

## Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The great Maine Musical Festival in Bangor and Portland last October is well remembered. This probably was the most successful event of the kind ever held east of Boston, Nordica and Evan Williams being the leading attractions. The success of this affair was directly due to the energy and enterprise of the great New York conductor W. R. Chapman. This energetic gentleman, is now on a tour through Maine, embracing the principal towns; his artist for this occasion is it is claimed one of the most attractive in the country, and a perfect wonder in his particular sphere; the singer referred to is Gwynn Myles of New York, the great Welsh baritone, and cousin of Evan Williams; as a baritone it is claimed he is fully equal to his great kinsman's wonderful tenor. It is a matter of regret that this singer cannot be heard in St. John while so near as a perfect treasure is being created by Mr. Myles in Maine. St. John parties who have heard Mr. Myles in the American centres where he is so popular, say that should some enterprising parties, induce him to visit St. John, Evan Williams triumphs will be duplicated.

### Tones and Undertones.

"The Poster," a comic opera, was produced for the first time on any stage at the Tivoli, Frisco, last week. John P. Wilson, L. G. Carpenter and Chester S. Packard are the authors, the latter having furnished the music. Most of the piece is supposed to be a dream, in which poster creations become animated, and the satirical idea of the piece is brought out, showing the false foundation on which the poster, as a work of art, is built. The third act portrays the "dissolution of the poster dream," "The Artist" returning to natural forms, as exemplified by true art. Edwin Stevens is in the east.

Michael Esmowitz Medvedeff, the greatest Russian singer, first tenor of the Imperial Opera, the Czar's own organization; intimate friend of Rubinstein, Tchaikovsky and other great Russian composers; a man who has won every distinction and received every decoration that his Government can give, and who was publicly presented with a medal by the Czar, is singing on the Bowery, New York.

In the new musical comedy, "The Runaway Girl," at the London Gaiety, Elaine Teris figures as a young lady who runs away from a convent school in order to escape from a marriage, arranged by her guardians, with a young gentleman whom she had never seen. She falls in with a troupe of traveling minstrels, and becomes their chief singing maid. In this capacity she is beloved by a handsome young tourist, and returns his affection. He is, of course, the husband destined for her by people. Mr. Edmund Payne enacts a jockey who is made a Cook's courier by accident—a most ludicrous courier.

Helen Bertram, who was prima donna of the Bostonians several years ago, will return from Europe next season and sing again with the company.

The Bostonians last week, at the close of the season, divided \$72,000 net profits for the year. It is unlikely that Nat Goodwin, Frank Daniels, Richard Mansfield, E. H. Sothern and Sol Smith Russell have earned less than \$30,000 each on the season. Mrs. Minnie Madden Fiske, May Irwin and Julia Marlowe, among female stars, have been very prosperous.

"The Chorus Girl" is dead.

John Philip Sousa, the bandmaster, will take the first holiday he has had for sixteen years, and will spend this summer on a Vermont farm.

"The Bride-Elect" closed its season last evening at the Knickerbocker Theatre. Hilda Clark, the prima donna, will go abroad.

Blind Tom, the pianist, resides at Navesink, N. J.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The opera house has been occupied this week by the Thomas E. Shea company which aggregation opened on Monday evening with "The Man-of-War's Man" to a large—and very noisy audience. A criticism of Mr. Shea's work in the role of Captain Jack Conway, U. S. N. appeared in this column last year, so that further comment is unnecessary. There was something distinctly disappointing about Monday night's performance for while very great attention is paid to the scenic effects, which are really excellent, the fact that good good support is quite as necessary seems to have been entirely overlooked. That given the star is inferior

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with one or two exceptions. It might also be said incidentally that not even an expressive face and good figure can atone for soiled gowns. The company gives a matinee performance this afternoon.

Sad news reaches this office of the complete mental collapse of a young man who was here with the Ethel Tucker Co. during the seasons of 96-97. The unfortunate young fellow, who made friends of all with whom he was brought in contact here, was stricken with insanity during an evening performance and became so violent that removal to an asylum was necessary. The attack was brought on by worry and overwork.

