Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:10—Way Down East.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8:15—Fra Diavolo.
BIJOU—8:15—Japanese Players.
BROADWAY—8—Ben-Hur.
CARNEGIE LYCEUM—3:15—Song Recital.
CRITERION THEATRE—8:15—The Pride of Jennico.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:30—The Ambassador.
EDEN MUSEE—9 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Waxworks, Grand Concert and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:20—Brother Officers.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8—The Ladies' Battle.
FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—8—The Carpetbagger.
GARDEN THEATRE—8—Hearts Are Trumps.
GARRICK THEATRE—8—Sherlock Holmes.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—Primrose and Dockstader's Minstrels.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—8:30—Mam'selle 'Awkins.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—A Runaway Girl.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8—Madame Butterfly and Naughty Anthony.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—Der Goldene Kaefig.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8—Robespierre.
LION PALACE—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:30—My Daughter-in-Law.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:30—Coralie & Co., Dressmakers.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—10 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Sportsman's Show.
MURRAY HILL—2—8—Peaceful Valley.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8:10—Broadway to Tokio.
PASTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
ST. NICHOLAS SKATING RINK—8:15—Hockey Match.
WALLACK'S—8:15—Second Mrs. Tanqueray.

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Business Notices.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1900.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Lord Roberts continued the advance on Bloemfontein, having turned the Boer position; a large force has gathered to oppose his advance. ==== It is expected that a remarkable letter from President Krüger, relating to terms of peace, will be introduced in the House of Commons to-day, and it is also reiterated that Lord Salisbury sent an unyielding reply to the dispatches from the two South African Presidents. ==== Mr. Wyndham spoke in the House on the army estimates. ==== Eight men of the 16th Infantry, including Major Ward, were wounded in a fight with Filipinos in Cagayan Province. ==== The Agrarian press in Germany is bitter over the fact that the Rath will not sanction Paragraph XIV of the Meat bill. ==== Many people are starving in Barbados, and arrangements are being made to send twenty thousand to St. Lucia.

CONGRESS.—Senate: Mr. Rawlins, of Utah, spoke in opposition to holding the Philippines. ==== House: The Wise-Young contested election case, from the IId Virginia District, was decided in favor of Mr. Wise, the Republican contestant; an Urgent Deficiency bill, carrying about $1,500,000, was passed.

DOMESTIC.—It is reported that the Government at Washington has tendered its good offices in behalf of peace between Great Britain and the South African republics. ==== The answer of Andrew Carnegie and his associates to the suit of H. C. Frick against the Carnegie Steel Company was filed, denying all allegations of fraud and many of the averments of the plaintiff. ==== Ratifications of the Chilian claims treaty were exchanged at the State Department.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Stocks were strong and higher. ==== The police closed the Haymarket and Tivoli concert halls and McGurk's place in the Bowery; the Grand Jury began work on the evidence presented to it, hearing Superintendent Burr, of Dr. Parkhurst's society, at its first day's session. ==== The Rev. Dr. McGiffert did not withdraw from the Presbytery, as was expected. ==== Fourteen lives were lost in an Italian tenement house fire in Newark.

THE WEATHER: Forecast for to-day: Fair and cold. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 29 degrees; lowest, 11 degrees; average, 21 degrees.

RAMAPO DANGERS.

The machines have apparently concluded that it is not safe to defy public sentiment which demands laws for the protection of this city from the Ramapo danger. Politicians who are likely to be associated with any jobbery that is going are beginning to put themselves on record in favor of legislation against Ramapo. The Governor has also caused it to be known that relief must not be denied. His power and popular indignation will probably force the reluctant Kelsey, Allds and Nixon to take action in the Assembly, and their fellow servants of Mr. Platt in the Senate to follow in their footsteps. The Legislature will doubtless adjourn with some sort of Ramapo bills to its credit.

But it is a sound rule to fear Greeks though they bear gifts. Mr. Nixon, who as Mr. Platt's man in a former Legislature secured for the Ramapo company those enormous privileges, greater than any other company, or, indeed, than this city possesses, is probably as clever now as he was then. And all the other friends of Ramapo in the Platt and Croker organizations will doubtless be fully alive to all possible schemes for preserving their valuable monopoly of the sources of additional water supply for this city, while appearing to yield to the force of public opinion. They will bear watching. It is understood that Mr. Fallows's bill concerning the city's power of making water contracts is likely to be reported with amendments striking out the requirement of the Controller's consent. This will be defended on the ground that a double veto is anomalous and unwise, and that the taxpayers are reasonably safeguarded by placing the contracting power in the hands of two Boards, in both of which he has a vote. This view may be urged with some sense and much plausibility. It happens at the moment that the Controller seems our chief safeguard against looters of the city treasury, but it is seldom wise to make laws conferring unusual functions on a particular office because of the personality of an incumbent of the moment. There is also some force in the saying that the Legislature cannot assume that a whole city government is bound to do wrong, and that if it lodges discretion in two Boards like those of Public Improvements and Estimate and Apportionment it gives ample opportunity for discussion.

