



The last of the Capital Concert Series will be given to Sacramentoans next Thursday night. It is a successful series of its predecessors. It will be thoroughly satisfactory. But the promise is that it will surpass them. Messrs. Cohn and Kilder have won high credit for their management of these concerts, but the programme promises more honors for them in this last concert, which we expect to draw the largest audience ever into the great auditorium of the Metropolitan Opera Company, New York. He ranks as one of the great operatic basses of the time. Then we are to hear our old favorite, Gertie Auld Thomas, better known in Sacramento as Gertie Carley. One of her numbers will be the Shadow Song from "Dinorah," by Meyerbeer. By kindness of Madame Melba Mrs. Thomas had special opportunities to study the opera of "Paciflora" with Melba as Nedda. In the "Balletta," from that opera, Mrs. Thomas will sing a Nedda part, a song full of the song and life of birds. Miss Ivy Gardner will be the contralto of the evening and will sing by request "Love's Serenade," by Miss Dunstons. Miss Gardner will be remembered as a great card at the McNeill Club concert last winter. We are to have the popular Knickerbocker Male Quartet of San Francisco also, composed of Lawrence, Elliott, Crane and Larsen. Louis Von der Mehden, the solo cellist just returned from study in Europe, will be one of the artists. Rodman, the flute soloist, who was here with Scheel's orchestra, will appear, and Professor Hoffman will be the accompanist of the evening. Subscribers to the concert can reserve their seats Tuesday morning at Purnell's.

Miss Mabel Carmichael of Sacramento, who made so successful a debut last summer in "As You Like It" at the Shakespearean entertainment in Capitol Park, is to have a benefit next Friday evening at Turner Hall. There will be recitations, songs, dances, instrumental music, burlesque, etc. Miss Carmichael will appear in the scenes of "Macbeth," supported by George Allen, Watson, formerly of Louis James', Frederick Ward's, Fanny Davenport's and Clara Morris' companies. The Elks have greatly commended Miss Carmichael and will give her benefit their patronage.

Brilliant, imposing, queenly Nordica, who came to us last week with the proudest laurels of Bayreuth still fresh upon her, is a convincing instance that art knows no nationality, genius no geographical boundaries. For surely, one would not expect to find in the Maine to produce the dramatic fire, the tropic complexion of voice, the splendor of temperament, the facile adaptability to exquisite training that combine to make of Nordica the dramatic soprano of this generation. It is only under meridian skies that such a study and tradition have taught us to look for such qualities, and when we find them flowering to perfection in the seemingly hostile circumstances of harsh regions, we can but rub our eyes in wonder and recall Carlyle's dictum that "severely" is an impossibility until he appears.

New York "Plays and Players": The vaudeville craze continues a leading topic in theatrical affairs. The rosette of it, however, is not shared by nearly everybody. In discussing the matter recently Manager D. W. Truss said: "A young actress called on me a few days ago for an engagement. When I asked her salary she hesitated and finally said \$50—that was what she was getting in vaudeville. I replied that she should reflect that she was compelled to play twice and sometimes three times a day; that she was compelled to do her own hustling, had to be constantly on the lookout for new specialties to maintain her position; had to pay her own expenses from place to place and incur numerous other cares and obligations from which she was relieved in a regular company, where after the opening night she had no study or other worries to occupy her mind. She admitted the correctness of my views and was glad to accept a salary less than what she received at the vaudeville theaters."

New York "Plays and Players": Some idea of the enormous number of plays written by ambitious American dramatists can be estimated from the fact that from thirty to forty new manuscripts are received each week at Rosenthal's typewriting work is done in New York. There is no geographical monopoly in this aspiring dramatic spirit, for the plays are received from all sections of the country, even as far distant as California and Nova Scotia. It is a curious fact in this connection that a very large proportion of these efforts come from small towns, places which are, as a rule, found only on county maps and in the date books of barnstorming managers.

They come from persons in all walks of life. One Ohio man distinguishes himself by sending a new play on a month. They are not infrequently accompanied by requests to handle and produce, as well as "please put this in type."

