WIFE MURDER AND SUICIDE.

THE ENDING WITHIN A YEAR OF AN UNHAPPY MARRIED LIFE.

Wenzel Felix Brains his Wife Catharina, Cuts his Throat, and Hangs Himself—Described as an Idler and a Drunkard.

At a quarter past 10 o'clock yesterday morning Catharina Felix, a roughly dressed Bohemian woman, accompanied by a man who acted as her interpreter, applied to Sergeant Pickett in the East Fifty-first street police station to have her sick husband, Wenzel Felix, removed from their dwelling at 330 East Forty-eighth street to a hospital till he could recover from internal injuries which, she said, he had received by falling from a building on 105th street, near Sixth avenue, where he was working as a carpenter some fourteen weeks ago. He had been a few days at the German Hospital, she said, and since then had been living at home, where she could no longer support him. She was a stout little woman, with a plain but rather good face, and appeared to be about 30 years old. Policeman Gleason went with her to verify her story, and reported that there was a sick man in her rooms who claimed to be unable to rise from his bed. An ambulance was sent for, and at 11, when Policeman Davis was going out on post on that beat the Sergeant directed him to see if the ambulance had called. At a quarter before 12 Davis came back with the startling report that "those people are both dead, the woman with her brains beaten out on the man, with his throat cut, hanged."

When Davis had got to Second avenue, near Forty-ninth street, a citizen ran up to him and told him, "A man has hanged himself on Forty-eighth street. I have seen him through the window." The policeman hastened to the place pointed out by his informant, the dwelling of the Felixes, on the ground floor of a miserable frame dwelling, little more than a shanty, in a sunken yard, and, finding the door locked, kicked it open. Passing through a small and entirely empty room, and entering a little apartment which appeared to have been at once bedroom, kitchen, and sitting room, he found the body of Wenzel Felix lying prone upon the floor, the head elevated about eighteen inches, and supported by a rope fastened above to the pipe of the kitchen stove. Davis cut the rope, and, as he turned the corpse over upon the floor, saw that the suicide had made a gash in his throat, severing the windpipe, and had then seemingly hanged himself as he was found. There were two turns of the rope—a slender clothesline—about the neck and in the wound, tearing apart its edges. Four or five feet away lay the body of Catharina Felix. Her head had been beaten in on one side. Both bodies were still warm.

Upon the floor near the murdered woman was a lazemaker's pillow, studded with pins arranged in an intricate pattern, with fine threads woven in a flimsy web between them and a score of slender bobbins dangling about it. This instrument and its required toll was the industry by which the poor woman had not only during his alleged infirmity, but most of the time since their marriage, supported the man who had finally brained her. The lace upon the pillow was just fairly started, and upon the table lay a little pile of skeins of fine white thread with which it was to have been continued. Upon the skeins of thread lay a bloody razor. In one corner of the room was a good bed, a conspicuous part of the poor woman's wealth for which, according to his sister's subsequently related story, her husband married her in Bohemia. On the rough whitewashed walls hung several cheap German lithographs, chiefly of religious subjects. Policeman Buckley came in and found, under the bed, the weapon with which the woman had been killed. It was a carpenter's heavy lignum-vitæ mallet, weighing four or five pounds.

Catharina Michaels, sister of Wenzel Felix, lives at 331 East Forty-eighth street. "My brother Wenzel," she said, "married Catharina in the old country about nine months ago. He married her for her wealth. She had saved up 600 guilden—about $240—and had a very good bed and some other very nice furniture. He made her sell all the furniture but the bed. They came to this country about six months ago, and for a time lived with me on Tenth avenue. Then they moved over here. He was a miller, but couldn't get any work at that here, and so went to house framing and carpentering. He did not work a great deal, and he drank pretty steadily. She didn't drink much. In about two months, if she had lived, she would have been a mother. He has been saying all the time that the unborn babe was not his. She denied it, and they were constantly fighting over that."

A neighbor of the Felixes, a woman, said: "He was lazy and drunken. He wanted to lie at home and do little work, and make her feed him and bring him beer and schnapps. When she could not support him any longer, and wanted to send him to the hospital, he got wild, and killed her and himself. She told me to-day that they had only seven cents to live on."

