THE DRAMA.

THE BERNHARDT-COQUELIN SEASON.

ALAS, POOR HAMLET!

Sarah Bernhardt's presentment of Hamlet, which was disclosed last night at the Garden Theatre, and which will be visible there until next Saturday night, can, with perfect propriety, be commended to the particular attention of persons who are interested in the study of freaks. The Melancholy Dane has, first and last, been rather roughly handled on the local stage, but a long remembrance of his sufferings does not recall a time when he was more completely and effectually crucified than he is in the French play and by the French actress. The translation of "Hamlet" presented by Mme. Bernhardt and her associates is in prose. It was made by Eugene Morand and Marcel Schwob, and it has been published, with a preface and notes, in a handsome volume, of 254 pages. The French prose is level, smooth and respectable, and it imparts about as clear a perception of Shakespeare's poetry as might be derived from listening to the whistle of the wind through a bunghole. It is not, perhaps, quite such a desecration as the Italian "Hamlet" that was inflicted on this community some years ago by Salvini, but, as remarked by Mercutio, "'Twill serve." It consorts very well with Hayward's English prose translation of "Faust," and in that congenial category of sinful things it may be left.

In Mme. Bernhardt's presentment of Hamlet there are, of course, peculiarities of apparel, and there are a few paltry novelties of "business." The dress consists of a black silk tunic, embroidered with fur; black silk tights; a white ruff around the neck; a jewelled belt; a black cloak, so arranged as to depend from the left shoulder; a rapier, steel-hilted, in a black scabbard, with ornamental chain; a flaxen haired wig,—following the lead that was long ago set by E. L. Davenport and "bettered" by Charles Fechter (both of whom were wrong, since Danes are not necessarily blond persons, and Hamlet ought, for every reason, to be dark);—and the usual velvet footgear. The face is made up beardless and pale. The figure is padded, so as to make it look as much as possible like that of a man, but in this respect no illusion ensues,—the actress looking exactly like what she is, a thin, elderly woman, somewhat disguised. The chief novelties of "business" are Hamlet's knocking of the heads of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern together, in the course of his talk with them; his kicking of the shins of Polonius, and his catching of a fly on the nose of that statesman; together with the transformation of the dead King's portrait into a ghost, in the closet scene, and the Prince's procuration of the play-book of "The Murder of Gonzago" from the First Actor—who is made conveniently to carry his whole repertory in his belt. There is also an electric light in the King's oratory; and there appears to be a silly intention on the part of Hamlet to use the long, golden hair of Ophelia as a sort of screen, through which in the scene of "the mouse trap" play he may observe the face of the King. At the climax of that scene Hamlet is made to thrust a lighted torch before the monarch's face,—but this wonderful exploit has long been stale. In the presence of the ghost Mme. Bernhardt's Hamlet is as valiant as a cable car; the "business," indeed, involves a kneeling posture, some time after the spirit has vanished, but this is a Hamlet who has seen whole graveyards of spectres, and to whom the haunted rampart of Elsinore is about as impressive as the Traitor's Gate was to Artemus ward,—who thought, as he gazed on it, that as many as twenty traitors might go in abreast. The counsel to the Players is spoken by Hamlet on the little stage where the play is presently to be acted. That "business" also is stale; for Sonnenthal, or some other one of the renowned Germans, had the little stage, and it was the custom of his Hamlet to deliver that discourse from the eminence of a stepladder. The weapon exchange between Hamlet and Laertes would seem tolerably fresh if Mr. Sothern, copying from Mme. Bernhardt, had not already introduced it in his recent trivial and finical presentment of this tragedy. At the climax of the duel Hamlet's sword hand shows a trace of blood, and the Prince's face and person are made to reveal characteristic symptoms of the approach of death by poison: Hamlet dies standing, and his reeling body is caught by Horatio; and subsequently it is borne away,—to the general relief,—upon huge shields. Much of the "business" is tedious, and in all of it there is more pretension than simplicity. The English stage has nothing to learn from Sarah Bernhardt's Hamlet. The performance will, perhaps, profit, financially, by reason of public curiosity; but (to use one of the Bard's own similes) there is no more of poetry in it than there is of milk in a male tiger. Technical acuteness and executive efficiency are apparent, in abundance; but actors who present Hamlet are expected—and not unreasonably—to reveal something more than the usual resources of histrionic experience and skill.

