

Anglo-American Memories

CLV. SOME RECENT AMERICAN IMPRESSIONS

III. (Copyright, 1912, George W. Smalley.) London, January 9.

As the recent gift of votes to women by California has been much discussed in England, I asked some questions about it while in America. But I suppose I asked the wrong people, for few with whom I talked seemed to think the matter very important. Once or twice the answer was, "Why should they not have the vote?" If I suggested that the more pertinent question would be, "Why should they?" I was set down as unregenerate, and prayers were offered up for my conversion. I found, moreover, a belief prevailing among vote-wanting women that in England the militant suffragists were winning, and that thanks to them, the nine or ten millions of Englishwomen would soon have their "rights."

This was no new belief. It was cherished by the little group of fashionable women in New York who embarked upon a suffrage crusade of their own two or three years ago. A friend wrote me at the time that they based their movement upon that theory. I answered that their theory was an illusion, in that the women who broke windows and mobbed the Prime Minister and assaulted the police were compromising the cause they meant to support; that they were postponing the possibility of woman suffrage for a generation or more, and that similar tactics in America would probably have a similar effect. If they wanted to start a suffrage campaign, nothing would be gained by basing it on the delusion that the cause in England had been advanced by the proceedings of the extremists.

Presently I received a circular or prospectus of this new movement, with, I think, a copy of the constitution of the Equal Suffrage Association, and a formal invitation to become a member of it. All these documents, instead of being just printed, as usual, were elegantly engraved, as if they had been invitations to dinner. I had to decline this proposal, explaining that I could not join an association for enlarging the suffrage because I thought too many people had votes already. This view was disapproved of, but is nevertheless the opinion of a great many Americans who think seriously on such subjects and are convinced that political rights were granted to the negroes too hastily, and are granted too carelessly to some classes of immigrants, and that the privilege of naturalization is systematically abused. At any rate, my answer was resented and a friendship of years came to an end. There can be no greater loss than the loss of a friendship unless it be the surrender of a conviction. But feelings ran high, at that time. I was told that New York society was at once divided into two camps; that intimacies were broken up, and that women who wanted the vote would not dine with the women who did not want it, but were content with the power and influence they had; believing it to be greater and more useful than the right to drop a ballot into the ballot box for Tammany by trick works.

But when I asked last November whether these animosities still existed I was told that if they had ever existed at all it was only between a few women who had other grounds of quarrel. The feud, if there were one, seemed to have died out, and the suffrage fanatics had grown more tolerant. I could not discover whether the zeal of these suffragists had grown colder or whether for the moment other topics had come to the front. Nor did it appear that these charming champions of social disorder were unduly elated by the success of their California sisters. "California," remarked a New York lady, sententiously, "is a long way off." But in England New York also seems a long way off, and the English do not always remember that it is as far from New York to San Francisco as from London to New York. Some of the English suffragists cried out with joy that they had won a great victory in California, and proclaimed in the papers that it was an omen of their early triumph on this side the Atlantic.

The value of the victory, as so often happens, was in proportion to its remoteness. These zealots do not perceive that to argue from California to Great Britain is of no avail. The dragging of women into politics is a cause for which American precedents have often been invoked. But the English do not discriminate, nor stop to consider that the five or six American states which have adopted woman suffrage are all on the Pacific Coast, or on the Pacific Slope. In all of these states, government, so far as the States themselves are concerned, is an experimental state. They have embarked on other political adventures in the same spirit of easy confidence. The English need reminding that so loose is the organic structure of those Pacific states that one or another part of the fabric may be disturbed without much impairing the cohesive energy of the whole. It is idle to draw analogies between communities still in the cradle and a country like England, of which the institutions are the deliberate growth of centuries. The fallacy is evident enough to those of the English who really apply their minds to these questions. For an exposure of the errors underlying the citation of these American excursions into uncharted seas I need only refer to Mrs. Humphry Ward's impregnable letters to "The Times."

