

## MUSIC AND DRAMA.

(Continued from page 25.)

It will interest readers to learn that Sir Arthur Sullivan has left a tribute of his genius which the musical world has not yet heard, being generally unaware of its existence. This is a Te Deum of peace, to be performed at the conclusion of the war. At the desire of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral, without the knowledge of many of his intimate friends, Sir Arthur specially composed the new work, and sent it in a short time before his death. Though in a feeble state of health he played the composition over in the presence of Sir George Clement Martin, the organist of St. Paul's.

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"Herod," Stephen Philips' new drama in verse, is coming in for a good share of the criticism which always falls to the lot of the author or playwright who launches a production on a public still warm from their plaudits of a preceding effort. Few are willing to give "Paolo and Francesca" second place, claiming that "Herod" lacks the vitality of the earlier drama. His theatrical technique is also attacked, but no one has been found with sufficient temerity to deny his poetical genius. A frequently quoted specimen of Philips' powers in oriental richness of imagery is the following passage which Herod speaks:

"I dreamed last night of a dome of beaten gold,  
To be a counter-glory to the Sun.  
There shall the eagle blindly dash himself,  
There the first beam shall strike, and there the moon  
shall aim all night her argent archery;  
And it shall be the tryst of Sundered stars,  
The haunt of dead and dreaming Solomon;  
Shall send a light upon the lost in hell,  
And flashings upon faces without hope.  
And I will think in gold and dream in silver,  
Imagine in marble and in bronze conceive.

Till it shall dazzle pilgrim nations,  
And stammering tribes from undiscovered lands,  
Allure the living God out of the bliss,  
And all the streaming seraphim from heaven!

And no less striking is the love speech of the barbaric Mariamne to the King. Bursts of song break the statelier music of the blank verse. Here is one of the prettiest lyrics sung by the women as the King sleeps:

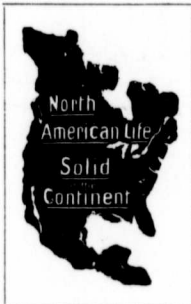
"Sleep, sleep, O King,  
While we to thy spirit sing!  
The daughters of music are fair,  
But fairest is one  
Dark-eyed Oblivion.

Though none may call her or entreat her,

Only unaware may meet her;  
Yet of Music's daughters none is sweeter

Than this trembling one,  
Dark-eyed Oblivion."

Beerbohm Tree played the name part of this production in London. In March "Herod" will be staged in New York by Richard Mansfield, who will, of course, take the part of the King.



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