

Musical Melodrama and a Good Deal More—As to Shakespeare.

London, January 21. The undiminished popularity of musical comedy has suggested an interesting experiment in musical melodrama.

Miss Julia Neilson, being an accomplished musician with a well trained, melodious voice, as well as a versatile actress possessing emotional power and personal charm, has naturally associated herself with this attempt to combine tenuous music with romantic drama; and the Shaftesbury Theatre, with its large auditorium, is well adapted to the requirements of concentrated illumination, artistic arrangement of draperies, spirited choruses and picturesque dances and sustained orchestration.

The theme of this poetical musical drama is the conflict between sword and song, in which all that induces strife, whether in nature or in the human heart, "subverses the eternal harmonies." This is one of the mystic sayings of the prologue, which follows the orchestral prelude and a tableau of white robed spirits bestowing artistic gifts upon the child Vladimir, whose stern, proud spirited father, Count Tivadar, has faith in his relentless Magyar sword.

The meaning of prologue and symbolism is gradually revealed in the course of three acts, and the spectators are not left in doubt at the final fall of the curtain that chivalry, love and honor are not necessarily associated with strenuous warfare, but are compatible with gentle manners, artistic refinement and the soft graces of life.

The story of this romantic play is clearly told. The youthful Vladimir (Miss Neilson) during his father's absence has invited a troop of gypsies to the castle to entertain some of his humble dependents; and his eyes are fascinated by the lissome figure of Zara (Miss Gertrude Bibby), who dances while one of her companions sings a barytone air. Zara is, of course, the Arline of the Hungarian drama. She was stolen by the gypsies from her father, Count Andros (Mr. James Fernandez), an enemy of Vladimir's Magyar father, and is beloved by the leader of the band, Mirska (Mr. Louis Calvert). Vladimir turns toward her when she sings, "Love is the soul of Life, and Music the soul of Love"; and Mirska frowns as he instinctively perceives the coming rival. The frolic is brought to an end when Count Tivadar (Mr. Fred Terry) appears at the head of the staircase and orders the gypsies to be whipped out of the castle; and he reproaches, curses and banishes his only son when Vladimir refuses to take up the sword and to renounce his love of music.

The audience on the first night was well pleased with this entertainment. The setting justified public favor, for the play had been carefully rehearsed, the gypsies were free and natural in movement, Miss Neilson sang with exquisite taste and delicacy, and Mr. Fred Terry was unusually vigorous and effective as the picturesque champion of the sword. There were many tuneful numbers in the score, and the music was not without charm and fascination, the Tzigane choruses and frenzied dance measure at the close of the second act being full of vivacity. Seldom has a new play in London met with so enthusiastic a reception; yet well seasoned critics are not prepared to concede that it is anything more than an interesting experiment. There were, however, too many eggs in a single basket. Romantic drama, opera, pantomime, masque, allegory, symbolism, supernatural effects and poetic text made an incongruous combination of elements for a stage performance. It lacked simplicity and unity, and had apparently been stage managed by too many hands. Many passages of the text, moreover, were turgid, and the music, with its melodious, lacked dignity and brilliancy. "For Sword or Song" is destined to make a permanent impression; but playwrights and composers will watch its career with keen curiosity.

One or two of the dramatic critics have made the discovery that "The Merry Wives of Windsor" is a poor play, which would have been promptly rejected if offered to the London managers as a new work. These bored and dyspeptic censors neglect to justify their contemptuous opinion of Shakespeare by comparisons with current literature of the stage. "The Merry Wives of Windsor" is a roistering farce in which extravagant and ludicrous effects are produced by distortion of incidents, and it belongs to a class of playwrighting which has steadily degenerated through vulgar and inartistic treatment during recent years. When it is compared with the innate farces which have recently been staged at the Avenue and other London theatres its superiority from every point of view becomes apparent. Current farces based upon mistaken identity, matrimonial infidelity and humiliations of the servants' hall are conspicuous for lightness of thought, faintness of characterization and lack of genuine comic spirit. One has only to condescend to His Majesty's Theatre in order to be convinced that these innane works are entirely out-

quent and so revolting that legislatures ought to amend the criminal laws in such ways that much more severe penalties would follow convictions in such cases.

