



The Orpheum management brings to the Sacramento house for this week the most sensational bill yet. The chief attraction is "The Great Gautier" and his trained horses. This act is performed by Mons. Gautier and his beautiful saddle horse on a pedestal eight feet high and fifteen feet in diameter. The horse performs many tricks that would of themselves be wonderful in the circus ring. To do these same tricks on a raised pedestal and within such narrow confines makes the act doubly interesting, and added to this makes it the more thrilling. Mons. Gautier has been classed as the greatest horse trainer of Europe. In the act as produced here two horses will be used, a saddle horse and trick pony. This act is by far the highest priced animal act on the vaudeville stage. Mons. Gautier carries with him two assistants, and to provide against accident carries four horses. Including salaries and expressage on the horses and other excess baggage, this act is costing the Orpheum management over \$1,000 a week. That the Orpheum management intends to give the Sacramento house the benefit of all the best acts brought to the circuit is evident from sending here this act, which is the most expensive one booked since the opening of the Sacramento season. The remainder of the bill is very good. The novelty feature of the bill is Drawee, great comic juggler, brought from Mexico by Gustave Walter, and makes his first appearance on the Orpheum circuit here. Sacramento frequently has the opportunity of getting the "first whack," so to speak, at the Orpheum people. Clivette, Crimmins and Gore, Fills Dogs, the Brothers Damm, and a number of other Orpheum features

most, and it owes so much less than usual to slang that it is quite a notable advance in the farce kind of writing. It is not only a most successful piece of work, as it stands, but it is a proof that the possibilities of farce are not opening up, to the author and to the stage.

Monday evening, the 21st, the musical clubs of the University of California will give a concert at the Congregational Church. The Glee, Banjo and Mandolin Clubs will be present in full numbers. The soloists will be Otto T. Wedemeyer, baritone; Mr. Kuster, cellist; and Clinton R. Morse, tenor. The university clubs always give enjoyable concerts here, full of both mirth and music. On this occasion they promise two numbers by the mandolinists, two by the Banjo Club, four by the Glee Club, one by the Berkeley Quartet, and three solos. The programme before us is varied, and ranges from classical to comedy numbers.

New York Times: The failure of Joseph Arthur's drama of village life in Southern Indiana called "The Salt of the Earth," which, though not an exalted work of art, was yet not less coherent or more grotesque than a number of other rural pieces which were remarkably successful a few years ago, may indicate that the multitude is getting tired of the stage pumpkin and its corollary, the property pumpkin. Never mind. The longing for uncouth dialect, cawkish boots, real washbas, and the shining tins of the raucous-voiced housewife will come again. Now it is melodrama, and again it is farce which the multitude rejects. We shall return

to her brother-in-law, the late Czar; and Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein, uncle of the present Emperor of Germany, died suddenly at Jaffa on his way back from Jerusalem, whether he had gone on his bride-trip. He left behind him an Austrian widow, a daughter of David Lee of New York, who had been created by the Austrian Emperor a Princess of Noer on the occasion of her marriage, and who is the wife of the Prussian Field Marshal, Count Waldersee, the successor of Moltke as chief of the headquarters staff of the German army.

A PILGRIMAGE SUPERSTITION. These are only a few of the large number of analogous cases that could be cited in this connection. But they are sufficient to show that superstitious people have some ground for apprehending misfortune in the event of the Kaiser taking his wife with him to Jerusalem next spring. For, curiously enough, those who make the pilgrimage alone, and who leave their wives or their children at home, appear to escape the fate that overtakes the other persons who neglect this caution, and with the exception of Empress Eugenie, who lost her throne a few months only after her return from the Holy Land, the Emperor of Austria, the late Emperor Frederick of the Prussian Empire, Prince of Wales, King Leopold of Belgium, the Empress of Austria, the Crown Princess of Sweden, King Oscar, the Crown Prince of Italy, and Prince Henry of Prussia have all been overtaken by subsequent misfortune.