The Miles Ideal Stock company begins an engagement of two weeks at the Opera house next Monday evening. The personnel of the company is quite different from that of last year. Mr. and Mrs. Butler being the only ones retained. It is said the company is particularly strong in specialties.

Miss Margaret Anglin has just closed a very successful season with E. H. Sothern and has signed with Richard Mansfield for next season. She will likely spend a portion of her summer holidays with friends in this city.

Lewis Morrison is in Frisco.

Bernhardt will produce "Medee" in London.

Adelaide Hermann will be one of the touring magicians next season.

Annie Russell will play the title role in the London production of Bret Harte's "Sue."

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Sullivan (Rose Coghlan) meditate a joint appearance in vaudeville.

Anna Held was last week threatened with diphtheria, but is now on the road to recovery.

The mother of George Monroe ("Aunt Bridget") was buried at Philadelphia last week.

A company that is to give all fresco performances in Washington will include Selma Fetter-Boyle and Mildred Holland.

Novelli, whom Bernhardt has brought to Paris, is the greatest actor in Italy, and he belongs to the same school that Duse leads.

Maud Northam, of Modjeska's company, recently married Thomas M. Reilly, treasurer of that organization. Her father is a millionaire.

"Julia Arthur's repertoire next season will include: "As You Like It," "Ingomar," "Mercedes," "Infedele," "Camille," "A Lady of Quality" and "Macbeth."

If Hugh Morton is unable to place Mr. Seabrooke in the New Casino production it is unlikely that Lederer & McLelland will send him to London to play the part recently played by Dan Daly in "The Belle of New York."

"The ragged regiment," a new play, by R. N. Stevens, founded on an incident of the present war, will be produced by Messrs. Mordaunt Block's Stock Company at the New York Herald Square Theatre on June 20.

"In many ways," says the Salt Lake Tribune, "Janet Achurob is the superior of either Margaret Mather or Julia Marlowe, with whom the mind readily associates her." Miss Achurch's manager is the woman who discovered Julia Marlowe.

"Jim Bailey," said Charles A. Davis, "started about thirty years ago as a bill-poster with his little armful of 'onesheets' and can of paste, and to-day he is far and away the greatest figure in the amusement field of both hemispheres, and probably doesn't know himself how much he is worth financially. James A. Bailey—to give him his full cognomen—is now sole owner of the Barnum-Bailey, nearly half owner of Buffalo Bill's Wild West and has a large interest in the Forepaugh-Sells circuses, the three largest amusement enterprises the world has ever known."

The Liebler Company, which is next

season to manage the tours of Charles Coghlan and Viola Allen, has secured the American rights to the dramatization of Hall Caine's "The Christian." Miss Allen will play the part of Glory Quayle in this work, beginning her season at Lyric Theatre, N. Y., on October 3. Frank Worthing has been engaged for the leading man's part.

Lillian Russell is appalled by the rapidity with which her 14-year-old daughter is ripening from bud to blossom. The young lady has arrived within the past week at the dignity of her first pair of corsets, an epoch in her life which has convulsed the prima donna's household with the most intense excitement. "It has really made me feel positively old," declares Miss Russell.

Maud Adams, after all the speeches and special souvenirs of "The Little Minister's" 300th performance at the Empire on June 14, will take a well earned rest. With the younger sister of Katharine Florence for companion, Miss Adams is to spend the summer at Ontario, in this state. Not only the cottage, but the cook has been engaged. A donkey for riding is also among the attractions, Miss Adams having engaged the same intelligent beast that last summer carried the future "Lady Babbie" on her gypsy tours through the Ontario wood.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mansfield are spending the summer on the shore of Long Island Sound, at Rye, N. Y., and an interesting rumor has spread through the neighborhood to the effect that an incident of the utmost importance is expected in the domestic circle of the actor.

Negotiations are now going on whereby Julie Opp will remain in this country next season.

