

FEATURES OF THE THEATERS

Attractions for the Coming and the Week Following on the Local Stage.

German Dialect Characters Underlined for the Park, While at English is to Be Given the Latest Success in Irish Melodrama.

In these times, when Irish comedians who appear to fame and fortune as numerous as the sands of the sea, it will be refreshing to welcome an impression of a typical Celt which is said to be far removed from the conventional kind. Dan Darcy, a character James Conner Roach will present at the English Opera house for three nights and special Saturday matinee, commencing next Thursday, is placed among the exceptions. Mr. Roach comes under the management of J. M. Hill, of the Union-square Theater, who claims to have discovered in him the same qualities that have given to the stage such talent as Denham Thompson, and other favorites. Roach in offering his play introduces a warm-hearted Irish-American, surrounded by American scenes and incidents.

Mr. Charles A. Gardner, who is to play at the Park all this week, is a young dialect comedian of the so-called Joe Emmet school, who has an attractive stage presence, sings nicely, dances well and makes himself generally entertaining. He comes nearer being a serious rival of Mr. Emmet than any of the others, who appear in German dialect comedy, and by many he is regarded as the superior of "Fritz" in such parts. He certainly is a better singer and dancer. From obscurity Mr. Gardner has come up, in a few years, to be a very popular and widely-known star, a favorite wherever he plays. During his engagement here he will appear in the new version of his musical comedy, "Katie," which is well suited to his peculiar capabilities. It is an introduction of a play without number, and various entertaining specialties. His company is well selected and a number of excellent vocalists in it.

"State fair week" is an annual source of delight to theatrical managers, for then they are sure of the much-desired "big houses" every night. Next week will be fair week here, and the attractions provided for the several theaters are varied and well selected. At the Grand Mr. Gillette's stirring play, "Field by the Enemy," which is unequalled for inherent interest and striking effects, will be given all week, by the original New York Company and with the same scenery and effects. At English the popular German comedian, Williams, will give his "Kasper's Fortune" and "The Leadville Squire." At the Park, "Arion's Jew" who is called the "Shooting Star" will be given all week, and his frontier drama, "Black Hawk" and "The Wild West," in which he does remarkable shooting and introduces his trained dogs and horses. Out of this list one should be something to suit everybody.

Doomed Companies and Plays. New York Mercury.

Despite apparent activity and seeming prosperity in theatrical circles, there is a very large skeleton in numerous box-offices, and the actors' record of past presidential years seems likely to be duplicated before the great political contest is ended. In ordinary seasons the first snow-fall brings fame to the managerial fraternity, but during the past fortnight lovely play-going weather and public interest in the theater, has but in vainly pressed workers, has not prevented the premature collapse of several newspaper-promising organizations. Poole's Theater has already closed its doors, and its management among the bankrupted combinations comprise "In His Power," which has just expired after a tedious six-night struggle with East Side audiences. "Broken Hearts" has failed to draw, and "Twenty Maidens to One Dude," a comedy speculation under W. A. Mastayer's management, has also given up the ghost after exceedingly brief theatrical career. These are the first important "busts" of an infant season, and will entail much misery upon at least fifty unpaid actors and actresses now idle, and will cause considerable "hustling" among the out-of-town managers who had booked them as new attractions for a week each at their respective theaters. These are a few of the theaters which are in quest of financial relief, as it is generally conceded that a number of stars, plays and companies already entered at various important city and country theaters may be listed among the doomed.

Gossip of the Stage. Madeline Luette has written a play for Minnie Maddern.

H. R. Jacobs has offered Corinne \$50,000 and all expenses for a five years' contract, which she has not accepted.

"Arion's Jew," who plays at the Park next week, is called "The Shooting Star." Why not call him "The Meteor" or his shorter.

It is said that the veteran C. W. Coudock will play the popular part of "The Millionaire" in connection with "Hazel Kirke" and the "Willow Copse."

William Gillette's new play, "A Legal Wrack," promises to be the greatest success the Madison-square Theater has had for years. It has now been running a month.

A bill is before the British Parliament to prevent children from begging, or from singing or playing upon any instrument in public until they shall be over ten years of age.

In base-ball parlance, Mr. J. M. Hill can be said to have made a grand "hit" in James Conner Roach, who has created something of a sensation in the East in "Dan Darcy."

Mrs. George S. E. Light will probably start next season in a play called "Prose and Verse." Mr. Knight goes with E. E. Rice temporarily, playing Le Blanc in "Evangeline."

