LAST OF THE TRENCKS.

One of Them the Celebrated Prisoner of Frederick the Great.

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Count Gustav von der Trenck, whose death has just taken place at the advanced age of eighty-five, at his country place of Schakaulack, in East Prussia, is the last survivor of the family which furnished one of the most sensational romances of the eighteenth century, its hero being Baron Frederick von der Trenck, who incurred the enmity of Frederick the Great by his love affair with the latter's sister, Princess Amelia of Prussia. For this he was thrown into prison at Spandau, and afterward into the fortress at Glatz. Managing to effect his escape by means of the most marvellous ingenuity and daring, he made his way to Russia, where he won the favor of Empress Elizabeth. He was next heard of at Vienna, where his cousin, Francis von der Trenck, with whom he is often confounded, was in prison at the time.

Francis was a general in the Austrian service who had had a most extraordinary career, and who, having at the battle of Sorev actually succeeded in penetrating to the headquarters of Frederick the Great, allowed the latter to escape while he and his troops devoted themselves to looting the valuables of the fugitive monarch and of the princes and generals of his suite. Francis was accused of having been bribed by King Frederick to permit the latter to escape. After several years spent in prison he succeeded in recovering his liberty, through the assistance of a beautiful woman, the Baroness Lestock, with whom he fled to the Netherlands. Recaptured there, he was brought back to Vienna and consigned to perpetual imprisonment in the Spielberg, where, finding escape impossible, he poisoned himself. At his death it was found that he had bequeathed all his fortune to his cousin, Baron Frederick von der Trenck.

For a time Frederick remained in Austria, and even served from the rank of captain to that of colonel in an Austrian regiment of cuirassiers. Having received a message from his mother to the effect that she was anxious to see him before her death, he ventured into Prussia, where he was promptly seized by Frederick the Great and closely imprisoned in the fortress of Magdeburg, where his efforts to escape secured him the honor of a specially constructed cell, exceptionally heavy chains and manacles, and not double, but treble, sentries. There he remained for ten years, and in spite of all the precautions adopted by the authorities managed to once more effect his escape, withdrawing this time to England. There he occupied himself by writing a bitter attack on Frederick the Great as the "Macedonian hero," and also compiled his famous autobiography. Not until after the death of King Frederick, in 1786, was he able to return to Prussia, where he is stated to have had a most affecting interview with Princess Amelia a few days before her demise.

In 1788 the publication of his memoirs in French gave him a wide notoriety at Paris, where the Bastile had just been stormed by the populace and its prisoners set at liberty. His fate was compared with theirs, and for a time the boulevards abounded with exhibitions of his waxen effigy, loaded down with chains, in a counterpart of the terrible dungeon in which he had been confined for so many years at Magdeburg. Encouraged by this, Baron Frederick von der Trenck set out in 1791 for Paris, proclaiming his enthusiastic adherence to the doctrines of the French Revolution. Instead, however, of being received, as he had expected, with open arms, he was arrested on his arrival in the French capital as a secret emissary of the Prussian government, and after confinement in the prison of St. Lazare was dragged to the guillotine, where his execution, on July 25, 1794, was marked by more than ordinary cruelty, since, instead of being strapped to the board face downward, he was fastened to it flat on his back, and kept for fully ten minutes in that position gazing upon the knife before it was allowed to descend upon his throat.

His fate in Paris served to recall at Berlin the story of his romance with Princess Amelia of Prussia and of the cruel sufferings which he had undergone at the hands of Frederick the Great, for no other reason than that he had ventured to raise his eyes to a lady of the House of Hohenzollern and to win her heart; and King Frederick William II. taking the ground that he owed some compensation to the Von der Trenck family, advanced it from the rank of baron to that of count. The old count whose death has just taken place was the grand-nephew of the famous prisoner of Frederick the Great. There remains at the present moment of the family only a daughter, Eva by name, who is married to a German of the name of Moschke, who has been settled for years at Pietersburg, in the Transvaal.

ENGLAND'S PREMIER EARL.

Crowned heads for a variety of reasons abstain from honoring with visits people who have been unfortunate in their domestic relations and who for one cause or another are separated or divorced. To begin with, they think it their duty to refrain from doing anything which could be construed by their subjects as indicating their approval of the severance either in part or completely of the bonds of matrimony. Then, too, there is always the possibility of embarrassing contretemps.

King Edward has just departed for once in the way from his strict rule and invariable custom in this matter by paying a visit to the Premier Earl of his realm, Lord Shrewsbury, at Ingestre Hall. Lord Shrewsbury has for several years been separated from his countess, not by the courts, but by means of a more or less amicable arrangement, drawn up by their respective lawyers, and according to the terms of which the earl binds himself to allow his wife $20,000 a year and the use of Alton Towers during a part of the year. Lord Shrewsbury had invited a large family party to meet the King, or, rather, the latter had notified Lord Shrewsbury as to the people whom he wished to be asked to be his fellow guests at Ingestre Hall. They included Lord Shrewsbury's mother, the dowager countess; also his sister, the Marchioness of Londonderry, and her husband, the Duchess of Sutherland, Lady Sarah Wilson and Lord Shrewsbury's son and daughter-in-law, Lord and Lady Ingestre.

