MUSIC

AT THE METROPOLITAN.

Opening Night of the New Administration.

The twenty-fourth season of opera at the Metropolitan Opera House had its beginning last night under the auspices of the seventh operatic dynasty which the establishment has seen since its opening. The dynasty is nominally a dual one, but the influence which is likely to prevail has been indicated with sufficient clearness to make prognostication unnecessary and discussion futile—at least for the present. The opera was "Aïda," which was presented with new scenery, new costumes, a new conductor and some new singers. It was seen and heard by an audience which in respect of numbers and appearance indicated emphatically that the popular interest in the new régime is large, lively and likely to prove enduring. Therefore, let it be said at the outset that the opening was auspicious. The opera is old, but nearly all that was new was according to the school of La Scala, in Milan. That means much or little, according to the taste and fancy of the spectators and listeners. So far as the stage pictures were concerned, the critical may have been set to wondering at the revelation made of the luxuriant flora which the Milanese operatic archæologists have provided but at any rate, in the scene of triumph they were spared the piled up incongruities which, under the consulship of Mr. Conried, were borrowed from Reyer's "Salammbô," with which Mr. Grau had made an unfortunate experiment. There were fine feathers also for all the songbirds, but they did not affect their singing, which would have been quite as good had there been less gorgeousness of color. But if it did not make it any better, neither did it make it any worse. There were singers in the cast who have been admired for years, and who could not be admired more—Mme. Homer, Signor Scotti and Signor Caruso, for example—though there were moments not a few in which admiration for the last named's marvellous and matchless voice was paired with apprehension htat his strenuous and reckless use of it may lead to its extinction long before such a calamity ought of natural necessity to occur.

Of the new conductor it must be said that he is a boon to Italian opera as great and as welcome as anything that has come out of Italy since Verdi laid down his pen. In the best sense he is an artist, an interpreter, a re-creator. Without such men music is as lifeless to the ear as it is on the printed page. Signor Toscanini brought to the understanding and the emotions of the audience all of Verdi's score, body and soul, as it lives in him, mixing with it an abundance of sympathetic affection. He used no book; but that is a matter of small importance except as it influenced the performance. It is, of course, as a brilliant German musician once said, much better that a conductor should have the score in his head than his head in the score; but unless he can convey his knowledge to the musicians under him it will avail him nothing. Evidently Signor Toscanini's head and heart are full of Verdi's music, and his transmission of what he knows and what he feels is magnetic. The orchestra at the Metropolitan Opera House this year is composed of fine material, and it was finely responsive last night. The revelations which it will make in profounder scores than this may be awaited with deep and genuine interest.

First of the new singers last night was Miss Destinn, who impersonated the heroine of Verdi's opera. A dramatic singer, a singing actor, the histrionic and musical arts and elements meet in her and are mutually and splendidly supplemental and complementary of each other. Her voice, not particularly remarkable for sensuous beauty, is full of pulsing vitality and is a perfect and eager slave of her feelings. It makes the heartstrings of her listeners thrill with sympathetic vibrations. She has command of some of the graces of vocalization, too, as she showed in her beautiful sustained singing of the concluding phrases of her first air—"Numi, pietà." Two other newcomers in the company, Adamo Didur and Giulio Rossi, respectively the Ramfis and King of the evening, were like many of their predecessors, save Edouard de Reszke, whose rotund voice used to lend large impressiveness to the part of the priest.

H. E. K.

SOCIETY AT THE OPERA.

Turns Out in Force for Opening Night at Metropolitan.

Society always turns out in force for the opening night of the opera season at the Metropolitan, and made no exception to the rule last evening. People, especially those belonging to the fashionable world, were, as usual, a little late in arriving. But by the time the curtain went down on the second act of "Aïda," which the new management had selected for the opening performance, the house presented a very brilliant spectacle, so much so, indeed, that the boxes and their occupants came in for almost as much attention from the audience as the stage.

During the intermission there was much visiting from loge to loge, each one of which received its quota of callers, and it is evident that, as in the past, the parterre row of the Metropolitan will continue to be the most popular rendezvous of New York society.

Contrary to expectation, there were no empty boxes, even that of the late Mrs. Astor being occupied, having been leased by Mrs. Philip M. Lydig, who was arrayed in black velvet and black lace, cut Empire fashion, with a very high waist. With her was Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, in a dress of ivory satin, adorned with old lace, Clarence H. Mackay and Captain Lydig making up the party.

Mrs. E. H. Harriman, who has the Richard T. Wilson box for the season, had with her her daughter, Miss Mary Harriman, and E. H. Harriman, while Mrs. Richard Trimble, in pale blue moire, and Dr. and Mrs. James W. Markoe, the latter in black velvet, were the guests of J. Pierpont Morgan, in Box 35.

Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, the latter in pale yellow satin, were in Box 17, having with them Mr. and Mrs. Twombly and Miss Twombly, De Lancey Jay and Henry White, American Ambassador to France.

Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, arrayed in mauve satin, was with her daughters, Miss Angelica and Miss Mabel Gerry, in Box 23, where Hamilton W. Cary spent the greater part of the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steele had with them Mr. and Mrs. John Turner Atterbury and F. Egerton Webb, while Mrs. George J. Gould and Miss Marjorie Gould, the latter in white satin, with no jewels, were with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, in Box 12.

Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, in Box 18, had with her her daughters, Miss Harriet and Miss Janetta Alexander, also J. Henry Alexandre, Carol Ladd, and, of course, Charles D. Alexander, Mrs. Alexander's dress being of mauve satin, with black lace, while her daughters' frocks were of light blue satin and of shell pink satin, respectively.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Juilliard, the latter in black lace, had with them in Box 2 Mrs. George E. Dodge, Mrs. John S. Rogers, the latter in a gown of nile green satin, and Frederic A. Juilliard.

In Box 32 Mrs. Luther Kountze, in black Liberty velvet, with black lace, had a party comprising Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon Douglas and Hamilton Fish.

Mr. and Mrs. George Henry Warren, in Box 14, had with them Miss Warren, Dennie Hare, Moncure Robinson and Lloyd Warren; and Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Morgan were with General and Mrs. Lloyd S. Bryce, in Box 13.

Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, in Box 33, had with them Mr. and Mrs. Goodhue Livingston, Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander, T. B. Clarke and Center Hitchcock.

Mrs. Ogden Mills had with her in Box 20 Miss Beatrice Mills, the latter in a gown of white satin and tulle.

Mrs. Robert Goelet's box was occupied by Mrs. Whitney Warren, who had with her her nephew, Robert Walton Goelet; and Mrs. F. Egerton Webb was with Mrs. W. Seward Webb, the latter in pale blue satin and lace.

Herman Van Roijen, the newly appointed Dutch Envoy to the Court of the Mikado, and Mrs. Van Roijen, who is a daughter of Mrs. Robert Winthrop, were with Mr. and Mrs. George S. Bowdoin, the other members of the party being Miss Bowdoin, in a frock of light blue chiffon; Charles Lanier and Wainwright Parish. Mrs. Bowdoin's gown was of black lace, trimmed with jet.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Francis Hyde, the latter in a dress of gray net, spangled with silver, had with them Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Weatherbee and Mr. and Mrs. Adrian H. Joline, the latter in black satin chiffon, and Mrs. Weatherbee in a gown of white brocaded silk.

Mrs. Richard Gambrill, in silver gray brocaded satin, embroidered with silver, was with Mrs. Alexander T. Van Nest, in Box 29, and in Box 31 were Mr. and Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt, the latter in white satin.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelet, in Box 1, had as their guests Mrs. Craig Biddle and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, the latter in pink satin, embroidered with silver. Mrs. Goelet's dress was of pearl satin, with white tulle sleeves, and Mrs. Biddle's frock of white satin and lace.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, in pink satin and lace, had with her Mrs. Payne Whitney, in blue satin and black chiffon and Miss Dorothy Whitney, in white and silver.

Mrs. Lewis Iselin was with Mrs. F. de R. Wissman, who wore a gown of blue silver, Mrs. Iselin's gown being of the same material, though of a lighter shade.

William K. Vanderbilt's box was tenanted by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Havemeyer, the latter in a gown of black and white striped silk, and Mr. and Mrs. George F. Baker had with them Mrs. W. M. V. Hoffman in Box 10, Mrs. Hoffman in a frock of cream lace, spangled with gold.

Among others present were Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Whitridge and the Misses Whitridge, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Osgood Field, Mrs. Archibald Gourlie Thacher, Dr. and Mrs. Smith Hollins McKim and the latter's sister, Mrs. Howard Mansfield; Miss Caroline de Forest, Brayton Ives, Rawlins Cottenet, G. Creighton Webb, Elisha Dyer and Mr. and Mrs Paul Morton, who were with Mr. and Mrs. James Speyer.

OPERA HOUSE THRONGED.

Unusual Audience Even for Metropolitan on Opening Night.

The formal opening of the season of 1908-'09 at the Metropolitan Opera House last night, with several features distinctive from those of past seasons, makes it scarcely to be wondered at that the occasion attracted an audience which well deserves a note of record in the annals of the house. The inauguration of a new management, the first appearance in opera in America of a soprano actual experience of whose work had been preceded by details of triumphs abroad, particularly in Berlin and London, the introduction of a conductor of great reputation in the leading opera house of Italy, combined to make more than usually brilliant the occasion which characterized the opening of New York's older operatic institution.