The truth is that in England the suffragists are much more likely to wreck a Cabinet than to get the vote. The division in the Cabinet yawns wide. The Prime Minister is on one side, affirming in the House of Commons his conviction that to confer the franchise on women would be a political disaster of the first magnitude; yet avowing his readiness to accept the verdict of a majority of the House. He is supposed to lead. On the other side is Mr. Lloyd George, who is for a new policy of thorough more menacing. He is in good enough to rebuild, provided it has never been tried.

Yet it seemed to me that opinion on the Atlantic seaboard as well as by the shores of the Pacific was in a fluid state, and not on this woman question only, but mainly. The physical newness of New York had its counterpart in a new restlessness of mind. That is too large a subject to enter upon toward the end

A SCENE FROM THE NEW OPERA "VERSIEGELT" AT THE METROPOLITAN.



The two young lovers (Mme. Edla Alten and Mr. Jadowler) discovered in the cupboard by the two widows (Mme. Gadskei and Miss Marie Matfeld).

Merry Comedy with Pretty Music.

A New German Opera to Enliven a Somewhat Stale Repertory.

A new German opera was added to the repertory of the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday. Such an occurrence is not to be passed over without calling out an expression of special wonder. Our opera is not addicted to novelties, but to so much of the old list as employs the Caruso or Farrar for the sake of the subscribers it is striking. It is only when a concession is made to the public in general that we get such refreshing things as "Le Donne Curiose" in the Italian department, and "Versiegelt" in the German. Perhaps a sermon might be preached on the text that both of the operas had been some time on the list of promised things and were therefore due to the public; and also that Mr. Dippel may possibly have deserved better treatment than he received at the hands of the Metropolitan directors—with a big D. But that is a small matter. Mr. Dippel is making his way in Chicago, and (as it would appear) very materially influencing local affairs in New York without being in physical evidence.

It is, at least, a surprising, even a startling, fact that German operas of late assumed large proportions in our operatic activities. Including the opera "Versiegelt," which had its first public production in America yesterday, we have now almost as many German operas in our current list as we have Italian. The French element, insignificant in fact, has been more neglected than the German, which is one of the signs of our real artistic poverty in spite of our apparent operatic wealth. The decadence of the French element dates back to the retirement of Grau, and has a reason which is not at all to our credit. The Metropolitan is a proud institution, but it is not quite equal to the demands of an ideal "Prophète" or "Huguenots," or even a "Carmen," and there are still a large number of opera-lovers so unsophisticated as you will see with the "Le Prophète," "Le Huguenot" and "Carmen" might even in a while be performed. They used to hear them when severe German standards ruled. Why, then, not now? The artistic roster gives the answer, in part; the taste of the stockholders and the limitations of Signor Caruso the other part. Including yesterday afternoon's performance, Signor Caruso has sung seven times, but four occasions have been wasted on "Le Prophète," which he will not endure a day without him; four on "Faust," which never would be missed (either with or without him); three have been devoted to "Aida" (always welcome for its own sake—not alone his); three to "La Gioconda" (a negligible quantity); one on "Armide" (which even he cannot save because of the lack of popular appreciation of its lovely archaism), one on "Tosca" and one on "Cavalleria Rusticana" (instances of dire necessity on the part of the management).

Under the circumstances it must be a matter of pride on the part of the lovers of German opera to point to the current list and to realize that to the nine lyric dramas, which have been produced in their tongue there are still yet half a dozen "Fidelios," "Die Königin von Saba," "Der Freischütz," "Die Verklung von Saba" and a beautiful possibility—"Euryanthe," which might be produced without seriously disturbing the routine of the establishment. It is a lesson which will be learned by the sooner or later have to be learned by the Metropolitan management. Caruso will not last forever; in the last two seasons he has not even lived to the active period for which he was engaged.