The name of Lord Shrewsbury's wife was not included in the list. She was understood to be in the South of France, and no one would have dreamed of including her in the party, as she has been barred from court and to a great extent from society since her marriage, which was preceded by her elopement from her first husband, Alfred Miller Mundy, and an extremely sensational divorce, in which Lord Shrewsbury, who is considerably her junior and who had not attained his majority when she eloped with him, figured as corespondent. Since her marriage the countess has furnished no pretext whatsoever for any dissolution of the ties which bind her to the earl beyond an extremely fiery temper and a passion for litigation, in which the earl is usually the defendant and which generally relates to some alleged neglect on his part to keep Alton Towers sufficiently equipped with furniture, linen, carriages, servants, etc., for her use.

Some years ago she came rather prominently before the public owing to the extraordinary action of the Lord Bishop of Chester, who, finding that she had rented Shavington Hall, in Cheshire, for the hunting season and that she was a regular attendant at the Shavington parish church, forbade the vicar of Shavington, on account of the circumstances of her divorce, to admit her to communion or to accept any money from her for the charities of his parish.

Lord Shrewsbury has always been very much liked, both at court and in society, and has always been the object of a good deal of sympathy on the part of his relatives and friends, owing to the manner in which his life has been more or less marred by his boyhood indiscretion, culminating as it did in his unhappy marriage. Besides being the premier earl of England, he is also the hereditary Lord High Steward and Great Senaschal of Scotland, and stands particularly high in the good will of the royal family. King Edward probably remembers that both he and his immediate predecessors on the throne have owed their possession thereof largely to the former lords of Shrewsbury. For it was the twelfth earl to whom Queen Anne on her deathbed delivered the staff of Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain, and with it supreme executive power, and who as soon as she breathed her last availed himself thereof at once to proclaim George I king, thereby securing the succession of the House of Hanover to the throne and frustrating the projected attempt of the exiled family of Stuart to recover the crown.

THE HISTORIC HOUSE OF TALBOT.

It is hardly necessary to state that the patronymic of Lord Shrewsbury is Talbot, and that Sir John Talbot, the first Earl of Shrewsbury, was the most famous English commander of the reigns of Henry V and Henry VI. He figures largely in Shakespeare's dramas of those reigns and is described by him as that "great Alcides of the field." He was the prisoner for a time of the Maid of Orleans, and subsequently played a leading part in consigning her to the flames at Rouen, a fact which is still remembered to such an extent by Frenchmen of the aristocracy that both the present Lord Shrewsbury and his kinsman, General Sir Reginald Talbot, have been blackballed at some of the clubs at Paris affected by the old aristocracy, for no other reason than that they bore the names and were understood to be the descendants of the Sir John Talbot, Lord Shrewsbury, who burned the Maid of Orleans.

The sixth Earl of Shrewsbury was the jailer of Mary Queen of Scots, and presided at her trial and execution. She may be said to have been revenged by his wife, the famous "Bess of Hardwicke," who avowedly devoted her existence to making his life unbearable. The eleventh Earl of Shrewsbury was killed in a duel at Cliveden-on-the-Thames, now owned by William Waldorf Astor. His adversary was George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, the lover of his wife. She was present at the encounter, in the guise of a page, holding the duke's horse, and is condemned to eternal infamy in Pope's lines, beginning:

Cliveden's proud alcove.
The bower of Wanton Shrewsbury and love.

The seventeenth Earl of Sarewsbury, a Roman Catholic, died firmly convinced that he was the last remaining descendant of the first earl, and consequently bequeathed everything to his kinsman, Lord Edmund Howard, stipulating that he should assume the name and the arms of Talbot. The will was contested by Henry, third Earl Talbot, a Protestant, who, after a famous lawsuit, succeeded in proving to the satisfaction of the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords his descent from a younger son of the second Earl of Shrewsbury, and was thereupon summoned to the House of Lords as eighteenth Earl of Shrewsbury, and invested with the ownership of all the entailed estates, the personal property, however, remaining with Lord Edmund Talbot, who stands next in the line of succession to his brother's dukedom of Norfolk. The present Lord Shrewsbury is the twentieth earl of his line.

Ingestre Hall, where the King has been staying, originally belonged to the Chetwynds, and passed from them into the possession of the Talbots through the marriage of John Talbot, father of the third Lord Talbot, to the daughter and heiress of John, second Viscount Chetwynd, in 1748. Previous to the Chetwynds it had been owned by the de Muttons. The park, which is bordered by the Trent, is very extensive. The gardens comprise some twenty acres, and the house, which was burned down some forty years ago, has been rebuilt in Jacobean style, and with its dome, turrets and ornamental bays is a very picturesque building.

