

THEATRES PROSPERING.

A NEW COMEDY AT DALY'S.

FEW CHANGES THIS WEEK—OLD AND NEW OPERETTA, FARCE AND MELODRAMA.

The people who direct the fortunes of theatres and try thereby to direct their own fortunes are actually growing cheerful. All through these last long, hard seasons they have managed to keep their audiences cheerful, such audiences as they had, but they have often been far from it themselves. Now, after all the waiting, things do seem to be looking up. Even the pessimists admit it. That is to say, in New-York. There is still an abundant lack of business among the theatres of some of the smaller cities, it is reported. But here it would be easy to name at least half a dozen theatres that have been holding as large audiences lately as they were built to hold, while as many more, though they have generally had some seats to spare, were still doing a good, steady business. There will be few changes of bill this week, aside from the houses which habitually make a change every week. Only two new plays will be seen among the Broadway theatres.

The dramatic portion of Mr. Daly's season has opened with the favorite play of his repertory, "The Taming of the Shrew," with Miss Rehan in one of her favorite characters, Katherine. The first of the numerous novelties promised for the season will be a three-act comedy called "Number Nine; or, the Lady of Ostend." It is by Oscar Blumenthal and Gustave Kadsberg, to whom the frequenters of Daly's Theatre are indebted for many a pleasant evening. The translation is made by F. C. Burnand. Two new members of Mr. Daly's company, Miss Lettice Fairfax and Miss Irene Perry, will make their first appearance at this theatre in the new comedy. Joseph Herbert, another new member of the company, will also have a part in it, and Charles Richman will appear for the



JULIA ARTHUR AS CLORINDA IN "A LADY OF QUALITY," AT WALLACK'S THEATRE.

them away like the father in the fairy tale, giving each of them a ward and telling them that the one who comes back in two years with the most money shall have the ward. Three of them marry while they are away, and the ward is secretly married, too. Then the sons come back, all pretending to be poor, so that their

is usually found the most profitable. "The White Heather" pleases the melodramatically inclined by its situations, by the elaborateness of its production, and, by no means least, by the personal qualities of its actors. Several of them have won especial popularity by the playing of their parts in this piece.

A MAGNETIC ISLAND.

From The Scientific American.

A most phenomenal island is that of Bornholm, in the Baltic, belonging to the kingdom of Denmark. It is famous for its geological peculiarities, consisting as it does almost entirely of magnetite, and its magnetic influence is not only very well known to the navigators of those waters, but also much feared by them, on account of its influence on the magnetic needles, which make the steering of a ship correctly a matter of much difficulty. In fact, this influence is felt even at a distance of miles, and so palpably that, on the island being sighted by mariners on the Baltic, they at once discontinue steering their course by the needle, and turn,

instead, to the well-known lighthouses and other holds to direct their craft. Between Bornholm and the mainland there is also a bank of rock under water, which is very dangerous to navigation, and because of its being constantly submerged vessels have been frequently wrecked at that point. The peculiar fact in this case is that the magnetic influence of this ore bank is so powerful that a magnetic needle suspended freely in a boat over the bank will point down, and, if not disturbed, will remain in a perfectly perpendicular line.

ETHICS OF WHISKERS.

AMERICAN LIBERALITY ON THE BEARD QUESTION —A NEW-JERSEY LAWSUIT.

From The New-Orleans Picayune.

The question of beards has always been one in which men have taken the greatest interest. By turns it has been popular or unpopular for men to adorn their faces with hair, but a greater significance has always attached to it than to the mere changing of any other fashions. In ancient times a beard was a mark of honor and dignity. In Oriental countries it is still regarded with reverence, and to pluck a man by his beard is the deadliest of insults. The wily Turk who sells the American-made Turkish rug of commerce always swears by his beard and the beard of his prophet when he makes an affidavit to its being a genuine Oriental prayer mat. He is talking through his whiskers and is not to be believed. After the period when every man was bearded like a pard there came a time when any hair on a man's face was considered rowdyish, and a mustache indicated a dashing soldier, just as chrysanthemum hair labels the football enthusiast. With characteristic liberality America has always conceded to every man the right to wear a beard or not, as he pleased, and the result has been that in no other country can so many varieties of architecture in whiskers be seen. In Kansas a good windproof set of whiskers is considered one of the prime qualifications for a political candidate. In many rural communities a beard is still worn as a satisfactory substitute for a necktie. Among swell young men there is a great variety of opinion in regard to the subject. Those who desire to look French and wicked wear a sharply pointed beard trimmed down to a hair line. Others who incline to the Charles Dana Gibson school of looks are cleanly shaved and wear a tired and faraway look. There are still other men who, appreciating how little opportunity their sex have for adorning themselves, give variety to what would often be an expressionless countenance by wearing their beards in queer little patches, which suggest that they have had their faces laid out by a landscape gardener.