Sadie Martin will star next season, commencing her tour about Nov. 12. She will be seen in a French play, which she will personally adapt for the English speaking stage, during her summer visit to Paris.

Faith, in spite of her late triumphs in South America, has been especially successful, especially for the execution of "Rigoletto" in London, and for the interpretation of bravura arias, which the Argentines considered a profanation of art.

Scrive, the French dramatist, relates that thirteen of his early plays were burned, and, after his fourteenth had met with a like fate, he bought a packet of pens and concluded to make one more attempt, and, if that failed, never to write again. The most brilliant success of his name became famous as a dramatist.

Mrs. William O'Sullivan Dimpfel—"Phoebus" what a name! To fill the sounding trump of future fame—will have her first success in the New York stage Sept. 17, and her admirers expect that she will eclipse the Potter and the Laurier. She is Baltimore's contribution to the class known as "society actresses."

Walter Demarcio has brought back from Europe Grello's "Messio Solenne," a very difficult composition. The choruses from beginning to end are written for sixteen parts, and there are sixteen soloists—the first and second of four parts each—and four quartets of soloists. There is no instrumental accompaniment.

The Conquill-Hindes engagement will begin at Lincoln's Theater, Oct. 2, and will be followed by Mary Anderson, Nov. 12, who will remain for six weeks. During that time she will be seen in "A Winter's Tale," and in "The Cur," a play presented to her by Lord Tenison. On Christmas Eve, Mrs. Potter will produce "Anthony and Cleopatra."

The husband of the great actress Helen Faucit, in a recent speech at Glasgow, Wales, said: "To have brought young people up to understand and love Shakespeare's women—for example, his Imogen, his Desdemona, his Hermione, his Portia—will have been to make them turn away with loathing from the imbecile French Frouns and anatomical Toccas of the modern French stage."

The Italian exhibition in London has been saved from financial ruin by the introduction of a realistic act, "The Rape of the Sabine Women." The action occurs in a building as large as the Coliseum in Rome; the male actors are mounted on cavalry, and the women are beautiful and well trained. As nothing like it has ever been seen in the British capital, it has already become the popular rage.

Lasalle, the famous dancer of the Paris grand opera, is forty-five years old, six feet three inches in height, and weighs 250 pounds. He is very rich, an excellent business man, and has had good care of his face. He has a few wrinkles, and on the night before he goes to bed at 8 o'clock and stays under cover for sixteen hours. Then he rises and eats one hearty meal and does not touch another mouthful until the next night.

Lillian Russell is beyond adventure the handsomest woman of the Broadway musical promenade. She is a girl that, fleshly appearance notwithstanding, is a study in the annals of years ago; and now slight, graceful and willowy, with her golden hair, velvety blue eyes, and Lillian junior trotting along by her side,

she is a soulful beverage that makes sberbet and cheap champagne seem as skim milk and lime water.—New York World.

Eugene Oudin, of Colonel McCull's forces, has been with the annual offering of twelve cooper, of which the doughty Colonel is completely enamored. The scene is laid in Moorish Spain, about the fifteenth century, and the plot deals with the annual offering of twelve Christian maidens to the Moslem rulers. A part—that of a Moorish ambassador—has been especially written for De Wolf Hoppe. Another part—the leading soprano—has been fitted to Mr. Oudin's wife, Miss Louise Parker.

The Clara Louise Kellogg English Opera Company, which is to appear here in the season, will consist of the following artists: Soprano, Miss Clara Louise Kellogg; Miss Letitia Fritch; contralto, Miss Helen von Doenhoff; and Fannie A. Myers; tenor, Chevalier Leoni; baritone, leading tenor of the Imperial Opera-house in Vienna, court and chamber singer to the Emperor of Austria, Mr. G. Taglietti; Mr. Thomas H. Pares; bass, Mr. George Fox; Mr. George Fox; Mr. H. Hoveman; S. N. Langlois; and Mr. W. H. Dodd. Mr. Carlos A. Serrano will be the conductor of the orchestra and Mr. W. H. Dodd the stage manager.