What has become of the indictments and proceedings against certain men who were generally believed to have had a profitable ring of their own in furnishing supplies to the Fire Department in the Scannell days? Little has been heard recently of those efforts to bring before the tribunals of justice the men who were suspected of irregular practices in those matters, and against whom the grand jury found bills. May not explanations be timely?

PERSONAL.

Major William Hancock Clark, eldest son of the eldest son of Captain William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, will have an important part in opening the exposition at Fortiand in 1905. He is a resident of Washington. Major Clark has decided to go to study of the exploration of Lewis and Clark and the incidents which led to their overland trip to the Pacific Coast, and has given to historians of recent days much of the information which had been carefully guarded in the family by ancestry.

Colonel "Sam" Steele, who commanded Strathcona's Horse in the late war in South Africa, must have given many a shock to the tradition-steeped officers of the regular service. One day a British officer complained to Steele that the met Strathcona's troopers who did not salute him, "Why, confound them, they do not salute me." Steele was annoyed at him, but soon got over it. Steele, in his shirt sleeves and smoking his famous short clay pipe, would sit at the door of his tent when Buller and his staff came riding past. The first time this happened everybody was petrified. Steele, the gallant Canadian, who was quite at his ease, said, "Well, General," he said, "anything doing to-day?" General Buller, who was quite at his ease, said, "I think you should send a bunch of the boys off to the right there. The blundering blank Boers are fiddling round over there all right enough."

It was announced the other day that Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, of the British navy, who is taking a winter holiday in sunny climes, had arrived at Singapore. Not many people born so long ago as June 14, 1829, manage to get so far from home. Sir Henry was to be congratulated on the long and still active life in that he began it rather inauspiciously. It was supposed that he was dead when he was born and preparations were made for his burial, when a nurse discovered some signs of life.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A mammoth dove farm at Elysian Park, in Southern California, is owned by one J. Y. Johnson, who began five years ago with four hundred birds. Now he has about twelve thousand. The squabs bring from \$2 to \$3 a dozen. White doves predominate, and there is an effort to produce the marble and still active life in that he began it rather inauspiciously. It was supposed that he was dead when he was born and preparations were made for his burial, when a nurse discovered some signs of life.

I've seen days when clouds was hangin' over ev'rything in sight, I've seen days when I'd beed 'n' rubbed 'n' goodness wouldn't foller right, I've felt kicked 'n' snubbed 'n' slighted—though I've never been a kicker, an' I'm mighty glad 'n' thankful for it still— For I never been a beeper, an' you bet I never will.

I've been watchin' folks that holler'd till they's purple in th' face, Claimin' to beed 'n' nat'ral enemies was all th' human race, Kept on nothin' 'n' purty soon their guess was all blundered 'n' right, For they always was commingled in some sort 'n' grand, Thankful 'n' don't see things that way, though I'm not no haloed saint, But I never been a kicker, an' I'm mighty glad 'n' thankful for it still— (Baltimore American.)

An interesting relic has been found amid a lot of old lumber at the Palais Bourbon. It is the throne which Louis Philippe was wont to occupy when he went there to open the sessions of the Chamber of Deputies. The throne had disappeared, like that of the Tuileries, after the outbreak of the revolution in 1830, but it has turned up, certainly not the worse for wear, as it has never been used since that date, and only requires a little dusting.

Dr. Bailey (looking at thermometer)—Hum! I don't like your temperature. Sick Student—Then why did you take it?—(Harvard Lampoon.)

Mammoth squashes may have a determining effect on the success of the no license campaign in Setueta, Mass. The huge vegetables, covered with appropriate inscriptions, are being distributed. Instead of campaign literature, Walter Scott Harsub, liquor officer of the town, has fought the illegal liquor sellers so hard that they want him removed at the town meeting on March 2. Last night he was surrounded by a mob of small boys across each other's heads. The sap oozed out, and the vegetable grew, hardened into raised letters. The squashes attained the largest size ever seen in Setueta. Some squashes are being sold. Others are being given away to persons whose sentiments on the license question are thought to need changing. Among the placards are: "Kum takes the shingles off the farmer's barn and puts patches on his pants" and "Wheeler's grow weeds in the farmers' garden and cobs on his brain."

WHEN FATHER PAID THE BILLS. How very pleasant it is when, when I'm out of the world, The work was done by other men, And every turn was "gilt"— The printers in the town 'n' gay, The summer 'n' the winter day, For life was one long holiday, When father paid the bills.