The ancestral home, however, of the Lords of Shrewsbury is Alton Towers, also in Staffordshire. It has been the home of the Talbots ever since the first Earl of Shrewsbury, the foe of the Maid of Orleans, married Maude, the daughter and coheir of Thomas Neville, Lord Furnivall, in whose family it had been since the Conquest, and all the twenty Earls of Shrewsbury since the reign of Henry V have made their principal home there, save the present peer, who abandons it for several months in the year to his wife. The castle stands high upon a spur of the Weaver Hills, overlooking the vale of the rivers Dove and Churnet, and occupies the site and rests upon the foundations of an ancient fortress, dating from old Saxon times, erected by the King of Mercia in 716. The grounds are very beautiful and represent a tour de force, as the hill on which the castle is perched was very wild and bleak, and even the very soil had to be conveyed from a distance. The gardens owe their existence to the sixteenth earl, who was extremely homely, in spite of which he insisted on adorning the grounds with his statue, inscribed with the words, "I made the desert to smile"—an inscription which naturally leads to the remark that the desert could not but help laugh at his comical ugliness. Alton Towers is an immense affair, very picturesque, and was rebuilt to a great extent about eighty years ago by the sixteenth earl, whose two daughters married, respectively, Prince Doria Pamphili and Prince Borghese of Rome.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

WEDDINGS.

Miss Irma Stern was married last evening to Baron Leo de Graffenried, son of the late Baron Emmanuel de Graffenried, at one time Swiss Minister to Austria, at the home of her father, Louis Stern, No. 993 Fifth avenue. There were two ceremonies. At the religious one Monsignor Lavelle, of St. Patrick's Cathedral, officiated, while the civil ceremony, which followed, was performed by Justice Newburger, of the Supreme Court. The Louis XIV ballroom, decorated with palms and lilies, was used for the occasion. At the eastern end of the room was an improvised chancel of lilies-of-the-valley and white roses, with a background of palms. The halls and drawing rooms were decorated with palms and cut flowers.

The bride, attired in a princess gown of white satin, with yoke and sleeves of Brussels lace and a veil of the same lace reaching to the end of the train, entered the ballroom with her father, who gave her away. She had only one attendant, her younger sister, Miss Beatrice L. Stern, who wore a frock of white lace and embroidery with a sash of pink satin and a pink bow in her hair. She carried a basket of pink rosebuds.

Baron Wildrick de Graffenried was his brother's best man and only attendant.

The ceremony was followed by a dinner to relatives and a few intimate friends and took place in the dining room and conservatory. The bridal table was decorated with lilies-of-the-valley, while at the other tables were arranged American Beauty roses.

The couple will spend the first part of their honeymoon in the West, and late in January will sail for Europe and will travel for some time before settling in Switzerland, where they will make their home.

The baron is a captain in the Swiss army, and first met his bride some years ago, while she was abroad. Their engagement was announced last summer from Lucerne.

The marriage of Miss Irene E. Jacobs, daughter of William M. Jacobs, and A. Lincoln Markowitz took place yesterday at noon in one of the private suites of the Hotel Astor. The Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise officiated. Only the immediate relatives of the contracting parties attended the ceremony, which was followed by a reception.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Official Record and Forecast.—Washington, Dec. 10.—The Mississippi Valley storm of Monday is now passing off the New England Coast, having increased somewhat in strength. It was attended by general rain throughout the Atlantic Coast districts and snow in the lake region.

Along the Atlantic Coast temperatures Tuesday were unusually high for the season, a reading of 64 degrees being recorded at Boston. In the Central valleys and the lake region the temperature has fallen from 10 to 30 degrees, and now ranges from 14 above zero at Duluth to 50 above at New Orleans. Rain has again set in on the Pacific Coast. In all other districts the weather has been fair.

The indications for Wednesday point to snow in the lower lake region and Northern New York, rain in New England and fair weather elsewhere east of the Rocky Mountains. On Thursday there will be an increase of cloudiness in the Missouri and upper Mississippi Valley, probably followed by rain or snow. The temperature will fall sharply in Atlantic Coast states Wednesday and to about the freezing point in middle Atlantic states, 20 degrees in New England and about 36 degrees in the South Atlantic states. It will be warmer in the Northwest.

Storm warnings are displayed on the Pacific Coast from Port Harford to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and on the Atlantic Coast from Hatteras to Eastport.

The winds along the New England coast will be high northwest, middle Atlantic Coast brisk to high northwest, South Atlantic Coast fresh west, Gulf Coast light to fresh north, on the lower lakes brisk northwest, and on the upper lakes fresh to brisk northwest.

Steamers departing Wednesday for European ports will have brisk westerly winds and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

Forecast for Special Localities.—For New England, rain to-day; snow in northern portion, followed by fair in the afternoon; much colder; Thursday, fair; continued cold; high, northwest winds.