So, when Messrs. Giulio Gatti-Casazza and Andréas Dippel, the directors under the new régime, came, with Mr. Arthur Toscanini between them, before the curtain at the end of the second act of Verdi's "Aïda," they looked out upon an audience which, combined with its expressions of good will, could not but give them sure indication of what New York is capable of if the requirements of the operatic standard are met. Mlle. Destinn and M. Toscanini had already taken their recalls, but when the trio of men who will figure most prominently in the success of the new season appeared the applause was most pronounced. Not even in the boxes was there a vacant seat visible, and all joined in a great welcome to the new managers and the new conductor.

Even as early as 7 o'clock the police, who were out in extra numbers for the opening of the Metropolitan, had to limit the length of the lines of persons waiting in West 39th and West 40th streets, hoping to gain admission. But with these precautions the inches of space that one might appropriate were far too few, and at that hundreds could not obtain admission.

The first applause of the evening came with the entrance of that favorite of old acquaintance, Mme. Homer. Mr. Caruso, of course, and Mr. Scotti were among friends, and the audience, if displaying a waiting note, showed to Mme. Destinn that it was ready to grant its signs of favor, and its applause came most liberally at the close of the first act. At the end of the third act the Bohemian soprano received a half-dozen or more floral tributes. Mr. Caruso had to take the immense horseshoe and wreath off the stage one at a time.

AT THE MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE.

Another audience, which left only standing room, gathered in the Manhattan Opera House last night to hear a second performance of Rossini's "Il Barbière di Siviglia," despite the rival attraction of an opening night with a new prima donna at the older opera house. Mme. Tetrazzini repeated her impersonation of Rosina, and was ably assisted by Mr. Sammarco as the barber and Mr. Gilibert as Don Bartolo. Mr. Campanini conducted.

QUAKER CITY OPERA MAD.

20,000 Applications for Seats at Opening of Hammerstein's House.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—If the demand for seats signifies anything, Philadelphia has gone opera mad. The season opens to-morrow night, when the public will be admitted for the first time to Oscar Hammerstein's new Philadelphia Opera House to hear "Carmen" sung, with Mlle. Maria Labia in the title role, while at the same time "La Bohème" will be heard at the Academy of Music, with Caruso as the star, supported by other leading singers of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

For the forty-two hundred seats in the Hammerstein house there have been nearly twenty thousand applications, while every seat in the Academy was sold several days ago and the demand has continued unabated.

The new Hammerstein house, which is the first permanent institution in this city to be devoted exclusively to the production of grand opera, has a frontage of 240 feet each in Broad and Carlisle streets and 160 feet in Poplar street. The main entrance to the building, the exterior of which is in the modern French Renaissance style, is in Poplar street.

The first floor is divided into two sections, the parquet and the parquet circle. There are no posts to obstruct the view of the stage. Besides the eight proscenium boxes on each floor, suspended from the first balcony is the grand tier, containing twenty-eight boxes, each seating eight persons. Each of the boxes in the grand tier has been subscribed for, the grand total of the subscriptions for Mr. Hammerstein's first season amounting to more than $250,000. The seating capacity of the new house, of which William H. McElfatrick, of New York, is the architect, is 4,200.

For his new establishment Mr. Hammerstein has a musical director and maintains an entirely distinct chorus and ballet organization. He intends to give the Philadelphians performances in every way on a plane even with that at the Manhattan. On Thursday evening Philadelphians will have an opportunity to see Mr. Hammerstein's elaborate presentation of "Samson et Dalila," and on Saturday next Mme. Tetrazzini will make her debut in the new house.

The Presbyterian ministers of the city at their weekly meeting to-day joined the crusade started by their brethren of other denominations to protest against Oscar Hammerstein presenting "Salome" at his new opera house this season. Resolutions were adopted terming the opera "a realistic portrayal of the immoral motives that resulted in the bloody tragedy of John the Baptist," and "inconsistent with that sacred reverence which all Christians cherish for that godly man."

Several of the leading clergymen of the denomination spoke in support of the resolutions, terming the text of the opera sacrilegious. "Wilde may have been a genius," said one of them, "but he was a satanic one."

HEAR ABOUT "OTHER AMERICANS."

A house full of wish-we-were-wanderers was piloted in comfort last night by Miss Harriet Chalmers Adams over the rough, beautiful spots of the old Spanish Main and the new Panama. In the steady seats of the Carnegie Lyceum they followed enthusiastically "in the wake of the galleon," enjoying all the advantages of a "rubberneck wagon," without the jolts and the megaphone.

