

MUSIC AND THE STAGE

It is again reported that Sir Arthur Sullivan has in contemplation a serious opera, intended for Mr. D'Oyly Carte's new theatre in Shaftesbury avenue, London, and set to a libretto by Mr. Julian Sturges.

The famous baritone Santley is said to be so admirable a painter, both in oils and water colours, that he could take rank with professional artists. Santley, it seems, has made an engagement to visit New Zealand.

The Booth-Modjeska combination will begin its tour in Pittsburg on September 30, and the Broadway theatre, New York, October 14, where a season of eight weeks will be begun with a revival of "Hamlet," Modjeska appearing as *Ophelia*.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, TORONTO.—This well known house opened for the season on Monday last, Sept. 2nd, with Mr. N. C. Goodwin, supported by a company of well known artists, in "A Gold Mine." The play is based on purely legitimate lines, and is said to be the best in which Mr. Goodwin has yet appeared for the display of his gifts. The "Grand" is more comfortable and prettier than ever this season, thanks to Manager O. B. Sheppard. The entrance has been redecorated and the whole theatre touched up.

TORONTO OPERA HOUSE.—Monday, Aug. 26th, saw the opening of this popular house. "The Boy Tramp," represented by Madame Neuville and her son, was the attraction, and their play was greeted by an audience of 1,200 people. The theatre has been thoroughly redecorated and carpeted, and is in all respects comfortable and well finished. The newly appointed manager, Mr. Jno. A. Toole, has had a large experience in the theatrical world, and under his supervision the house will lose none of its old popularity. "Tom Sawyer," by Mark Twain, is the play for the present week.

Many actors, great or small, very often make serious mistakes in attempting new plays different from their usual style. Few comedians are truly successful at tragedy, and vice versa. All branches of dramatic art are studies in themselves. Of course there are exceptions, and, perhaps, one of the most successful exceptions is at present to be seen in Toronto, where Mr. Nat C. Goodwin is playing "A Gold Mine." Heretofore the popular young actor has devoted his time to farce—broad and pure; but now his latest attempt—nay, his latest accomplishment, for the American press gives him flattering praise—is serious dramatic work. In fact, so clever is he in "A Gold Mine" that, while one moment his audience are in tears, the next they are in fits of laughter, and the actor's efforts are throughout genuine and easy.

"The Fairy's Well," a romantic Irish drama, will follow "Mankind" at the Fourteenth Street Theatre, New York, on September 9, and Mr. W. Powers, the manager, promises an unusually brilliant production, with magnificent scenery and novel mechanical effects. A legend of All Hallowe'en in Irish life is interwoven with the plot, and the merry games, dances and songs of the peasantry will be produced in the play. One scene, representing a cataract of real water dashing over a mountain precipice, will be decidedly realistic. This event will be interesting by reason of the debut of Carroll Johnson, a handsome and clever comedian, as a star. The play is said to afford Mr. Johnson every opportunity for the display of his versatility, and the introduction of a number of his songs and dances. The supporting cast will be composed of actors and actresses well known in that city.

"Ferncliff," an original comedy-drama by William Haworth, will have its first New York presentation Sept. 9 at the Union Square Theatre. The play is said to be founded on incidents of the late rebellion, but the author has utilized only the dramatic and not the political side of the story. The time for all such stuff as the didactic drama of "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh" has fortunately passed away. The stage possibilities of the rebellion have long been recognized, but it is only within a few years that they could be ventured upon. Even now it is scarcely wise to picture or even suggest the horrors of those terrible conflicts. "Ferncliff" presents none of these. All is interesting and refined. The characters are true to life, being those of simple country people in their sweet home life, in which domesticity, pathos, a beautiful love story and the heroic are intelligently and naturally interlarded. Rehearsals of "Ferncliff" are now going on.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, TORONTO.—Much interest is being shown in Toronto at present in its latest addition in the form of amusement. This addition is the above named house, which, during the summer, has been erected at a cost of \$100,000, not including ground expenditure. The Academy is to be completed about the 1st of October. It is situated on the south side of King street, near York, being in the centre of the city, and easily reached from all points by street cars, one block from four of the leading hotels and the railway station, thus affording companies an opportunity, if necessary, to catch the late trains going west. The house is situated on the ground floor, having a gallery. The seating capacity will be 1,500 with extra chairs. The stage is 38 ft. by 69 ft. and 50 ft. high, with