For Eastern New York, fair in southern, light snow in northern portion; decidedly colder to-day; Thursday, fair; brisk northwest winds.

For Eastern Pennsylvania, fair and decidedly colder to-day, except snow in northeastern portion; brisk northwest winds; Thursday, fair.

For New Jersey, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, fair and much colder to-day; Thursday, fair; brisk northwest winds, diminishing.

For Western Pennsylvania, cloudy to-day, with light snow; Thursday, snow; brisk northwest winds, diminishing.

For Western New York, snow to-day, with colder in eastern portion; Thursday, fair, except snow flurries along the lakes; brisk northwest winds.

Local Official Record.—The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows the changes in the temperature for the last twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding date of last year:

	1906.	1907.		1906.	1907.
3 a. m.	28	54	6 p. m.	37	53
6 a. m.	30	54	9 p. m.	36	50
9 a. m.	34	56	11 p. m.	37	48
12 m.	38	57	12 p. m.	38	—
4 p. m.	39	56			

Highest temperature yesterday, 57 degrees; lowest, 48; average, 52; average for corresponding date last year, 34; average for corresponding date last thirty-three years, 35.

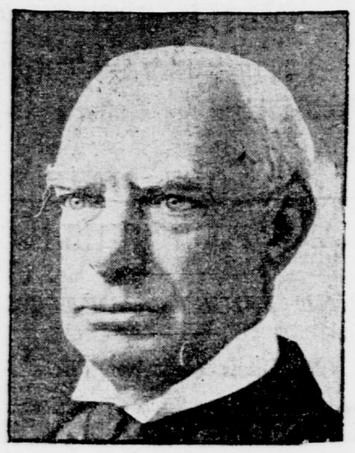
Local Forecast.—Fair and decidedly colder to-day; Thursday, fair; brisk northwest winds.

OBITUARY.

J. H. STODDART.

A brief news note recording the death of James H. Stoddart, the veteran actor, at his home in Sewaren, N. J., was printed in The Tribune yesterday morning. The following sketch and estimate of Mr. Stoddart, written by his old friend, William Winter, appeared as a preface to the comedian's "Recollections of a Player," published by the Century Company, New York, in 1902:

On a memorable night in the dramatic season of 1901-1902 the comedian James H. Stoddart, whose book of theatrical memories is now submitted to the reader, came forth at the Republic Theatre, in New-York, and astonished the audience with a great performance. The character was Lachlan Campbell, a representative Scotchman—proud, stern, self-contained, resolute, deeply religious, tender, and true—in a domestic play called "The Bonnie Brier Bush," adroitly constructed out of episodes in the writings of that fine genius Ian Maclaren. The season, although busy and laborious, had not been fertile in fine things, and that impersonation, extraordinary for sincerity, elemental power, and



JAMES H. STODDART,
who died on Monday.

overwhelming pathos, came upon the community with the force of a revelation. Spectators, even of the most hardened kind, suddenly found themselves impressed with the power of goodness and the dignity of virtuous human nature, and moved beyond control by the spectacle of strife, in a good man's heart, between the sense of justice and the sacred passion of paternal love. The theme is simplicity itself. The actor's treatment of the theme was that delicate exaggeration which produces the perfect effect of nature. A result so uncommon, gained with such facile ease and by means so simple, might well cause surprise. Since that night Mr. Stoddart has been recognized, by multitudes of contemporary playgoers who were almost heedless of him before, as one of the leaders in his profession.

Old playgoers, however, were not astonished by Mr. Stoddart's performance of Lachlan Campbell, for to them Mr. Stoddart had long been a leader. Achievements of this kind and actors of this order were more frequent in earlier times than they are now. Survivors of the generation that saw Burton and Blake in their prime and Wallack's Theatre in its best days can recall a period when exceptional models of acting were frequently displayed, and when the stage rarely failed to reward attention by exhibitions of serious worth and memorable importance. Burton as Captain Cuttle; Blake as the Last Man; Lysander Thompson as Bob Tyke; the elder Wallack as Reuben Glenroy; the elder Charles Walcot as Touchstone; the elder Hackett as Monsieur Tonson and Sir Pertinax Macsycophant; John Nickinson as Haversac; E. L. Davenport as William; John E. Owens as Caleb Plummer and Doctor Pangloss; James W. Wallack, jr., as the King of the Commons; Lester Wallack as Charles Surface, Harry Dornton, and Sir Oswin Mortland; John Sefton as Crack, Jemmy Twitcher, and Sliky; William Warren as Sir Peter Teazle; John Gilbert as Mr. Dornton, Lord Ogleby, Mr. Oakley, Sir Anthony Absolute, and Master Walter; Charles Fisher as Goldfinch and Nicholas Rue; Henry Placide as Grandfather Whitehead and Corporal Cartouche; Charles Wheatleigh as Triplet; Charles W. Couldock as Luke Fielding; John Brougham as Dazzle; Barney Williams in "The Irish Lion," and W. J. Florence in "The Irish Emigrant"—these performances, and many more like these, each perfect in its way and all admirable, once were things of everyday occurrence; and superiority was so common that it often passed unnoted. Those were the days when Mr. Stoddart came upon the scene, and such were some of the competitors among whom he made his way and held his place.