With reference to the character of Hamlet a fact most essential to be considered,—for the reason that it indicates all the other facts,—is the fact that this prince, when first encountered, is found to have been contemplating suicide, out of temperamental propensity. His "prophetic soul" has warned him to beware of Claudius; but his "prophetic soul" has not revealed to him either his father's murder, his uncle's guilt, his "seeming virtuous" mother's sin, or the ominous contiguity of the dead King's ghost. He is the born victim of melancholia, the preordained genius of sorrow. He typifies misery, and his misery is congenital and inherent. No circumstances are conceivable under which such a man could be happy. Whatever the conditions might be, he would react upon them and make them either gloomy or tragical. His very smile casts a shadow; his laughter is sadder than tears. A preternatural visitation, divulgent to him of the afflicting secret of a horrible and loathsome crime, shocks his already dejected and drifting mind, and thereafter his will is shattered, and anything like steadfast and continuous action,—notwithstanding his feverish and incessant mental activity,—becomes impossible. It may, indeed, be contended that Hamlet, in the last analysis of him, defies question and remains a mystery; that no skill of vivisection avails to define and designate him; but, on the other hand, it certainly is true that Hamlet is a man, not of action but of thought; a man overwhelmed and dazed with the immensity and perplexity of his spiritual surroundings; a man ravaged with grief, self-disgust, and disgust at humanity; a man who has survived love and become completely isolated; a man who continually resolves, and as continually reasons away every opportunity of executing his resolution; a man around whom, and somewhat because of whom, all things crumble into ruin, and who ends in total failure; and yet a man to be viewed with profound sympathy by all persons who are capable of thought.

"Now cracks a noble heart; good night, sweet Prince!
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

In the tragedy of "Hamlet," obviously, the dramatic values are secondary to the meaning of the central character and to the solemn purport of the poet's commentary upon life, death, and "the something after death." It must, accordingly, be treated not simply as drama but as poetry, philosophy, and spiritual truth. The emergence of a female as Hamlet has always had the effect of a futile experiment. Semi-masculine women, such as Miss Cushman, Miss Marriott, and Mrs. Waller, could, and did, measurably, impart an impression of sincerity and weight; but they were never consistently impressive as Hamlet; and, indeed, of the twelve or fifteen women who have played the part in America no one has succeeded in it. The female Hamlet has always suggested either an epicene hybrid or a paltry frivolity. Women may sometimes succeed in the presentment of roguish boys and fluttering young cavaliers; the tradition of Peg Woffington as Sir Harry Wildair still survives, and old playgoers still remember with delight the admirable grace and charming swagger of Mrs. John Wood as Donna Hippolyta: but the great and serious creations of dramatic poetry never have been, and they never can be, adequately impersonated by females. Hamlet requires great intellect incipiently deranged, a glowing imagination, a deep heart, exquisite sensibility, and, over all, and permeating all, an essentially poetic temperament—grace and nobility and grandeur in ruins. Sarah Bernhardt, an eccentric, superficial, volatile, ardent, capricious French woman, not possessed of those attributes, and speaking a language into which it is absolutely impossible that Shakespeare's essential poetry and wonderful lingual felicity should be conveyed, no more resembles Hamlet than a wax figure resembles a living man. That she is an expert actress, and even a genius, the dramatic world has long since learned; but some things are beyond the reach of even the most expert and the most inspired of her sex. Mr. Coquelin himself,—that accomplished and proficient comedian, who is entirely competent to represent a jocular French Gravedigger,—would prove inappropriate if he were to emerge as Shakespeare's Ophelia. Hamlet, without the sex, without the temperament, without the poetry, without the meaning, is not Hamlet at all—and that is the Hamlet of Mme. Bernhardt; dapper, shrill voiced, anæmic, vapid, and yet full of fussy and shrewish energy; a splenetic, loquacious stripling, now gloomily glowering, now chattering like a parrot, at all points fantastic and at no moment impressive. The killing of Polonius was completely insipid—whereas it is one of the most tremendously tragic points in the whole wide range of drama. There was no delirium, nor even a hint of mental shock, after the ghost-scene. The madness was mere mimicry; and, like all other Continental players, in a foreign tongue, who have acted Hamlet here, Mme. Bernhardt's Prince was easily able to turn his back upon the Ghost, and to pass through the most awful of all conceivable ordeals of mortal experience as jauntily as if he were going to breakfast.