This, indeed, might be true under certain conditions. If, however, the bills giving the city ample powers to condemn water rights and depriving the Ramapo company of its outrageous monopoly are not passed, the Fallows bill so modified would be a mere mockery. The Mayor and his associates would be able to say that they had no choice but to buy Ramapo water. The company would have filed maps and pre-empted all the available watersheds, and the city, at least in the opinion of a professional confessor of judgments like Mr. Whalen, would be helpless. A little judicious work in the Water Department creating a water famine, and our city officials would have an excellent excuse for carrying out the old deal and telling the public to go without water if they did not like it. Unless the city is absolutely free from even the shadow of a Ramapo monopoly to serve as an excuse to the jobbers, its only safety is in giving an absolute veto to the Controller, and Mr. Fallows should insist on the other anti-Ramapo bills being passed as the only condition of assent to the modification of his bill.

Another danger to be faced is premature adjournment, or rather delayed legislation. It is for this reason that we urged the Governor to come to the rescue of the city at an early stage of the attempt to strangle the bills. Any action on a city bill taken within fifteen days of adjournment can be defeated by the Mayor. Even an extra session could not do anything more than pass it as a new measure and send it to the Mayor and wait his pleasure for fifteen days or adjourn and leave it again at his mercy. If the lawmakers who have so suddenly developed a devotion to the interests of New-York taxpayers want to be thought sincere, they should pass the three Ramapo bills at once. Procrastination will only convince people that they are playing with the subject, trying to quiet public indignation without really doing what the public demands.

THE CANAL PROBLEM.

The Governor's solicitude for the industrial welfare of the State was suitably honored on Saturday evening by means of the dinner at which he was the guest of various important commercial bodies. It was a tribute which he doubtless values highly, and those who joined in paying it would have been rewarded if his pleasure had been their only motive. But they have the additional satisfaction of feeling that they have given a new impetus to the project of canal development. All the speeches naturally bore reference to that subject, and the celebration can scarcely fail to promote the discussion of one of the most important proposals ever submitted for public approval. It is exceedingly desirable that it should have such a result, for it must be acknowledged that the report of the Governor's Commission favoring canal expansion at an estimated cost of $62,000,000 has not hitherto received the attention which it deserves.

The fact is perhaps not surprising, for the Legislature has done practically nothing to start the discussion, while many intelligent citizens who have always supported the general policy of maintaining the canals shrink from committing themselves either to or against a project of such magnitude. Besides, the people, having recently had the melancholy experience of paying $9,000,000 for canal work which is less than half finished, and from which little or no benefit has been derived, cannot be expected to embark with enthusiasm in an enterprise involving an investment seven times as large. They must first be aroused to the necessity of an enormous outlay in defence of the State's commercial supremacy, and convinced that this specific plan is feasible and wise. The educational process is indispensable, and it is not likely to be soon completed. The Governor showed good sense and good feeling when he said in reference to this point: "Above all, the "canal advocates must not display any fretful "impatience because the project cannot be "adopted offhand." It certainly cannot be adopted offhand, and it certainly ought not to be.

Some disappointment has been expressed because the Legislature shows no signs of taking action of any kind on the report of the Special Canal Commission, but we are not sure that a postponement of the question is to be regretted. It is universally admitted that the people will have to pass upon it, if, indeed, it ever gets so far as to require a decisive settlement, but it appears to us that they would not be ready to decide it wisely next November, after a Presidential campaign in which other issues had engrossed their attention. If we earnestly desired to see the proposition rejected we might be glad to have it submitted to popular vote this year, but the interests concerned forbid a hasty verdict, which might be mistaken and which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse.

IGNORANCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

Progress in Cuba is announced, general and lasting progress, not of the cheap and tinsel sort which demagogues hold up to view. Under Spain there were in all the island never more than 34,000 children in the public schools. Within a few weeks after the American organization commenced there are reported 135,000 children in the schools, with an increase of 20,000 or more each week. No man of either party will for a moment question that this is the longest and most effective step yet taken toward preparation of the island for free government. Partisan audiences are sometimes dull and deaf on one side of the head, but very few of them will fail to realize that self-government cannot be expected to endure or to bear good fruit without a far higher average of popular intelligence than has yet been found in Cuba.

If any one has supposed that the Democratic party in the Presidential contest may be found advocating a contrary view, and insisting that the government of the island of Cuba ought to be turned over at once to all the Cuban people, without discrimination of race, color or intelligence, he should surely cease to expect such self-stultification from Democrats who are responsible for the restriction of suffrage in many Southern States to a small fraction of the population. According to Democratic reasoning, which has been discharged with no end of explosive passion and rhetoric for twenty years past in Congress and elsewhere, this restriction has been absolutely necessary to preserve self-government in Southern States where the majority of the inhabitants is of African race and the large majority of both races is unable to read and write. Under such conditions, it has been declared, the whites would have been faithless to their trust as citizens of the Republic, faithless to their duty as protectors of wives and children and custodians of civic rights for generations yet to come, had they not restricted the suffrage.