No thoughtful student of history will indulge in wholesale depreciation of the present as contrasted with the past, for, in some material particulars, the world is more prosperous and comfortable to-day than it ever was before; but certainly it is true that, in acting as well as in literature, fine and substantial things—things having in them the grandeur of noble truth and the fire of genial passion—were more frequent forty or fifty years ago than they are now. The actor of the old school, as he is commonly called, was an actor thoroughly grounded in his profession, trained by experience, equipped at all points, able to do many things well and some things brilliantly, and, whatever may have been his defects, solid and stable in character, moderate in self-confidence, and usually modest in the conduct of life. To that type of actor the influences of the older time were tributary, for it was a time of more staid ideas and more ceremonious manners than are now prevalent, a time of far less fever and of far more repose. Mr. Stoddart, to those observers whose fortune it has been to view the stage from the inside, has ever been conspicuous for unpretending worth, unfailing geniality, sweetness of temperament, gentleness of bearing, probity of conduct, and patient and thorough performance of duty. His congenital inheritance was fortunate, and his early surroundings favored the development of such a character; for the stage in Scotland, where he passed his youth and had his novitiate, was a different institution from what it is now—as anybody can see who will read Jackson's "History" and such dramatic memoirs as Galt's "Lives" and Bernard's "Reminiscences." The life of an actor in those days had to be one of economy, frugality, toil, and self-denial, and it was only to the great lights of the profession—and not always to them—that any social consideration was accorded. The Kemble period in Great Britain had just passed away, and the Macready period was just coming in, when Mr. Stoddart began his apprenticeship to acting. The eccentric Mr. Alexander—he who placed his own bust between those of Shakespeare and Garrick in the front of his Glasgow theatre, and whose elaborate tomb, with its theatrical drop curtain, can be seen in the Glasgow Necropolis—was the principal manager in Scotland, and "stars" such as Murray Farren and Munden were roaming over the land. Mr. Stoddart, born at Barnsley, Yorkshire, England, on October 13, 1827, was early trained to the theatre by his father, a good actor and a good man, and up to his twenty-seventh year, when he emigrated to America, was rigidly schooled in the study and practice of his art at many places in the British Kingdom, particularly in the northern towns of Scotland, in Yorkshire, and in Liverpool. In 1854 he crossed the sea, and on September 7 of that year he appeared at Wallack's Theatre, beginning a career before the American public that has lasted close on half a century and been steadily attended with honorable renown. Phases and associations of that career are recorded in this book, and the reader will find it equally an exposition of character and a document in theatrical history.

Theatrical memoirs in general are dreary compilations, abounding in dates and trivialities, and when they are autobiographical they are commonly prodigious as ebullitions of overweening egotism. It is seldom that an old actor, writing about the past, records anything of value concerning his contemporaries, or anything calculated to cast a light upon any interesting aspect of the times through which he has lived. Cibber's book "The Apology" remains unrivalled for vital portraiture of fine and famous persons with whom he was associated. The elder Bernard's book is excellent for authentic chronicles and sprightly anecdote. Jefferson's book, in our own time, is exceptional for spontaneous manifestation of the writer's sympathetic temperament, sweet, playful humor, and philosophic husbandry of peace and happiness amid the vicissitudes of a turbulent age. But most of the numerous and frivolous writings of actors could well be spared. The memoirs that the world needs, for its guidance and help, are those of the men and women who are genuine, who have borne the burden and heat of the day, who have helped to strengthen and beautify the passing life of their generation, and who write, not from vanity, but from the impulse of kindness and service. Mr. Stoddart was not easily persuaded to give these reminiscences, and although wishful to heed the request of his children,—that he would make for them, as a precious legacy, some account of his life,—it was not till strongly urged by the present writer that he consented to undertake this task. Such persuasion was warranted, for no actor was ever more genuine than Mr. Stoddart, and no professional life was ever more exemplary than his of the admirable virtues of perseverance, self-denial, sincerity, fidelity, purity, and truth. The counsel upon which the veteran finally acted was that he should write freely, as if in a letter to an old friend, whatever of the past he might happen to remember; and in so writing he has made old days to live again, and voices to speak once more that have long been silent, and faces to smile upon us that have long been cold.