A tropical sunset in vivid colors drew generous applause, but real patriotism broke loose when the moving pictures showed Uncle Sam "making the dirt fly" in the "big ditch." The lecture was the first of a series of four Miss Adams is to give on her visit to the "other Americans." Next Monday evening "The Andean Wonderland," the old Inca highway and the valley of the Amazon will be visited.

PLANS TO SAVE GARDEN

Bachelors' Hotel One of Several Suggestions That Are Made.

Three plans are being considered by big real estate interests looking to the purchase of the Madison Square Garden property. The aims of the various projects are widely different. Since the recent announcement that the property was for sale and that the directors of the Madison Square Garden Company had grown tired of carrying at a loss this vast real estate holding, some persons identified with the real estate market, who have figured in recent years as the buyers of large sites of land with old buildings and replacing the antiquated structures with modern ones, have apparently considered this announcement as a personal call to them to devise some method of lifting this burden from the shoulders of the present owners.

According to a report, one scheme, which is really in the initial stage and may be abandoned, calls for the utilization of the Garden as a hotel for bachelors. This plan also provides for the putting in of stores throughout the entire frontages of the property, and therefore for using the walls as part of the proposed hotel structure. One of the other two plans is a proposition to divide the property into a group of loft buildings, with the exception of the Madison avenue frontage, which is to be preserved in its present form, retaining the music hall and the Garden Theatre. The other plan, which is likely to meet with great public approval, sekes to have a group of public spirited men buy the property and present it as a gift to the city.

Bryan L. Kennelly, the city auctioneer, and one of its best known appraisers and real estate brokers, said yesterday that he would do all in his power to have the property bought by a syndicate of public spirited men and then presented to the city as a gift. "If the building is sold," said Mr. Kennelly, "to any individual or syndicate which would not continue it for present uses it would leave the city without a structure large enough for the holding of great public meetings and entertainments."

At the office of George R. Read & Co., agents for the owners of the Garden, it was said yesterday that no offers for the property had yet been received.

HARRY LAUDER AT THE AMERICAN.

Scotch Comedian Welcomed by Two Large Audiences.

Mr. Lauder returned to town yesterday, and, at the American Theatre, where he may be seen for several weeks, gave his inimitable personations of popular Scotch characters. Ample notice has appeared in The Tribune from time to time of the excellence of his performance, and especially last season when he was at the New York Theatre. His droll humor flows like water from the mountain side, and his songs never fail to please. At both performances yesterday he gave his capital representation of the "saftest o' th' family," and sang the ever popular ditties of "She's Ma Daisy" and "I Love a Lassie."

In common with all variety performers of a high order, Mr. Lauder, when the opportunity presents itself, never fails to give his audience a glimpse of the real man—to make the public understand that under the mimic's paint and rags there is an inner and deeper nature. Last night, for instance, at the close of a tremendous applause, he sang with fine feeling "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." With him in the bill this week are Oswauld Williams, Julian Rose, Barry Lupino, the Australian Tree Fellers and the Romanos.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.

McIntyre and Heath head the bill here this week. They gave a novelty yesterday called "The Man from Montana," and it pleased two large audiences. Carlin and Otto, Charles F. Seamon, the Dixon Brothers and Emilia Rose contribute to the merriment.

COLONIAL THEATRE.

Walter C. Kelly, in "The Virginia Judge," may be seen here this week. His performance is not new to patrons of the variety theatres, but it is always amusing and invariably appreciated. Lily Lena, William Hawtrey and company, Pat Rooney and Marion Bent are in the bill.

LINCOLN SQUARE THEATRE.

Mr. Morris has provided two exceptionally novel and varied attractions for the Lincoln Square this week—Maude Odell and Amelia Bingham. Every playgoer knows Miss Bingham, and her recent invasion of the vaudeville field with "Big Moments from Great Plays" has proved profitable to herself and entertaining to the public. Miss Odell comes from England, where her "statue lady" was the rage. She appeared yesterday at two performances in a sketch called "The Chameleon," designed to give her an opportunity to pose as a "snake charmer," an "Egyptian water carrier" and as "Spring." Richard Purdon assists Miss Odell in her performance.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

Valeska Surratt and William Gould head the bill this week at Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre of Varieties. Miss Surratt gives a dance, which she has named "Cleopatra." Julius Steger and company, the Belleclaire Brothers, J. Warren Keane, Ryan and White and Joseph Howard and Mabel Barrison aid in the merriment. There are two performances daily at this theatre.

NEW STAR THEATRE LEASED.

The New Star Theatre, at 107th street and Lexington avenue, has been leased for five years by Henry H. Jackson to the William Fox Amusement Company.

HENRY E. DIXEY AS MARY JANE'S PA.