Cigars from Cuba they smoked, When I was young, And, like Aladdin, I evoked The best by necromancy. The price of things I did not know, Life led no petty ills— But that, alas! was long ago, When father paid the bills— (Brooklyn Life.)

The schooner Monitor, of Gloucester, brought to Boston the other day from the Grand Banks a ten pound cod with the scars of the number "10" just behind the nape bone. The figures had evidently been cut in by a fisherman, and were barely discernible. Captain John W. Collins, of the Fish and Game Commission, is looking for the fisherman known, an estimate of the growth of the fish could be made, while information as to the place of taking might furnish interesting facts bearing on the migratory habits of the cod. The United States, as well as foreign governments, has quite recently released cod after attaching metal checks for the purpose of identification later.

Bobbs—Wigwag is fond of using obsolete expressions. "Slobb"—Is that so? Bobbs—Yes, he told me yesterday he was coming to haul me over the coals.—(Philadelphia Record.)

collections in addition to a payment of \$8,000,000 on a Central Pacific railroad note all combined to make the Sub-Treasury a heavy creditor at the Clearing House, and a large rise in loans helped to reduce the surplus reserves of the associated banks.

A year ago there was an outward flow of gold, with rates of exchange considerably higher than now prevail. Yet the preceding months had seen no such reckless borrowing on finance bills as occurred during the closing months of 1902. In so far as the factor of borrowing abroad is concerned, there exists good reason to look for speedy liquidation. Heavier foreign commerce is exercising a neutralizing influence on the situation, however. The opening of a new month brought the maturity of considerable exchange loans, and, instead of renewals, as a rule it was found profitable to settle these debts, owing to pronounced ease in the local money market. Fluctuations in foreign exchange have also proved most unfortunate to the speculative element, who operated on the assumption that foreign lenders would endeavor to secure exports of gold in settlement about this time. Instead, the leading European banks issued good statements and conditions are notably easy. Industrial conditions abroad also reflect to some extent the unprecedented activity here.

Domestic business conditions show no indication of reaction from the long continued period of progress and prosperity. From all sections of the country come reports of the same general tenor, consumptive demand always equaling and usually surpassing the corresponding period in any preceding year. Erratic weather conditions produced seasons of irregularity in many lines, but dealers have not accumulated stocks to cause uneasiness, and jobbers receive frequent complaints that deliveries are not made as desired. They in turn urge more promptness on the manufacturer, and finally all unite in condemning the railway freight situation. Every possible engine is in service, however, the transporters finding no advantage in delaying movements, but on the contrary they are undoubtedly losing more or less business because of the miles of stalled cars. A violent storm at the West still further impeded progress of freights, and by demoralizing the telephone service caused further interruption. Prices of commodities were well sustained by the wholesome demand.

While alarm has been expressed in some quarters, it is doubtful whether there is any element of danger in the shortage of flour. Stocks are far from the famine point, and every large center has more or less milling capacity. Unquestionably the principal interior and seaboard mills are not receiving wheat in satisfactory quantity, yet there is a steady export movement that would not continue if the trade anticipated any difficulty in securing necessary quantities of raw material. Moderate advances in quotations are to be expected, but sensational reports are not warranted. Foreign crop news has added its support, and, while corn fell abruptly from the closing prices last month, there has been decided recovery as supplies fail to expand. Considering the recent level of quotations, the heavy outgo of corn shows very clearly that we have nothing to fear from foreign competition in the world's markets this season. Raw materials of the textile industries are in a very strong position, with no excessive stocks.

Manufacturing plants in New-England are producing on a large scale, with little interruption on fuel account and no labor controversies of importance. Inquiries for cotton goods have been so large that print cloths and several other lines secured material gains in quotations, and fall openings of woollens are meeting with an unexpectedly good demand. Similar conditions exist at shoe shops, shipments from Boston make notable comparisons with earlier records, and there is some reluctance about accepting distant contracts, owing to the strong position of leather. High leather, accompanied by a persistent fall in hides, would appear contradictory if it were not for the simple explanation of low grade hides now arriving. For another month or more the take-off will be inferior. Iron and steel branches of manufacture are still handicapped by the uncertain movement of coke. At theovens it is stated that all records of output are being broken, yet most furnaces have only sufficient fuel to keep going from day to day.