But we are forgetting "Versiegelt," the new German opera brought forward yesterday. "Versiegelt" is much more interesting as a comedy than as an opera, and while it is not a masterpiece of anything else, it is a masterpiece of a composer with a talent like Wolf-Ferrari's, rather than one like Leo Sclach's, had undertaken its musical setting. There is something too suggestive of his musical manner in the name of the composer, "Versiegelt," as a spoken comedy, is more than three-quarters of a century old. All of its elements and all of its characters are familiar, but they are ever fresh, and the combination has been ingeniously made by the librettist in this doctrine nor in the coming of the Millennium in that particular form to that particular end. But prophecy is a convenient form of dialectic, for to prophesy there is no answer but a negative answer, and an attitude of mere disbelief. I asked the friend next whom I sat—a woman of rare gifts: "Did you ever know Bourke more eloquent?" "Never."

"Do you agree with what he said?" "With every word. I suppose you do not." "No." "Then I am the more certain he is right." And that, presumably, is the kind of winged weapon which will still employ when they get their "rights"; including the right to vote, which they only care for while it is denied. G. W. S.

OBITUARY.

INSURANCE PIONEER DEAD

William H. Dexter, Philanthropist, Expires at Worcester, Mass. (By Telegraph to the Tribune.) Worcester, Mass., Jan. 20.—William H. Dexter, eighty-nine years old, originator of the first national fire insurance company, who has given half a million to different charities, churches and the Worcester Academy, died today at his home, on Charlton street, from pneumonia. He was born in Charlton, Mass., and was a direct descendant of Gregory Dexter, a companion of Roger Williams when he founded Providence, in 1639.

After receiving a common school education in Charlton, Mr. Dexter started as a clerk, and in 1846 established a flour and grain business in Worcester, which he conducted until 1877. From that time until shortly before his death he devoted his time to real estate interests, which netted him a big fortune. Mr. Dexter for twenty-five years was treasurer and trustee of the Worcester Academy, to which he gave large sums, and his name is perpetuated at the academy by the dormitory known as Dexter Hall.

DR. BENJAMIN C. LIPPINCOTT.

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Crispin Lippincott, one of the oldest and most prominent clergymen of the New Jersey conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died early yesterday morning at Ocean Grove, N. J. He was born at Haddonfield, N. J., on July 22, 1827.

He received an academic education at the Pennington Seminary, acting at the same time as instructor of English department. He was graduated from Dickinson College, and two years later received the degree of Master of Arts. After serving as principal of the Cumberland Valley Institute for one year he was transferred to the Oregon conference by Bishop Ames, where he became principal of the Puget Sound Institute.

In 1862 he was elected by the Legislature of Washington Territory as the first Superintendent of Public Instruction. While on the Pacific coast he served as pastor of the Methodist Episcopal churches at Olympia, Dallas City and Portland, at the latter place building the large Taylor street church. In 1866 Dr. Lippincott was transferred to the New Jersey conference, in which he since held a notably prominent position.

His charges were at Glassboro, Dennisville, Eden Hill, Keaport, Pennington, Woodbury Park, Camden, Long Branch, Asbury, New Brunswick, Vineland, Millville, Farmingdale, Pennsgrove and Blackwood. For many years Dr. Lippincott was a trustee of Pennington Seminary and also of Dickinson College. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and occupied a prominent position in the Masonic fraternity. For two years he was dean of Pennington Seminary. He retired from the active ministry in 1908. Besides his wife, who was the daughter of the late Judge Jesse H. Divert, of Dennisville, N. J., Dr. Lippincott leaves three sons and a daughter, the Rev. B. C. Lippincott, of Matawan, N. J.; Jesse D. Lippincott, of Newark; James Bradley Lippincott, of Los Angeles, and Mrs. U. G. McQueen, of New Rochelle, N. Y.

GOVERNOR BASS MARRIES

Miss Edith H. Bird Bride of New Hampshire Chief Executive.