Play Has First Performance at Albany—Coming Here Next Week.

Albany, Nov. 16.—Henry E. Dixey appeared at Harmanus Bleecker Hall to-night in a comedy drama entitled "Mary Jane's Pa." The new play, made by Edith Ellis, offers Mr. Dixey a novel part.

Mary Jane is a twelve-year-old girl and doesn't remember her "pa," who has been a wanderer for more than ten years. Mr. Dixey, as Hiram Perkins, her "pa," arrives at an embarrassing moment for Mrs. Portia Perkins, who is Mary Jane's "ma." Mrs. Perkins edits a newspaper in a small Western town, where the candidate for the Legislature regards her as an eligible widow. All of "ma's" plans are upset by "pa" turning up, like a bad penny, and to prevent an exposure Portia Perkins tells him he can be her cook at $10 a month if he will not let it be known that he is her husband. Hiram Perkins accepts, and amusing complications ensue.

Mr. Dixey has a supporting company of well known players, whom he will take to the Garden Theatre, New York, next week. In the absence of Mr. Savage abroad the play was staged by Miss Ellis and Madison Corey, Mr. Savage's producing manager.

"THE THIRD DEGREE" PRESENTED.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Atlantic City, Nov. 16.—Charles Klein's play of "The Third Degree" was presented to-night at Nixon's Apollo Theatre. The story deals with Howard Jeffries, jr., a son of a member of the "Knickerbocker set," who, because of his marriage with a young woman below him in social standing has been disowned by his parents.

The house was filled and the audience appeared to like the play. Edmund Breese, Helen Ware, Wallace Eddinger, Catherine Countiss and John Flood were the principals in the cast.

NAT C. GOODWIN IN "CAMEO KIRBY."

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 16.—Nat C. Goodwin appeared at the Great Southern Theatre here to-night in "Cameo Kirby," a new romance of Louisiana life of eighty years ago, by Booth Tarkington and Harry Leon Wilson, authors of "The Man from Home." The production was under the direction of Liebler & Co. Mr. Goodwin took the part of a Mississippi River gambler. The supporting company included Edward Harrigan, Maude Fealy, James Lackaye and Jeffreys Lewis.

TO STUDY PARCEL POST AND CUSTOMS.

Announcement was made here yesterday that the Secretary of the Treasurer had designated J. B. Reynolds, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Colonel E. S. Fowler, Collector of the Port of New York, and C. P. Montgomery, Chief of Customs, to represent the Treasury Department in a conference with postal service officials to study the parcel post agreements with foreign countries.

AFTER TICKET AGENCIES.

Aldermen Favor Abolishing Them to Stop Speculating.

The committee on laws and legislation of the Board of Aldermen decided yesterday to report favorably at the meeting to-day an ordinance abolishing ticket speculating. The aldermen have tried at various times to "get at" the sidewalk men, but the old abuses have been continued.

Alderman Redmond, chairman of the committee, said yesterday he was convinced that the only way to stop the speculators was to abolish the agencies, and he thought the proposed ordinance would do it. The incredulous say that the ordinance will be declared unconstitutional by the courts if it gets through the Mayor's office. It provides:

Every ticket entitling a person to admission to any theatre, opera house, concert hall or place of public exhibition or amusement shall have plainly and conspicuously printed on its face the price thereof, and no greater sum shall be asked or exacted therefor, and it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell or offer for sale any such ticket within the limits of the city of New York for a sum in excess of that printed on the ticket.

Every such ticket shall be sold and offered for sale only on the premises of the theatre, opera house, concert hall or place of public exhibition or amusement admission to which it entitles the purchaser.

No person, firm or corporation conducting any such theatre, opera house, concert hall or place of public exhibition or amusement, nor any officer, agent or employe thereof, shall directly or indirectly sell, or permit to be sold, any ticket of admission to any broker, speculator, scalper or other person engaged in the business of selling any such tickets of admission, knowingly and with the intention of permitting and having the purchaser resell or offer for resale said ticket of admission at an increased price above that printed on the face thereof.

It is provided that any person or corporation violating the ordinance shall be liable to a fine of not less than $10 nor more than $50 for each offence, and in default of the payment of a fine may be committed to prison for not more than ten days.

MME. CALVE SINGS FOR DR. BULL.

Physicians Say Her Private Concert for Surgeon Helped Him Greatly.

His physicians said yesterday that Dr. William T. Bull, who is suffering from cancer, had showed wonderful improvement recently, and that he had greatly enjoyed the singing of Mme. Calvé, who gave a private concert for him in his room at the Hotel Plaza on Friday and Saturday. Mme. Calvé, who is an intimate friend of Mrs. Bull, volunteered to sing for the patient, and he at once expressed a desire to hear her.