proscenium arch. The arch itself is 38 ft. high and 37 ft. wide. The dressing rooms, seven in all, will be fitted out in the latest style, giving every comfort to companies playing at the Academy. The house will be lighted by gas and electric lights, and heated by steam. Attached are cloak rooms, smoking rooms, and all modern conveniences. The chairs are velvet plush, and are fitted with hat racks and umbrella stands. No expense or trouble will be spared to make the Academy of Music the most comfortable and popular house in Toronto. In connection with the Academy is a large and handsome ball-room, easily reached from the theatre and making a beautiful promenade. In November an art exhibition is to be held in the ball-room, which promises to be a grand affair. Over 100 celebrated paintings, etc., will be brought from New York at a cost of \$3,000. Mr. Percy L. Green, the manager of the Academy, will make his house a success if any one can. He is well known in Toronto and popular with all classes. Having a large theatrical and musical acquaintance and a long experience in the dramatic world, he is well fitted for his post. This is shown, indeed, by the names of the patrons of the Academy. This season the attractions provided are excellent in every way and new to Toronto audiences.

FASHION NOTES.

Fichu jackets are novel and most useful, for they can be worn over any low bodice. They are rather high at the back, but very open in the front, the vandyke edges just meeting across the bust and then receding. The sleeves are short, very full, and exceedingly pretty, with double edgings falling round the arm, but caught up high at the top. These jackets are to be had in tinted and black lace. Some of the new jerseys, gauged at the throat and top of the arm, have a scarf fixed and gauged on the top of one shoulder, carried across the bust and looped in a large, loose bow at the side.

Graceful and pretty home dresses are made of hunters' green or old-rose cashmere, the backs in princess breadth and the fronts cut off at the waist line, with an Empire or full-gathered vest of surah or China silk, finished with a soft sash of the same edged with deep silk fringe and knotted at the left side. The underskirt of silk is accordion-pleated, or else laid in lengthwise tucks, brier-stitched about half a yard deep. The skirt falls from thence in natural folds, which flare considerably, but are held in place by the tucks above. Four or five rows of ribbon are frequently laid across the foot of the skirt. The sleeves are tucked to correspond, or the mutton leg or bishop sleeve is substituted, with ribbon rows around the deep cuffs.

The desire to rise above law and rule and be individual is noticeable not only in dress and its accessories, but in the matter of the coiffure. As a result there is a pleasing medley of styles in hairdressing, no one fashion seeming to lead. The emigrant twist is popular with many, especially with women who like the princess bonnet. There are high coiffures in Cleveland, Josephine and Pompadour styles, and low coiffures in Russian fashion accompanying the short full bang over the forehead; in Greek style, with classic fillets of gold or silver over the front of the coiffure; in Catgan fashion, with shining braids looped low on the neck; and in other styles, curled and caught with jewelled pins at the back, or arranged in many varieties of the æsthetic English order.

While all the world of fashion is making itself merry through the gay summer-time at the various resorts, busy heads and hands everywhere are making ready for the season that is to follow so closely in the footsteps of this rapidly retreating one, and are deciding what shall be presented in the way of high novelties for wear when the cool days call for change of raiment. Word has already come from the centres of fashion that velvet, that most regal of all fabrics, will be worn a great deal this autumn and winter. Not the brocaded velvets, nor the striped stuffs, but the plain-surfaced silk velvet. This beautiful fabric can never be too highly valued; and why should it? It stands alone among all the textiles; nothing takes its place. It is beautiful in its own unaided beauty. It needs nothing in the way of ornament or trimming to enhance its stately loveliness. It is the queen of all the materials that was ever made, and the very fact that it is to head the list augurs a season of rich and elegant dressing, with stately lines and dignified effects. Thick corded silk will also be fashionable, making a marked contrast, indeed, to the soft yielding stuffs that have been the favoured wear in silken stuffs during the summer. The woollens that will be the most generally worn this autumn will, it is prophesied, be quite profusely embroidered, either all over the surface or as a deep border. Some samples of the latter have been received, and dresses made from them are already brought home by returning European travellers, as a little hint of the preparation already being made for the approaching autumn and winter. Cashmere of an olive, mignonette or Egyptian green—a bright, rather dark shade—embroidered with a broad border in an oriental design, makes a charming costume worn in the form of a princess polonaise, or with a tunic divided from the bodice and very slightly draped. As to the mixture of materials, it seems just now as though it would consist only in putting into dress sleeves a different stuff from the body of a gown. The French dressmakers began this odd innovation early in the summer, and they are still carrying out the idea. To what extent it will obtain during the autumn and winter it is, of course, quite impossible to say, but it is not at all uncommon now in either Paris or London.



EXPLAINING HIS SMALLNESS.—"How is it your Tommy is so small for his age, Mrs. Briggs?" "Oh, the little dear always was a shrinking child," explained its mother.