East Walpole, Mass., Jan. 20.—In a temporary chapel, the walls of which were covered with hangings of blue silk, Robert Perkins Bass, Governor of New Hampshire, married Miss Edith Harlan Bird, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Bird, today. The marriage was performed at Endam, the spacious home of the Bird family, by the Rev. Edward M. Parker, Bishop Coadjutor of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, assisted by the Rev. James A. Thompson, rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Walpole. Only a few guests witnessed the ceremony. The bride wore a gown of white satin, embroidered with seed pearls. She was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Louis A. Baldwin, as matron of honor. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, John Bass, of Chicago. The ushers were Francis W. Bird, Ambassador of the Port of New York, and Charles S. Bird, Jr., brother of the bride. George Dutton, of New York, and the members of Governor Bass's military staff.

VIOLA ALLEN IN NEW PLAY.

New London, Conn., Jan. 20.—Viola Allen appeared here to-night at the Plymouth Theatre in a modern American play, "The Schützenkönig," a three-act drama written by Tschel Crothers's American author. It was a drama of woman's ambition for a career versus mother love, entitled "The Schützenkönig." The story is of a sculptress whose absorption in her work causes unintentional neglect of her young daughter, who is, meanwhile, led into danger. The audience seemed specially interested in the scene between Mrs. Herford (Viola Allen) and her daughter, who is mistaken in putting her before parental obligation. The play will go to the Plymouth Theatre, Boston, on Monday.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

In the testimonial to be given by the National Alliance for the Protection of Street Children at the Century Theatre on Friday afternoon, February 2, nearly one thousand children will participate in a sketch performance which will begin at 1 o'clock and end in the neighborhood of 5. It is expected that all the prominent actors then in the city will lend their aid and scenes from the leading plays will be given. The order was written for the Webster & Fields production of "Who's Who," and the burlesque of "Bunny Bull" and "Prigs." E. Ray Goetz will write the lyrics for Mr. Sloane's musical.

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ART EXHIBITIONS

Old Brasses from China and India on View.

Old brasses of China and India, belonging to the Meyer collection, have been placed on view at the Tiffany Studios, and will remain for a fortnight. The visitor will find much to interest him in these ancient mementoes of the religious and the record-keeping instincts of these Asiatics and of their natural gift of expression in the working of metal. This collection testifies to the high development of the art of alloying copper with the baser or softer, the precious metals, in the centuries corresponding to the medieval period in Europe and to the early Renaissance in Italy. The quality of the workmanship is such that the quality of the character of the designs into which it is cast count for their full value. The surfaces have a lustrous depth and beauty, and the pieces possess a dignity and an appeal that are decidedly alluring.

Many of the old Chinese brasses are of the sort that were used as payments of tribute by feudal princes to the Emperor in the early days. They are also in the examples from India one finds the forms of gods and animals, executed with the utmost variety, and yet with the guiding hand of tradition evident in their arrangement and detail.

In the Chinese group there are five Ming dynasty vases of considerable size and distinction, which look the part they are said probably to have played, as ornaments upon the Imperial altar. They are also extremely competent in their way as were their European contemporaries. Bowls, jars and lamps of Chinese origin are here, and the collection also contains some handsome specimens of embroidery.

In the pieces from India, one notes at once the heightened feeling for the purely decorative qualities, for the enriching of surfaces by elaborate graving and for regularity of shape. The mer, who contrived these old vessels must have had a keen eye for a really something of the artist's virtuosity. Here are miniature models of temples, used for votive offerings; here are trays for household purposes; "charity jars," into which alms were thrown to holy beggars; sacred lotus, in which water from a sacred river was carried to the dying. It is a curiously interesting assortment.

DEAD AT AGE OF 100 YEARS.

Boston, Jan. 20.—Ann W. Penman, 100 years old, a direct descendant of Peregrine White, who was born on the Mayflower, died at her home in Brookline today.

DIED.