It may be questioned whether it is purely a spirit of religious devotion that leads these royal personages to journey to the Holy Land, and there are reasons for believing that the Zionism of the crowned heads and of the members of their families is prompted by other sentiments than those of piety. For, speaking of them as a class, the Prince and Princesses of the blood cannot be described as really religious in the ordinary sense of the word. They seldom govern their private conduct by the rules of any church, and almost invariably regard as near to the Divinity than themselves. They conduct themselves and speak in a manner to convey the belief that they feel themselves above the mere details of religion, and it may be doubted whether they have any real preferences, save such as are dictated by questions of mundane policy. Queen Victoria, for instance, when she is in Scotland takes the Communion from the hands of Presbyterian ministers and according to the Presbyterian rites, although south of the Tweed she receives the Sacrament according to canon law, of the Church of England, of which she is not only a member, but also the supreme head. The present Czar when at Balmoral attended Presbyterian services, while the King and Queen of Italy, as well as the Catholic Princes of Bavaria and of Saxony, in defiance of the laws of their church, were conspicuous at the Lutheran services held at Hamburg the other day under the auspices of Emperor William. The latter, again, although he considers himself to be the "summus Episcopus" of the Lutheran rite, does not disdain to kiss the crucifix that is tendered to him when he visits any Catholic institution, church or monastery in his dominions, and his grandmother, old Empress Augusta, was quite as fond of attending Roman Catholic services and functions as are the daughters and granddaughters of Queen Victoria.

In olden times consideration of creed on the part of royal Princes and Princesses determined the fate, not merely of dynasties, but of nations, and some of the most sanguinary wars of the Old World, notably the Thirty Years' War, which devastated all Central Europe, were fought out on no other grounds than these. But to-day the religion of Kings and Princes seems to have become a subject of indifference to themselves, as to every one else. Thus, no one exactly knows to what church belongs the Czar, or to what form of Rumania, she is a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. She was christened and reared as a member of the Church of England, was confirmed and married as a Lutheran to a Prince who is a Roman Catholic, while her children are orthodox Greek Church, to which her mother belonged.

MUCH criticism was leveled at the head of the French Marshal Bernadotte, grandfather of King Oscar, in deserting the first Napoleon and in making war upon his own nephew, King Louis XVIII, France, after being elected Crown Prince of Sweden. But there is not a word of condemnation to be found in any contemporary history of the fact that he abandoned Roman Catholicism and became a Protestant solely in order to secure possession of the throne of Sweden. In fact, the matter is not even mentioned, as though it were not of sufficient importance. The Protestant population of the Kingdom of Saxony has been perfectly content to be ruled for nearly a century by a Catholic King, Charles Augustus, who was the son of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, when it was pointed out to him that he would conciliate Russian sympathies by having his eldest boy, the four-year-old Prince Boris, converted to the orthodox Greek faith, did not hesitate a moment to cause the child to abandon the Catholic Church, to which he had until that time belonged. Ferdinand himself, since his recent visit to Constantinople, when he kissed the hand of the Sultan, being the first Christian Prince of the blood to do so, has never been reproached for having done so, although it is well known that he would immensely strengthen his position were he to turn renegade and become a follower of the Prophet.

King Leopold of Belgium makes so little pretense of being a religious man that he goes to church only once a year, namely, on his namesday, on which occasion he carries a big and gorgeously bound "Paroissien," which, during the other 364 days of the year, is kept under lock and key. Empress Frederick of Germany may be described as a free-thinker, is a member of the school of Strauss and Renan, and endeavored to bring up her children in their ideas, and the same may be said of the late Grand-duchess of Hesse, mother of the present Czarina. King Frederick of Prussia was a professed atheist, while the Emperor of Austria, in spite of being described as "His Apostolic Majesty," finds himself so often in conflict with the Holy See that it is difficult to describe him as an exemplary son of the church. From this it will be seen that when obedience to one church or another is on the increase among both classes and the masses in every part of the world, it is distinctly declining among the "Anointed of the Lord."

It is said that link cuffs are much worn by the traveling companions of the Sheriff.

not named after Robert Burns. "Yes," replied Mantell, "many years after."