George Olmsted, author of "The Iron Master" and "The Ransome," has just had his play, "Le Colonel Roquebrune," produced at the Porte Saint Martin Theater, and has now a limited amount of well-guarded praise from his enemies, while the critics of such papers as the "Petit Journal" and the "Petit Parisien" have gone into ecstasies over the piece.



The third of Dvorak's new symphonic poems, "The Noon Witch," is based on the Bohemian superstition that noon has its evil spirit, and the music endeavored to describe the behavior—first good, then bad—of a child, and the scoldings of the mother, who finally calls for the Noon Witch. On the witch's appearance there ensues a contest for the possession of the child, which ends by the compulsory retirement of the witch from the hour of day. When the father returns he finds his wife in a swoon on the floor, and her child dead in her arms.

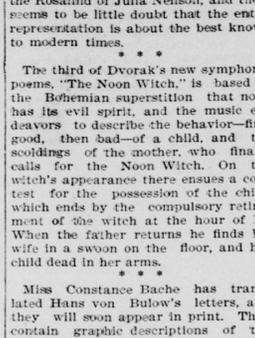
Miss Constance Bache has translated Hans von Bulow's letters, and they will appear in a book. They contain graphic descriptions of the trials of a young musician, an interesting account of his youth and early manhood. The translation, which has been authorized by Frau von Bulow, is illustrated with portraits.

Halle tells a good story of Rossini. When Brod, the obolst, played F sharp Rossini asked him for a pinch of snuff and placidly remarked that the right note was F, but in regard to the F sharp, do not worry yourself, we shall find means to put it somewhere else. There is another good story about Donizetti, who, being told that Rossini wrote "Il Barbiere" in a fortnight replied: "I can quite believe it; he always was a lazy fellow."

Miss Maud Adams is spending her last season in the humble capacity of a leading woman. She has made wonderful progress on the stage since she first became known here some eight years ago. She has been leading woman in John Drew's company from its first organization, and next season she is to shine out as a star for herself. She has worked carefully for her advancement and will be followed by good wishes.

There are few singers now on the comic opera stage who have so good a knowledge of the dramatic faculty that all of them ought to have as Jessie Bartlett Davis. She can do a good deal toward carrying a weak opera, and she has done it more than once, just by acting and singing so earnestly and well. The Bostonians have no more useful member of their organization.

Edward Terry tells of a pretty incident which occurred during the Australian tour: "Do you know what I consider the most glowing tribute I ever received? The compliment came from a child. The child was in a house—an infant audience—and humor had, for that instant, given place to pathos. You might have heard a pin drop, and I felt the tension of the house was at breaking point. The intense silence was broken by a childish voice—a girl's voice, turning to her parent, asked, in a broken voice: 'Is it real?'"



The Rosalind of Julia Neilson, and there seems to be little doubt that the entire reputation is about the best known to modern times.

Behavior of the conscience-stricken Lady Macbeth. At this point a loud voice suddenly called out from the gallery: "Hello, doctor! Is it a boy or a girl?" This descent from the tragic to the comic caused a roar of laughter all over the theater, which must have sadly disconcerted the performers on the stage.

The Nouveau Theater opened its doors for the first time the other evening, in the Rue Blanche, Paris, with a representation of the opera "Boccaccio." The theater has already been described in this column.

The grateful inhabitants of Bayreuth are about to erect to their benefactor, Richard Wagner, a monument in the form of a temple with columns and cupola.

"Here's to woman; once our superiors, now our equals," is a toast in "A Contented Woman," Host's new comedy satire on woman's rights and politics.

"Aladdin" is the subject of the Drury Lane pantomime this year, and Oscar Barrett promises to rival the achievements of Sir Augustus Harris in the direction of spectacular splendor.



Arthur Chudleigh will resume the management of the London Court Theatre in February, and hopes to be able to produce a new comedy by Pinero.