It is the importance of the beard that makes a lawsuit recently tried in New-Jersey of general interest to all men. A respectable citizen of that State, the happy possessor of a beard to which he was tenderly attached, undertook a short railway journey. Upon the trip he was set upon by a gang of roughts who cruelly misused him, and especially vented their fiendish malignity upon his beard, which they tore out and disfigured, making it totally useless and valueless as a means of adornment. The man brought suit against the railroad company, putting the injuries to his beard at the modest sum of \$200—a sum entirely inadequate to pay for the time and labor and thought he had bestowed upon it, as every boy who has ever gone through the tribulations of raising his first mustache will agree. The railroad set up the plea that they were not engaged in the business of carrying whiskers; that the complainant could produce no bill of lading to show that their company received the beard in good order and condition, and finally that they were not responsible for any baggage over the value of \$100. The case was tried by a jury of six clean-shaven men and six bearded ones, and they finally decided in favor of the heartless corporation. This will doubtless constitute a precedent, and it is just as well for men to be warned in time that when they travel they take their beards in their hands.



ROSE COGHAN.

IN "THE WHITE HEATHER," ACADEMY OF MUSIC.



OLIVE MAY.

first time this season. Mrs. G. H. Gilbert will have an original part. There are parts also for Cyril Scott, William Owen and Miss Lila Convere.

Another comedy is announced as likely to follow this before the next appearance of Miss Rehan, which will be as Portia, in "The Merchant of Venice." Some performances of "The Geisha" and "The Circus Girl" are promised in the course of the season, and new musical pieces are in preparation.

The return of Francis Wilson and his company to town at the Grand Opera House tomorrow night will give the dwellers on the West Side, who look to this theatre so largely for their amusements, one of the best opportunities of the season. Mr. Wilson will be assisted by Miss Lulu Glaser and the same cast which assisted him at the Broadway Theatre a few weeks ago. He will present "Half a King," which has already had two long runs in two Broadway Theatres. This has been one of the most popular of Mr. Wilson's recent productions, and there can be little doubt that it will fill the Grand Opera House to its capacity for the few nights of its stay.

Yet another new farce is announced for this week at the Manhattan Theatre. It is written by William Gill, and is called "My Boys." The story is of a farmer who has four sons and a ward, the latter a girl, who is to forfeit a large fortune if she is married without his consent before she is twenty-one. He imagines that all of his sons are in love with her, and, as she does not care to decide among them, he sends

father will not try to make them marry the heiress whom they do not care for. Their wives have in the mean time been sent to the farm as summer boarders, unknown to the father and to one another. Thence arise the complications. The leading parts in this piece are played by Messrs. Richards and Canfield.

The two young women who are now shedding their first stellar beams upon the stage of New-York have every reason to be gratified by the welcome which has been accorded to their light. Miss Julia Arthur's personal popularity has enabled her to fill Wallack's Theatre at her performance of "A Lady of Quality," in spite of the preposterous situations in which she appears and the preposterous language which she speaks. The engagement will be continued for only a week longer.

Miss Maude Adams has not a large theatre to fill in the Garrick, but she fills it, and nobody could do more. She has played "The Little Minister" for a number of weeks now, at this theatre, and at the Empire, and she will probably play it for many more, no definite limit being set for her engagement.

The Empire has not suffered by Miss Adams's removal to the Garrick. The audiences there have been large, too, and the performances of "A Marriage of Convenience" that are there given by John Drew and his company are fully appreciated.

The Academy of Music has again the sort of attraction that is most appropriate for it, and



IRENE PERRY.

A new member of Augustin Daly's company.