While most of her songs were in French, Mme. Calvé also sang in Italian and German, and completed her programme with a few popular airs. Her singing is said to have proved a tonic to the surgeon, who is a lover of music.

Dr. Blake, one of the attending physicians, said last night at his home, No. 601 Madison avenue, that Dr. Bull had shown much improvement after Mme. Calvé had sung for him.

MISS GRACE BRYAN A BRIDESMAID.

Roanoke, Va., Nov. 16.—Miss Grace Bryan, daughter of William J. Bryan, who is attending school here, was a bridesmaid to-night at the wedding of Miss Belle Norwood Tyler, daughter of ex-Governor J. Hoge Tyler, and Frank P. McConnell, of Fort Smith, Ark. Professor Roy M. McConnell, of Harvard, a brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

SON BORN TO DUCHESS DE CHAULNES.

Paris, Nov. 16.—The Duchess de Chaulnes, who formerly was Miss Theodora Shonts, of New York, gave birth to a son at her home here to-day.

The Duke de Chaulnes and Miss Shonts, daughter of Theodore P. Shonts, were married on February 15 of this year, at the home of the bride's parents in East 35th street. They went to Paris soon after the wedding. A week after their arrival in Paris the duke died suddenly.

SILENT ON REPORTED ENGAGEMENT.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—Confirmation or denial of the story emanating from Berlin that the Princess Maria von Ysemburg-Budigen, a cousin of the Kaiser, who is the guest of Professor Herman V. Hilprecht, the Assyriologist, and Mrs. Hilprecht, of this city, is to be married to Mrs. Hilprecht's son, Atmore Robinson, was refused at the Hilprecht home to-day.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS

ASTOR—George W. Ray, Norwich, N. Y.; J. M. Masten, Washington. GOTHAM—H. H. Ficken, Charleston, S. C. HOLLAND—President David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford University, California. HOTEL ASTOR—Mrs. Harry Lauder, London. ST. DENIS—Professor Davinck, Amsterdam, Holland. WALDORF-ASTORIA—Dr. J. E. Sullivan, Providence.

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY.

Free admission to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Museum of Natural History and the Zoological Gardens.

Annual meeting of the New York and New England Association of Railway Surgeons, Academy of Medicine, No. 17 West 43d street, 9:30 a. m.

Dr. Merle St. Croix Wright on "George Bernard Shaw," under the auspices of the League for Political Education, No. 23 West 44th street, 11 a. m.

Meeting of the National California Club in New York, Waldorf-Astoria, 2 p. m.

Harvest festival and sale for the benefit of the Free Industrial School for Crippled Children, Waldorf-Astoria, afternoon and evening.

Tea for the benefit of the School for Housekeeping, home of Mrs. George P. Brett, No. 267 West End avenue, 3 p. m.

Laying of Cornerstone of new buildings of the Union Theological Seminary, Broadway and West 120th street, 3:30 p. m.

Address by Mayor McClellan at presentation of Waring medal and prizes to Street Cleaning force by Woman's Municipal League, Stable E of Street Cleaning Department, No. 408 West 15th street, 4 p. m.

Annual ball of the National Professional Chauffeurs' Club No. 1, Terrace Garden, evening.

Exhibition of flowers, under the auspices of the Horticultural Society, American Museum of Natural History, evening.

Dinner of the Quill Club, Hotel Manhattan, evening.

Professor Franklin H. Giddings on "Social Classes in the United States," under the auspices of the People's Institute, Cooper Union, 8 p. m.

Meeting of the New York section of the Council of Jewish Women, Temple Emanu-El, 43d street and Fifth avenue, 8:15 p. m.

Inauguration of the Rev. Dr. Francis Brown as president of the Union Theological Seminary, Adams's Chapel, No. 700 Park avenue, 8:20 p. m.