The two trunks in the dead couple's room were well filled with coarse but good clothing, all exceedingly clean and neat, and the bed was clean. The murderer was a man of small stature, with a sharp chin and little eyes. His crimes were, so far as the near neighbors know, perpetrated in silence, the unfortunate wife not having been given time for outcry.

NORTON'S FATAL WOUND.

His Death Yesterday Morning—Conflicting Stories as to the Shooting.

Policeman Thomas J. Norton of the Eldridge street station, who was shot at about midnight on Sunday by Policeman Bernard Fitzpatrick of the Oak street station, died at 3½ A. M. yesterday in the Chambers Street Hospital. Shortly before his death he made a statement to Coroner Brady, in which he is recorded as having said that he was on patrol in Delancey street about 11½ o'clock. He took a look at the premises at 44, as was his custom, and found on the second floor in the rear a room kept by a woman named Blanche. "I also," the record of his statement continues, "found three men in the room. I said, 'What are you doing here?' One of them said, 'That's all right; I am a policeman.' I said, 'If you are a policeman it's a funny place for you to be; show your shield.' I walked down stairs. He followed me with the others, as I knew it was a bad place. He ran toward me, and I knocked him down. He came again. I knocked him down again with my fist. His friends said, 'Give it to him, Barney,' and he shot me in the neck. I caught hold of him and held him, and took him through the alley, until from loss of blood and weakness I had to let him go. From there I was taken to the station house by four young fellows, and then brought here. That is all I know about it. I never saw the man that shot me before."

Fitzpatrick got leave of absence from the Oak street station on the plea of sickness. He was in company with John Kennedy of 22 Scammel street and Frank McCormick of Brooklyn. They had been drinking, and were in company with some women in the rear of 44 Delaney street. The building is occupied by a number of families, some of whom are respectable. The landlord is Jacob Brush. Policeman Norton heard one of the women screaming, and went to the rear building. He asked one of the men what he was doing there, and Kennedy replied:

"Oh, that's all right; this man is an officer," pointing to Fitzpatrick.

Kennedy says that Fitzpatrick, who was in civilian dress, showed Norton his key to the fire boxes, and that Norton went off saying he had a down town beat. He would make a charge against one of the women. When Norton got to the sidewalk he waited for Fitzpatrick and his friends to come out. The latter followed quickly. They say that Norton then asked, "Where's that sham policeman?" and that he knocked Fitzpatrick down. According to Fitzpatrick, they say, did not draw the pistol until he had been badly beaten, and then he fired, after warning Norton not to strike.

Those who were near say that Norton did not club Fitzpatrick, that after being shot, and with the bullet remaining in his side wound, he published Fitzpatrick severely with his fists, drove him across the street, and would have taken Fitzpatrick prisoner but for the interference of Kennedy and his friend.

The last that was seen of Fitzpatrick was by Henry Hubrick, a bystander, who followed him. Fitzpatrick ran down Delancey street to Eldridge, down Eldridge to Rivington, and up Rivington to Forsyth, where he turned a corner, and Mr. Hubrick lost sight of him. He is 22 years old, and is a son of Edward Fitzpatrick, Alderman elect. He was arrested a year ago for trying to bribe Justice John Campbell, by the offer of Civil Justice Cantwell, in John Gavin's saloon at Grand and Pitt streets. He was also arrested by Policeman Simons of the Eldridge street station for attempting to stab Owen Gallagher.

Policeman Norton was a nephew of Civil Justice-elect Michael Norton.

The Death of Dr. J. T. Evans.

Dr. Joseph T. Evans, one of the oldest homœopaths in Brooklyn, died at the residence, 39 East Fourth street, on Sunday last. He was born in Cardiganshire, N. W., on Dec. 16, 1813. He was in early life a teacher, and is in mining by birth, became principal of a Welsh school. He took hold on the study of medicine, and graduated at the Homœopathic College in 1847. Soon after he came to Brooklyn, and became a partner of Dr. Pomeroy. He practiced in Brooklyn and New York, and was one of the first homœopaths in Brooklyn. The funeral will be held at the late residence, 39 East Fourth street, to-morrow afternoon at 4 P. M. Drum has late residence.

Tracey to Wait his Turn.

The trial of William Tracey, who killed Chas. F. Miller in Dock the night season was postponed in the Oyer and Terminer yesterday, at the instance of District Attorney Rollins. Mr. Rollins said that Mr. Phelps, who represents Tracey, had asked for a postponement, so that he could be ready for District Attorney McKeon, but to begin with prisoners who have been longest in the Tombs.