Sarah Bernhardt has not only presented the person whom she supposes to be Hamlet, but has printed her views of the character; and, if her superficial and expeditious performance had left any doubt as to her inability to grasp the Shakespearian conception, her published statement would amply suffice to remove it. Hamlet, according to Mme. Bernhardt, is "manly and resolute," and, being "manly and resolute," the character is one eminently fit to be assumed by a woman. Hamlet, she declares, should not be overwhelmed upon meeting with his father's ghost, because he has come "expressly to see it": that is to say, an experience completely outside of anything known as possible, an experience so awful that it unsettles the brain; an experience so incredible that the recipient's mind involuntarily rejects it, almost as soon as it has passed ("That undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns"), is to be encountered with comparative equanimity and dominated with energetic resolution, merely because the Prince has impulsively said that he will accost the phantom if it assumes his father's person. Hamlet wildly declares that he will speak to the apparition, though hell itself should bid him to be silent: therefore, says Mme. Bernhardt, he is "not a weak or languid person." Hamlet hysterically threatens his restraining friends in his first ghost scene, and insists on being permitted to follow the spectre. Therefore he is "not a feeble man." Hamlet, in the scene of the King's Prayer, refrains from killing that monarch, "not because he is vacillating and weak, but because he is firm and logical," desiring to kill his enemy "in a state of sin, not of repentance; to send him to hell, not to heaven." That is to say, Hamlet is "manly and resolute," "a young, strong, determined character," who "thinks before he acts," and who possesses "great strength and great power of mind," because, at certain moments, he shows an evanescent capability of vehement speech and of delirious action, and because, in his obvious condition of partial derangement, he puts aside an opportunity of righteous vengeance, with the avowed purpose of presently committing the most horrible of crimes—the infernal crime of sending a soul into eternal hell. In other words, Hamlet is a sane, potent, expeditious individual, to whom a ghost is as incidental as an omelette, because he makes brave speeches and purposes to act like a moral monster. Nothing could be further from the truth. "Shakespeare, by his colossal genius," exclaims Bernhardt, "belongs to the universe, and a French, a German, or a Russian brain has the right to admire and to understand him." Most assuredly! But the right to understand does not always include the capacity. Mme. Bernhardt's ideal of Hamlet is radically and absolutely wrong, and her performance only serves to illustrate its error.

When this conspicuous French actress first tried to play Hamlet (May 20, 1900, in Paris), a prodigious mental illumination befell the French capital. The performance lasted six hours. Many spectators were so delighted that they left the theatre before it was over, in order to read the play. The survivors of those who remained to the last went home to breakfast completely enthralled and practically exhausted. Mr. Rostand—much interested in the Bard of Avon, from whose works he had "conveyed" the Balcony scene, for Cyrano, and the Mirror and Spectre scenes, for Reichstadt,—declared that he was now "able, for the first time, to comprehend Shakespeare's masterpiece." The tremendous Mr. Walter, "proprietor of 'The London Times,'" had a spasm, in the course of which he ejaculated the remark that, "having seen all the great tragedians for thirty years, he had only now seen Hamlet acted to perfection." Kittens of this kind were produced in large numbers. Two citizens,—one of them a local bard, the other a silver-gilt dandy,—went into the lobby, to dispute about Shakespeare, and presently smote each other upon their respective conks, even unto the spilling of gore. All "fashionable Paris,"—which, of course, has given its days and nights to the study of "Hamlet," and knows all about it,—made the original and novel announcement that Mme. Bernhardt's portrayal of him was "a revelation." In particular it was noted that the French actress had kindly removed from Hamlet's character all predisposition to dream and drift, all lassitude of the will, and every trace of melancholy; and likewise that,—"with one auspicious and one dropping eye," beholding feminine prettiness at one angle and romantic youth at the other,—she had reduced his age from thirty to twenty-one. Altogether it was a great night for Gaul, and thereupon the victorious Mme. Bernhardt, much encouraged, invaded England with her popinjay Hamlet, and actually exhibited him in the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon. He has now emerged in America, and if the public that reads and studies Shakespeare (supposing such a public to exist, as once it did) will accept this fantastic foreign image of Hamlet as true and right, then "something is rotten in the State of Denmark," and there is no more to be said.

W. W.

CAST OF "HAMLET."

Hamlet	Sarah Bernhardt
Premier Fossoyeur	Constant Coquelin
Le Roi	M. Rebel
Polonius	M. Deschamps
Horatio	M. Deneubourg
Laerte	M. Desjardin
Osric	M. Ramy
Rosenkrantz	M. Darr
Guildenstern	M. Laurent
Un Pretre	M. Guiraud
Marcellus	M. Kraus
Bernardo	M. Stebler
Francisco	M. Cauroy
Le Spectre	M. Durce
Premier Comedien	M. Guiraud
Deuxième Comedien	M. Stebler
Deuxième Fossoyeur	M. Chabert
Fortinbras	M. Tusch
Voltimaud	M. Barry
Cornelius	M. Stephano
Un Marin	M. Français
Un Comedien	M. Deneuville
La Reine	Mme. Marcya
Ophelie	Mme. Damiroff
La Reine Comedienne	Mme. Boulanger
Une Dame	Mme. Sglters
Un Page	Mme. A. Piquel

When Hamlet was presented by Bernhardt in Paris, the King was played by Bremont, Polonius by Chameroy, Laertes by Magnier, the Ghost by Ripert and the Gravedigger by Schultz.

TO ASK AID FOR PRO-CATHEDRAL.