Francis Wilson is the only star of the lot to break away from the syndicate who had the nerve and consistency to stick to his task. The others, including Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Crane, who were going to form a pool against playing the syndicate houses, were all very glad to come in out of the wet, and for a time it looked as if Wilson would be pretty thoroughly drenched. But he "stood pat," as the saying goes, and has reason to feel satisfied with the result. His business in three of the larger cities this year was not up to mark, but in the one-night stands and the rest of the towns he visited his house were enormous. He played in four towns in Indiana to more than \$1000 a night in the same week. The accounts show a profit that is between \$7,000 and \$8,000 larger than the net earnings of the previous year, a condition of affairs that must be exceptionally gratifying under all the circumstances.—Leander Richardson in New York Telegraph.

The New York Telegraph's London correspondent says "Dan" Daly will not return to the cast of "The Bell of New York." Said Mr. Daly: My little 'ruin' with Miss Dupont was merely an unpleasant incident—that's all. I had fully made up my mind to leave the organization before it occurred. The part I played in 'The Belle of New York' was one which taxed my strength to the utmost. I asked to be cut out of the Wednesday matinees, but the management considered that a few dollars might be lost if they yielded to my wishes, and in consequence I have been playing at every performance under protest. I have plenty of offers from London managers and can better myself in a financial way without any trouble, and at the same time play a part which will be less trying on my strength than the role I have been enacting." He says that he has been annoyed by the members of the company who persisted in indulging in whispered side remarks while he was on the stage. To an actor of Daly's nervous disposition this practice was intolerable. When annoyed in this way Mr. Daly usually expressed his feelings in emphatic language. The fact that he has not been in good health for some time is mentioned as an extenuating circumstance by the friends of the comedian who have discussed the altercation between Miss Dupont, wherein he used language somewhat stronger than is usually employed in polite society.

Concerning Sidney Grundy's new version of "The Three Musketeers," in which Beerbohm Tree and Olga Nethersole are to join forces, the London Daily Mail says: "In the novel two channels of interest run parallel—the assassination of Buckingham and Richelieu's attempt to ruin the Queen by securing as proof of her perfidy the diamond 'points' which were her parting gift to her lover. It is only with the latter that Mr. Grundy concerns himself. Consequently the atmosphere of the play will be that of the brightest comedy of intrigue, adventures in love and in arms chasing one another through gay scenes of hostilities, palaces, and parks, the climax being attained, not with the death of Buckingham, but with the brilliant court ball

given by Louis at the Hotel de Ville, when the machinations of Richelieu are foiled by D'Artagnan, and he receives as guerdon the hand of Constance."

"The Ambassador," the play by "John Oliver Hobbes" (Mrs. Craigie) which George Alexander has produced with success at the London St. James', is a simple story of two pairs of lovers, who fall easily into each other's arms after the usual cross purposes. There is also a beautiful widow, the good angel of the play, with a scamp of a son, who, in the end, repents and reforms. The ambassadorial hero is a lover of middle age, a popular character just now. The scene is laid in Paris, and much reliance is placed upon the dialogue, which is said to be of uncommonly good quality.

Concerning the current rumor that Sir Henry Irving is meditating a production of "Man and Boy," it may be noted that Byron's play was very successful when produced, upon a spectacular scale, in Drury Lane Theatre 35 years ago, with Phelps in the title character.

"Teresa," Mr. George Playdell Bancroft's initial effort produced at the Metropolitan Theatre, London, is a highly creditable first attempt. It flags in certain passages, is far-fetched in idea, and a little spasmodic in action. Still it tells—in a fashion that is always interesting and sometimes impressive—a Sardou like story.

It deals in part with the socialistic tendencies of modern Italy, which have of late been painfully manifest. The heroine is assaulted by her fiancée's brother, stabs him to death with her "spillo" (a fancy dagger used as a hair-pin), and finally kills herself to escape disgrace.

Bernhardt may create the chief role in Catulle Mendès' new play, "Medea," during her London season.

Coquelin is soon to appear in a new role in a play by Emile Bergerat.

Ada Rehan closed her season last in Chicago.

The New York Clipper says that "A Female Drummer" will be produced with a strong cast at the Park theatre, Boston, next September.