In deference to Mr. Stoddart's judgment and in compliance with his desire, these words are written to introduce his book—a book which really requires no introduction, and to which no indorsement can impart a greater than its intrinsic value. It is the cursory record of a good life, the natural expression of a manly and lovable character, and in some ways it is an illuminative side light upon an old theatrical period—a time of rare interest to those who watch the dramatic movement in literature and society, and trace the action and reaction of civilization and the stage. It is fortunate that the work of writing this record was not too long deferred. In two instances—that of George Holland and that of John Brougham—the present writer earnestly and often urged the need and the fair occasion of an autobiography, and at last both those veterans attempted the labor; but Holland had postponed the effort till he was too old to make it, producing only a trivial fragment of less than a hundred pages; and Brougham, when he began to write, was so ill that he could produce only a few chapters—a mere beginning to what might have been the dramatic chronicle of half a century, teeming with brilliant men and women and opulent with feeling and mirth. Mr. Stoddart's youthful spirit, buoyant and genial, serves him now, in the evening gray, as readily and as amply as it did in the morning gold, and his memoir has been written with spontaneous earnestness, simple candor, and homelike grace. Much of it is in outline; but sometimes, as in a poem by Heine or a landscape by Corot, the outline is suggestive of the complete painting; and no part of it is tedious. In his writing, as in his acting, it is the sketch that is achieved rather than the elaborate fabric of complex art. One of this comedian's most representative triumphs on the stage was gained in Dion Boucicault's play of "The Long Strike," as the old lawyer, Mr. Moneypenny, a man outwardly crabbed but inwardly tender, comic in his garb of morose selfishness but winning in his abundant humanity; and whoever saw that performance (first given many years ago at Laura Keene's Theatre) saw the "picture in little" of those attributes of the actor that have made him great; for greatness in dramatic art, meaning the summit of excellence in interpretative expression, is simplicity, and of simplicity Mr. Stoddart possesses the absolute command, touching equally the springs of humor and pathos, winning affection as well as admiration, and thus fulfilling the best purpose of all art, which is to bless human life with the gracious memory that makes it calm and the noble incentive that makes it beautiful.

W. W.

GEN. A. HAMILTON DEAD.

Grandson of Revolutionary Statesman and Friend to Lincoln.

Alexander Hamilton, grandson of Washington's aide-de-camp, major general of United States Volunteers and a close personal friend of President Lincoln, died at his home, Tarrytown-on-Hudson, yesterday. General Hamilton caught cold on Thanksgiving Day and failed rapidly. He was born at No. 229 Broadway, New York City, November 1, 1815. He attended special courses at Columbia College and studied languages under private tutors. In 1842 he married Miss Elizabeth Nicoll, of Mastic, Long Island, who died in 1873. Six years later General Hamilton married Miss Sarah E. Bodine, of Tarrytown. She died in 1900 after a brief illness.

Early in the 40's General Hamilton was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 11th New York Artillery. For a time he acted as aide-de-camp to Governor William H. Seward. He was in charge of the work of hurrying the New York troops to the front in 1861 and a few months later was made aid to General Winfield Scott. He was personally ordered by President Lincoln to raise a regiment in New York. He took part in several important battles, including Chancellorsville and Falmouth. In 1863 he commanded 10,000 troops in suppressing the draft riots in New York City and capturing the ringleaders.

With a large escort of regular cavalry General Hamilton, mounted on President Lincoln's horse, was sent by him to inform the British, Spanish, French and German embassies that they must not recognize the Confederacy. He was retired as a major general in 1867. General Hamilton had charge of the funeral of President Lincoln in New York City.

General Hamilton in 1850 became a lay reader of the Episcopal Church and he founded and built churches at Orange Park, Fla., and at Ramapo, Rockland County, N. Y. He contributed to several magazines and was the author of several books, among them "The Life of Oliver Cromwell."

He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, Sons of the American Revolution and Hamilton Post, G. A. R. The funeral services will be at Christ Church, Tarrytown, at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon. General Hamilton leaves two sons and a daughter.

C. E. LAMBERT.

C. E. Lambert, who was formerly the general passenger agent of the West Shore Railroad, and who was retained by the New York Central in an advisory capacity since it acquired the West Shore, died yesterday at his home, in Thiells, N. Y. Mr. Lambert, owing to ill health, withdrew last spring from all active participation in railroading. The last act of his business life was the transfer a few days ago of his 500-acre farm at Haverstraw to the State of New York for a state prison site. He received $75,000 for this farm.

Mr. Lambert was born in 1846 at West Troy, N. Y., and entered the service of a railroad when he was fourteen years old. He worked successively as office boy, freight clerk, train brakeman, baggage master, train conductor, general baggage agent, palace car conductor, ticket agent, travelling passenger agent, general passenger agent and assistant superintendent of the Troy & Boston Railroad. In 1881 he became general Western agent of the Hoosac tunnel route, and in 1884 was made general Western passenger agent of the New York, West Shore & Buffalo Railroad. When the latter became the West Shore, in 1887, Mr. Lambert came to New York City as general passenger agent, a place he retained until he retired.

ALFRED M. DOWNES.