Free lectures of the Board of Education, 8 p. m.: Wadleigh High School, 114th street and Seventh avenue, "The Relation of Light to Electricity," Professor E. R. von Nardroff; Public School 21, Mott and Spring streets, "Scenery and Life in the Levant," A. Watson Bain; Public School 30, No. 224 East 88th street, "Irish Life in Song and Story," Miss Minnie D. Kuhn; Public School 63, 4th street, east of First avenue, "Summer in the Frozen North," Miss Lyda R. McCabe; Public School 150, 95th street and First avenue, "Songs of Germany," Miss Ura E. Wyckoff; Public School 169, Audubon avenue and 168th street, "The Picturesque Rhine," Dr. Francis L. Strickland; Museum of Natural History, 77th street and Columbus avenue, "The City of Mexico," Isaac F. Smith; Public Library, No. 103 West 125th street, "The Evolution of Human Races," Professor Henry E. Crampton; St. Cornelius's Church, No. 423 West 46th street, "The Delta of the Orinoco," Professor Henry H. Rusby; West Side Neighborhood House, No. 501 West 50th street, "Arizona," Mrs. Emma P. Telford; Public School 2, Third avenue and 169th street, "German Songs," Miss Estelle Rose; Public School 13, Park avenue, Williamsbridge, "Cowboy and Engineer in Colorado," Graham C. Hunter; Riverdale Hall, 260th street and Riverdale avenue, "Alaska," Mrs. Emma R. Steiner.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Official Record and Forecast.—Washington, Nov. 16.—With the exception of light snows in the lake region and St. Lawrence Valley and rains on the north Pacific Coast, the weather has been generally fair throughout the country. Temperatures are below the seasonal average from the Mississippi Valley eastward and above to the westward. Frost or freezing temperatures occurred generally Monday morning in the south Atlantic states, including portions of Northern Florida.

Forecast for Special Localities.—For the District of Columbia and Maryland, fair to-day and Wednesday; light variable winds.

For Delaware, New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, fair to-day and Wednesday; light to fresh variable winds.

For Eastern New York, fair to-day and Wednesday; light to fresh west winds becoming variable.

For New England, fair in south, local snows in north portion to-day; Wednesday fair; fresh west to southwest winds.

For Western Pennsylvania, partly cloudy to-day; snow flurries near Lake Erie; Wednesday fair; fresh west to south winds.

For Western New York, snow flurries to-day, except fair in the southeast portion; Wednesday fair; fresh west to south 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:

	1907.	1908.		1907.	1908.
3 a. m.	40	28	6 p. m.	46	41
6 a. m.	40	28	9 p. m.	44	39
9 a. m.	40	32	11 p. m.	40	38
12 m.	44	37	12 p. m.	39	—
4 p. m.	48	42			

Highest temperature yesterday, 42 degrees; lowest, 28; average, 35; average for corresponding date last year, 44; average for corresponding date last thirty-three years, 44.

Local forecast: Fair to-day and to-morrow; light to fresh westerly winds, becoming variable.

OBITUARY

SIR H. G. JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

Montreal, Nov. 16.—Sir H. G. Joly de Lotbinière, formerly Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and a well known figure in Canadian public life, died to-day at his home, in Quebec.

Henry Gustave Joly de Lotbinière was born in 1829. He was educated at the Sorbonne and called to the bar in Quebec in 1855, becoming a Queen's counsel in 1878. He was a member of the Canadian Assembly for Lotbinière in 1861, and was returned in the first election of the House of Commons, serving from 1867 to 1874. He was the leader of the Opposition from 1874 to 1878 and Premier of Quebec in 1878-'79. He was again leader of the Opposition in 1883-'85 and vice-chairman of the Dominion Liberal convention in 1893. From 1896 to 1900 he was Minister of Inland Revenue in the Laurier administration. His service as Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia was from 1900 to 1906. He took much interest in forestry and was vice-president of the American Forestry Congress in 1885, and was vice-president of the Imperial Federation League of Canada. He conducted Li Hung Chang through Canada in 1896 and received the Prince and Princess of Wales in British Columbia in 1901. He was created a Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George in 1895. The degrees of D. C. L. and LL. D. were conferred on him. One of his sons is a major in the Royal Engineers and another a major in the British army.

EX-GOVERNOR ROBERT B. SMITH.

Kalispell, Mont., Nov. 16.—Former Governor R. B. Smith died in the hospital here to-day from uramic poisoning.

Robert Burns Smith was a native of Kentucky, where he was born in Hickman County, December 29, 1854. He received an academic education at Milburn, Ky., and in 1876 taught school a year at Mayfield, Ky. In 1877 he was admitted to the Kentucky Bar and practised at Mayfield until 1882, when he removed to Montana, making his home in Dillon. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1884. From 1885 to 1889 he was United States District Attorney for Montana. He served as city attorney for Helena in 1890-'91. In 1894 he was defeated for Congress. His service as Governor of Montana was in 1896-1901.

EDGAR K. BETTS.

Troy, N. Y., Nov. 16.—Edgar K. Betts, head of the firm of Earl & Wilson, the collar manufacturers, died last night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Walter Barnbisel, in Seattle, whither he had gone to recuperate his health.

Mr. Betts was born in Norwalk, Conn., on June 22, 1842. He had been identified with the collar business since 1876. He was vice-president of the Union National Bank, a director of the Security Trust Company and a trustee of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Emma Willard School. He was a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Mr. Betts leaves a wife and four children—Mrs. Barnbisel, Anson G., Edgar H. and Arthur W. Betts.

DR. W. M. JACKSON DROPS DEAD.