MEETING TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE WORK TO BE HELD TO-MORROW.

The Social Settlement workers in the Pro-Cathedral, in Stanton-st., of which the Rev. R. L. Paddock is in charge, have found that the work cannot be continued with the present financial help and with the buildings now at their command. A meeting has been called for to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Pro-Cathedral, at which efforts will be made to map out plans for the future. It is probable that a call for $100,000 will be made.

Bishop Potter and Abram S. Hewitt are expected to speak at the meeting. Everett P. Wheeler and Dr. Greer, of St. Bartholomew's, will also assist in placing before the people the necessity of continuing the work.

Delegates from all the Episcopal churches in the diocese are to be present, and it is desired by Mr. Paddock and the Social Settlement workers that all persons interested in East Side work attend the meeting.

Mr. Paddock says the present buildings, tenement houses at No. 153 Essex-st. and No. 152 Stanton-st., are inadequate for the work, and that the settlement should have its own building.

DOWAGER LADY CHURCHILL DEAD.

SENIOR LADY OF THE BEDCHAMBER AND INTIMATE FRIEND OF THE QUEEN.

London, Dec. 25.—The Dowager Lady Churchill, Senior Lady of the Bedchamber and an intimate friend of the Queen, was found dead in her bedroom at Osborne House this morning.

On retiring last night she complained of cold, but no alarming symptoms manifested themselves, and her indisposition was not thought to be of a serious nature.

A YOUNG MARK TAPLEY.

From The Kansas City Journal.

At Cherokee the other day a ten-year-old boy tried to jump on a moving train, with the result of having both legs cut off. While the doctor was dressing his stumps he looked up and said: "Say, doc, I won't have to go to school now, will I?"

THE CORNERSTONES ARE GIVING WAY.

SOCIETY IN THE HOLIDAYS

With a bright, beautiful Christmas day, and with an almost springlike temperature, the town was blithesome enough, although there were many departures in the ranks of the fashionable world for the country, large house parties being given at Lakewood, Hempstead and other suburban places. Tuxedo had a very gay Christmas, indeed, but the majority of parties everywhere were family gatherings, especially in town. Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wilson gave a family dinner, as did also Mr. and Mrs. William Rhinelander, at Sherry's, and Miss Clementina Furniss, at her Fifth-ave. home. In fact, nearly all who had extended family connections met at some one house of their kindred and indulged in the traditional turkey and plum pudding. Among the entertainers were Mrs. W. Butler Duncan, Walter S. Gurnee, Mrs. W. B. Parsons, Miss Serena Rhinelander, Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry and Charles Lanier.

This evening there will be the dance to be given by Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer for their daughters, and in the afternoon Mrs. William Rhinelander will give a large luncheon. The first evening of "La Bohême" will bring out quite an assemblage at the opera, although many members of the fashionable world are out of town, and will remain away until after the New Year.

Albert Morris Bagby will have his regular musical morning to-morrow. This has been changed from Monday on account of the holidays. Mme. Bernhardt will recite, with piano accompaniment, some poems by her son, Maurice, and one or two other fugitive bits.

The sad news of the death of Miss Marion Greenleaf, at Lenox, a charming young woman, caused sorrow in many households. The Greenleaf family is identified with Lenox. A younger sister of Miss Greenleaf married William Adams. They live at Lawrence. The funeral will take place to-morrow at Lenox.

Miss Frances Delprat, who died at her home, No. 37 West Seventeenth-st., was a sister of Mrs. Robert G. Remsen. She and another unmarried sister have lived for many years at the Delprat house, in West Seventeenth-st. The Delprat family is of Southern origin and came from Baltimore, but it has been identified with New-York. The death of Miss Delprat will throw a large family connection in mourning.

The wedding of Mrs. William F. Burden and Dr. Andrew S. Clarke will take place on January 2. It will be very quietly celebrated.

Mrs. Duncan Elliott is at the Hotel Manhattan, where she will remain until December 31, when she will go to Aiken for the winter. She dined yesterday with Mr. and Mrs. George B. De Forest.

The death of Joseph Lewis Spofford at Hunt's Point will also throw a large family connection into mourning. The Spofford home, Elmwood, is well known, and in former years was the scene of much entertaining. Mr. Spofford leaves a widow, who was a Miss Haws; a son, Paul Spofford, who is a member of the Union and other clubs, and a granddaughter, Miss Adeline Spofford, who lives with her relatives, Dr. and Mrs. John McG. Woodbury, in the old family mansion, No. 18 Fifth-ave. Mrs. Woodbury was a Miss Townsend, and first married the late Samuel Irvin, a brother of Richard Irvin and of Mrs. James A. Burden. Joseph Lewis Spofford was one of the oldest living members of the Union Club. The funeral, which will take place at Grace Church to-day, will be attended by many old New-Yorkers.