Alfred Michael Downes, secretary of the Fire Department, died suddenly from congestion of the lungs at his home, No. 108 West 78th street, yesterday. He was at his desk on Saturday, but complained of feeling ill on leaving the office. He grew rapidly worse on Sunday and Monday, and death came on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Downes was born in New Haven on August 22, 1862. He was graduated from the Law School of Yale University in 1882 and was admitted to the bar. Removing to Buffalo, he engaged in newspaper work, and on coming to this city in 1888 he became a political reporter on "The New York Times." He was secretary to Mayor Robert A. Van Wyck from 1898 to 1901, and for the following two years was on the editorial staff of "The New York Daily News." In 1904 he was appointed secretary of the Fire Department by Commissioner Hayes, and continued to serve in that office under Commissioners O'Brien and Lantry. A volume entitled "Fire Fighters and Their Pets" written by Mr. Downes was recently published, and he had received the first copy a few days ago.

MRS. ELIZABETH N. GAY.

Mrs. Elizabeth Neall Gay, widow of Sydney Howard Gay, died at her home in Livingston, Staten Island, on Monday, in her eighty-ninth year. Her husband, the well known anti-slavery advocate, was an editorial writer on "The Tribune" from 1858 to 1862 and its managing editor from 1862 to 1866. He died on June 25, 1888.

MR. AND MRS. LEE FIFTY YEARS WEDDED

Brookline, Mass., Dec. 10.—Mr. and Mrs. George C. Lee, grandparents of Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, daughter of President Roosevelt, celebrated their golden wedding to-day at their home in Beacon street. They entertained only their immediate family, which includes Mrs. Reginald Gray, Mrs. S. H. Fessenden, Mrs. George S. Mulford and George C. Lee, jr.

THE DRAMA.

SIGNOR NOVELLI AS MIDDLEWICK.

Lyric Theatre.

In the Lyric Theatre last night the Italian version of Henry J. Byron's essentially English domestic comedy of "Our Boys" was represented, under the name of "I Nostri Bimbi," and Signor Novelli repeated his performance of Middlewick, the butter merchant, first made known here last April. It is, after all, in comedy that this actor awakens the most of sympathy and wins the most of admiration. His kindly nature, as Middlewick, reveals itself through a gruff eccentricity of demeanor, and, while emphasizing the coarse traits of that character, he makes it impressive with sincerity and lovable with sturdy goodness. The play of "Our Boys" is well remembered here, and it does not require description. It is one of the best plays written in England since the time of Robertson's "Caste,"—of which, indeed, it was a sort of sequel; the theme being a complication resultant upon the wide divisions and contrasts existant in the strata of English society. To-night Signor Novelli will repeat his performance of King Lear.

CAST OF "OUR BOYS."

Perkyn Middlewick	Ermete Novelli
Charles Middlewick	A. Betrone
Sir Geoffrey Champneys	E. Piamonti
Talbot Champneys	N. Pescatori
Clarissa Champneys	M. Fantoni
Violet Melrose	L. Rossi
Mary Melrose	E. Sanipoli
Kempster	A. Aristo
Poddles	O. Galeotti
Belinda	E. Servolini

GERMAN THEATRE.

"Minna von Barnhelm."

Lessing's comedy of "Minna von Barnhelm," which was successfully revived last night at the German Theatre, was written in 1763, when its author, then twenty-four years old, was in the prime of life and the affluence of his genius. For many years it was esteemed and declared to be the best comedy that had ever been written in the German language, and it is still much admired in German criticism. Its theme can be briefly indicated as a love chase. The heroine, Minna, pursued the hero, Major von Tellheim, who seeks to elude her because while she is a rich heiress he has become poor and through injustice had been deprived of his military rank. Minna and Tellheim love each other. But they are long kept from reaching a happy agreement because of disparity of fortune and because of the girl's impetuosity and caprice and the young soldier's easily ruffled sense of honor. Minna employs a stratagem to win her lover, and the comedy is a neat exposition of it and of the cross purposes that ensue. The character of Tellheim, a youth of kind heart, high principles and wayward disposition is finely drawn, while Minna, an ardent, generous, brilliant girl, is made lifelike, sympathetic and winning. There is much humor in the piece and there are many comic incidents. The character of Riccaut, a volatile gambler, supplies a ripple of mirth, and the nimble colloquies of Justin and Sanny, respectively, the servants of the lovers, aid the author's design of contrasting vivacity with sentiment. Hedwig Reicher appeared as Minna; Ella Hofer, as Franziska; Henrici-Weidt, as the Lady in Mourning; August Weigert, as Major von Tellheim; Otto Collet, as Just; Ernest Sauermann, as Paul Werner; Karl Mauth, as the host; and Henrici Marlow, as Ricant de la Marliniere.

VARIETY THEATRES.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.

The leaders in the performance here this week are Fred Walton, "the monarch of silent comedy," who appears in his pantomime called "Cissie's Dream," and B. A. Rolfe and company, in a musical sketch entitled "Paradise Alley." Besides these, the following performers contribute to the merriment: Miss Gracie Emmet, the Les Trombetta, Sam Williams, the Zaretsky group of acrobats and Cameron and Flanagan.