In "Not Wisely, but Too Well," the play which Mr. and Mrs. Kendal will bring to this country next season, Mrs. Kendal, has the character of a "woman with a past." The play was written for the Kendals by Walter Frith.

According to French papers, Sardou has returned to his country seat at Marly, and is at work completing a play called "Robespierre," which he is writing for Sir Henry Irving. Irving, of course, will be the "sagegreen incorruptible."

Burr McIntosh has postponed the production of his college play, and has signed a contract to play the leading role in "A War Correspondent," a new comedy drama by Lottie Blair Parker which will be brought out early in September.

Mr. David Belasco writes from London to the Dramatic News, strongly denying the report that his new play will have its original production in London. He has had an offer to present the play in the English capital at the opening of the autumn season with Mrs. Carter in the leading role; he has declined it however, and will present it in America first. If successful it will be taken to London in due course of time. The new play is said to be entirely different in style and character from "The Heart of Maryland," and will present Mrs. Carter in a character entirely unlike any which she has heretofore played.

Louis Mann is an enthusiastic wheelman. The profits of the tour of the Lambs Club is estimated at over \$20,000.

Modjeska is acting with the local stock companies in several California cities.

Mrs. Leslie Carter will spend the summer in Switzerland recuperating her health.

Katherine Grey has been engaged as Charles Coghlan's leading lady for next season.

Julia Arthur has been in New York visiting the theatres there. She has entirely recovered her health.

Kyrle Ballew has been made a fellow of the Royal Geographical society and a fellow of the Royal Microscopical society.

Frank Worthing will play John Storm when Viola Allen makes her debut as a star in "The Christian" at the New York Lyceum theatre on Oct. 3.

"Legal Bounds," a new society drama by Augustus Vatter will receive its first production to-morrow evening at the Dabney Street opera house.

"A Stranger in New York" will open in London on June 14 instead of Aug. 8, as originally intended. This will be Charles Hoy's first venture in the English capital.

All the principals of "The Highwayman" company have been re-engaged for next season. The opera will be given at Manhattan beach Aug. 8, and the first of the

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year a new opera will be produced at the Broadway theatre, New York.

Clara Lipman speaks French and German.

Mr. Robert Downing, the eminent tragedian who will shortly appear at Keith's in his famous rendition of "The Gladiator," takes a very sensible view of the vaudeville stage as legitimate actors go. He says that a trip over the Keith circuit will enable him to reach a class of people that he might not get in his regular season at the house he plays, but he feels that after presenting the arena scene he will create a desire among vaudeville patrons to see him in other impersonations, and, while the tour will be a great financial success for the six weeks, he thinks that he will reap a reward in after years by increasing his patronage in the regular combination houses.

### Defeating a Privateer.

The New England privateer contests in the long ago gave a distinguished officer of the royal navy his first opportunity. Charles Wager was the nephew of John Hull, a Newport merchant. He was with his uncle in one of his vessels when she was threatened by a French or Spanish privateer. There is a well-attested tradition that Wager, only a lad, but high-mettled persuaded the peaceful, non-resistant owner to retire to the cabin and give him control of the vessel. Charles mustered the crew, they were always armed, and handled them so bravely and skillfully that the attacking party was baffled. The old Quaker's anxiety prevailed over his principles, and coming into the companionway, he stood taking snuff and watching the fight. As he was below the level of the combatants, he could well see the effect of the firing. His interest grew and his excitement waxed high as the contest went on. He took pinch after pinch of snuff in most wasteful fashion; his usually immaculate waistcoat became recklessly powdered. Finally he cried out: "Charles, if thee means to hit that man in a red jacket, thee had better raise thy piece a little!"

The attack was repulsed, and the gallant Charles was commended by his uncle with, "Thee did well, Charles, thee did well, but fighting is wrong. Still, Charles, if thee had let them whip, I could have flung thee overboard."

Through his friends Wager obtained a post in the royal navy, ending his honorable career as Sir Charles Wager, First Lord of the Admiralty, and finally with a monument in Westminster Abbey.



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