Detroit Free Press: Many things apparently illogical must be done on the stage to secure effect by inspiring the imagination. Absolute realism would be fatal. We cannot set our course in strict accordance with probability. That would bring us down to the commonplace level in a great hurry. Under certain conditions it is the necessity of dramatic art to make the impossible seem real.

As a result of the ordinance passed by the Board of Aldermen of Boston that whenever the patron of any theater requested the manager to have a hat or bonnet removed it must be done under penalty or forfeiture of license, it was announced on a recent night from the stage of one of the leading vaudeville theaters of that city that "on and after to-morrow evening women must remove their hats or bonnets, either before taking their seats, or immediately thereafter."

Georges Jubin, a French melodramatist, thus formulates the rules of popular stagecraft: "First—The popular drama must be directed rather to the sensibility of the public than to its intelligence; it must seek to stir the audience and not to teach it. The public goes to a theater to listen to a play, not a sermon. Second—The emotions must be varied, and the comic mixed with the pathetic. Long-continued terror or fun is too great a strain for simple souls abandoning themselves entirely to the one or the other for the time being. It is good that laughter should stop the flow of tears, and better still, that a tinge of sadness should point the way to happiness. Third—The play must have as simple and as general a moral as possible, and, having occupied the imagination by means of its dramatic intricacies, must satisfy the conscience by the flawless logic of its denouement."

Phil Branson played Petit Pierre over five hundred times with the Rice and Dixey Pearl of Pekin Company.

The attitude toward the dramatic stage of a large number of persons who are conspicuous in American letters and that kind of social life which is much more pretentious than influential, frequently startles one who knows the stage well and has an intelligent comprehension of its purposes and possibilities. The dramatic stage once gave a trial performance at a matinee in one of the New York theaters of a sketch, supposedly dramatic, written by a youngster whose "people" were of some social and literary note. This thing was remarkable for its lack of any sort of dramatic quality, its cheap sentimentality, and its utter "impossibility" as entertainment. Nevertheless, as the curtain fell, a representative of the elect rose from one of the free seats, remarking: "As long as we can produce this sort of thing, the theater deserves support."

Bronson Howard's new society play, the name of which is still undivulged, but in which Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon are seen to appear, will be that dramatist's first work since "Aristocracy."

The Bayreuth festivals have been planned as far ahead as 1901. There will be no festival this year, and Wagnerites will be free to attend the festival in London next summer, which will certainly be elaborate, and will probably be the first adequate presentation of Wagner that the English Capital has ever heard. The Bayreuth festival will also be suspended in 1900, when every one will be going to the Paris Exposition, a feature of which will be a great Wagner festival, conducted by M. Lamoureux. In 1899 "Parsifal" will be given as usual, and the "Ring" will be repeated, and in addition to these "Die Meistersinger" will be given on a splendid scale. In 1901 "The Flying Dutchman" will be heard at Bayreuth for the first time without cuts and with lavish scenery. In that year "Tristan and Isolde" will take the place of the "Ring," but "Parsifal" will be given a number of presentations.

The New York World says: Probably never in the history of theaters has road business been worse than this season. The various circuits are strewn with wrecks of companies that started out hopefully and came to an untimely end. The distance traveled depended entirely upon the depth of the financial backing. Only the strongest attractions have been able to weather the storms, and even they have nothing great to boast of. On the other hand the season in this city has been particularly good, and the majority of local managers, who have not been obliged to bolster up road losses, are correspondingly jubilant.

One night during Richard Mansfield's engagement in Washington a paper quarter of the old currency issue was passed into the box office for a gallery ticket. As the curious piece of obsolete money came in, the treasurer remarked: "There goes a man who has been saving a quarter for thirty years to see Mansfield."

An old Westerner, hearing that Robert Mantell was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, asked the actor if, maybe, he were

The Frawley Company closed a three-nights' engagement in Salt Lake City on the 5th inst., to double the receipts of last season. After playing Omaha and several other cities the company goes to New Orleans for an extended engagement. The season closes in Washington in May.

James A. Herne celebrated his one hundred and fiftieth Chicago performance of "Shore Acres" at McVicker's Theater recently. Chicago was quite generous to patronize this play for one hundred and fifty nights.