If the same party should now insist upon self-government in Cuba without any restriction of suffrage, although the negroes constitute nearly a majority, and the proportion of persons who cannot read or write is higher than in any American State, it would cover itself with disgrace. But what is to be said of its conduct regarding the Philippines? That is a very different problem. The United States might hold itself under obligation to strive for self-government by the people of Cuba because of the Congressional declaration made when no man of either party had any adequate knowledge of the subject on which he was acting. Men who now see clearly as they believe, that nothing like genuine free government will be possible in Cuba for at least a generation to come were then gayly staking the honor of their country on the attempt to establish one. But about the Philippines there is not the least possibility of ignorance. Everybody is aware that the negroes, Malays and Mongolians constitute the great majority of the inhabitants. In many islands nothing but the superior weapons and discipline of civilization keep down a majority of barbarians. Only in a few of the islands could the more civilized Malay and mestizo inhabitants with the whites claim a majority, and even of that majority probably nine-tenths could not read.

It is this amazing demand that ignorance shall be charged with entire responsibility for the future of the Philippine Islands, and that negro and Mongolian blood shall be permitted to rule over whites, as they are not permitted in Democratic States in the South, which puts the Democrats of this country in the most disgraceful and indefensible position they have ever taken. Slavery was hostile to advancing civilization, and yet was sheltered by the Constitution. The theory of State sovereignty made a great nation impossible, but was honestly believed to be the theory of the Constitution by many. Excuses can be found for the Democrats who fought in gray uniforms. But the very men who then took up arms against the Republic would have been the first, if living today, to denounce with all the passionate earnestness of their natures the proposal to turn over the Philippine Islands to the rule of Malays, Mongolians, mestizos, savages in the woods and mountains, and a population almost wholly destitute of even the rudest education.

A HALL OF FAME.

The concept of a stately hall as the abiding place or as the shrine of Fame is ancient and widespread. It was familiar to art and literature long before Beattie sang of "the steep where Fame's proud temple shines afar," and trite and hackneyed when Hazlitt reminded his audience that "the temple of Fame stands upon the grave." Yet its aptness and its beauty give it perennial freshness, and something more. They have led to its material and practical fulfilment, so far as it is within material power to fulfil a spiritual design. The pantheons of Rome and of Paris, the Hall of Fame of Munich and Westminster's great "temple of silence and reconciliation" rise readily to mind as noteworthy examples. Each, in its way, is wholly admirable, yet each falls vastly short of fulfilling the true conception of "Fame's great temple."

It would be too much, no doubt, to hope for a perfect fulfilment of it in the stately colonnade which, through a graceful benefaction, is about to be erected for the purpose upon the crest of the great cliff at New-York University, though in situation, material and design it may be all that fancy could picture or taste might crave. It will, at any rate, have certain intrinsic features unique in such memorials, and finely significant of the time and place of its origin. This Hall of Fame is not to be erected by some proud conqueror or imperious government for primal purposes of self-laudation, but by one whose name stands hidden in the shadow of a great gift. It is not to be a place of religious worship, with sectarian restrictions, nor of burial, with an air of mortuary gloom. And those whose names or other memorials are to be placed therein are not to be called by undiscriminating chance nor dictated by arbitrary power, but are to be so thoughtfully selected, by so representative a jury of the Nation, as to be beyond all cavil those whom "the common sense of most" delights to hold in honor.

It is well that this Nation should have such a shrine, to rebuke at once the nil admirari cynicism which sees no great men in our history and the too bumptious spread-eagleism which would make all men great. It is well that it should stand within the precincts of the Nation's foremost city, in which have lived or to which have at times repaired those who are worthiest of lasting fame. It is, by no means least of all, a fitting circumstance that it should be confided to the care and should form a part of a great university of science and art and liberal culture. That, indeed, may be deemed one of the most impressive and significant features of the institution. It is not the field of battle nor the scene of political authority, nor yet a place of ecclesiastical control, that is the repository of fame; no, but a seat of learning. The school is the final guardian of the shrine of fame, as it is also the avenue through which, with happily increasing frequency, that shrine is to be attained. In that fact, in the contrast in that respect between the Pantheon and this Hall of Fame, reposes an age long chapter of the history of human progress.

ENEMIES OF SUCCESS.

One of the most apt and significant comments upon the South African war, or rather upon the attitude of Europe toward it, was recently made by the Emperor of Austria. "Why," exclaimed that shrewd political observer and philosopher, "all the ragtag and bobtail of Europe seem to be banded against England!" It was and is exactly true, and true not only of Europe. Wherever in the world a political adventurer or a social outcast of shadiest antecedents is to be found, there is to be found a foe of Great Britain in this war. We do not, of course, mean that all who are against England are of such classes, but simply that all of such classes are against England. We are well aware that many men of the highest character and greatest worth condemn the course of the British Government toward the Boers. But it is equally true, as the Emperor said, that all the ragtag and bobtail are on that same side; and this is a fact of general as well as of special significance.