Buchanan Winthrop, who underwent an operation for appendicitis on Monday, died yesterday morning at his home, No. 279 Fifth-ave. His death will throw a number of people into mourning, among others Miss Amy Townsend, Isaac Townsend, Mrs. George Bend, Miss Beatrice Bend, Mrs. Charles A. Sackett and Mrs. Courtlandt Field Bishop.

Mrs. W. Storrs Wells, of No. 16 East Fifty-seventh-st., will be at home on Fridays in January.

Mrs. James A. Burden, jr. (Miss Florence Adele Sloane), entertained at luncheon yesterday at her home, No. 8 East Sixty-ninth-st.

FUNERAL OF WILLIAM F. SAGE.

The funeral of William F. Sage, the playwright, who died Monday morning, will be held at his home, No. 231 East One-hundred-and-tenth-st., to-day at 12:30 o'clock. It will be under the direction of Pinto Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

YESTERDAY'S RECORD AND TO-DAY'S FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 25.—There has been light snow today in the Ohio and Middle Mississippi valleys and the lake region; elsewhere the weather has been mostly fair. It is colder east of the Mississippi River and slightly warmer over the greater portion of the country to the westward, but the temperatures nowhere differ greatly from the seasonal average, except in the extreme Northwest and in the upper Mississippi Valley. West of the Rocky Mountains the weather has been fair, except in Oregon and Washington, where there were light rains. There will be snow on Wednesday among the lower lakes and thence eastward through Northern and Eastern New-England. Snow flurries are also probable over the northern upper lakes and along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan; elsewhere east of the Rocky Mountains the weather will be generally fair. For Thursday fair weather is indicated generally, except that snow flurries are likely to continue along the eastern lower lakes. It will be colder Wednesday in New-England and the northern portion of the Middle Atlantic States and warmer in the Upper Mississippi Valley. On the Atlantic Coast the winds will be fresh and mostly westerly.

FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND THURSDAY.

For New-England—Cloudy to-day, probable snow, except in Connecticut; colder; Thursday fair; fresh westerly winds.

For Eastern Pennsylvania—Fair to-day and Thursday, probably preceded by snow this morning in northern portion; colder in northern portion; fresh westerly winds.

For Eastern New-York—Colder to-day, with snow, except fair in extreme southern portion; Thursday fair; fresh westerly winds

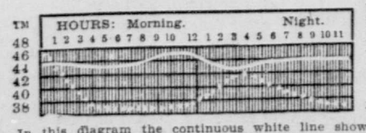
For New-Jersey—Fair to-day and Thursday; colder to-day in the interior; fresh westerly winds.

For the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia—Fair to-day and Thursday; light westerly winds.

For Western Pennsylvania — Fair to-day, except snow near the lake; Thursday fair; fresh westerly winds.

For Western New-York — Snow to-day; Thursday fair, except snow flurries near the lakes; fresh westerly winds.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



In this diagram the continuous white line shows the changes in pressure as indicated by The Tribune's self-recording barometer. The dotted line shows the temperature as recorded at Perry's Pharmacy.

Tribune Office, Dec. 26, 1 a. m.—The weather yesterday was fine. The temperature ranged between 38 and 48 degrees, the average (40½) being 10⅝ degrees lower than that of Monday and 9⅝ degrees higher than that of the corresponding date of last year.

The weather to-day will be fair and colder.

OBITUARY.

BUCHANAN WINTHROP.

Buchanan Winthrop, the well known lawyer, died yesterday at his home, No. 279 Fifth-ave., as the result of an operation for appendicitis performed on Monday. He was apparently in good health until taken ill on Saturday. On Sunday his physician said that an operation was necessary, and immediately after it he was said to be recovering, but a relapse came yesterday and he sank rapidly.

Mr. Winthrop was born in this city on November 11, 1841. He was the son of Henry Rogers Winthrop and Margaret L. Hicks Winthrop, and a direct descendant of John Winthrop, one of the Pilgrim Fathers and Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1629. He was graduated from Yale in the class of '62, and in later years honorary degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Laws were given him by the college. At Yale he was a member of the Scroll and Key Society.

After graduation he entered the Columbia Law School, from which he took his degree in 1864, and was admitted to the bar in the same year.

In 1872 Mr. Winthrop married Miss Sarah Helen Townsend, a daughter of the late Isaac Townsend, of this city. He was treasurer of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church and a vestryman of Grace Church, and was also an active member of the Boards of Trustees in several hospitals and charitable institutions. Early in this decade he was made a member of the corporation of Yale University, in which institution he had always retained an active interest.

He was one of the founders of the University Club, and also a member of the Union, Metropolitan, Tuxedo and Riding clubs, and of the Downtown and Century associations and the Bar Association.

