

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

TURNERS English Gaiety Girls, which will appear at The Victoria, December 5, is considered one of the strongest first-class vaudeville and burlesque companies now travelling. The *Baltimore American* says of it: "Turner's English Gaiety Girls, under the management of George H. Turner, began a week's engagement at Kerpan's Monumental theatre last evening with a burletta entitled 'A Parlor Rehearsal,' which included all manner of amusing specialties. The audience was as appreciative as Kernan's audiences can be and encored nearly every number. In the burletta Miss Nellie Russell gave a trombone solo; Fred. Barth gave a song, 'He's Been There Before'; Miss Ada Gill a descriptive song; the Mountain sisters a tambourine dance, and Miss Lulu Williams a skirt dance, after which there was a grand finale, 'Les Quadrilles de Parisiennes.' Then there was the 'serpentine dance,' by Misses Russell, Hazee, Flemin and Montain, and an eccentric performance by Fred. Barth. Frank Lalor and Ada Gill, those inimitable sketch artists in songs, dances and witty dialogues, were applauded again and again. After them Miss Lillie May Hall sang a new repertoire of songs."

The play of "Our German Ward" as presented at the opera house last night by the Middaugh Musical Comedy Company, was one of the most pleasant light comedy productions which has been sent here for some time. Not a farce comedy, it is nevertheless filled with good music, and a sufficient amount of specialty work to make it go forward with all the life of the wildest farce, while the serious interest held together by the plot adds greatly to the effectiveness of all that is done. As a realistic effect the great fire scene is something not often witnessed. It was extremely well done, and though depending almost entirely upon mechanical effect, the mechanism was kept so well out of sight so as to make the whole thing intensely exciting and real. The company is a strong one and evenly balanced. Allen Wightman as Tony Keohler, Fannie Ogden as Peggy Primose and Fred Sawyer in the dual role of Orrin Judkins and Hank McGee are especially deserving of

praise. One of the strongest features of this attraction is the excellent orchestra which makes music worth listening to for itself and aside from its utility for the business of the stage.

Missoulian, (Missoula, Mont.), Sunday, Nov. 20, 1892.

Theatre goers recently made up their minds that there was enough in the daily routine and cares of life to harry the mind and work on the feelings; that they wanted to be amused and made to forget their troubles; and while tragedy, like a change of diet, will always be welcomed at times, laughter and jollity are now required for a steady diet. In endeavoring to meet this demand, managers went to the opposite extreme, and farce-comedy was the result. Last year this species of attraction ran riot throughout the country, and every one of the farce-comedy companies made money, but there had to be a limit to this. People get tired of continually hearing and seeing the same thing, for a farce-comedy is, at the best, simply a series of variety acts hung together by a mere shred of a story, and just as quick as any new specialty was produced by any one organization and proved successful, the rest were sure to copy it; consequently it was but a short time before one farce-comedy was practically the same as another. There was bound to be a reaction, and it came speedily in the form of plays like *Incog*, which, while producing a hundred-fold more laughter than any farce-comedy, possesses a continuous and well-defined plot, crispy and sparkling dialogue, ludicrous situations which are led up naturally and not forced, and which require for interpretation people who are actors in the highest sense of the word and not variety performers. In *Incog*, no one wants to sing, no one attempts to dance, no one falls down stairs or gets an involuntary bath from a siphon or any other source. People can go there with the assurance that they will not hear any old newspaper jokes or faded and dubious songs, and for this Mrs. Pacheco may be termed a benefactress. The Victoria was not nearly so well patronized last night, as the merit of the play deserved. The company is one of the best seen here this season.

There appears to be a general opinion that the Duff Opera Company

did not treat the people of Victoria just right. It is said that they came here without their usual orchestra and also a reduced chorus.

"A Paltry Million," which was to have been produced to-night, has been cancelled for *Incog*. It will be preceded by a one-act curtain riser. No doubt a good house will greet the company to-night.

Salvioli will draw the largest houses of the season. He has met with great success everywhere.

The receipts for the opera season amounted to \$2,640.

The Imperial Stock Company has disbanded.

THE NEW DUKE.

The new Duke of Marlborough, who came of age just in time to step into his father's shoes, is a kind of young man always accustomed to having his own way. He is passionately fond of riding, and does not allow such a little thing as the death of his father to interfere with his amusement.

While the post-mortem on his father was being held and the doctors were at work over the body, he had the late Duke's favorite brought out of the stables and rode all over the place in a suit of tweed, yellow leather boots and a cricketer's cap, rather a curious mourning costume for a yet unburied parent.

The new Duke and his American stepmother are not on the best of terms and the Duchess will leave Blenheim at once.

It is reported that the Queen intends to raise the Marchioness of Blandford, mother of the new Duke, to the rank of Duchess, which will not only deprive the "American Duchess" of her precedence at court, but would also be equivalent to a kind of informal nullification of her marriage by the Queen, thus placing her in a very envidious position.

The Hamilton family, to which the Marchioness of Blandford belongs, has immense influence at court, and every member of it is doing his best to get this done.