The adventurers and outcasts—and extremists of all kinds—are, we have said, foes of England. We do not say they are friends of the Boers. They are not. They have no regard for the Transvaal unless for the share in the plunder of the gold mines or the millions disbursed by Dr. Leyds which they hope to get. It is absurd to talk of a Russian absolutist having any real love for a country that is called a republic, or of a red Socialist having any for a land in which he and his doctrines would be anathematized. It is preposterous to suppose that all those who a year ago scarcely knew the difference between a Boer and a kopje are now moved by profound conviction in falling upon their Transvaal brother's neck and swearing eternal friendship. It is not love for the Boers, but it is hatred of England, that moves them. And the source of that motive is to be found in the one thing which England possesses in a marked degree and lack of which is common to all those who are thus banded against her.

That thing is success. Beyond all doubt Great Britain has been succeeding in her enterprises in a manner unrivalled and unapproached by any other European nation. The growth of her empire, the upbuilding of her colonies, the extension of her commerce and the maintenance of her sea power are veritable wonders of the world. The increase of her domestic wealth, too, is quite phenomenal and unique. These circumstances may well provoke the jealousy and envy of others. But above them all is the fact that these things are attained along with the maintenance of both high social order and broad popular freedom. That is the point that maddens England's foes. One cries that in absolutism and despotic repression alone is social order safe; and yet he sees such order more secure in Great Britain than in Russia itself. Another insists that only in social chaos is freedom to be found; and he is confronted in England with the spectacle of the freest people in Europe voluntarily maintaining the highest social order. Great Britain succeeds where they fail, and succeeds in spite of all their theories and logic to the contrary; wherefore they hate her with bitter hatred.

We have said that this fact has a general significance, and it is so. Great Britain is not alone in this experience. Other nations have had it, too, in some degree, even the United States of America. In our domestic politics it is no uncommon thing. The man who succeeds, or the policy that succeeds, is made forthwith a target for all manner of abuse, and is attacked by a heterogeneous medley the only common motive and bond of which is hatred of success. It is so much easier to throw stones and mud than to build with hewn stones and mortar. There was a striking illustration of this four years ago in the wild witches' cauldron of Bryanism, in which literally the "ragtag and bobtail" of the Nation were banded against honest money and orderly government—from the self-seeking mining speculator who wanted his $5,000,000 of silver made worth $10,000,000 by act of Congress to the tramp who hoped to get a dollar's worth of beer for half a dollar. The same thing will occur again in union of all the mixed and piebald forces of disorder against law and order and progress. There are few stronger passions in men or nations than envy, and there are few things more certain to provoke all manner of hatreds than is success.

Quigg as a reformer is just the funniest thing that ever came down the pike.

The more talk there is about using the good offices of this Government for the making of peace in South Africa the greater is the need of discretion in speech on the part of Senators at Washington.

Lord Roberts has pilloried some of the Boers before the world for indulging in practices in warfare which are forbidden by international law and are abhorrent to humanity. The use of explosive bullets is bad enough. But the deliberate use of a flag of truce as a lure beneath which to shoot down those who respect and trust in it is an infamy worthy only of savages. It is inconceivable that the Transvaal Government orders or sanctions such acts. Yet when they are done by its official servants it can scarcely escape the blame.

Oh, for a cinematograph view of the wink that accompanied the order for the brothels and gambling dens to lie low for a time!

If the principle be established that war abrogates all treaties between the belligerents, then the Boer States are in a bad way. If the treaties or conventions of 1852 and 1854 be abolished neither State will have the slightest title to independence.

The French Republic is again happy in its enemies. The Duke of Orleans, the chief Bourbon-Orleanist pretender to the throne, recently wrote a letter to the editor of one of the most scurrilous gutter gazettes in Paris congratulating him upon his indecent caricatures of Queen Victoria. This he did while he was a guest of Great Britain, and in full remembrance of the fact that he himself was born in England, when his family was there enjoying asylum from political proscription. His letter was made public and caused some scandal. Thereupon he denied having written it. But his authorship of it was promptly proved. So he stands convicted of having applauded an obscene attack upon a woman, and that woman the sovereign to whose generosity he owes his present asylum and that which his father enjoyed before him; and then of having sought to screen himself with a falsehood. The French people have no love for a man, even though he be a Bourbon Prince, who insults women, outrages hospitality and then plays the crawfish.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Charles W. Dabney, president of the University of Tennessee, has received notice from the French Government of his appointment as a member of the Committee on International Awards at the Paris Exposition.