The published results of researches made by the Health Department, which prove that in many drug stores costly medicaments are extensively adulterated with cheap substitutes, may tend to increase the number of votaries of faith curing. The practice of "substitution," something "equally good," in medicines, prepared foods and potables, has been, unfortunately, gaining ground, to the public detriment and injury, in many places of late years.

Under Tammany rule New-York was an earthly Paradise for the gay "gamboller." He is not so merry now. His wrinkled front is furrowed with deep lines of gloom.

What substantial pillars of ancient history will the archeological excavators leave standing? Now they say that Romulus did not found Rome and did not kill Remus; and they exhibit the original pavement of the Via Sacra as one indication that their diggings have reached a sufficient groundwork. Was there ever a Tarquin, or a Numa Pompilius, or a Lars Porsena? What can we cling to confidently in these days?

The Wagner heirs are still drawing royalties of more than \$100,000 a year from the production of the operas of the Teutonic composer. The music drama of Germany may not be quite as lucrative as the telephone patents in America, but it seems to be well buttressed and fortified financially. How much did Shakespeare get for "Hamlet," and what was paid to Milton for "Paradise Lost"? This is a generation of big figures.

Certain householders in Park-ave may be said to be holding on almost by the skin of their teeth to avoid sliding into the subway. In their unhappy plight they deserve not only the commiseration, but also the sympathy and support, of their fellow citizens, and plenty of praise for their dauntless courage.

A Democratic Assemblyman from Kings County is wasting his time in Albany in presenting bills which have no chance of passage. One of these proposes to do away with the death penalty in this State. Another is intended to protect fur banks and poolrooms from interference by policemen. There is no public sentiment in favor of such proceedings, and this Brooklyn legislator is bringing criticism not only upon himself, but also upon the voters who sent him to the capital.

The radical changes already made in the Police Department and those now in progress prove that the vigorous and efficient head of that branch of the municipal service is no friend of half-way measures. Enlightened public opinion is heartily in favor of his methods.

Deputy Commissioner Piper of the Police Department is to undertake a careful study of the regulation of street traffic in London. He may bring back some ideas of practical value for the improvement of the traffic in this city. It is generally admitted that the average "hobby" in the biggest city of the world has a strong grip on the handling of local traffic and the prevention of blockades and long delays.

The torture by burglars of helpless victims in efforts to compel the sufferers to disclose the hiding places of money has become so fre-

quently flooded with them. Within a week the First National Bank of Dover was holding nearly \$5,000 of these new bills. The numbers of the bills showed their distribution from a common source, and their range in that and other banks indicated the spreading of not less than \$30,000 over Kent County. Expenditure on a similar scale in this State would mean a corruption fund of \$2,000,000, used not for preliminary campaign work, but sent into the districts on the eve of election. Bribery on such a scale was never before known in this country. Even if Adickes could get to the Senate, it ought to make his reception there impossible.

Mr. Kennan also gives an account of Adickes' Republicanism, which, if not new, is useful at a time when party loyalty is invoked to prevent a non-partisan combination to beat him. Congressional Ball, who had opposed Adickes, was tricked into coming to New-York to a conference. In it Adickes offered to make him one of the Senators if he would give up his opposition. He declined. The result, as described by Mr. Kennan, was:

Adickes then became irritated in turn, and said, with emphasis: "You won't! All right! I'm going to reiterate now what I said years ago: I'm either going to be Senator or I'll sink the Republican party in Delaware ten thousand fathoms deep." "You talk in that way," rejoined Ball, hotly, "is no Republican! Such speeches, and action in accordance with such speeches, have kept you out of the United States Senate this year, and will keep you out always." He then took his hat, left the room and returned that night to Wilmington.

By the terms of the compromise agreement between the United States Senate and the Regulars, made in 1900, Dr. Ball was equitably entitled to re-election as the Congressional representative from the Delaware district; but when he refused to make the deal suggested by Adickes the latter determined to punish him for his obstinacy, and therefore put up United States District Attorney Byrne to defeat him. The result of Byrne's nomination as the Union Republican in place of the election of a Democratic Congressman; but, as one of Mr. Adickes' lieutenants afterward said to me, "We tried to beat Ball whatever happened; but when he refused to make the deal suggested by Adickes the latter determined to punish him for his obstinacy, and therefore put up United States District Attorney Byrne to defeat him. 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