

"Prince Igor" Pleases Monday Operagoers

By Sylvester Rawling. FRANCES ALDA has pluck. She sang Jaroslava, the leading woman's part in Borodin's "Prince Igor," at the Metropolitan Opera House last night when she should have been in bed. Ever since the premier performance in America, a week ago last Thursday, of the Russian composer's opera she has been ill. For a time it was thought there must be a change of bill; but Mme. Alda would not hear of it. At the last minute programme slips were printed asking indulgence for her, but she would not permit them to be circulated. "In all my artistic career," she said in private, "I have never caused a change of bill or made an apology for my voice, and I am not going to begin now." The result was a triumph for her. She never sang better, and she was a lovely picture. "Prince Igor" grows upon a second hearing, and if its enthusiastic reception by the fashionable Monday night audience means anything, it has come to stay in the repertoire. The episodic character of the story and the lack of a dramatic climax will be overlooked in the enjoyment of the stunning choruses; in the amazing baritone dance in the camp of the Polovtsy; in the lovely arias with which the opera is peppered, and in the beautiful scenery, with its fine effects in lighting. The impressive ensemble of the prologue leads to the expectation of much that never is realized; but there is never a dull spot. The bacchanalian scene is too long drawn out. Mr. Polacco should cut it. Individual and collective drunkards, no matter how well portrayed, get upon one's nerves after a little while. Mr. Satti, the best of chorus masters, together with Mr. Polacco, a master conductor, deservedly shared with the singers in the curtain calls. Why not Ottokar Bartle, the director of the ballet? Can any subscriber, new or old, point to anything so compelling upon the Metropolitan Opera House stage as Mr. Bartle's presentation of the Tannhauser, with that marvellous little sprite, Rosina Galli, the premier?

VOLUNTEER FIREMAN AIDS TO START HOTEL PANIC

Guests at the Raymond Given Early Morning Scare From Cigar Store Fire. The enthusiasm of a citizen, who threw a stone through a window at No. 42-44 East Twenty-eighth Street early this morning, liberated a small fire in the cigar store of Harry Pearson and nearly caused the destruction of the seven-story Hotel Raymond. Police Sgt. Patrick Gunn discovered the misdoer, and while he went to turn in the alarm some willing worker smashed the window. The smoke and flame immediately surged out and went skyward up the front of the hotel, causing windows to open and frightened guests to scurry to the street. Manager Frank Hynes aroused all the other guests and kept the elevators going, but Deputy Fire Chief Joe Martin managed to force the blaze back into the cigar store and put it out with a damage of not more than \$500.

CROSS, FEVERISH CHILD IS BILIOUS OR CONSTIPATED

Look, Mother! See if tongue is coated, breath hot or stomach sour.

"California Syrup of Figs" can't harm tender stomach, liver, bowels.



Ernest Schelling, the American pianist, gave a recital at Aeolian Hall yesterday afternoon at which he exploited both his virtuosity and his serious musical appreciation to a high degree, but with no small measure of heaviness. He began with Schumann's fantasy, opus 17, in three movements, dedicated to Liszt, in itself a musical meal of full proportions. This he followed with three "Goyescas" of Francisco Lopez, whose Spanish opera, of that name, is to be produced at the Metropolitan Opera House this season, the rehearsal of which the composer is to superintend. They were admirable for their unconvictionality, for sustained interest and for a great deal of inherent charm. Then Mr. Schelling elected to play Liszt's sonata in B minor, which he pronounced with overwhelming authority and force. It was unquestionably long, but dry, too dark in color and deafeningly noisy. No ordinary ears were left to grasp the beauty of a Chopin group that followed. Yet the large audience stayed until the end and applauded there, and got it. John McCormack, the Irish tenor, was one of the most interested of listeners.

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