A French paper says that the words and music of the Transvaal national hymn were composed by a Dutch woman, Mlle. Catherine Felicie van Rees, in 1875, at the request of Mr. Burgers, former President of that State. Mlle. Van Rees was born in 1831 at Zutphen, the town chiefly known to Englishmen by the story of Sir Philip Sidney's heroic death there three centuries ago.

It is announced by Johns Hopkins University that Dr. Charles H. Herford, professor of the English language and literature in the University College of Wales, will be the lecturer this year in the Percy Turnbull Memorial Lectureship of Poetry. This foundation provides for an annual course by some one who has gained distinction as a writer of poetry or as a critical student of the poetic art. The subject of Professor Herford's course at Johns Hopkins will be "English Poetry, Viewed and Interpreted In Its Principal Periods." It will consist of eight lectures, and will extend from April 23 to May 4.

Major-General Ralph Arthur Penrhyn Clements, D. S. O., who is commanding the Twelfth Brigade in Natal, has been all through the Zulu war of 1879. The youngest son of the late sub-dean of Lincoln Cathedral, he was born in 1855, and was educated at Rossall. He joined the 24th Regiment, now known as the South Wales Borderers, in 1874, and became colonel in 1896. He gained his D. S. O. in the Burmese campaign of 1885-'89, where his bravery was conspicuous, he being wounded twice, once severely.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Speaking of the agitation over the play "Sapho," M. De Regnier, now lecturing in Boston, said the other day: "I fail to understand the attitude of the public in regard to it. In France there has been nothing of the sort, although Mme. Réjane has produced there a dramatization of the same work. She studied the play as the author intended that it should be studied. We saw the moral in it. We scrutinized the acting. We were not looking for immorality, and we found none."

Judge—So the prisoner hit you on the head with a brick, did he?
McGinty—Yis, Yer Honor.
Judge—But it seems he didn't quite kill you, anyway.
McGinty—No, bad 'cess to him; but it's wishin' he had Oi do be.
Judge—Why do you wish that?
McGinty—Begory, thin Oi would have seen the schoundrel hanged for murther!—(Chicago News.

A correspondent of "The Westminster Gazette" asks: "Does it not show great generosity on the part of the inhabitants of Kimberley in South Africa, in reference to the proposal to erect an equestrian statue to Mr. Cecil Rhodes, that after he has put them on horseflesh for so long they should wish to put him on horseback forever?"

Baden-Powell's Joke.—The officers of the Mafeking garrison were at mess—and what a mess!
"Cheer up, lads," remarked Colonel Baden-Powell, taking his second helping of mule steak. "We might be worse off."
"Indeed? I can't imagine it," growled the dyspeptic major.
"Well, just fancy our diet if the automobile had been introduced here!"—(Collier's Weekly.

Nome City, the new mining town on the Alaskan coast, already has a newspaper, a four page sheet, which measures about twelve by sixteen inches, but which sells at 50 cents a copy. The new journal styles itself "The Nome Gold Digger," and its first issue contains some interesting advertisements. The bill of fare of the principal restaurant includes tenderloin steak at $3; reindeer steak, $3; ptarmigan, $3; boiled mackerel, $1 50; coffee and doughnuts, 50 cents; corned beef hash, $1; sausage, $1 50; fried ham, $1; salmon, $1; three eggs, $2; loaf of bread, 25 cents; toasted cheese, $1. Two story seven room dwellings are advertised for rent at $200 a month; wagons and teams for hauling are hired out at $10 an hour; a shave costs $1 and a hair cut $1 50.

Extenuating Circumstances.—"You see," said Bronco Bob, "the prisoner offered some extenuating circumstances, so we concluded we'd just put 'im out o' town instid o' lynchin' 'im."
"What was the extenuating circumstances?" inquired Rattlesnake Pete.
"Well, a bunch o' papers came to town containin' all kinds o' war news. An' we concluded that this feller was entitled to some consideration fur not usin' lyddite or dumdum bullets."—(Washington Star.

An Egyptian paper announces that "first class, up to date, modern dining cars" are to be run this season between Cairo and Luxor, and that "an American dentist has started in business at Assouan, which is on the edge of the Soudan." A "palace hotel" at Khartoum for the special accommodation of tourists will also be completed and opened for business in about three months.

Greene—How does it happen that you don't trade at Cleaver's any more? You used to brag about the nice cuts of meat he always sent you. Is it because he wouldn't give you credit?
Gray—On the contrary, it is because he did.—(Boston Transcript.

MUSICAL COMMENT.

DOINGS AT THE OPERA—AT SOME DISTANCE BEHIND SHAKESPEARE—MME. SEMBRICH'S LONG PROGRAMME.