Stamford, Conn., Nov. 16.—Dr. Walter M. Jackson dropped dead near the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad station late last night. He was the son of ex-Governor Charles H. Jackson of Rhode Island. Dr. Jackson was graduated from Harvard and practised medicine in Providence for several years. He came to this city about seventeen years ago and devoted himself largely to electrical experiments. He had taken out several patents. A wife and one son survive him.

OBITUARY NOTES.

JAMES FERGUSON, superintendent of the Safety Insulated Wire and Cable Company, of Bayonne, N. J., one of the largest concerns of its kind in the country, died on Sunday at his home, No. 173 Hudson Boulevard, Bayonne. He was formerly superintendent of the city electric lighting plant in Brooklyn.

JAMES COMISKEY, who served two terms as chief of the Fire Department in old Long Island City, and was also a member of the Long Island City Board of Aldermen, died on Sunday at his home, No. 57 4th street, Long Island City. He leaves a wife and eleven children.

MRS. SARAH LOUISE JEWETT STRICKLAND, one of the pioneer newspaper women of Connecticut, died yesterday at her home at Manchester, Conn. She was sixty-four years old.

BLOWHOLES ONLY "CORE HOLES."

Declarations that there were blowholes the size of a man's fist in the cast steel pyramids at the base of one of the towers of the new Queensboro Bridge, published on Sunday, but not in The Tribune, and based on affidavits by Frank J. Farrell, a hoisting engineer for the Pennsylvania Steel Company, were completely disproved yesterday. At Bridge Commissioner Stevenson's request Messrs. Boller & Hodge and Professor Burr, of Columbia, the experts who have been investigating the bridge's strength, made a report to him on these conditions, declaring that the alleged blowholes were only "core holes," a regularly recognized feature in hollow casting work of the type of these pyramids. Farrell, Engineer Knighton and employes of the steel company were interrogated by the experts yesterday, after which they pronounced the blowhole scare a myth. Even if such blowholes had existed, said Mr. Hodge, the concrete filling of the castings would have assured the proper strength in construction. This story had absolutely no relation to the charge made by The Tribune and substantiated by the reports of Boller & Hodge and Professor Burr, that the bridge itself was overstressed and unable to carry the loads called for by the contract.

A BRIDGE SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: If not a foolish idea, I would like to suggest strengthening the carrying capacity of the Blackwell's Island bridge by adding cables and suspenders, provided that the towers can sustain more weight. Would not such method be effective and economical? M. D. LAWRENCE.

Brooklyn, Nov. 15, 1908.

[The towers of the Blackwell's Island bridge, according to the reports of both experts, are the weakest part of the structure.]

RECKLESS BRIDGE BUILDING.

From The Boston Herald.

Shortly after the collapse last year of the great cantilever bridge building over the St. Lawrence River near Quebec The New-York Tribune opened discussion of the safety of the Blackwell's Island bridge over the East River, claiming that it had information justifying it in insisting that there be investigation of the matter before the work went on and the bridge was opened to the public. So much uneasiness was aroused that the city officials, including the Commissioner of Bridges, ordered an investigation by two experts, working independently. Their reports are found in the current "Engineering News," and they agree that the maximum loading assumed in the original designs would greatly stress the main trusses, and that therefore the bridge is unsafe. No explanation is given by the experts as to how the bridge came to be built with stresses above those permitted in the specifications, but there is agreement that the present structure cannot safely carry more than one-third of the intended live load. Consequently, the experts recommend that the bridge be opened only on condition that it be used to a limited degree. That the reports will be of profound interest to the bridge engineering profession goes without saying, as does the statement of "The Engineering News" that they "contain information astonishing to the last degree." This is an instance of what may be called "preventive journalism," by which attention has been called to the weakness of the bridge. The public will ask, as does "The Engineering News":

"Here is a huge bridge structure, built by a great and wealthy city. There was no need and no thought of attempting to economize in the design, as was done from force of necessity at Quebec. The city bridge department has had on its staff some engineers of high professional reputation, and the structure has been built by a firm of long experience and high standing. Were these engineers ignorant of the stress conditions in the structure? Did they knowingly transgress the limitations for safe stress fixed by the specifications? Would they have deliberately taken the responsibility of opening the bridge to public use in this condition, regardless of the terrible object lesson at Quebec a year ago?"

But how will the load upon the bridge be regulated within the point of safety? Just how far is an unsafe bridge safe? If the bridge is open to the public, is there any guarantee that the scientific limit of stress will be observed? An open bridge should be capable of standing any strain that by possible contingency may be placed upon it. Otherwise it is not safe.

Died.

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

Abel, Joseph P.
Carter, William A.
Cooke, Bella