Joseph Jefferson has already written his reminiscences of the stage, but he has not decided when or how to publish them. Mr. Jefferson is a delightful talker, and the little that is known of his writings has been quite equal to his conversation. It is not only his anecdotes that will be interesting; his comments on the stage and acting will have great value. Clever Billy Florence, too, is preparing to write his reminiscences, which would be as valuable as delightful, if he would only stick to the task that his luxuriantly indolent nature shrinks from. Florence is as lazy as he is talented, and, inasmuch as he is looking in his memory some of the most varied and remarkable experiences ever known in the fortune of an actor, his laziness takes on a criminal tinge.

THE GREATEST KNOWN EXPLOSION.

A Whole City Devastated and Thousands of Women and Children Entombed. Chambers' Journal.

Some few miles to the north of Agra, between the rivers Ganges and Jumna, stood, in the early part of this century, the town and fort of Hattaras. The town was the center of the dominions of an independent Rajah, and was separated from the fort by a distance of about half a mile. The town was one of great strength, and the fort was not less strong in its defenses. The walls were thick and high, strengthened by bastions, and bastions, while ditches thirty yards wide and twenty-five feet deep, with five feet of water, surrounded both the town and the fort. The fort was a square, with a bastion at each of its four corners, and given cause of apprehension to the East India government as to his designs against some of the possessions. Accordingly, in 1817 he was summoned by the Marquis of Hastings to dismantle his fortifications and disband his troops. At first he made pretense of complying, but afterward refused the demand. A considerable force was therefore dispatched against him, under the command of Major-general Murchishall. The town was first attacked. The batteries poured into it an incessant shower of bombs, shrapnel shells and Congreve rockets. The courage of the defenders was far inferior to the strength of the fortifications, and the besiegers would have found their undertaking very difficult, if not impossible. As it was, in three or four days, before any important breach had been made, the fort was evacuated the town and took refuge in the fort. On entering the town, which they could do only by means of scaling ladders, the besiegers found the fortifications with stones and immense piles of cotton.

The full force of the cannonade was now directed upon the fort, the defenders retreating to the last. The British general nobly offered to guarantee the preservation of their property if they would send their wives and children to be guarded on the Rajah's dominions. They were deaf to all his entreaties and were resolved to face the worst. The fort was then bombarded with shells, which were very destructive, and that many of these were entombed beneath the ruins of the fort.

The English guns suddenly ceased firing, few knowing why, until the dreadful explosion almost paralyzed every observer. From the narrative of an officer, we can get an idea of the particulars: "I was on a working-party with one hundred men, and had just arrived in the courtyard, about three hundred from the left of the fort, when I was thrown on my face by some violent shock of the earth. Before the general shock, the earth seemed in violent convulsions. The walls surrounding the fort, and the fort itself, were hurled forward from the fort, and fell to the ground. Stones, bricks, pieces of wood, and, nearer the fort, bodies and limbs were to be seen floating in the air in all directions. For the moment consternation and dismay were depicted in every face. When I arose I felt much alarmed; the earth seemed still to move under me, and as I first thought something had happened to me alone, so, on looking round, I found my men, some in the attitude of prayer and others lying down, hiding their faces with their hands. Having recovered my senses, I ran toward the fort and saw it enveloped in one dense cloud of smoke or dust, and new and then streaks of fire issuing from its battlements. In the midst of this momentary alarm, an indistinct buzzing that the grand magazine of the enemy had been blown up. The report having reached my ears, I ran, or rather rolled, along the trenches, and was informed that their grand magazine had really been blown up by one of our shells. Again looking toward the town of destruction, what a sight met the eye! The smoke which arose from the ruins seemed to be a solid and substantial structure, gradually and successively ascending to the sky, and the air was filled with a thick and dense vapor that seemed to rise upon it. From this ascending mountain were ever and anon vomited forth sheets of vivid red and glittering and fell in rain upon the spot. Through this dense but really substantial mass was to be seen the acting sun, spreading his luminous beams through the gigantic phenomenon, and the beauty of the sight was beyond human fancy to imagine. The tremendous volume of smoke seemed to be ascending, perpetually leaving off a little with the wind, which scarcely breathed. When it had ascended so that the sun was visible under it, the mass above changed color, and you might see on it the most brilliant rays of the rainbow. This continued ascending in various forms until at last it was lost in the distance; after which every eye was directed to the destruction below, and the sight was frightful indeed. Heads, bodies, legs, arms, hands, spears, guns, muskets, pikes and colors lay indiscriminately among the piles of ruins."