There was a change of opera at the Metropolitan Opera House last night, the first change of the kind for a considerable space. Mr. Van Dyck was again under the weather, and the projected performance of "Tristan und Isolde" could not be given. Mr. Van Dyck's vocal cords have been decidedly erratic all season, and an attempt on his part to sing the music of Wagner's great love tragedy when in poor condition could not be contemplated with composure. He had done well, remarkably well, once, but under the best of circumstances the audience would have gathered together last night for a second "Tristan" with a weight of apprehension on their souls. When word was received that he was indisposed there was considerable consternation among the Metropolitan managers, for a representation of "Faust" had been promised in Brooklyn, and though the Celtic warriors of Tristan might easily have reached Brooklyn in time to metamorphose themselves into Mediæval German soldiery after landing in Cornwall, the problem of simultaneous performances of two operas underwent a change when "Tristan und Isolde" had to be withdrawn. The decision was reached, however, to risk a performance of "Der Fliegende Holländer" with half a chorus, and let the Brooklyn performance take its course with the other contingent. So "Der Fliegende Holländer was put in the place of "Tristan und Isolde," and all proper pains taken to inform the public of the fact. The substituted opera was heard by a relatively small gathering, but heard respectfully, and ample tribute paid to its good features, summed up in the Senta of Fräulein Ternina, admirable, most admirable; in everything, the Mary of Schumann-Heink, Erik of Mr. Dipple, and Dutchman of Herr Bertram. It was not possible for the close observer to overlook the fact that the performance in some details had been hastily prepared, for uncertainty and indecision marked it in many places, and the feeling of discouragement inspired by the change was never dissipated.

A great deal of gossip and speculation is already current about the effect which the disappointments which Mr. Grau's subscribers have undergone this season are likely to have upon next year's prospects. Much of this is based, of course, upon gratuitous assumptions concerning the constitution of next season's company, on which point we make bold to say that neither Mr. Grau nor the singers themselves—least of all the ready gossips—are yet in a position to speak. There is no question, however, that the vast amount of work, as unnatural and unwise as it is vast, has had something to do with the slipshod performances which have been given. Last night was not the first time in which the company has been divided and two performances given in different places at the same time. Philadelphia and New-York have enjoyed representations simultaneously, and even when the company has not been divided its efficiency has been sapped by wearisome midnight journeys to and from Philadelphia. This, too, has prevented proper preparation and rehearsal, and consequently the abandonment of plans which promised to give the only new elements of interest offered in the preliminary announcements. We hear nothing more of the series of Mozart's operas, though we believe there is still some prospect that "Die Zauberflöte"—or rather "Il Flauto Magico"—will be given before the end of the season. It may be also that this general condition of irrational haste, and the consequent want of earnestness and care, prevented the success of a work which under good conditions ought to have won a permanent place in the Metropolitan repertory. The reference is to Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor"—by all means the happiest as it has proved itself to be the longest lived of all Shakespearian operas. But what can a management expect of a ballet scene when its central figure is Falstaff behaving in a way to give the lie to all the incidents built upon it? Let Mme. Sembrich sing her loveliest and act, as she can and did, like the most bewitching of comediennes; let Mme. Schumann-Heink prove herself to be as good an "old woman," technically speaking, as the German stage can show to-day—not the opera stage, merely—what shall that avail if there be a Falstaff without a spark of humor, and if the ballet scene, built up on the theory that Falstaff lies upon the ground and endures the torments of the supposed fairies because he believes that "he that speaks to them shall die," stands up like a log on end and shows not the slightest interest in the goings on? A myriad of fireflies, though they were big as turkeys, would not save the opera.

Mme. Sembrich's song recital in Carnegie Hall this afternoon offers a liberal education in the history of song composition as well as in singing. Her scheme is quite extraordinary and would of itself invite remark for the scope and variety of its contents even if a less extraordinary singer were to attempt its exposition. She will illustrate two centuries of composition and the styles of several schools, beginning with the English when it gloried in its Purcell and ending with the continental schools of to-day. Gifted with a truly Polish command of languages Mme. Sembrich will sing all of the songs in the language in which they were conceived, Italian, French, English, German, Russian and Polish. The German songs excepted, moreover, there is nothing hackneyed about Mme. Sembrich's selections, and some of them are peculiarly interesting from an historical point of view. There is, for instance, the first number on the programme, "Per la gloria d'adoravi," by Giovanni Battista Buononcini. It is from an opera "Griselda" brought forward in London in 1721, which takes rank as the finest of its composer's works and had enough success to give unhappy hours to Handel, or at least to his friends. The story told in the opera is that of the "patient Grizel," the model of patience, humility and wifely obedience, whose pathetic and obviously absurd story used to open the lachrymal floodgates of our great-great-great-grandparents the civilized world over. Tenesino sang in the opera, as also did Anastasia Robinson, and Burney tells us that it was in the character of Griselda that the prima donna completed the conquest of Lord Petersborough, who married her after he had caned the musico for an affront offered to her behind the scenes. Nevertheless, it was Buononcini's music that made the opera a success, for the libretto, written by a hearty hater of Handel called Rolli, is said to have been uncommonly bad for even that day of bad librettos. In "The Freeholder's Journal" for March 14, 1722, you may read:

> Cast from her kingdom, from her lord exiled,
> Griselda still was lamblike, mute and mild.
> But Rolli's verse provok'd the saint to roar,
> She rav'd, she madd'ned, and her pinners tore.
> Till Bononcini smooth'd the rugged strains,
> And sanctify'd the miserable scenes.