TO MAKE THE THEATRES SAFER.

Changes Suggested for the Academy, Grand Opera House, Bijou, and Daly's.

Fires in various parts of the city have interfered with the reinspection of the theatres by the chiefs of the battalions for several days, and yesterday the only report that was handed in to the Commissioners was from a chief who announced that he had been unable to find any places of amusement in his district.

Chief Bresnan was beginning his examination of the Union Square Theatre, which has already been described in THE SUN, when he was called away by an alarm of fire. Mr. Bresnan, in his studies of the problem of protecting theatregoers, has been led to recommend asbestos as a material for separating the auditorium and the stage at the point under the proscenium arches where painted canvas is now everywhere employed. His suggestions for the improvement of the Academy of Music will best illustrate how he proposes to use the asbestos. In the Academy the proscenium frame is 60 feet high by 50 feet wide. The opening through which the performance is viewed when the curtain is hoisted is 32 feet high from the stage. The remaining 28 feet to the top of the proscenium arch is closed by the proscenium drapery, and below that by the tormentor border. The ponderous set of scenery, comprising a border and the flats at the sides, are called by the technical term tormentor. They are seldom moved. Were the proscenium drapery and the border below it, as well as the curtain itself, to be made of asbestos, or even backed by asbestos, the chief believes that they would shut out the fire from the audience hall, provided that there were open skylights over the stage and a wind was reaching up from the arch several feet higher than the roof and separating the stage from the auditorium.

Chief Croquet inspected the Grand Opera House yesterday, the stage appurtenances of which have already been described in THE SUN, and announced that the means of exit from the auditorium are wholly adequate. On the stage the fire appliances were all in good order, and at a hint from the chief water was let into the spray pipes at an instant's notice, and the visitors were suddenly obliged to quit the stage. The chief found that the boilers, paint room, carpenter shop, and dressing rooms were not in the theatre building. But he discovered, as was reported in THE SUN, that there is no separation of the auditorium and the stage, and that movable skylights are needed in the stage roof.

Chief Croquet has also inspected the Bijou Theatre and Daly's Theatre. The peculiarities of the former have already been reported in these columns. In Daly's Theatre he was received by Mr. Daly, who showed a disposition to conform promptly to the requirements of the department. The chief did not criticise the excellent means of exit and the system of fire appliances, but did criticise the house itself. He found that the space between the ceiling of the auditorium and the roof of the stage was open and uninterrupted by partitions from front to rear, and was rendered especially dangerous in case of fire by an open work lattice-framework in the ceiling over the gallery. It is foreseen that this would produce a draught that would suck the flames of a fire on the stage directly into the auditorium. The chief will recommend a fire wall between the stage and the audience hall and movable skylights in the stage roof.

It was also found that there is a clear space under the entire house from the back of the stage to the auditorium. The latter is held up by two wooden girders, supported by nine iron columns. When it is known that thirty brick piers perform this work in the Grand Opera House and thirty-two iron columns support the auditorium floor in Haverly's Fourteenth Street Theatre, the comparative weakness of the supports under Mr. Daly's pretty theatre becomes apparent. The space beneath the stage in Mr. Daly's theatre is subdivided in two stories. The upper hall contains the dressing rooms. The lower part beneath these rooms is open, and is used for the storage of spare scenery. In this basement the supports for the stage are seen. Chief Croquet will recommend that they be increased in number and in strength.

THE GUITEAU TRIAL.

Adjourned Until Wednesday on Account of the Death of Juror Hobbs's Wife.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—It was generally known in and around the City Hall this morning that the wife of one of the jurors in the Guiteau case had died, and that consequently there was little probability of the trial going on to-day. Nevertheless the crowd waiting for the opening of the doors was as large as usual, and the court room, soon after the doors were opened, was filled to overflowing. Mr. Williams, the deputy marshal, made an announcement by authority of Judge Cox, that there would be no session of the court to-day; that probably the prisoner would not be brought in, and that those who desired to leave the room might do so at once. But all the spectators kept their places. When the jurors took their seats there was one vacant chair in the jury box. It was near 11 o'clock before the court was formally opened, and the prisoner escorted to his seat. His appearance was greatly changed, as his face had been closely shaved since Friday. Mr. Hobbs, the bereaved juror, came into court immediately after Judge Cox took his seat and had a conversation with the Judge. This was followed by a consultation between the Judges and the District Attorney.

