chicago, made her solemn profession as a Sister of Mercy, at St. Patrick's Academy, Chicago, February 3rd.

The Sisters of Charity purchased recently a large property in the east for the purpose of erecting a sanitarium for the members of the order from different States, of whom there are 450, incapacitated by age or failing health from carrying on actively the work of the Order.

The Order of Servants of Mary, commonly called Servite Fathers, who are now spread throughout various countries of the world, have just opened a new international college at Rome, under the supervision of the Rev. M. Spiciner, the successor of Cardinal Satolli as professor of theology at the Propaganda.

Dr. Louis Ch. Boisjerie, who died lately in St. Louis, was a resident of that city since 1847. He was a leading physician and a model Catholic and in his eightieth year. He was a most charitable man and gave the entire proceeds of his practice for one day in each week to the poor and devoted a day each week to their gratuitous treatment.

The membership of the Sacred College is now represented by sixty-one, leaving nine vacancies, at least four of which, it is thought, will be filled when the next consistory is held. The prelates whom it is expected the Holy Father will then honor with red hats, are the nuncios at Lisbon, Madrid, Paris and Vienna, whose creations were anticipated at the time of the last consistory, but were not then announced. The coming consistory will probably not be held until the Easter-tide days, though there is, of course, nothing certain known regarding its date.

C. M. B. A.

GRAND COUNCIL OF QUEBEC.

At the regular meeting of Branch No. 12, held last evening, the following officers were installed by Grand Deputy James McKel, assisted by Chancellor Patrick McDermott, jr.; P. McDermott, jr., chancellor; Michael Merriman, president; Ed. Murray, first vice-president; Thomas M. Jones, second vice-president; P. Quillan, recording secretary; M. McCabe, financial secretary; P. Marnell, treasurer; J. Mullins, marshal; M. Whelan, guard; W. P. Beaudoin, Jos. Graham, Jno. Furlong, J. Mullins and P. Murray, trustees. Meets second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the corner of St. Etienne and Forfar streets. This Branch is in a very flourishing condition and a committee was struck to make arrangements for a social entertainment after Lent.

A PRIEST'S DEATH.

Rev. Father Maguire, of St. Patrick's Church, Quebec, died at the Hotel Dieu on Saturday. The remains have been sent to the Ancient Capital for interment.

FATHER LACOMBE'S LETTER.

A letter of Father Lacombe to Mr. Laurier, calling on him to support the Remedial Bill, has caused some extensive criticism to be indulged in, and, in some cases, with more zeal than discretion. The communication was purely a private expression of opinion, couched in the fervid rhetoric which belongs to the French language, and which can hardly be appreciated by those who do not think in it and for the most part do not understand it at all. The letter has been erroneously described as the exposition of the views of the Roman Catholic bishops. The episcopate of a church when it speaks collectively does so in a different manner. Pere Lacombe is a very aged man, and his appeal bears the mark of one who feels that his stewardship is drawing to a close and desires to leave his charge in such a condition that he may give a due account to his Lord, whose commission he has been executing. He may have spoken for the clergy of his province. It does not appear that for the other parts of Canada he presumed to do so. Already the head of the diocese of Quebec has spoken, and Archbishop Bugin, the coadjutor of the Cardinal, has entered his protest, and this implies the repudiation of responsibility for the letter on the part of the episcopate generally. But, so far as the English-speaking people are concerned, the opin-

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ions of the Roman episcopate in Quebec are matters with which they have nothing to do. Everyone knows that the Roman clergy watch closely for the morals of their flocks, and that they should be profoundly moved by any legislation affecting the schools is only natural. They would be false to their vows if they were not. The position they occupy is well known, and the present issue has produced nothing new in this respect.—Ottawa Free Press.

IRISH NEWS ITEMS.

Sir Maurice O'Rourke, speaker of the New Zealand Legislature, visited the Four Courts, Dublin, on Feb. 7.

Mrs. Morris, widow of the late postmaster of Drogheda, has been appointed postmistress of Downpatrick with a salary of £135 a year.

John Robinson, of Lisglassick, Kenagh, has been appointed sub-sheriff of County Longford, and John Wilson, of Dublin and Longford, solicitor, returning officer.

At St. Malachy's College, Belfast, on Sunday, Feb. 2, Bishops Henry and O'Connor, of Down, ordained to the priesthood the Rev. John McAleese, a native of Keshmakin.

Miss Hannah Bridget O'Kelly, in religion Sister Mary Dominic, daughter of Robert O'Kelly, of Tralee, received the white veil at the Convent of Our Lady of Mercy, Sligo, recently.

The death occurred on Jan. 27, at St. Bridget's Convent, Abbeyleix, of Mother M. Clare Johnston, in the eighty-third year of her age, and the sixty-second of her religious profession.

Father McCarthy, pastor of Tramore, one of the most distinguished ecclesiastics in the diocese, died on Feb. 6. He was a native of Dungarvan, and received his early training in St. John's College, Waterford.

