DRAMATIC.

The Adaptation of Tennyson's "Dora" at the Chesnut Street Theatre.

Last evening the new play entitled *Dora* made its first appearance at the Chesnut Street Theatre. Charles Reade is the author of the playing version of the story which has long been familiar to us in the delightful pages of Tennyson. The plot is simple throughout, but many of its scenes nevertheless afford an opportunity for startling dramatic effects. An old farmer, whose natural kindness of heart is much obscured, and at times wholly eclipsed, by his downright obstinacy and wilfulness, has a group of three children about him—a son, a niece, and a distant relative, who is employed as a servant girl. The son and the poor maid-servant unfortunately fall in love with each other, and contract a clandestine marriage. On a certain Christmas Day, the head of the family informs his son and niece that they are to be married without any further delay, as his heart had long been set upon it, and he would not listen to a refusal. The old gentleman had quarrelled with and never forgiven his dead brother, striving to make amends for his harshness by protecting his daughter, and providing her with a suitable husband. The niece loves the son, not knowing of his marriage; but the demand for another marriage discloses the state of affairs and results in the expulsion of the young married couple, followed by the father's curse. Oppressed by poverty, the forgiving niece relieves the distress of the loving couple, notwithstanding they have both nourished thoughts of hostility towards her, in the belief that she was the cause of their expulsion and misfortunes; and finally, at the death-bed of the husband, the two women are happily reconciled, and the niece pledges her assistance to the widow and her infant son. But the old farmer still remains obdurate, and finally starts for London, with the avowed object of making a will by which all his property will fall to his niece. He is thrown from his carriage on the way, and brought to his home with several broken bones. The two women then attempt the reconciliation of the old gentleman, resorting to a trick to accomplish their purpose. He has a great fondness for young children, and without any intimation of the identity, his little grandson is placed upon his knee, and at once wins his way into the stubborn heart.

When the plot is disclosed, the passion of self-will again assumes its sway, the niece herself being cast forth, while the grandson is duly installed as the successor to the heritage forfeited by his father's disobedience. Under the gentle influence of the child's manners, however, the old man's heart is gradually softened, and a general and happy reconciliation all around precedes the fall of the curtain.

Such is the plot, and in substance the play is almost equal to it. The dialogue is for the most part unaffected and touching, and only requires the pruning of a few commonplaces, and the introduction of a slight vein of humor, to render it one of the most admirable that has ever been placed upon the stage.

The drama, as placed upon the stage last evening, was admirably cast. Mrs. Bowers assumed the *role* of "Dora," the niece, with her accustomed vivacity and cleverness; while Miss Josie Orton, as "Mary Morrison," the young wife, demeaned herself with a *naivete* that comported well with her part. "Farmer Allen" was enacted by Mr. Smith, and "William," the son, by Mr. Leake, in a fresh and attractive manner. As a whole, we must accord to *Dora* a decided success, and we predict for it a long and well-deserved run.

CORRESPONDENCE OF BONAPARTE.

Startling Confessions.

The London correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* writes in a recent letter:—

Perhaps there are not a hundred readers in the United States who have attempted to master the contents of the volumes of the correspondence of Napoleon Bonaparte, which are being issued at intervals by the French Government. Some twenty-five bulky books in the French language, comprising more than 13,000 closely printed octavo pages, and containing nearly 20,000 letters, proclamations, bulletins, and documents of different kinds, are formidable enough, yet it is most interesting to note the revelations they contain. You are probably aware that after fifteen volumes had been published, the commission appointed by the present Emperor to edit them was suddenly changed.

In their zeal they had put into print numbers of letters of Bonaparte, which together form the most complete and irrefragable collection of accusing testimony that one man was ever made to furnish against himself. The new commission, of which Prince Napoleon is the head, announced they should only print such papers as they believed the Emperor himself would have rendered public could he have outlived himself, and yet, with all his decision, the two volumes issued within the last fortnight tell such a story as would consign any man who was the subject of it to infamy. Never was such moral likeness more manifestly shown. The first Italian campaign, as told by Bonaparte himself, is one long tale of violence, rapine, and deceit. Some of the letters are truly original in their confessions.

In all history, perhaps the darkest page is that which relates to the cession of Venice to Austria. He not only tells his perfidy, but exults in it. On the very day on which he wrote to the municipality of Venice that his troops were there to secure the liberty of the city, and "that wretched Italy, free and independent of foreigners, should take a glorious place in the world, and resume among great nations the rank to which nature, her situation, and fate alike call her"—on that very day he wrote home to say that the first conference for the definite treaty of peace between France and the Emperor of Germany had been held the day before, and that, according to the project agreed upon, Venice was to be given over to Austria!

It was but yesterday that Venice came out of the bondage into which she was sold by Bonaparte seventy years ago, and of all his misdeeds none has borne more lasting and more bitter fruits. The horrors he committed in Egypt are all told in these volumes. The correspondence, in its unflinching truthfulness, gives the very order, signed Bonaparte, for the well-known massacre of Jaffa. "*En prenant precautions de maniere qu'il n'er echappe aucun.*" More than 2000 men, who had surrendered, were butchered in cold blood. In one letter he says exultingly, "Every night we cut off thirty heads, and those of many chiefs; this, I think, will serve as a good lesson."

Among the instances of his tyranny in Germany, which brought upon him the hate of the people, was the tragic fate of Palm, the bookseller of Nuremberg. During the occupation of Germany by the French in 1816, several pamphlets hostile to the invaders had been circulated through the country. One of these was traced to Palm's, and though he offered to prove that he had not sold a single copy, he was arrested and shot the following day. The poor bookseller, more really a hero than the Emperor who caused him to be butchered, refused the pardon that was offered him on condition of revealing the name of the author of the pamphlet.

To his brother Joseph, when at Naples, he wrote:—"My brother, I have received your letter of April 5; I see with pleasure that an insurgent village has been burnt down. Severe examples are necessary. I suppose the village has been given over to the soldiers for plunder. That is the way to treat all revolted villages." Again:—"Mark my words, the fate of your region depends on your own conduct when you return to Calabria. There must be no forgiveness. Have at least six hundred rebels shot. Burn down the houses of thirty of the principal inhabitants of the villages, and share out the property to the army. Disarm the people, and have five or six large villages given over to pillage. Since Calabria has rebelled, why should you not seize half the properties of the province to distribute to your army?" Nor was the necessity for such cruel repression a matter of regret. It was considered a fortunate circumstance.

"I heartily wish," he writes, "the rabble of Naples would revolt. Until you have made an example you will not be master. Every conquered people must have a rebellion, and I should consider an insurrection in Naples very much in the same light as a father of a family would view small-pox for his children, provided it did not weaken the invalid too much. It is a salutary crisis. No part of your kingdom is nearer pacification than Calabria, if you deal out severe justice." Gratitude is really due to the Imperial Editorial Commission for the service which it has—voluntarily or involuntarily—rendered to the cause of historic truth. The duplicity of Bonaparte, his bombast and mock heroism, his studied violence, his love of false grandeur, his envy in the midst of unrivalled greatness, his hatred and distrust of all that was really good and great, his vulgar arrogance, his indifference to the sufferings of others, his selfish and insensate ambition, are conspicuous in every page.

—The oldest voter in Orange township, if not in all New Jersey, is Mr. Cyrus Jones, now in his ninety-seventh year. He went to the polls and cast a Republican ballot last election, and has voted seventy-six times during his life. When nineteen years of age he was an apprentice at Newark, and had the honor of being placed on the muster-roll to act as an escort to George Washington, who was passing through New Jersey on a visit to New York.

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