Mr. Winthrop leaves a widow and a son and a daughter. The funeral will be held at Grace Church on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

THE REV. DR. CHARLES R. HALE.

Cairo, Ill., Dec. 25.—The Rev. Dr. Charles Reuben Hale, Bishop Coadjutor of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Springfield, died this afternoon from valvular disease of the heart. Bishop Hale was born in Pennsylvania March 14, 1837. He had held his present position since 1892. Bishop Seymour, of Springfield, will officiate at the funeral services, which will probably be held Thursday. Burial will be at Philadelphia, where Mrs. Hale is buried. There are no surviving children.

JAMES J. TRAYNOR.

James J. Traynor, formerly secretary of the Democratic Club, died yesterday morning, on the fortieth anniversary of his marriage. He spent the early part of the evening before at the Democratic Club, and went from there to St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he remained for some time in prayer and meditation. He then went to his home, at No. 40 East Fifty-first-st., as he had promised to play cards with his wife and some friends. But he complained of feeling ill and retired early. At 11 o'clock that night he awoke and said that he was suffering from a severe pain in his chest. His wife sent for a doctor, but Mr. Traynor died at 1:50 o'clock Christmas morning.

Mr. Traynor was secretary of the Democratic Club seventeen years ago. He was a warm personal friend of John D. Crimmins, the late John Kelly and Richard Croker. For many years he was a familiar figure in the Eighteenth Ward. He was a devout Catholic, and for twelve years was manager of the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. Later he was a director of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, and for some time was its acting vice-president. For seventeen years he was connected with the Surrogate's Court, first in the administration department and then in the guardian department. He was always interested in charitable work, particularly orphan asylums. He was a member of the Catholic and Democratic clubs and of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. He spoke eight languages. He translated "Fontaine's Fables" into English poetry and wrote for a number of Catholic periodicals.

PROFESSOR THOMAS A. WILLIAMS.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Professor Thomas A. Williams, assistant chief of the division of agrostology of the Department of Agriculture and a well-known authority on botany, died at his home in Takoma, a suburb of this city, on Sunday, from heart disease. He was thirty-five years of age, and came to this city from Weeping Water, Neb.

Professor Williams was widely known in scientific circles at home and abroad. He was Editor of the "Asa Gray Bulletin," a botanical publication, had been professor of botany at the State Agricultural College of South Dakota, and held a similar place in Columbian University in this city for three years.

A SANTA CLAUS WILL LOSE A LEG.

BOYS SET A BEAR TRAP, WHICH CAUGHT THEIR COUSIN, THE IMPERSONATOR.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 25 (Special).—Two small boys set a bear trap for Santa Claus and caught their cousin, Henry De Kalb, who was personating the ancient saint. The boys knew he was to appear, and thought that if they waylaid him they would get a large quantity of presents. Accordingly, with the aid of several companions, they set a bear trap, taken from a storehouse, in a path they thought he would come to reach their dwelling. A Christmas entertainment had been arranged, which was to conclude with a distribution of presents by Santa Claus. He was on time, but unfortunately put his foot in the trap. The blow broke his leg, causing the bone to protrude through the flesh. He was with difficulty released, and the wound is of such a nature that the doctors say they cannot save the leg. The boys were badly frightened over their successful attempt to hold up Satna Claus.

BRIGHT CHRISTMAS IN PARIS.

MME. LOUBET GIVES 7,000 FRANCS TO NEEDY WIDOWS.

Paris, Dec. 25.—Christmastide was favored in Paris with bright, cheerful weather, and Parisians celebrated it in characteristic fashion. All the restaurants and cafés were crowded Christmas Eve with festive supper parties, which did not disperse until early this morning. At midnight masses, with special musical attractions, filled the leading churches to overflowing.

The boulevards to-day were filled with throngs inspecting the attractive little booths which had been erected in continuous lines along both sidewalks, and in which toys, candies, fancy articles and other Christmas novelties were displayed. A trade greatly in excess of that of previous years was done by the booth holders. The charitable side of the festival was represented by numbers of free meals and seasonable gifts to poor families and outcasts. Mme. Loubet gave 7,000 francs to be used for the relief of widows in needy circumstances.

FAREWELL DINNER TO SHERIFF MOLLOY.

Sheriff William V. Molloy, whose term of office expires on January 1, was the recipient of a farewell dinner at the Elberon Hotel, White Plains, last night, given by his deputies and friends. Mr. Molloy was presented with a costly miniature bronze horse set with thirty-eight diamonds and modelled after his prize winning hackney Ronnie.

TO MANAGE TENNESSEE COAL AND IRON.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 25.—D. H. Bacon, of Duluth, who has been president of the Minnesota Iron Company for the last ten years, will on February 1 resign his present place to become chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. Mr. Bacon will live in New-York City, and will have the direction and management of all the departments of the company's business.

