

Music and the Drama.

Dion Boucicault sails for Europe on the 22nd instant in the "Russia."

Lecocq is writing a new opera entitled "Don Juan XIV." for the Folies Dramatiques, Paris.

Faure is shortly to appear in a revival of Ambroise Thomas's "Hamlet" at the Paris Grand Opera.

Ponchielli's new opera, "I Lituani," has been brought out with complete success at the Scala, Milan.

Great enthusiasm has attended the production of "La Fille de Madame Angot" at the Teatro Nuova, Naples.

A pupil of Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Galloway, of Liverpool has been singing very successfully in the Isle of Man.

Rubinstein is playing at St. Petersburg, where, it is rumoured, he intends devoting himself hereafter entirely to composition.

"Elizabeth; or, The Exile of Siberia," has been produced at the Adelphi, London, out of compliment to the Duchess of Edinburgh.

A new theatre, to be called the Gaiety, is shortly to be opened in Liverpool for the performance of burlesques and the lighter dramas.

Mlle. Belocca, the recent *débütante* at the Italian Opera, Paris, is announced to appear shortly as *Cherubino* in "Le Nozze di Figaro."

"Le Magot," Sardou's "Palais Royal" piece, is said to be insufferably stupid, and the "business" even worse than the dialogue.

A new opera, entitled "The Rose of Navarre," is soon to be brought out in London. The composer is a Mr. Reginald Churchill.

M. Maurice Strakosch is repudiating the star system in his management of the Italiens, and yet it is the rendezvous of fashionable Paris.

For the first time in the history of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, its proprietor leaves it a prosperous man, a change of management having been determined upon.

A writer says, in speaking of the late Aimée Desclée, "With the soul of a tragedienne, she had the face of a soubrette, with round baby eyes and a nose more *retournée* than classic."

Mr. Halliwell has found a drawing of the original Globe Theatre, Southwark, where Shakespeare acted, and which was built in 1599. The only engraving heretofore known is that of the rebuilt theatre of 1613.

David Strauss left among his papers direction that his grave should be closed to the tune of "O Isis and Osiris," from Mozart's "Magic Flute," the words to be sung having been specially written by him for the occasion. The paper was not discovered till too late.

William Stuart, manager and proprietor of the New Park Theatre, was the author of those severe and extremely clever criticisms against Forrest which were printed in the *Tribune* some twenty years ago, and which created a profound sensation in dramatic circles of that time.

The polyglot character of the Italian opera is shown by the Strakosch company. Nilsson is a Swede, Del Puente a Spaniard, Cary an American, Campanini an Italian, Blum a German, while the chorus and orchestra are made up of Italians, Germans, Americans, Belgians, French, Russians, Spaniards, English, Scotch, and Dutch—ten nationalities in the same troupe.

The London opera-houses are to have the French pitch this season, Mr. Mapleson having consented to defray the outlay for the new instruments required to introduce the French "Diapason Normal." Sir Michael Costa assented to the lowering of the pitch required by Madame Nilsson and Mlle. Titiens, and new flutes, clarionets, bassoons, &c., have been ordered in Paris.

The late Alexandre Dumas is now asserted to have left three unpublished dramatic works, in addition to the drama of "La Jeunesse de Louis XIV.," produced this week at the Odéon. One is a "Romeo and Juliet" in verse, quite complete, and was to have been produced at the Odéon in 1869, but was shelved on account of a difficulty in finding a suitable Juliet. The two others consist of part of a drama, "The Death of Portos," a piece written at the actor Dumaine's request, and three scenes of "Joseph Balsamo." Dumas is said to have felt dissatisfied with all three of these works.

A successful opera *bouffe* is a profitable investment in the age of Offenbach, Hervé, Lecocq, and Co. A year's (345 nights) performance of "La Fille de Madame Angot" in Paris has brought a clear profit of £30,860 to the management of the Folies Dramatiques. The poor of the French capital, who have a right to 10 per cent. of the gross receipts of all theatrical performances, benefited £5,817; the publishers of the music and libretto cleared relatively £8,000 and £1,412, while the composer, Lecocq, and the authors shared £2,480 between them. This, it should be remembered, is for Paris alone.