Subsequently the District Attorney rose and referred to the calamity which had fallen upon the juror, and said that the instincts of humanity required that the juror be allowed an opportunity of paying proper respect to the memory of his deceased wife. He therefore proposed, with the assent of the prisoner and his counsel, that Mr. Hobbs be permitted to go home.

Mr. Scoville expressed his full consent, and suggested that the juror should not even be encumbered by the presence of a bailiff.

Judge Cox repeated his admonition to the jurors to hold no communication with any person outside in reference to the case.

Mr. Scoville stipulated that the warning should also apply to the daily papers, and that they should not be read by the jurors.

Guiteau said he had entire confidence in the honor and integrity of the jurors.

The order permitting Mr. Hobbs to go home was then duly made and entered, and the court adjourned till Wednesday.

Mr. Scoville said to-day that he had fair faith that the jury, if it does not acquit the prisoner, will disagree. He has held this opinion from the first, and has seen no reason to change it. As to the expert testimony, he does not think it will amount to much one way or the other, for the experts, he says, will be so torn to shreds that the jury will not give much consideration to their testimony at all. Mr. Scoville thinks Guiteau is spoiling his case as far as he can. Guiteau, he says, does not seem to be able to see what is to come from questions Mr. Scoville asks witnesses, and when Mr. Scoville lays the foundation for contradicting a witness Guiteau does positive injury to himself, and spoils the whole thing by correcting the witness on the spot, and putting him on his guard.

Guiteau, as he was leaving the court room to-day, stopped at the District Attorney's desk and said: "Corkhill, I have had a model taken from my head for a bust. I will be a great man yet, Corkhill, if you let me alone."

JURY FIXING IN PHILADELPHIA.

The Friend of a Ballot Box Stuffer Gets in by Personating Another Man.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.—There was a great sensation in Judge Biddle's court to-day in the trial of David Monat, ex-Select Councilman. A juror was arrested.

It has been the custom for years to change the returns of elections to suit circumstances. In the February election of 1879, Councilman Monat headed a gang of roughs and visited several polling places. In the fifteenth division of the Fifth Ward he took possession of the polls and changed the returns. Since the Committee of One Hundred has been at work, great efforts have been made to purify elections. Several ballot box stuffers are in jail, and others are waiting trial. Monat was indicted and a jury which had been fixed disagreed. He was indicted again, and then ran away. A few weeks ago he returned. The case was called for trial last week in Judge Biddle's court. The jury, as usual in all political cases, had been fixed. At that time Mr. Rollins, the District Attorney, ordered Monat into the other court before a different jury. Monat's counsel objected most strenuously, but had to yield, and the prisoner, since the trial began, has passed his nights in jail, Judge Biddle having refused to accept bail.

To-day it was discovered that a ward runner had personated a respectable citizen drawn on the jury, but who did not attend because of absence from the city. He was immediately locked up and the jury dismissed. They stood eleven to one for conviction, the rounder being the one who had made preparations to hold out for acquittal. In consequence of this jury fixing fight all important political criminals have escaped punishment. A new jury will be called to take the case on Wednesday.

Grand Sale of Parlor Suites.

In order to make room during alterations in our premises, we shall offer to-day, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the finest parlor suits ever made, and in all the latest designs and coverings. We will also offer for these days a large line of bedroom furniture and carpets to be sold only in the city. H. Schwarz, Sixth Ave. Nos. 103, 105, and 107 Chambers st. Established 1867.—Adv.

Buy no Holiday Present

Without seeing Dr. Sarg's to-whisker electric hair and flesh brushes. They alone relieve the weak and nervously overworked, neuralgia, sleepless, dandruff, falling hair, baldness, rheumatism, &c. Those refunded if not as represented. At drug and fancy stores.—Adv.

Symptoms of Consumption

Entirely removed by using Ottillie's Tasteless Cod Liver Oil, with Lime and Wild Cherry. Sold by druggists.—Adv.

ESCAPING BY THE WINDOWS.

Sharp Work at a Fire in a Fourteenth Street Apartment House.