Julia Arthur is to dedicate the new Detroit Opera House next September. It will be remembered she was burnt out at the old house.

Charles Frohman has engaged Maurice Barrymore to play his original part in the "Heart of Maryland" for the London engagement of the play at the Adelphi Theater.

Mrs. Cora Potter is said to be the only female star that has appeared at the Adelphi Theater in London since Adelaide Neilson played there over fifteen years ago.

BUSINESS IN NIPPUR.

IMPORTANT WORK OF AMERICAN EXPLORERS.

How Contracts Were Made in the Ancient Babylonian City.

In the autumn of last year were given the first indications to the American public of the remarkable discoveries in Nippur, made by the Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania. The feature in these discoveries most noted at the time was that they carried the history of the people of Nippur to a period certainly 7,000, and probably 8,000, years before Christ. There is nothing so startling a character now to report. The expedition is, however, continuing its task of exploration at Nippur. Professor Hilprecht, as Secretary of the committee which supports the expenses, has thrown himself into the work with unselfish energy and has greatly facilitated its task. He has given his services gratuitously to the Imperial Museum in Stamboul for the reorganization of the Babylonian section, and this during his summer vacation for three months annually for the purpose of Nippur, made by the Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Without in any way disparaging the work of Dr. Peters of New York, it may safely be said the second part of his history could never have been written if Professor Hilprecht had not succeeded in separating the various strata of the ruins of Nippur, and, above all, as Mr. Sayce says, of creating the science of Babylonian palaeography. From the thousands of fragments, mostly small, of vases smashed by the Hittites in 2280 B. C., in the courtyard of the temple of Nippur, Professor Hilprecht has restored the earliest chapter of written human history so far known. The older inscriptions are being deciphered, and the publication has been begun. A volume, however, is shortly to be published, giving a translation of a number of the tablets, in a condition under which American and other explorers are allowed by the Porte to dig, that their finds shall become the property of the Stamboul Museum. The result is that there has already accumulated in this city a large and invaluable collection of inscriptions from Nippur, and it is with a portion of these that Professor Hilprecht has lately been occupied and of which his forthcoming volume will treat.

BYBLYONIAN BUSINESS TABLETS. While the American expedition in 1888 was working at Nippur, it was upon a room nineteen or twenty feet below the surface. The ceiling was, of course, gone, and the walls were in great part ruined. A gang of workmen was ordered to clear away the rubbish that covered the floor, and upon the table and chairs of the excavators were placed the various tablets. The room was carefully searched and cleaned, and 730 tablets were collected by Mr. Haynes, the head of the working party. Many of them were broken and more or less damaged, but a considerable number were intact and in a good state of preservation. Their examination leads to the conclusion that the room had been used for storing the business tablets—papers, I had almost written; tablets, however, is the correct name of a wealthy firm of merchants, the tablets dated in the clay, of various sizes, many of them of the size and shape of an ordinary flat tablet of soap with rounded edges. Any one can see that they are covered with writing in cuneiform characters, which are usually sharply cut, and have a greater value than any other Babylonian tablets. Among other points which they set at rest is the conclusion which Assyriologists had arrived at upon other grounds, that Darius lived after and not before Artaxerxes. There are proper names of special interest to the general reader occurring in these tablets. For example, Semiramis, which we take from the Greek, appears as Shamramu, and Professor Hilprecht in his forthcoming book on the tablets gives many others.

MIXED CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE. Babylon was at an early date a country of many languages. There is, however, no period in its history in which the foreign element in its population is so conspicuous as during the centuries following the fall of Babylon in 538 B. C. The conquests of Nebuchadnezzar in the West were followed by the removal of thousands of captives to his own land—the fertile plains of Mesopotamia. The overthrow of the Babylonian Empire by the victorious armies of Cyrus caused the settlement of Persian soldiers and merchants in the newly acquired province. The constant invasion of nomadic tribes, always keeping as near as possible to one of the two rivers—Tigris and Euphrates—which inclosed Mesopotamia, helped also to modify the character of the people and its language. Professor Hilprecht remarks that the population of Babylon at the time of Artaxerxes I. appears to have been about as thoroughly mixed as that of the States of New York and Pennsylvania at the present time, and as the emigrants from almost every State in Europe bring the local and personal names of their native lands to the different settlements of the New World, so Medes and Persians, Arameans and Sabaeans, Jews and Edomites, and other peoples transplanted those of their former abodes to ancient Babylonia. The Babylonian names begin to decrease and foreign names take their places.