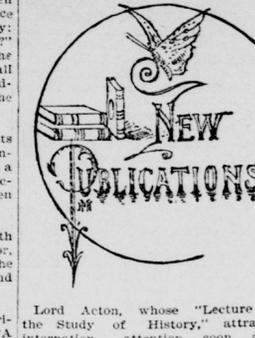
"The wig doesn't make much noise in the world," declares W. H. Fatchelor, who wields the baton for Francis Wilson, "but it's always at the head of the profession."

H. Beerholm Tree's Svengali is strikingly original and forcible. He looks more like Du Maurier's hypnotist musician than any of the portraits of the famous character yet seen.

Manager Daniel Frawley, Frank Worthing and Blanche Bates go to England at the close of the season on the 21st of next month at Colorado Springs.

"His Irish songs improve with age," is the compliment of the New York "Herald" says Andrew Mack in its notice of his "Myles Aron."

At a recent performance of "Elijah" at the People's Palace in the East End of London, the admission fee was only six cents.



Sir Henry Irving will be President and Ellen Terry Vice-President of the Actors' Orphanage Fund in England.

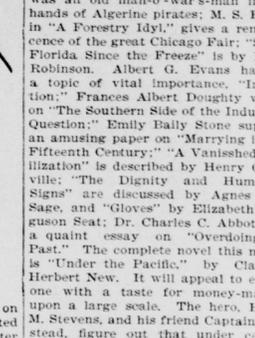
The late Alexander Herrmann's real name was Levin.

IF MR. RISING BOUGHT CUBA. But Then He Didn't Want to; It Was His Wife's Mistake.

"On the whole, I think we'd better buy Cuba," said Mr. Rising, as he lit a would-be Havana cigar.

"Do you, John?" asked Mrs. Rising, who was mentally comparing the respective merits of northern spy and Ben Davis apples.

"I do, Emily," replied Mr. Rising, with argumentative firmness. "Isn't it a large island, John?" inquired Mrs. Rising, feeling that further remarks were expected from her.



"I'm sure you could, John," exclaimed Mrs. Rising, with wifely admiration.

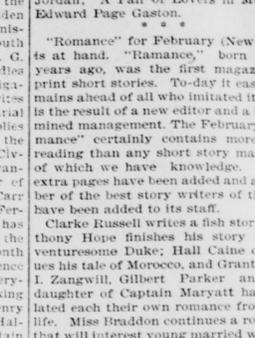
"Maybe so; maybe so, Emily," assented Mr. Rising, with due modesty.

"I don't know, John, that it would be pleasant to live in Cuba," Mrs. Rising remarked, thoughtfully.

"I don't know," Mrs. Rising replied, "but I know you're not me. I'm a big sugar plantation with bananas and pineapples strikes me as a pretty nice thing by the side of a Chicago winter."

"Cousin Mauda sent me a splendid recipe for pineapple preserves," observed Mrs. Rising.

"You see, Emily," continued Mr. Rising, with a confident accent, "most people haven't figured out the future of these warm countries. A man could go down there, raise coffee for ten years, and come back rich."



"But, John," inquired Mrs. Rising, doubtfully, "aren't they having some war in Cuba?"

"Of course, Emily," Mr. Rising answered in a patronizing tone. "That's why we can buy it cheap just now."

"These hard times have made lots of bargain sales," Mrs. Rising agreed, in real appreciation.

"I don't think we ought to let such a chance slip," gravely alleged Mr. Rising. "It will never happen again. You can depend on that, Emily."

Mrs. Rising stared at her husband with unfeigned consternation.