On one occasion when Parepa-Rosa was at a rehearsal, she enquired why a temporary flight of stairs was placed in front of the platform. On being informed that it was expressly for her use, she quickly and smilingly replied, "I declare I won't sing unless I come in with the rest of the girls!" Constant good nature was one of her distinguishing traits, and she had the happy faculty, through strong personal magnetism, of producing harmony from discord. On one occasion a pompous artist refused to perform a piece, because it was "placed too near the beginning of the programme." "Never mind," said she, "I will change places with him," which she did, receiving immense applause, and she never found that artist troublesome again. Who was this?—Parepa-Rosa.

A writer in the *Galaxy* says: "The usual place of Sardou during a rehearsal is alongside the prompter's box, on the front of the stage, where he sits and notes every detail, jumping up at intervals, and running from one side to the other to give instructions, sometimes compelling a player to repeat a simple sentence a dozen times. In the gavotte—a dance under the directory in the 'Merveilleuses'—an experienced ballet-master was employed to lead it. After going through it twenty times M. Sardou still expressed his dissatisfaction; when the irate master of the ballet put on his hat and told him he might lead his ballet himself, since he pretended to know everything. Amid general surprise the author left his chair, placed himself at the head of the dancing troupe, and executed the gavotte. 'C'est le théâtre incarné!' was the exclamation of the manager."

The public of Padua seem to have taken a maniacal distrust of all efforts to please them at the Teatro Concordi and the Teatro Garibaldi. At the latter house "Un Ballo in Maschera" produced an awful onslaught upon the footlights. The orchestra was stormed and its Rubicon crossed, and full assault delivered

upon the stage. Seats were used as weapons, lamps flew about like bombshells, and the proscenium and auditorium were soon a wreck. A delegate wearing a tricolour scarf appeared, accompanied by guards and carabinieri, and tried to soothe the mob, but was encountered with cries of "Give us back our money." At last a young man jumped up and made a proposal—"Send the receipts to the poor of the town," he cried. The suggestion found favour; applause followed, and the audience quietly strolled out of the despoiled theatre, merely breaking a few bones of the boxkeepers and other officials on their road out.

In a Glasgow court Sheriff-Substitute Erskine Murray has issued an interlocutor in the case of the Estelle troupe of danseuses against Mr. David Brown, proprietor of the Royal Music Hall, Glasgow. The pursuers sought to recover the sum of £44 for four weeks' salary, at the rate of £11 per week, alleged due through wrongful dismissal. The defence was that the four members of the troupe had refused to dance when requested to do so by the manager, after an *encore*. They declined on the ground that the dress of one of their number had become disarranged. They were afterwards dismissed. The Sheriff-Substitute was of opinion that the real cause of the dismissal of the troupe was because they refused to sit in the American bar or green-room in the dress in which they had appeared on the stage, although this was denied by Mr. Wallace. The Sheriff found that the defender had failed to prove that the dismissal was justifiable, and that the pursuers were entitled to the stipulated salary of £44 for the four weeks, and he also found the defender liable for expenses.

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—The case of Riel occupied the House the whole week. The *Montreal Witness* has been condemned of libel in the case of Mousseau.

UNITED STATES.—The idea of running elevated railroads in New York has been abandoned for the present. The Mexican soldiers who took part in the murder of Rev. Mr. Stephens, the Boston missionary, have been imprisoned. The Governor of the State of New York sends a special message to the Legislature relating to the inflation question, calling attention to the disastrous effects of such a course to the prosperity of the country. It is said the President will approve the finance Bill passed by the Senate. Brigham Young is getting his property well in hand, preparatory to departure, in anticipation of his final overthrow. The Inflation Bill was passed at Washington. It fixes the maximum amount of United States notes at \$400,000,000. The lease of the Samana Bay Company with the Dominion Government has been declared to have lapsed by non-payment of annual rental. Another bad crevasse has occurred some forty miles above New Orleans, which it is feared may result in a widespread inundation. Dr. Ernest Whiting, of Williamsport, Pa., who buried a coffin full of bricks in place of a corpse and claimed \$10,000 life insurance, has been arrested therefor. On a standing vote in the Washington House on Saturday, an amendment was carried abolishing the limitation of currency and establishing the free banking system. Fifty convicts in the cabinet factory of Sing-Sing Prison have struck. It is thought a revolt is not unlikely, as the rest of the prisoners openly avow their sympathy with the offenders. An extradition treaty between San Salvador and the United States has been officially promulgated.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The annual volunteer review took place at Wimbledon, on the 8th, when ten thousand men were under arms. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh are to visit Ireland shortly. England has been formally tendered the sovereignty of the Fiji Islands. Dr. Livingstone was buried in Westminster Abbey, and Government will defray the expenses of the funeral. The brigantine "Republic" from Halifax to Cork, has made the passage in 18 days, said to be the quickest time ever made by a sailing vessel from Halifax. Three thousand colliers are on strike in Somersetshire, England. A special from Calcutta says the famine is everywhere under control, and further subscriptions are considered superfluous. The steamship "Victor Emmanuel" arrived at Portsmouth from the Gold Coast yesterday with invalid soldiers. Nineteen died on the way home. Captain Brown and Jean Lule, witnesses for the Tichborne claimant, have been found guilty of perjury, and respectively sentenced to five and seven years penal servitude. Sir John Karslake has resigned the Attorney Generalship, in consequence of ill-health, and Sir Richard Bagall, the present Solicitor-General, will succeed him. The King of Ashantee has signed the treaty with England sent to him by Sir Garnet Wolseley, but has given no guarantee that he will execute its provisions.