The shock was so terrible that it was distinctly felt at Meerut, a distance of 150 miles. The interior of the fort, some four or five hundred persons, horses and cattle of all descriptions were destroyed, but the defense of the fort were very little injured, so that the firing on the part of the besieged was soon renewed with as much vigor as before. The fort was not again taken. This was a rare, however, to cover the intended evacuation of the fort, which took place the same night. Many of the fugitives were cut down by the British, but many made good their escape, among whom was the Rajah himself. The fort and the town were afterward completely dismantled.

Bayard Will Not Resign.

Washington Special. Secretary Bayard said to-night that he does not intend to resign. He has been coolly ignored in two most important State matters lately—the retaliation message and the Chinese bill—but he says that he is not indignant with the President. He was over in Delaware Saturday when the news came that the Chinese treaty was rejected, and he had no share in the treaty conference which decided on the presentation of a bill by the President Monday. He was impatient, to-night, when seen by a correspondent, and replied to nearly every question that he knew nothing about it. Mr. Scott, he said, had a right to inquire why he had been so long in the open secret that Mr. Bayard had been a good deal out by recent events, but his declaration that he will not resign seems to indicate that he is not regretting to break with the President. He has said to his friends that he regards the moves of the President as political expedients, and outside the domain of diplomacy. It is after all by some that Mr. Bayard is resigning after the election.

A Question to Fisk.

Brooklyn Standard Union. The prohibition managers invite visitors. As questions, somebody may think it worth while to ask them whether their candidate, Fisk, proposes to vote for himself or for Harrison or Fremont. He says he is strongly in favor of protection, and he knows that a vote for himself or Cleveland is a vote against protection and for free trade.

Only Wanted a Chance.

"'S'orious like" said the tree tood, "I'll be a little more than all day, And I got up soon, And I hollered till noon, Till I clumb down into a crawfish hole, Weary at heart and sick at soul."

"Dosed away for an hour, And I tackled the thing again; Till I knowed my sing, Was just about give in, And then, thinkin' o' my own rain, There's nothin' in singin' now."

"One in a while some farmer Would come a drivin' past And he'd hear my cry, And stop an' sign, Till I jist laid back at all, And holler'd till I thought my throat Would bust right open at every noed."

"But I fetched her! Oh, I fetched her! 'Case a little while ago, As I kind o' set With one eye, An' a single note and low, A voice dropped down on my fevered brain, Sayin', 'If you'll jist hum, I'll Whitcomb Riley."

Criss-Cross. The sun shines holy on the country road, The hard, white road; it burns my shoesless feet, And stop an' sign, Till I jist laid back at all, And holler'd till I thought my throat Would bust right open at every noed."

The waving shimmer harts my blinking eyes, And I holler'd till I thought my throat Would bust right open at every noed."

The little stars of kindness, So easily out of mind, Those chances to be angels, Which everyone may find— They come in night and silence— They come in night and silence— When hope is faint and flagging, And a light has dropped on faith."

For life is, ah, too short, dear, And sorrow is all too great, To suffer our great sorrows, That carries until too late, And it's not the thing you do, dear, It's the thing you have with you, Which gives you the bit of heartache At the setting of the sun."

"Come Unto Me." Weary and sad with toil and sin, Drest on every way I see, With weary and sad with toil and sin, How can I come to thee? Worn out with heavy weights of care, Heart sick of earth's poor vanity, Of friend and lover in despair, Which is the way to thee? West Thou bidst that lonely lake, And the hills of blue, How soon my feet the way would take That brought me unto thee? What weariness of night or day, What longing for the dawn, What ill or anguish could dismay, If I might come to thee? Come unto me—how may I come! Thy face I cannot see, Thy voice I cannot hear, Thy hand I cannot hold for home, I long to come to thee! Hark! Some sweet, tender voice I hear, "My word is true for all— for thee. Forget thy sorrow and thy fear, There is a way to me. Seek from thy heart one fervent word, Yield to the voice that I should be, Thy prayer is answered as 'tis heard, Thus hast come home to me." —Rosa Terry Cook.

Sunshine Land. They came in sight of a lovely shore, Yellow as gold in the morning light, The sun was low, and the air was warm, And had faded at the fall of night, And weather or clouds were as a sea, And the waves were breaking with the sun, Its secret the sailors could not understand, But they called this country Sunshine Land. What was the secret—a simple thing, (It will be told to you some day, know): Touched by the tender finger of spring, A million blossoms were all arow; The hills were all in a glow of light, They covered the hills with a mantle of night; And the wild hummed and the glad breeze fanned Through the honeyed fields of Sunshine Land. If over the sea we were bound, What dear shore would we long for ours, We would sail and sail till we found this fair gold of a million flowers. Yes, it is a land where we are stayed, Of many small joys our pleasures are made, More than that which brings—very close at hand The gold of a million flowers. —Edith M. Thomas, in September St. Nicholas.

