

had not been assembled "utterly regardless of expense." Only three performances of "An American Beauty" were given here.

As personal and usually trivial gossip appears to be very much in favor just now, it may interest some people to hear that Lillian Russell pens her personal correspondence on square gray sheets of paper, having her monogram, surmounted by a coronet, stamped obliquely in the corner.

The production at the Toronto Opera House of "Oriental America" was a notable event at this theatre. The piece was really a comic opera performed by an entire colored troupe. It was cleverly done, some of the singing being of a high order of merit; and, as it was during the last week of the Exhibition, the house was well filled all the week; but the piece did not suit the audiences of this house, it was above their appreciation, and "Oriental America" was voted "slow" and "rotten." This is not by any means the first experience Manager Small has had of a discouraging kind when a really superior class of attraction has been put before the public at popular prices. The popular taste is for melodrama—very much melodrama: plenty of murder, of course, a little seduction or adultery, or a little of both, a house on fire, an explosion, a tank of real water, a live horse, a steam engine, and a very much baffled villain in the last (the fifth) act; this kind of thing, properly interlarded with some cellar-flap dancing and comic singing, takes with the crowd, and Mr. Small may as well leave off attempting to elevate the masses, but by giving them plenty of blood-and-thunder melodrama, crowd his house and fill his purse. One objection I overheard to "Oriental America" was that "It was all singing." The real objection was, of course, that the singing was too good, and not of the popular order. Mr. Small has, however, discovered his error, for he has gone back to melodrama very religiously, and as a result his house is doing well.

#### PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND GOSSIP.

Albert Chevalier is beloved of all the London gallery gods. In fact, it was one of them who originated the appellation of "Chivy," by which name his familiars call the famous coster interpreter. It happened one night while he was singing "My Old Dutch," when, during one of the pauses in that pathetic song, a voice was wafted from above, exclaiming: "God bless you, Chivy." The name has stuck to Chevalier ever since.

"Charlotte Corday" is to be the title of the new play in which Mr. Kyrle Bellew and Mrs. Brown Potter will make their appearance in London. The piece is written, I believe, by the actor and actress, who have already performed in it in India and in the colonies. "Charlotte Corday" is founded on the tragedy of Ponsard, produced at the Théâtre Français in 1850 and revived at the Odéon in 1880.

Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, Carmen Sylva, has written an opera libretto in French on a Turkish plot for M. Massenet. The queen is probably the only living author who has written verses in four languages, French, German, Swedish and Roumanian.

Hereafter any circus manager in Italy who does not carry out his advertised programme, or misleads the public by means of posters, will have to pay a fine of \$500.

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