

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE splendid scenery carried for Miss Putnam's new play "An Unclaimed Express Package," which will be presented at The Victoria, Jan. 31st., is from the well known studio of Sosman & Landis, of Chicago, and is said to be an achievement in scenic



art. The first scene shows a bit of village street, where a rainy day is clearing off at sunset, country inn and village shoping displaying their wares, come out gray against its pleasant light, and with living figures typically costumed gives character and strength to a delightful picture of rural life. Scene second shows a striking contrast to first scene. A group of massive shops, a dull heavy sky against which broad high chimneys rear and mass themselves bodily; everything is smoke and grime, and is suggestive of the prosaic in manufacturing life. Scene third is perhaps the most interesting of the series, and is greatly admired for its truth and pleasing ideality. A small old-fashioned village church illuminated at night in mid-winter, with snow everywhere, a bright moon with glittering beams that make each little snowflake sparkle, and in the perspective situated on a distant hill, a manufacturing shop illuminated with broad high chimneys pouring out flames of fire, truthfully suggestive of a foundry in operation at night.

U and I was the cleverest farce comedy seen here this season. The specialties were new and amusing.

On Wednesday Feb. 1st., Miss Putnam will be seen in The Little Maverick.

Schilling's minstrels amused a fair audience at The Victoria Friday night.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

BALL gowns are at the height of popularity just now, and the holiday dances have shown some elaborate confessions where heavy brocades, glossy silks, flimmy gauzes and fine laces have been mingled.

A magnificent costume is fashioned of heavy mauve-tinted gros de tour silk. The court skirt is cut away in front to show a panel of pale-blue silk jewelled with mauve and rose colored pearls. The tight-fitting bodice is conspicuous for its broad Directoire revers, made of the same blue pearl wrought silk. The low neck is cut square, and over the bust is a filmy drapery of pale-blue chiffon. Full puffed sleeves of the mauve gros de tour are trimmed with a band of blue silk, outlined with a row of pearls. The combination of color in this costume is most effective.

An exquisite Empire robe is of pale pink silk with an overdrapery of green chiffon. The front of the gown and the long train are finished with a feathery ruche of pale green and pale pink feathers. The girdle around the throat and bust is of jewelled pink velvet ribbon. The sleeve on the gown is a transparent puff of green chiffon over pink. A jaunty little dancing gown, where bows of ribbon act as the trimming, is of pale pink bengaline. The skirt is encircled with narrow bands of black velvet in a succession of pert little velvet bows. The decollete pointed bodice is of black velvet, the corsage being outlined with a frill of duchesse lace ornamented with a black velvet bow in the front. The short, puffed sleeve is of pale pink crepe de Chine, which falls from beneath a pointed cap of black velvet.

A brilliant wedding was celebrated at the Madagascan capital last month, the parties to which were the son of the Prime Minister and the favorite niece of an ex-foreign Minister. One hundred slaves owned by the bridegroom attended, dressed in picturesque livery of white and blue. The bride a coal-black negress, was arrayed in a Paris robe of great magnificence. The wedding took place in the royal chapel and was followed by a banquet and ball in a large tent on the King's

grounds. The day following, in accordance with an ancient custom, the bride and bridegroom visited the Queen and presented her with a piastre. The festivities continued for several day.

A bashful young man wanted to give his lady-love a pair of garters for a present, and, being rather a new young man, couldn't muster enough courage to make the purchase in any one of the large dry goods stores were pretty girls are supposed to preside over the garter counter. But this young man happened to mention his predicament in the presence of his chum, Arthur, who volunteered his services in the matter, and offered to make the purchase for him. Taking the young man's arm he led him to a hosiery establishment. At the garter department Arthur launched out in about the following strain: "Miss Myrtle, we want to look at your garters!" This startled the young man. He blushed and looked toward the door.

"What size, Mr. —?" chirped the girl, smiling at the young man's discomfort.

"What size does she wear?" asked Arthur, turning to his frightened companion.

"Oh, you want the garters, you know you do; I'm not buying 'em; I just came in with you," said the young man, as he fiercely nudged his tormentor. Arthur bought the finest pair in the store. They cost six dollars. When they reached the outside beads of perspiration were standing out on the young man's forehead. He paid Arthur the six dollars, thanked him and escaped.

DO YOU KNOW—

Do you know that you can drive nails into hard wood without bending them if you dip them first in lard?

That corks warmed in oil make excellent substitutes for glass stoppers?

That a lump of camphor in your clothes press will keep steel ornaments from tarnishing?

That stale bread will clean kid gloves?

That bread crumbs cleanse silk gowns?

That milk, applied once a week with a soft cloth, freshens and preserves boots and shoes?

That gloves can be cleansed at home by rubbing with gasoline?