The Building of the Poem. Sweetheart, your tender eyes, As I read your radiant smile, (Prize... pie... pie... pie) How hope within them lies! Love grew in their love-light, As stars grew on the night, And all my life grew bright, And all my life grew bright. To you my spirit leans, I know what worship means, (Queen... queen... queen... queen) How glad I am to see your eyes, When on my car first broke You, as you were, (Joke... joke... joke... joke) Then fell on me the yoke. I would that you were near, My beating heart to hear, The love that's in your eyes, And know my love sincere. —Time.

Faith. Behold, we know not that good, I can but trust that good shall fall At least—far, far, far, far, And every winter change to spring. So runs my dream, but what an ill An infant crying in the night, An infant crying for the light, And not a word to comfort it, I faller where I firmly tread, And falling with my weight and care Upon the world's great altar stairs, That slope through darkness up to God. I stretch lame hands of faith, and grope, And gather dust of grief, and gope, And what I feel is lead of all, And fairly trust and larger hope. —Tennyson.

Four Ages. At fifteen it was "I." The world to me Conveyed no meaning of immortality. At twenty-one my scorn enough uncurd To understand to say, "I and the world." At thirty-five I changed, I know not why, My mode of speech to "I and the world." At sixty-two, with straggling locks of gray, Alone "The world" I am content to say. —Chicago News.

Bob-Tail Cars in Congress. Washington Special. The anti-bob-tail car crusade has reached Congress, and in a moment of abstraction today, the House passed a bill which abolished in the Territories and the District of Columbia the one-horse feature, at least, of that unpopular kind of public carriers. The legislation was secured under something of a disguise. A bill was under consideration making unlawful the overloading of horses, and Mr. Brand offered an amendment to the effect that it should be

deemed an evidence of overloading that one horse was compelled to draw a street-car, and that a little extra weight was put on it, and then the question was put on its adoption. The vote was given in the same tentative manner, and the amendment was adopted, to the surprise of everybody who understood his portent. Mr. Brand smiled and resumed his attack on a huge quid of tobacco.

GEORGE BENISKI.

Continual Reminders of the President's Substitute in the War. The latest reminder of President Cleveland's brilliant experience during the war is an article in the Steuben Courier, published at Bath, N. Y. It says that President Cleveland is absolutely without a record as a Union man during the war, and that he never attended a Union meeting or expressed a particle of sympathy for the Union cause or contributed a dollar; that his only act during the war was to get the 150th regiment, and that, after living in a number of poor-houses, he finally died in the Bath Soldiers' Home. The official records at the home show that George Beniski was a native of Poland, a soldier by occupation; that he enlisted at Buffalo, Aug. 5, 1863, as a substitute in Company F, Seventy-sixth New York Volunteers; that he was discharged on Oct. 11, 1865, at Elmira, and that he was admitted to the home Oct. 5, 1866. At that time he was suffering from indigestion, consumption, and was wholly unable to earn his living by manual labor. He got the 150th regiment in the Soldiers' Home hospital, Aug. 18, 1867, and was buried in the cemetery of the home at public expense. The number of his grave is 150.

The editor of the Courier recalls that he had an interview with George Beniski shortly before the Polish soldier died. "It is time," he said, "for the old soldiers to know how the President treated me. He let me go around from one poor-house to another, and now here I am all broken down and dying in the hospital and he won't let me come out of it. I'm the President of the United States. I'm going to tell what he has done."

"I was working on the propeller Acoma when Captain Beniski got the notice. No. 3 asked me to go as a substitute for Grover Cleveland, who had been drafted, and we went up to Cleveland's office to see about it. Cleveland had only \$150, and I think he borrowed that of Captain Rinehart, but he said he would help me more after I got out. I know that the bounty then was \$300, but I told him that I would go to his office or something for Captain Rinehart, and help me if I came out alive. I would go for him. This he agreed to. Afterward I was sworn in by Captain Rinehart, and I went to the Cleveland, Captain Rinehart and I went to Fort Parker for me to be mustered in."

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