THE PASSING THRONG.

THE WORLD'S INCREASED GOLD OUTPUT.

"The successful solution of the financial question in this country and in the world at large," said H. H. Longworth, of San Francisco, at the Hoffman House yesterday, "seems to me to be due in large part to the enormous increase in the world's supply of gold in the last decade. Prior to that time there was hardly enough of the precious metal to go round, and any undue demand on the part of one country would be followed, like as not, by a dearth of gold in other parts of the world. This was shown when we were building up our gold reserve, and later still when Austria was banking up a gold reserve of her own. Then came a great increase in gold production, and it was of sufficient size to supply the needs of all countries and to give the lie to one of the principal arguments of the bimetallists, i. e., that there could not be a successful single gold standard for the world, as there was not a sufficient quantity of the metal to supply the needs of all countries.

"This great increase in gold is due in large part to the wonderful Transvaal mines, and this production will continue as soon as the fight there is finally at an end. John Hays Hammond has predicted that if nothing occurs to interrupt mining the Rand reef will produce in gold in the next twenty years the enormous sum of $2,500,000,000. Ten years or more ago Hammond predicted that the Rand mines before the end of the century would be producing $100,000,000 worth of gold a year. Had the Boer war not occurred, this prediction would have unquestionably been verified, and the annual output of the Rand is likely to exceed that enormous sum as soon as they get down to a working basis again. In gold mining the Rand reef is the best proposition that has ever been discovered. The gold is regularly deposited and averages about an ounce to the ton, with little or no difference from ton to ton. As a consequence, the dividends are as regular as those of a business enterprise.

THE RAND MINES SUNK TO GREAT DEPTHS.

"They mine in the Rand at great depth—greater than anywhere else in the world, except in the copper mines of Michigan," continued the narrator. "Roughly speaking, the heat in a mine increases a degree for every 70 feet you descend, but the conditions of the country surrounding tend to intensify or lessen this heat. The great Comstock lode in Nevada was in a country of extinct volcanoes and where geysers are still spouting, consequently the heat on the lower levels of the Comstock was awful. Then, too, mining at great depth is largely a question of coal. That is, coal is necessary to force air to the lower levels. Mining at depth has so far improved that now they think nothing of going further into the bowels of the earth than the Comstock miners would have dreamt possible. The first engineers in the Rand came from the Comstock, and their experience there led them into error in South Africa. It had been impossible on account of the heat to go to more than a certain depth in Nevada, and these engineers did not therefore believe that it would be possible to drive very deep workings in the Rand. The earlier Rand mines only went down from 1,000 to 1,200 feet, and where the vein went beyond this depth they did not attempt to follow it. The land consequently into which the vein dipped was not held of highest value, and sold at this time at a comparatively low figure. Then came other engineers, who figured out that it was feasible to drive deeper shafts, and under their advice great tracts of land were secured by their employers. The workings in the Rand now go down nearly a mile, and it is felt that it is possible to go deeper still. The men who bought in this land accumulated great fortunes and assured for themselves enormous incomes for years to come. With South Africa came Barnato and Wolfe and Alfred Beit, who is to-day one of the world's great financial powers. But, greatest of all, it brought forward Cecil Rhodes, that intellectual giant, who still stretches his hands out in the attempt to grasp a confederated Africa, in which he shall be the great power. Jameson's raid gave Rhodes a tremendous setback, but he is a wonderful man, and is fast recovering. He is still young in years, and capable of awaiting and not trying to force the opportunity to accomplish his object. I, for one, do not feel certain that he will not attain his end, that is, if the Lord spares him and another Jameson does not gain his confidence."

THE VICTORIA THEATRE.

At the Victoria Theatre last night a new musical farce called "Miss Prinnt" was played for the first time in New-York. It is the work of George V. Hobart, as to its words, and John L. Golden, as to its music, and the title part was acted by Miss Marie Dressler. In its whole structure and texture it is coarse and commonplace in a high degree. There have been worse farces, to be sure; some a good deal worse, but this one is far enough below mediocrity to make it impossible of serious discussion. The dialogue is altogether common, and the devices for comic effect are time worn, not a few of them distinctly recalling previous familiar and successful efforts. Miss Dressler is at times amusing in a broad manner, but such things as refinement and charm are not to be thought of when she is on the stage. A large audience applauded with industry and determination.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

The condition of the theatres yesterday was about what it usually is on Christmas. The cheap theatres and the cheap places in the higher priced theatres were well filled in the afternoon, and the rest of the houses were pretty nearly empty. In the evening nearly all the theatres were crowded. The holiday season has had the usual depressing effect on the theatres in general, but it is the general opinion that business will now improve at once.