EXPLODED theory: "What do you think of the Baconian theory, Mr. Noodles?" "I—ah—weally, Miss Vassar, I nevah could see any sense in those Baconian's a—and vegetarians y—knav."

"I WANT the library," said Mr. Gaswell to the architect, "to be the largest and airiest room in the house." "I don't see what you want with a library," interposed Mrs. Gaswell; "you know very well you don't smoke."

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—Judge: "Prisoner, what have you to say in your defence?" Prisoner: "Your Lordship sees that I have engaged no lawyer to defend me, and I trust this mitigating circumstance will be taken into account."

REHEARSING FOR CHARADES.—Freddy: "Now, Charlie, you must propose to Angeline (in her sixth season), and Angie, you must refuse him. It shall be 'Paradise Lost.' See?" Charlie (thoughtlessly): "They'll never guess it in the world."

A LITTLE knot of gentlemen seated in front of the Arlington in Washington recently, were discussing literary matters. "By the way, Senator," said one, "what book do you think has helped you most?" "Um—so—well, I guess maybe the pocket-book."

PROTECTING HER RIGHTS.—Alfred (rapturously): "Now, darling, please name the happy day." Minnie (blushing): "Three weeks from next Thursday, Alfred." Norah (through the keyhole): "Av you plaze, Miss, that's me reg'lar day out. Yez'll have to git married in the early part of the wake."

BOSTON GIRL: "Did you ever! The Arkansas Legislature has enacted that in all official proceedings the name of the State shall be pronounced 'Arkansaw.'" Cultured Mother: "It's monstrous! If our Legislature should insist on such an outlandish pronunciation of Massachusetts, it would cause the biggest kind of an indignation meeting in Funnell Hall."

A CLINCHER.—Outraged Erin: Gintlemin, I wud loike to ashk thim Amerikins wan thing: Who doog the canals uv the country but furriners? Who built the railruds uv the country but furriners? Who worrucks the mines uv the country but furriners? And who the devil dishcoovered the country but furriners?

SCOTCHMEN are fond of an argument, and delight to pick flaws in an opponent's logic. Two blacksmiths were once conversing as to which was the first trade in the world. One insisted that it must have been gardening, and quoted from Genesis, "Adam was put into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." "Ay, John," retorted the other, who had stood up for his own trade; "but wha made the spades?"

A NOTORIOUS poacher was brought up recently before the Sheriff Court at Jedburgh for engaging in his nefarious practices of illegally killing salmon. He was found guilty, and fined 30s, or ten days' imprisonment. Pleading inability to pay the fine, the Sheriff asked him how long he would require to make it up. "Weel, my Lord," returned the culprit, scratching his head, "that a' depends on hoo the fish come up the water."

HIS LITTLE FAMILY.—"Do you get all the work you can do?" asked a gentleman of a negro whom he had hired to do some outdoor jobs for him. "Yes, sah, 'bout all; en I needs hit to keep my little family a-goin', sah." "How much of a family have you?" "Well, lemme see; dar's me en my ole woman, dat's two; en Lizy en Marthy, en Berthena en Andy en Sidney en Jinny en Billy en Sally en Minty, dat's nine single ones; en den dar's de twins, Ad'naram en Eb'nezer—'leben in all. Yo' see dat's quite a considerable few, sah."

SO ARTLESS.—He stood in a doorway on Woodward Avenue the other rainy day with an umbrella in his hand, and he seemed to be waiting for an opportunity. One soon came tripping along. She had no umbrella, and he stepped out, raised his own and began: "Excuse me, but—" "Oh, certainly," she laughingly exclaimed. "You are very, very kind. I shall always remember it. Good-bye." And she took the umbrella from his grasp and tripped away without ever once looking back, and he returned to the shelter of the doorway to exclaim: "There goes a \$5 umbrella and here stands an idiot who has been sold for a cent."

Tit-Bits, an English publication, tells the following good story relating to a certain country magistrate:—He is a staunch total abstainer and a cyclist, and his severity towards "drunk and disorderlies" is almost proverbial. Not long ago he sentenced a brace of these gentry to a fortnight's salutary exercise on the treadmill, and as the story goes, last week he met the men as he was ascending a pretty stiff hill on a heavy tricycle, over a rough road, and in face of a stiff wind. "Why, Bill," exclaimed one to the other, "blowed if this aint the bloke that sent us on the mill!" "Yus," was the response, "and now he's a-gettin' upstairs hisself! Wonder how he likes it! Go it, guv'nor! We're out; it's your turn now."