The death occurred on Jan. 27, at Durlless, Lecanvey, Westport, of Anne, wife of James Joyce, mother of Thomas Joyce, sister of the late Revs. John and James McGirr, of Australia, and aunt of the Rev. P. McGirr, Adm. of Westport.

The Earl of Westmeath has made arrangements to the tenants on his County Galway estate near Loughrea. The non-judicial tenants are granted 25 per cent. reduction on their rents, and the holders of farms on which the rent has been judicially fixed are allowed 20 per cent.

The Quarter Sessions for the division of Listowel were opened on Jan. 22. Mr. McGillicuddy informed Judge Shaw that the calendar for the sessions was a blank. The latter said a similar announcement was made in Killarney, both of which spoke well for the peace and order of Kerry.

New Stations of the Cross have been erected in the new Church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane, opened in October last by Cardinal Logue. The Stations are of a large size and costly description, and in coloring, mountings, and beauty of the figures in relief, are works of the highest art.

Thomas Hally, of Clonmel, in company with Mrs. Hally, was about leaving his house for Vespers on Sunday evening, Feb. 2, when he was stricken down and died, the cause of death being heart disease. Mr. Hally was an exemplary

VALUABLE PRIZES

Two valuable prizes, worth \$2,000 each, were this fortnight distributed by the Society of Arts of Canada, 1066 Notre Dame Street, to M. M. Auguste Demers, 358 St. Denis Street, and Alderie Gollins, clerk at Mongenais, Bolvin & Co., St. Paul Street.

Catholic and only that morning he received Holy Communion. All his life he was an active Nationalist.

James Crogan, a native of Boyle, who landed on Jan. 30 at Queenstown from the steamer Germanic, from New York, was charged, at a specially constituted court under the Peace Preservation Act, with having in his possession a revolver and ammunition without being duly licensed. He was fined 30s. and costs, and the revolver and ammunition forfeited.

The business of the Tralee Quarter Sessions was opened in Tralee on Jan. 28. Judge Shaw said there were only four cases to go before the grand jury and those were of the ordinary class. The condition of the district was exceedingly peaceable, as far as he was able to ascertain from all sources. He had the same experience in other parts of the county, having been the recipient of white gloves at Killarney and Listowel.

A DOG'S REMARKABLE INSTINCT.

A remarkable illustration of a dog's intelligence has occurred in Sutton, England. A married lady there has a small pet, and on her removal to a London hospital, owing to ill-health, the animal became greatly distressed, running hither and thither in search of his mistress, to whom he was greatly attached. A week afterwards the dog disappeared, and two days later returned to its home footsore and weary. It subsequently transpired that the faithful terrier had found his way to the hospital where his mistress lay. No one guided him and he traveled the whole way alone. He waited about for hours trying to gain admission, and finally after many rebuffs, succeeded in running into the hospital and finding the bed where the lady lay. With great delight he hailed her, and after satisfying himself that she was safe he trotted back to Sutton, about fourteen miles distant.

COMMERCIAL.

FISH AND OILS.

FRESH FISH.—Fresh fish is very scarce, and receipts during the last week or two have been very light. There is no fresh cod to be had now on the market. Fresh haddock 3 1/2c to 4c per lb. Fresh herring is very scarce, and goods that were sold at \$1.10 to \$1.25 a few days ago are now held at \$1.75 per barrel. Tommy cods \$1.25 to \$2 per barrel. White fish 7 1/2c per lb. Dore 7c per lb. Pike 4c to 4 1/2c.

SALT FISH.—The market for Cape Breton herring and green cod is pretty well cleared up, and very little if any available stock is to be had. Dry cod \$4, and green cod firmer at \$4.50 to \$5 for No. 1; and large \$5.50 to \$6.00. Cape Breton herring steady at \$3.25 to \$3.50, and shore \$2.75 to \$3.00. Salmon \$11 for No. 1 small, in bbls, and \$12.00 to \$13.00 for No. 1 large. British Columbia salmon \$11.00 to \$12.00. Sea trout \$5.00 to \$6.00.

SMOKED FISH.—Smoked haddies are very scarce, and it is estimated that there is not over 150 boxes of available stock to be had in the city. Haddock 7c to 8c; bladders 7 1/2c to 8 1/2c per box; smoked herrings 7c to 9c per box.

CANNED FISH.—Lobsters \$6.00 to \$6.25 and Mackerel \$3.85 to \$4.00 per case.

OILS.—Seal oil 4 1/2c to 4 3/4c net cash, and regular terms 4 1/2c to 4 3/4c. Newfoundland cod oil 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c. Cod liver oil \$1.10 to \$1.30 for ordinary, and \$1.75 to \$1.85 for Norway.

LATEST MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO CATTLE MARKET.

TORONTO, Ont., March 3.—Butchers' cattle are about 1/2c lower in price. Receipts to-day were heavy for this time of the year, 34 carloads, which included 141 sheep and lambs, 500 hogs and the usual quota of calves and milk cows.