A special performance will be given at the Herald Square Theatre to-morrow afternoon of G. Bernard Shaw's play, "Cashel Byron."

"Trilby" will be played next week at the American Theatre. Miss Isabelle Evesson will have the title part and E. L. Snader will appear as Svengali.

In consequence of the sickness of Miss Fritzi Scheff, the part of Musetta in "La Bohême" will be sung to-night by Miss Occhiolini, at the Metropolitan Opera House.

DIED.

Barrows, Eliza M.	McHarg, Rufus K.
Bond, Thomas.	O'Neill, James B.
Cluett, Alfonzo R.	Ryerson, George M.
Coe, Martha D.	Spofford, Joseph L.
Dunn, Margaret S.	Starling, William.
Hannah, Henry.	Tompkins, Emma C. J.
Harris, Mary C.	Wamsley, Maria.
Henry, Samuel B.	Wesendonck, Hugo.
Howard, Pamela A.	Winthrop, Buchanan.

BARROWS—In this city, December 21, Mrs. Eliza Maria Barrows, wife of the late Samuel F. Barrows, aged 82 years.
Funeral services from her late residence, 123 Bellevue-st., this (Monday) afternoon, at 2.

BOND—On Sunday, December 23, 1900, at his home, No. 85 Mount Morris Park West, after a short illness, of heart disease, Thomas Bond, in the 80th year of his age.
Funeral services at the Presbyterian Church on University Place, corner 10th-st., on Wednesday, the 26th, at 10 a. m.
Burial in Springfield, Mass.
It is requested that no flowers be sent.

CLUETT—At Troy, N. Y., on Monday evening, December 24, 1900, Alfonzo Rockwell, youngest son of George B. and Amanda R. Cluett.
Funeral Thursday morning at 11 o'clock from the residence, No. 59 2d-st.

COE—At the home of her son-in-law, J. R. Weeks, South Orange, N. J., Martha Delia Coe, widow of Albert B. Coe.
Funeral services at the residence of her sister-in-law, Miss C. M. Coe, No. 620 High-st., Newark, N. J., on Thursday, December 27, at 2 p. m.

DUNN—Suddenly, at Jersey City, on December 25, 1900, Margaret Scott, wife of James Dunn.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral services, Thursday evening, December 27, at 7 o'clock, at her late residence, No. 2 Wiley Place, Boulevard, Jersey City Heights.
Kindly omit flowers.
Glasgow (Scotland) papers please copy.

HANNAH—At his residence, No. 52 West 68th-st., on Sunday, December 23d, Henry Hannah, son of the late George Hannah, of this city, in the 61st year of his age.
Funeral services on Wednesday, December 26, at 11:30 a. m., in All Souls' Church, Madison-ave., corner 68th-st.

HARRIS—On Sunday, December 23, at her residence, Sewaren, N. J., Mary Conant, daughter of the late Dr. S. Conant and Mary Benezet Foster and wife of Herbert W. Harris, in the 39th year of her age.
Funeral services on Wednesday, December 26, on the arrival of the 1:30 p. m. train from New-York, Central R. R. of New-Jersey.

HENRY—On Sunday, December 23, after a long illness, Samuel B., only son of Richard M. and Louise B. Henry, in the 26th year of his age.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral at the residence of his parents, No. 125 East 71st-st., on Wednesday, December 26, at 10 a. m.
It is requested that no flowers be sent.

HOWARD—At rest, Christmas Day, Pamela Atkins, widow of Samuel Emerson Howard, at her late residence, No. 182 Amity-st., Brooklyn.
Services at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Montague and Clinton sts., Brooklyn, Thursday, December 27, at 11 a. m.
Kindly omit flowers.
Boston and Portland papers please copy.

M'HARG—Suddenly, on Monday, December 24, Rufus King McHarg, in his 81st year.
Funeral services will be held at his late residence, No. 61 West 17th-st., on Wednesday, December 26, at 4 p. m.
Interment at New-Haven.

O'NEILL—At Mount Kisco, N. Y., on Monday, December 24, James Berrien, beloved husband of the late Christina T. O'Neill, in his 30th year.
Funeral from his late residence Thursday evening, December 27, at 7:30.
Interment Greenwood Cemetery Friday morning on arrival of train due at Grand Central Depot 9:18.

DIED.

RYERSON—On December 24, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Robert Ogden Fowler, in Metuchen, N. J., in the eighty-second year of his age, George M. Ryerson, of Newton, N. J.
Funeral services at Christ's Church (Episcopal), Newton, on Thursday, December 27, on the arrival of the 1 o'clock p. m. train from New-York City.

SPOFFORD—At his residence, Elmwood, Hunts Point, New-York City, on Sunday, December 23, 1900, Joseph Louis Spofford, son of the late Paul and Susan Spring Spofford