It was the quarrel between the composer of "Griselda" and Handel, which reached its culmination a decade later, which gave rise to the famous epigram that used to be attributed to Swift, of whom, indeed, it is quite worthy, but which was, in fact, written by John Byron:

> Some say, compar'd to Buonononcini,
> That Mynheer Handel's but a ninny;
> Others aver that he to Handel
> Is scarcely fit to hold a candle.
> Strange all this difference should be
> 'Twixt tweedledum and tweedledee.

The bearer of a title which has lately reposed in the hands of an American lady did much to foment the jealous strife between the two composers. It was the wife of Earl Godolphin, daughter of the first Duke of Marlborough, who succeeded to the title of Duchess of Marlborough, whose devotion to Buononcini became so great that she took him to live in her home in St. James's, gave concerts exclusively of his music twice a week, and settled a pension of £500 a year upon him. But in 1733 he passed off a madrigal of Lotti's as a composition of his own, was detected and left England never to return.

Mme. Sembrich's second song is the air "Qual farfaletta amante," by Domenico Scarlatti, one of the founders of pianoforte music, and distinguished from Buononcini by being an admirer of Handel, whose admiration approached adoration, indeed. It is said of him that when his own playing was admired he would turn the conversation on Handel's (he had met Handel in Venice as early as 1708), crossing himself at the time as a sign of his reverence for the German master. Scarlatti is followed by a little known German composer, who is classed with the French because his principal work was done in Paris, where he was long director of the concerts spirituels. This is Henri Joseph Rigel. Two classic English songs follow, a Da Capo aria by Purcell, "I attempt from Love's sickness to fly in vain," in which there is an excellent illustration of how florid passages can be utilized in musical declamation, and the pretty song, "It Was a Lover and His Lass," which Shakespeare introduced, doubtless with the melody that will be heard this afternoon, in "As You Like It." Shakespeare's comedy appeared in the original folio in 1623; "It Was a Lover and His Lass," was printed in Thomas Morley's "Firste Booke of Ayres; or, Little Short Songs to Sing and Play to the Lute," etc., which was printed in London in 1600. Shakespeare was fond of gathering up the songs that had won their way to the popular heart and putting them into his plays. Anachronism had no terrors for him. "It Was a Lover" is the song which the two pages sing in Act V, Scene 3, into which they clap "roundly, without hawking or spitting," or saying they are hoarse, which, says one of them, is "the only prologue to a bad voice."

After a song by Gounod, "Mignon," Signor Mancinelli, composer of "Ero e Leandro" and conductor at the opera, and Signor Sgambati, whose tendencies, influenced by studies in Germany and with Liszt, are strongly Teutonic, are permitted to represent present day Italy. Then follow songs by the greatest "Lied" composers that have ever lived, Schumann, Schubert and Brahms, each represented by two songs; then come the Russians Tschaikowsky and Cui, the Poles Chopin and Moniusko, and, for the sake of an ending with sweets, Mendelssohn's "Frühlingszeit" and Taubert's "Märznacht," the latter of these two a piquant variation of the old story which figures also in English folk-song that it is "dabbling in the dew" that makes the milkmaids fair.

THE DRAMA.

HENRY IRVING.

The re-entrance of Henry Irving was made last night, at the Knickerbocker Theatre, in the character of Robespierre, and the great actor was welcomed with enthusiastic plaudits by a delighted multitude. There is no new word to be said about Mr. Sardou's play. It contains all the elements of a showy spectacle, but it remains a coherent and propulsive drama, telling a distinct story and attaining to a climax by means of continuous action and ingenious incident, and not halting upon picture. Henry Irving's embodiment of Robespierre, far from having become monotonous through continuous repetition, has gained in weight of individuality and in authority of expression. This is always a conclusive token of spontaneity and inspiration—that, however often the actor has played the part, his art remains fresh and bright, producing as much illusion at the last as at the first. The wonderful faculty that Henry Irving possesses of investing himself with a character and allowing it to express itself in natural speech and conduct, fluent from motive and emotion, was again conspicuously shown in the dramatic colloquy between Robespierre and his son, and in the grim and awful ghost scene, in the midnight solitude of the Conciergerie prison. The deep heart, the fine imagination, the facial play, the vocal variety and flexibility, and the expressive and picturesque movement that animate these supreme moments of the drama are eloquent of the actor's profound sincerity and of that intense and fascinating personality which is the soul of all his art.