JEWISH NAMES AND BIBLE HISTORY. Thus the names Ashkelon and Heshbon, familiar to the readers of the Bible, figure in these newly found tablets. Indeed, the number of Jewish names known from the Old Testament is unusually large, especially from the Books

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Prominent among them is the Emperor of Germany, who has announced his intention of spending next Easter at Jerusalem with the Empress, and who has already given orders to the Berlin Department of the Navy to hold in readiness his yacht, the Hohenzollern, and the dispatch-boat Geflon for the trip. He proposes to take advantage of his presence in the Holy City to preside over the ceremony of consecration of a new Lutheran church, built on a site given by the Sultan to the late Emperor Frederick while he was still Crown Prince, on the occasion of his visit to the Holy Land in 1892. In the Holy City is erected on the foundations of an ancient edifice of the same character, dating from the Crusades. The imperial couple, after spending Holy and Easter weeks at Jerusalem, will visit the tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at Hebron, over which a mosque has been erected. No Christian or Hebrew has ever been permitted to cross the threshold of this mosque or to view these tombs, with the solitary exception of the Prince of Wales when he visited the Holy Land while still a young man, in the company of Dean Stanley of Westminster. It may be taken for granted that the present Sultan, who owes so much to the friendly support and championship of his cause by the German Emperor, will extend to the latter the same courtesies and facilities in the matter of visiting Hebron as were conceded five-and-thirty years ago to the future King of England.

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"Zionism" That Is Prompted by Other Sentiments Than Those of Piety.

Precisely in the same manner that the eyes and thoughts of every Mohammedan, no matter whether he dwells in the most remote provinces of China, the impenetrable jungles of Java, the mountain fastnesses of India and Central Asia or on the banks of those mighty rivers the Niger and the Nile in Africa, are centered upon the Holy City of Mecca, so do Christians of every denomination, and Jews as well, find in Jerusalem a point of common interest and of mysterious fascination. This desire, more or less strongly defined, but latent in almost every breast, to tread the soil of what is known as the Holy Land, and to wander through the streets of Jerusalem, hallowed by so many sacred associations, develops into a species of irrefragable longing, for which no more suitable name can be found than that of "Zionism," and upon no people has "Zionism" secured a firmer hold than upon those who are known as the "Anointed of the Lord"—that is to say, the monarchs and the princes and princesses of the blood of the Old World.

Prominent among them is the Emperor of Germany, who has announced his intention of spending next Easter at Jerusalem with the Empress, and who has already given orders to the Berlin Department of the Navy to hold in readiness his yacht, the Hohenzollern, and the dispatch-boat Geflon for the trip. He proposes to take advantage of his presence in the Holy City to preside over the ceremony of consecration of a new Lutheran church, built on a site given by the Sultan to the late Emperor Frederick while he was still Crown Prince, on the occasion of his visit to the Holy Land in 1892. In the Holy City is erected on the foundations of an ancient edifice of the same character, dating from the Crusades. The imperial couple, after spending Holy and Easter weeks at Jerusalem, will visit the tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at Hebron, over which a mosque has been erected. No Christian or Hebrew has ever been permitted to cross the threshold of this mosque or to view these tombs, with the solitary exception of the Prince of Wales when he visited the Holy Land while still a young man, in the company of Dean Stanley of Westminster. It may be taken for granted that the present Sultan, who owes so much to the friendly support and championship of his cause by the German Emperor, will extend to the latter the same courtesies and facilities in the matter of visiting Hebron as were conceded five-and-thirty years ago to the future King of England.