The prompt arrival of Hook and Ladder 12 in response to two alarms of fire from 220 West Fourteenth street yesterday afternoon saved several lives. D. C. Otis, manufacturer of parlor beds, occupies the store floor of the building. The three upper floors were arranged in apartments for one family on each floor. The street door on Fourteenth street led to a general hall and stairway, and each family had its own inner hall extending from the front to the rear of the house. A double length stairway from the second floor led down to the cellar, where fuel was kept, where the gas meter was, and where the fire originated. The flames worked their way up the stairs unnoticed until they had almost cut off the way of escape.

The floor over the store was occupied by L. A. Bordenex, his wife, three children, and a servant, and Mr. Bordenex's sister and married daughter, who were visiting the family. The servant, a colored girl named Annie Roberts, first noticed the smoke and found the back stairs afire. She caught up the two youngest children, and, followed by the other and by the sister and daughter of Mr. Bordenex, rushed past the fire down the front stairway into the street. Mr. Bordenex was not in the house.

Dwight Roberts and his wife and servant lived on the floor above. Mr. Roberts was at home and was talking with his wife about renewing $500, which had just lapsed, of their $1,500 insurance, when the smoke, pouring in through the crack of the floor, attracted his attention. A glance showed that escape by the stairway was cut off, and that their only hope of rescue was by the front windows. Mrs. Roberts insisted upon preserving some of her jewelry, and was some minutes in collecting it. Then the couple appeared at the front window. A crowd was collecting, but the firemen had not arrived. The flames were burning so fiercely in the hall that the glass in the door was broken and the smoke and fire began to pour in. They tried to get a mattress from the adjoining bedroom to throw out and jump on, but were driven back by the flames. They were obliged to lean far out of the window in full view of the throng below to avoid inhaling the flame and smoke. Their hair was singed, and they suffered much.

Then, luckily, the Hook and ladder truck came up. Twenty pairs of stout arms soon hoisted a ladder that reached the window sill. Fireman Conners ran up the ladder, helped Mrs. Roberts out, and guided her safely to the street below. Mr. Roberts followed promptly.

On the floor above lived James R. Mack, his wife and two children, his father, Elisha Mack, aged 70, and a colored servant known as "Patsy" Lewis. Mrs. Mack and the children were out shopping, and only Mr. Elisha Mack and the servant were at home. When they found that the house was afire it was too late to attempt to escape down stairs, but to get to the roof by the fire escape. They went to the rear windows, which looked out on the roof of the store extension two stories below. The colored girl underfook to swing off by the window sill, but lost her nerve, and was hurt. Mr. Mack secured a stout, long tablecloth, tied one end to a heavy chair, and threw the other out of the window. Then he got out on the window sill prepared to descend. Firemen Galbraith and Becker, assisted by Policeman Brennan, had meanwhile gone higher through the adjoining house, and hoisted it to the roof of the extension. It was too short to reach the sill of the window of the top floor, where old Mr. Mack was coolly awaiting rescue. Policeman Brennan and Fireman Galbraith mounted the ladder and helped the old man down.

All the tenants suffer by fire, and the building, owned by Mrs. Mary A. Ray, was damaged about $2,000. Most of the loss is covered by insurance. The firemen decided that the cause of the fire was leakage from the gas meter. Such a fire at night would probably have been attended by the loss of a dozen lives.

THE NO RENT MOVEMENT SPREADING.

Dissatisfaction Among the Constabulary—Irish Women to be Arrested.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Dublin correspondent of the *Times* says: "The organization against the payment of rents is becoming still more formidable. It is considered as much of a crime to go into the Land Court as to pay rent. Lists of persons who have been served with notices and of those suspected of paying rents, are posted at the chapels and at other places where they are likely to be seen.

Considerable dissatisfaction is felt among the Irish constabulary at the new movement of the Government in recruiting their force from the militia and soldiers whose terms of service have expired. So strong is the feeling that the men will refuse duty with the new recruits, and a general strike is apprehended.

Owing to the disturbances, Lords Donoughmore and Inchiquin will quit their residences.

All the types and machinery of the *United Ireland* have been forwarded from Dublin to London, where the paper is to be printed.

It is stated that a prison especially designed for females is in course of preparation for the reception of members of the Ladies' Land League, and that the arrest of several prominent members of the Dublin branch of that organization is expected.