Robespierre, as he stands upon the page of history, is as unromantic and unsympathetic as it is possible for any human creature to be, but Robespierre, as impersonated by Henry Irving, not only fills the imagination, but touches the heart. Those observers who look for exclusively elocutionary effects will sometimes be disappointed, but those observers who can appreciate a profound study of human nature, and the exposition of a subtle and complex character by means of natural conduct, will see in this portrayal a masterpiece of art. The substance and the method of it have, before now, been amply and particularly described in this place, and there seems to be no present need of a rehearsal of its details. One thing, however, ought, especially to be said—that, after the plenitude of incompetence under which the local public has been compelled to suffer during the past season in the theatres of New-York, it was a great and inexpressible luxury once more to behold an actor. If any man, since the chieftain of whom it was written, ever "taught the doubtful battle where to rage," it was Henry Irving in the populous and turbulent scenes of the drama last night, when the tumult of the French Revolution was liberated afresh, and the terror of that baleful epoch aws made a living power. The absence of Ellen Terry was particularly felt in the scene of meeting between Robespierre and Clarice, with its horror of the passing tumbrils and its climax of agonizing gratitude—when thanksgiving seems almost wickedness. Miss Milton, nevertheless, gave a careful and effective performance of the unhappy heroine and Mr. Tyars repeated his marked success as the brutal Heron.

ADA REHAN.

One of the most important and most auspicious events of the dramatic year occurred last night in the return of Ada Rehan to the stage, after an absence of nearly a year,—consequent on the death of her manager, the intrepid and indomitable Augustin Daly, and the practical dissolution of his theatre, with which she had been so long and so brilliantly associated. Miss Rehan appeared at Ford's Opera House, in Baltimore, beginning a tour of thirty-one cities, that will extend till May 19. The opening piece was "The School for Scandal," and Miss Rehan, as Lady Teazle, was welcomed with every mark of public favor. The return of this noble actress is an augury of happiness to a very large community, for it means that one of the sweetest voices ever heard upon the stage will break a silence that has lasted far too long, and that a fine genius, conscientiously devoted to the service of all that is beautiful in literature and art, will once more be exerted for the public good. Miss Rehan's company includes George Clarke, White Whittlesey, Eugene Ormond, Wilfred Clarke, Mr. Harbury, Mabel Roebuck, and others, and is in charge of Mr. Rochard Dorney. Miss Rehan will not act in New-York until next season. She intends to sail for England in June, and to pass the summer at her seaside home, on the coast of Cumberland.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.

Mme. Modjeska has entered on the last week of her engagement at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. The comedy of "The Ladies' Battle" was acted last night, and this will be repeated to-night and on Wednesday night. A repetition of Mr. Clinton Stuart's play of "Marie Antoinette" is announced for Wednesday afternoon. "Mary Stuart" will be acted on Thursday, "Much Ado" on Friday, and two performances of "Macbeth" will occur on Saturday. Mr. Stuart Robson will succeed Mme. Modjeska at the Fifth Avenue Theatre on March 19, and Mr. Jefferson will succeed Mr. Robson, on April 16. Mr. Jefferson's engagement will last three weeks, and it is understood that the Fifth Avenue Theatre will then pass into the hands of Mr. Proctor, and be devoted to vaudeville and variety. One chapter of theatrical history is, therefore, drawing to a close.

MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS.

The serio-comic drama of "Peaceful Valley" was agreeably acted last night, at the Murray Hill Theatre. The Japanese players appeared at the Bijou Theatre. Messrs. Primrose and Dockstader gave a negro minstrel entertainment at the Grand Opera House. "The Runaway Girl" was presented at the Opera House in Harlem, with Mr. James T. Powers and a numerous company. Mr. Tim Murphy acted at the Fourteenth Street Theatre, in "The Carpet Bagger." An elaborate production of "The Great Ruby" is announced to occur at this theatre on March 19, with Miss Rose Coghlan in the principal part. The closing performances of Mrs. Craigie's comedy of "The Ambassador" are current at Daly's Theatre, where a new comedy called "The Interrupted Honeymoon" is assigned for production on March 20.

A FEW OF THE STARS.

Mrs. Fiske will remain in Chicago till March 17......Viola Allen appeared last night in Columbus......Mr. Crane is in St. Louis......N. C. Goodwin and Maxine Elliott are in Philadelphia......Mrs. Langtry is in Chicago......Richard Mansfield appeared last night in New-Orleans......Julia Marlowe is in Boston......Mrs. G. H. Gilbert is in Washington......Stuart Robson is in Philadelphia......Annie Russell is in Washington......De Wolf Hopper appeared last night in Brooklyn......E. H. Sothern and Virginia Harned will appear at the Knickerbocker Theatre on March 26 in "The Sunken Bell."

W. W.

CORONER HONORED BY ITALY'S KING.

Coroner Antonio Zucca yesterday received information that King Humbert of Italy had bestowed upon him the decoration of the Chevalier of the Crown of Italy, in recognition of the interest he has taken in the Italian emigrants who have come to America. Coroner Zucca has lived in New-York thirty-three years. He expects the badge of the order in a few days.