"John, does your head ache?" she demanded suddenly.

was an old man-o-war's-man in the hands of Algerian pirates; M. S. Paden in "A Forestry Idyll" gives a reminiscence of the great Chicago Fair; "South Florida Since the Freeze" is by R. G. Robinson. Albert G. Evans handles a topic of vital importance, "Irrigation," Frances Albert Doughty writes on "The Southern Side of the Industrial Question," Emily Baily Stone supplies an amusing paper on "Marrying in the Fifteenth Century," "A Vanished Civilization" is described by Henry Gray; "The Dignity and Humor of Signs" are discussed by Agnes Carr Sage, and "Gloves" by Elizabeth Ferguson Scott; Dr. Charles C. Abbott has a quaint essay on "Overdoing the Past." The complete novel this month is "Under the Pacific," by Clarence Herbert New. It will appeal to everyone with a taste for money-making upon a large scale. The hero, Henry M. Stevens, and his friend Captain Halstead, figure out that under certain conditions it would be possible for them to secure over \$3,000,000 from the submerged hulk of a Spanish galleon, lost on the Santa Rosa reef, Ladrones Islands, in the year 1763; and after numerous exciting adventures among the islanders, actually succeed in doing so. Then, as they are about to sail away with the treasure on Captain Halstead's steamer, they marry two charming Spanish girls who have given them valuable assistance in outwitting their most dangerous adversary, Philippe Padre. The story is accompanied by a chart of their voyage.

The cover of the February "Overland Monthly" will catch the eye among a hundred others, Mount Shasta, a Siikly gold mine, and the "Overland" famous grizzly in green and gold. Following Rousevelt Wildman's "As Talked in the Sanctum," Thomas Mace contributes an article of more than usual interest on the Kings River Canyon, comparing it to the Gossens of this country and Europe. Dr. J. H. Stallard continues his powerful articles on "Municipal Reform." This second installment will, without doubt, attract fully as much attention from the press as did the first. J. E. Bennett concludes his historical study of the California missions. All friends of higher education will be interested in the account by Professor Clement on the University of Idaho. Charles E. Naylor, whose articles on "Pilotage" have attracted so much attention, contributes a rather drastic article on the new ferry depot, Part 2 of the Siikly gold mine, the illustrated and contains a complete history of the county. The stories of the number are Western; the illustrations are up to the mark.

To attempt to present to the reader an idea of the contents of the "Tribune Almanac" (New York Tribune, New York) for 1897 is an almost impossible task, for it contains a complete enumeration of the topics of general interest the American people talked about in 1896 and are going to talk about in 1897. What is it we may wish to know in a political or statistical way? In some shape or other we find it in this almanac. The compilation of facts, politics and figures. There are certain standard tables of latest statistics and election returns which everyone expects in an almanac. The "Tribune Almanac" has them all, and, in addition, a variety of concise statements, summing up the past year's history in a few words, such as the story of the Venezuelan dispute, the Cuban revolution, President Cleveland's bond issues, the tenure of Mr. Bayard, and so on. For accuracy, completeness and thorough comprehension of what the American people need in the way of data for ready reference, the "Tribune Almanac" has always been standard and has no superior.

Among the more notable features of the Ladies' Home Journal for February (Philadelphia) are: "When Kossuth Rode Up Broadway," Parke Godwin; "The People of Dickens," Charles Dana Gibson; "A Quilting Bee in Our Villages," Mary E. Wilkins; "The Women by the Railway," John Lambert Payne; "The Burglar Who Moved Paradise," Herbert D. Ward; "Women Pensioners of the Revolution," Clifford Howard; "The Most Famous Cook in America," Mrs. Talcott Williams; "A Page at the Berlin Court," Max von Binzer; "This Country of Our Ancestors," W. P. Trent; "The Senate and House of Representatives," Hon. Benjamin Harrison; "Daughters of the Presidents," various contributors; "The Origin of Our Popular Songs," William George

W. Clark Russell contributes to "Harper's Round Table," published on January 26th, a paper entitled "Boys at Sea." In the same issue Cyrus C. Adams, the authority on Africa, has a paper entitled "The Fighting Savage," which enters into the semi-barbarous methods of meeting the civilized armies of Europe in warfare. Emma J. Gray will contribute "The Children's Hour"; John Kendrick Bangs describes some more of the "Remarkable Adventures of Sandboys"; and there are installments of the serial stories "A Loyal Traitor," by James Barnes, and "The Midleton Bowl," by Ellen Douglas Deland.

In Hamburg the authorities tax a dog according to its size.

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