Butchers' Cattle—Trade was quiet and the prices generally were lower. Buying for Montreal was not so active. The top figure for good butchers' cattle at the Western cattle yards to-day was 3 1/2c per lb. for loads, which is 1/2c per lb. lower than the best price of last Tuesday. Some of the common cattle sold as low as 2c per lb. Dealers expect no improvement in live stock until after Lent. Medium to good cattle are quoted at from 2 1/2c to 3c per lb.

Export Cattle—There was no buying to-day except a few bulls at about 3c per lb., but dealers are beginning to prepare for the season.

Bulls—There are a few being taken for export at about 3c per lb. Stock bulls fetch 2 1/2c per lb.

OTTAWA MARKET.

OTTAWA, March 3.—There was a big market this morning and thin consequence of this, together with the soft weather, prices generally ruled somewhat lower than during the week. Lots of beef were offered varying from 3 1/2c to 5c for fore and hinds. Pork dropped owing to the factories being pretty well supplied. Large hogs brought \$5.25 and smaller ones ran up towards \$6 per hundred weight. Mutton keeps around 6c to 8c. Veal was fairly plentiful at about the same price. Potatoes can be bought at from 2 1/2c to 3c per bag and other vegetables in proportion. A few bunches of forced rhubarb were offered for the first time at 9c a bunch. Butter is in good demand at 18c for tubs and 16 1/2c for prints. Fresh eggs which are clearly such, bring 25c per doz. A very good lot of poultry was brought in to-day. Geese sold at 4 1/2c to 5 1/2c; turkeys averaged a trifle more than 4c per pound, and chickens sold at what would be equal to 6c to 8c per pound.

Hay can be bought at from \$11 to \$13 per ton and there is plenty of it. Oats keep at 27c to 28c per bushel.

TORONTO PRODUCE MARKETS.

TORONTO, March 3.—The market is quiet. Flour quiet; prices steady; holders ask \$3.65 to \$3.70 for straight rollers, the latter for choice brands. Bran, ears of bran nominal at \$11.25 to \$11.50, west and shorts at \$13. Wheat, quiet, white sold outside at 81c on North and red at 80c west; No. 2 fall offered outside at 82c without bids; No. 1 Manitoba hard offered at 85c North Bay, with 8 1/2c bid; No. 2 hard offered at 82c to arrive North Bay with 8 1/2c bid; spot and No. 3 hard offered to arrive at 74c with 7 1/2c bid; No. 1 frosted sold at 65c North Bay for March delivery. Barley quiet, No. 1 sold at 40c outside; feed barley is 28c to 29c outside. Oats quiet, prices unchanged; mixed sold outside at 22 1/2c and white offered at 23 1/2c with 23c bid. Peas dull, buyers at 50c outside and sellers at 51c. Buckwheat dull, prices nominal at 31c to 32c outside. Oatmeal quiet; prices unchanged at \$2.90 to \$3 on track, and small lots at \$3.25. Corn steady, sales of yellow outside at 32 1/2c. Rye, dull quotations nominal at about 45c outside.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

Messrs. Hodgson Bros., under date February 22, write as follows of the Liverpool market for dairy produce: Cheese has been in moderate demand, holders being willing to concede 6d to 1s per cwt., in order to make more progress. The market closes steady on choice autumn make. We quote to-day finest September-October, 4 1/2 to 4 3/4 per cwt., and ripe summers, 30s to 36s. There is nothing fresh of importance to note in butter this week; the sales have been to a moderate extent at last week's prices. We quote to-day finest American and Canadian creamery 88s to 95s per cwt., and grades under this description 50s to 80s. Finest Danish butter is offered at 110s to 115s, and choice Australian 97s to 100s. We quote Irish butter: Cork firsts, 115s per cwt.; seconds, 101s; thirds, 88s, and fourths, 77s.

It is now optional with a widow if she keeps her husband's initials or not. It is quite proper to use them in addressing her, and Mrs. Grundy is more and more sanctioning it, to distinguish the widow from the divorced woman. The latter takes her own initials.

MR. DE STYLE: Why, my dear, I'm glad to see you so composed. When I left this morning you were weeping and wailing and tearing your hair because Fido was sick. Mrs. De Style: Well, you see, just after you left, Mrs. Tiptop came in and told me that dogs of Fido's breed were going out of fashion. So I dried my tears and kicked him out.

What is the difference between a French pastry-cook and a bill-sticker? One pulls up paste, the other pastes up pulls.

Mrs. Watts: I am afraid you don't love work. Dismal Dawson: Deed I do, mum, but I am so bashful.

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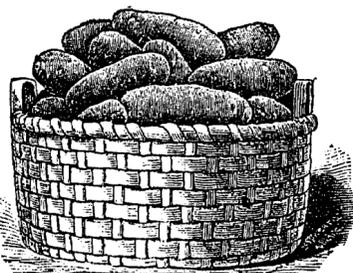
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