Allison, Albert. Gunt, Alice. Balfie, Herbert. Hinsdale, Mary P. Bauer, John G. Hyde, Charles T. Bismarck, Heinrich W. Lyon, Betsy. Bullard, Laura C. Lyon, Betsy. Cowth, Sarah M. McCoy, Daniel B. Dixon, Peter W. Perkins, Edward W. Fortunate, Michael. Vail, Fred L. Gallagher, John. Wetmore, Sarah S.

ALEXANDER GARGIULO.

Constantinople, Jan. 20.—Alexander Gargiulo, who had for twenty years occupied the post of first dragoman at the American Embassy here, died today.

GENERAL JOHN J. McDONALD.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—General John J. McDonald, friend of Lincoln, Grant and Sherman and a brigade commander in the Civil War, died here today. He was eighty years old.

JOHN GRANGER BAUER.

John Granger Bauer died at St. Vincent's Hospital, Livingston, Staten Island, yesterday, after an illness of some eighteen months. Death was due to cancer. Mr. Bauer was eighty-six years old. He was born in England, and up to the time he was seventy years old most of his life was spent upon the stage. He came to this country in 1850, and with many companies in the United States with many companies. His last engagement was with the late Stuart Robinson. For some fifteen years he had been in the Actors' Fund Home.

ELIAS ALLEN FORD.

Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 20.—Elias Allen Ford, Pasadena general traffic manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad, died suddenly in his home here early today of heart disease. Mr. Ford was seventy-two years old. He came here three years ago from Philadelphia. Three daughters, two of whom are Mrs. Modeste, of St. Louis, and Mrs. Hoadley, of Minneapolis, survive him.

DR. WILLIAM A. WHEELER.

Portland, Me., Jan. 20.—Dr. William A. Wheeler, ex-president of the Board of Trade, died to-night, aged fifty-eight. He was a native of Evansville, Ind. He was graduated from Harvard University and also attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. He was for a time in charge of the medical department of the Immigration service at Ellis Island.

DANIEL M'COY.

Hackensack, N. J., Jan. 20.—Daniel M'Cooy, sixty-seven, formerly assistant general manager of the New York Central Railroad, died at the home of his son, W. K. M'Cooy, at Bogota, to-night. He began life as a telegraph operator on the Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh and served as a Civil War telegrapher on General Scott's staff. His wife died last August.

MUNGO R. PARK.

Manhattan, Nev., Jan. 20.—Mungo R. Park, said to have been at one time a prominent musician of Boston, died here last night. He was a great-nephew of Mungo Park, the noted Scotch explorer. Although once wealthy, he died in want.

JAMES M. TAYLOR.

Pittsburgh, Jan. 20.—James M. Taylor, aged seventy-four, the last of the famous Tyne River (England) crew of oarsmen which won the championship from the United States at Saratoga Springs about 1870, died here yesterday from pneumonia.

BROWN FUND REACHES \$400,130.

Providence, Jan. 20.—Today's pledge to the \$400,000 endowment for Brown University brought the total up to \$400,130. The acknowledgments included one of \$50,000 from Henry A. Laughlin, a Pittsburgh alumnus.

OFFICES.

MAIN OFFICE—No. 154 Nassau street. UPTOWN OFFICE—No. 1544 Broadway, at 42nd street. MONDAY, JAN. 22, 1912, at 2 p. m. HARTLEY OFFICES—No. 157 East 125th street. No. 263 West 125th street. No. 219 West 125th street. No. 219 West 125th street.

CEMETERIES.

THE WOODLAWN CEMETERY, 2343 St. by Harlem Train and by Trolley. Office, 234 East 23d St., N. Y.

FRANK E. CAMPBELL, 241-3 West 23d St., Chapels, Private Rooms, Private Ambulance, Tel. 1234 Church.

A. J. LUCKING'S Chapel and Show Rooms, 301 Amsterdam ave., Tel. 234 Riverside.

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WASHINGTON BUREAU—Western Building.