After leaving Jerusalem the Kaiser and his consort propose to journey overland via Mount Sinai to Egypt, in response to an invitation from the Khedive, and the resources of the Turkish Government will be taxed to the utmost to prevent any untoward incident happening to the imperial pilgrims, such as, for instance, attack and capture by marauding Bedouin tribes. It is a young man, in the company of Dean Stanley of Westminster. It may be taken for granted that the present Sultan, who owes so much to the friendly support and championship of his cause by the German Emperor, will extend to the latter the same courtesies and facilities in the matter of visiting Hebron as were conceded five-and-thirty years ago to the future King of England.

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WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT.

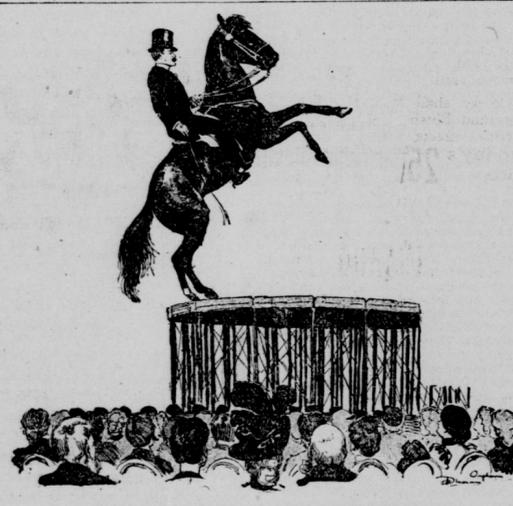
One of the Central Figures in the American Railway World.

The central figure in the American railway stage to-day is William Kissam Vanderbilt. His recent purchases will enable him to organize all the Vanderbilt roads into one system, and he expects to make a great leap across the continent. He is 49 years old and is the strongest of all the Vanderbilts. It is said he is the only one who can take the place of his father, William H. Rumor has it that Mr. Vanderbilt proposes to relieve the heavy M. D. Dewey of the Presidency of the New York Central.

His father left him less of the Vanderbilt fortune than he left his older brother Cornelius, but Cornelius is not strong and does not like activity, while William K. has abundant health and enjoys industrial sway. He was born on December 12, 1849, on Staten Island. He was first employed in the transportation department of his father's company. His training was thorough. In 1871 he became second Vice-President of the Nickel Plate. A few years ago he was divorced from his wife.

The Walter's Description. Madame (entering a restaurant)—Do you know if Mr. Miller is here? Walter—Mr. Miller? Isn't he an old man with a big red nose? Madame—Yes, that's he; but look here. I want you to understand that my husband is not old nor is his nose big and red.—Flegende Blaetter.

The plowshare that leaves no trace on sand, makes a furrow in a richer soil.



THE GREAT GAUTIER, AT THE ORPHEUM.

have opened in Sacramento and played this house before going to San Francisco or any other house. Arthur Corrick, a fine baritone, will appear in the ballads. Al Wilson, the German comedian and yodler, who scored such a success, returns for one week with a new line of jokes and songs, and Lillian Leslie has been retained and will appear in a new repertoire. The Nawns, who have proved such a success, have been engaged to remain another week, but this will probably be the last opportunity of seeing them for a long time. The Gloss Brothers, gladiatorial acrobats, are also retained on the bill and promise new acrobatic feats.

some day to our rustic drama; and then, perhaps, it may be developed from the point of intelligibility and true observation of character to which Joseph Arthur and his collaborator carried it in certain scenes of "Blue Jeans," a drama which doubtless owed much of its success to its real buzz-saw and the buffoonery of its last act, but which, nevertheless, had sounder claims than those represented to the approval of generous critics.

The New York World says: Probably never in the history of theaters has road business been worse than this season. The various circuits are strewn with wrecks of companies that started out hopefully and came to an untimely end. The distance traveled depended entirely upon the depth of the financial backing. Only the strongest attractions have been able to weather the storms, and even they have nothing great to boast of. On the other hand the season in this city has been particularly good, and the majority of local managers, who have not been obliged to bolster up road losses, are correspondingly jubilant.

One night during Richard Mansfield's engagement in Washington a paper