COLONIAL THEATRE.

Mr. Williams has provided a varied and interesting programme this week for the audiences at his Colonial Theatre, and the chief feature is portly May Irwin, who sings new songs and makes pleasant remarks about her girth. Her recitations appeared to find more favor with the audience than her songs. Miss Irwin is not the only attraction, however. Dan Burke and his School Girls succeed in amusing. The girls trip about barefooted, and Mr. Burke executes several dances with grace and agility. Then there are Fields and Ward, Shields and Rogers, the Italian Trio and the "intelligent horse," Princess Trixie. Frederic Bond, in a laughable farce entitled "Handkerchief No. 15," engages the attention of the audience for a quarter of an hour, and no complaints are heard.

DEWEY THEATRE.

The amusement at the Dewey this week is provided by the Watson Burlesquers, with Billy Watson as the leading performer. There are two performances at the Dewey Theatre every day.

GOTHAM THEATRE.

Two merry musical affairs called "The Isle of Malt" and "A Day at the Beach" enliven the stage of the Gotham Theatre this week. Williams's Ideals are the performers.

TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE.

Visitors to Mr. Pastor's playhouse this week will see an interesting amusement, in which several well known performers participate. The Dekee trio of acrobats perform new and amazing feats. Devlin and Ellwood have a new sketch, and Miss Caroline Scott has added some novel words to her impersonation of "the original tough girl." Then there are Clifford and Hall, the Harringtons, De Lisle, the juggler; Miss Grace Orna and James A. Welch, all popular with the audiences at Pastor's.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

The chief diversion Mr. Hammerstein has arranged for those who frequent his Victoria Theatre is Fred Karno's company of English performers in a rollicking pantomime called "A Night in an English Music Hall." This novelty has been seen on the stage of the Victoria time and again, but it is of such an uproarious nature and so well performed that it always wins the favor of audiences at this theatre. Billie Reeves, as the hilarious man about town, contributes the funny situations. Alec Hurley and his coster comedians are still on the programme and are popular with the crowds. McMahon and Chapeile and their Pullman Porter Maids, Billy Clifford, Warren and Blanchard, Miss Edna Luby and Josephine Sabel aid in the merriment.

MR. MOORE TO MR. COHAN.

Victor Moore, whom the crowds have found in "The Talk of the Town" at the Knickerbocker Theatre, is already grateful for the things that are at hand. He proposes showing his gratitude by giving a dinner to George M. Cohan, the fount whence sprang several popular musical affairs, including the mirthful attraction at the Knickerbocker. The dinner will be served at midnight on Friday in the main dining hall of the Knickerbocker Hotel. The dinner will be made the occasion to wish young Mr. and Mrs. Cohan a pleasant voyage across the Atlantic. They leave next Saturday on the American liner Philadelphia for a tour of Europe, and expect to return for the dedication in the spring of Mr. Cohan's new theatre, The Gayety, at 43d street and Broadway.

"POLLY OF THE CIRCUS."

Washington, Dec. 10.—"Polly of the Circus," by Margaret Mayo, the newest of Frederick Thompson's ventures, was presented for the first time to-night at the New National Theatre. The part of Polly, the heroine, was taken by Miss Mabel Taliaferro.

Engaged.

McNULTY—HOUSE—The Rev. and Mrs. George House, of Jamaica, B. W. I., announce the engagement of their daughter, Nettie, to Mr. G. Kneeland McNulty, now of Pittsburg, Penn.

Married.

Marriage notices appearing in THE TRIBUNE will be republished in the Tri-Weekly Tribune without extra charge.

BELL—PHILLIPS—At New York, Saturday, February 2, 1907, by the Rev. Charles Wahleman, Elsie B. Phillips, of Glenbrook, Conn., to Andrew J. Bell, of Stamford, Conn.

LAWRENCE—MAURAN—In Providence, R. I., on the 9th inst., by the Rev. Augustus M. Lord, Louise Carlile, daughter of the late Frank and Mary L. Mauran, and Frank M. Lawrence, of Mastic, Long Island.

Notices of marriages and deaths must be indorsed with full name and address.

Died.

Death notices appearing in THE TRIBUNE will be republished in the Tri-Weekly Tribune without extra charge.

Appleton, Augusta S.
Arthur, George A.
Bailey, Florence.
Bennet, Arthur F.
Dunne, James.
Filor, Mabel J.
Finley, Ann.
Gay, Elizabeth N.
Haecker, Johanna C.
Hamilton, Alexander.
Hicks, Anna.
Knocke, William.
Magill, Edward H.
Marlor, Martha McC.
Morris, Eliza B.
Rand, Annie V.
Taft, Louise M.
Vail, Thomas L.

APPLETON—Entered into rest, on December 9, Augusta Stout, beloved wife of the Rev. Samu