FRANCE.—The French steamer "Europe," abandoned at sea, is valued at one million and a quarter, and the freight at about one million. The Government has received a despatch from the Governor of New Caledonia confirming the report of the escape of Rochefort and his companions.

GERMANY.—In consequence of Bismark's slow recovery, it is proposed to appoint Camphausen Vice-Chancellor. A compromise has been effected with regard to the German Military Bill, limiting the strength of the army to 400,000 men, and the period of service to seven years. There is no foundation for the report telegraphed hence to a London paper of a Conservative and Ultramontane intrigue to supplant Bismark by General Manteuffel. It has been officially ascertained that the Government of Wurtemberg never offered to pardon Communists if they leave for the United States.

SPAIN.—The Carlists have definitively rejected the proposal for a settlement made by Marshal Serrano.

CUBA.—All slaves furnished to Government in accordance with the decree issued during the administration of Captain General Jovellar are to be organized as soldiers under white officers. They are to serve five years and at the expiration of their term will be declared free. Their compensation will be the same as that of the regular troops. Free colored persons who enter the Government service will be assigned to transport duty. Further disturbances are rumored, and many dissatisfied Spanish troops are joining the insurgents. Captain-General Concha has arrived at Havana.

BRAZIL.—The Roman Catholic Bishop of Pernambuco, Brazil, has been sentenced to four years' imprisonment for fulminating a decree of the Pope in the churches against Free Masons, without first obtaining the Government's consent.

PERU.—Jesuits leaving Germany, Italy and Spain on account of trouble there, are not to be allowed to take refuge in Peru.

SAN DOMINGO.—Despatches from San Domingo to the 30th ult., show affairs to be in a very unsettled state. The President elect, Gonzalez, has not yet been installed, and several arrests have been made of persons charged with conspiring for the restoration of Baez.

Oddities.

It is rather cool in a San Francisco paper to advertise a young man to "go West."

A San Francisco paper says in speaking of a lately-deceased worthy. "He was an habitual drunkard, but was often sober."

It is a rule of etiquette in Arkansas that no true gentleman will eat with his leg thrown over the back of his neighbor's chair, if he can help it."

It is pleasant to see a young creature come into a horse-car, seat herself for admiration, look happy for five minutes, and then wake up to the dismal consciousness that there is a rip in the middle finger of her right glove.

An Indiana court has decided, in the case of a boy who had disturbed a religious meeting, that he had a legal right to go to Hades if he wants to, and that no one can justly interfere with the carrying out of his inclination.

There is nothing so tends to shorten the lives of old people and to injure their health as the practice of sitting up late, especially winter evenings. This is especially the case when there is a grown-up daughter in the family. We publish this item at the earnest request of several young men.

Providence aldermen, it seems, are noticeable for the breadth of sole and the quantity of ground covered in their debates. One of them being called to order the other day for some personal remarks, gravely informed the president that he "couldn't help it if he had stepped on some one's toes; he must put his feet down somewhere."

A Danbury man who recently lost his wife was asked by a friend whether she died suddenly. "Indeed she did," he exclaimed, with much feeling; "why, only a week before there was a man around here that wanted to insure her, but I never dreamed of anything happening. And," he added, apologetically, "I don't believe anybody would have thought it to look at her."

It is one of the sweetest and most consoling reflections of the opening season of buds and flowers, when the brooks shall be released from their icy chains and there is a fair promise of the gentle lambs skipping from rock to rock and thistle to thistle, that the nights are rapidly growing briefer and the iron rod of the oppressive gas man has been broken at the fountain to some extent.

A Western journalist who lost his wife several years ago, and wrote a touching memorial to his departed spouse, has lately fallen in love with another woman, and is prevented from marrying her only by the fact that a rival editor has possession of a copy of the memorial, and threatens to point it in connection with the notice of the new espousals. Moral: Widowers should never write memorials.

One who had the reputation of being a great philosopher, an experienced man of the world, a profound thinker, and an acute observer, with a deep insight into human nature, has left on record the expression of his firm conviction that no man, however gifted, however fortunate in his domestic relations, however successful in his public undertakings, can be pronounced happy, whose trousers bag at the knees.

A young man in "these parts," who had spent a little of his own time and a good deal of his father's money in fitting for the bar, was asked, after his examination, how he got along. "Oh, well," said he, "I answered one question right." "Ah, indeed!" said the old gentleman, with looks of paternal satisfaction at his son's peculiar smartness; "and what was that?" "They asked me what a *que twm* action was." "That was a hard one! and you answered it correctly, did you?" "Yes; I told them I did not know."

The steward of the Prairie Bird committed suicide on the voyage from Havre to New Orleans. The extract from the captain's log, which the newspapers publish, is a mixture of the nautical and the literal; "The steward went into the cabin with the fish-basket. Heard report. The carpenter sung out, 'My God, he has shot himself!' Laid him on the main hatch and found a bullet-hole in his right temple. Then laid him out on a plank in starboard gangway; hauled down fore and aft sails; laid yard aback, read funeral ceremony and launched him into the deep."

An insane asylum was recently visited by the Legislative Committee; and this is the way they performed their duties:

One of the fatherly Senators stepped up to one of the young lady attendants, and said, "My poor girl, do you know how long you have been here?"

"The poor girl" smiled, and replied, "Nearly a year."

"How long do you think you will have to stay?" continued the Senator, in the same sympathetic tone.

"Well, Sir," continued the fair lunatic, "I shall probably stay till they stop my wages, or I get married;" and she walked away laughing.

The kind-hearted Senator looked after her with tears in his eyes, and murmured, "Poor thing! poor thing!" while the "poor thing" related the affair to the matron, and laughed till she cried.

He was an Irishman, and when first seen he was coming down Montague Street, Brooklyn, on his way to the Wall Street Ferry. Over his port shoulder hung a bag containing about a bushel of potatoes, and in his starboard hand he carried a stout stick. Being under full sail, the momentum acquired in coming down the steep grade carried him nearly through the gateway, when, seeing a boat about ten feet from the dock, he shook out another reef, made an astonishing burst of speed, and jumped. Just as he reached the dock the potato bag shifted heavily to port, and laid out a Broad Street clerk who was smoking a Henry Clay through a meerschaum holder, while the stick hit a rotund South Street merchant in the waistband, thrusting him up like a jackknife, and Pat himself assumed an involuntary devotional attitude. He was the first to recover his perpendicularity, and as he replaced the bag in its normal position, he complacently remarked, "Be me sowl, but got the boat anyhow!" "Got the boat!" screamed he of Broad Street, spitting the pieces of amber out of his mouth, "why, you confounded idiot, the boat is coming in!" And so she was.

Bottlebury, of Camden, will never dive into the creek to save another woman from drowning. He saw a red-haired girl named Sparks tumble in the other day off a boat, and he instantly plunged in after her, caught her by her dress, and swam to the shore with her. As soon as they were on dry land Miss Sparks gave a hysterical scream, flung her arms about Bottlebury's neck, and fainted. Just then the father came up, with the rest of the family, and perceiving the situation, he dashed up to Bottlebury, grasped his hand, and said; "Take her, my boy; take her! It is hard to give her up; it wrenches her old father's heart; but she is yours. Bless you, my children—bless you!" Then Mrs. Sparks cried, and said she hoped Harriet would be happy. The little Sparks manifested their emotion by climbing up Bottlebury's legs and pulling his coat tails. Then Harriet came to, and laying her head on his shoulder, whispered, "Kiss me, darling." Bottlebury, amazed and indignant, tore himself away and fled. He was arrested that afternoon on charge of breach of promise, and on the trial the jury gave the broken-hearted Miss Sparks two hundred dollars damages. Bottlebury has intimated to his confidential friends that if any other warm-haired woman intends to fall overboard near him, she will find it to her advantage to learn to swim.