The Commissioners under the Land act today decided that a notice to fix rent, if served only upon an agent's clerk, will be deemed sufficient service. This decision, against which there is no appeal, is expected to bring many cases.

The special meeting of the London Common Council convened by the Lord Mayor for to-day, for the purpose of considering a vote of £1,000 for the Irish Property Defence Association fund, was private. It is understood that the feeling of the Council is very strongly against the proposed grant. The committee for the consideration of the subject has adjourned sine die.

The Reichstag Likely to be Dissolved.

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—The rumors of an approaching dissolution of the Reichstag are considered to be strengthened by an article in the *North German Gazette*, which points out that the attitude of the Reichstag since its opening has been interpreted throughout Europe as a symptom of the decay of German unity. The article says: "In affixing their signatures to the federation treaty, the German Princes intended that Germany should be under the leadership of Prussia; that that she should submit herself to shining properties in the Reichstag, and that the unity of Germany, which once destroyed German units in St. Paul's Church in Frankfort by a disregard of monarchical ministerial realities, would at the same time be saved. It therefore the duty of the nation to utter a timely protest."

A Military insurrection at Suez.

SUEZ, Dec. 19.—In consequence of a report that an Italian had murdered a soldier, the military seized and imprisoned the Governor, barricaded the door of the Governor's residence, and refused to admit the foreign Consuls. It is now discovered that the murder was really committed by a Bedouin. The town is quiet, but the affair has created a sensation, showing as it does the weakness of the Government. It has drawn out a commission consisting of three officers from Cairo to investigating the circumstances of the murder.

Political Arrests in Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 19.—The *Gazette* says there have been 1,560 arrests for political offences in the course of the present year. The authorities have revised all these cases, and can dispose summarily of half of them. Many arrests were due to false accusations, and it is stated that the false accusers are to be arrested.

No Ransom to Grave Robbers.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Countess of Crawford and Balcarres has announced that she has determined not to offer a reward for the restoration of the body of her husband, the Earl, in order not to create a precedent and encourage repetitions of such outrages. She has requested her son to pursue the same course.

Sullivan at Work on a New Opera.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Mr. Sullivan, the composer, has gone to Egypt for the winter for the benefit of his health, and he will there complete the music for a new comic opera, which is to be produced simultaneously in England and America.

Hanlan-Boyd.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Newcastle committee on behalf of the oarsman Boyd have resolved that he shall row a match with Hanlan on the conditions of the Sportsman's Challenge Cup, pure and simple, or for £500 a side and £500 expenses, as already offered.

A Battle in the Soudan.

CAIRO, Dec. 19.—Serious troubles have broken out in the Soudan. A false prophet, with 1,500 followers, has totally annihilated the Egyptian force of 350 Egyptians, and killed the Governor.

Four Hundred Drowned in Algeria.

ALGIERS, Dec. 19.—It is said that 400 persons were drowned by the bursting of the dam at Perregaux.

The Number of the Vienna Victims.

VIENNA, Dec. 19.—A later official list of victims of the theatre fire estimates the missing at 620.

Killed by his Brother-in-Law.

COVINGTON, O., Dec. 19.—H. H. Bruns, a lumber dealer, was shot and instantly killed this morning by August Koors, his brother-in-law. Bruns's wife brought a suit for divorce some time ago, and matter set up in Bruns's answers was considered offensive by Koors. They met this morning in front of Harris's saloon on Scott street and Koors fired upon Bruns. Koors was arrested.

Shot While Arresting a Bad Husband.

DETROIT, Dec. 19.—Deputy Sheriff Ames Forbes of Roseommon County was shot and killed on Saturday by Robert E. Titus, whom he was endeavoring to arrest. Titus had beaten his wife. She swore out a peace warrant against him. Shortly the officer was endeavoring to serve it when he was shot.

Our Cavalry Soldiers.

In their Indian campaigns our cavalry suffer most severely from catarrh, and are large consumers of Marshall's Prepared Cubeb Cigarettes in consequence.—Adv.

AMUSEMENTS.

Last Week of the Opera—"Aida."

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, on his way to a college celebration, as substitute for the orator of the day, is said to have overheard the question, "Mr. Choate ill! then who will fill his place?" With equal wit and modesty, the lively little Doctor cried out: "No one is going to FILL it, but I mean to *rattle round in it* for a while!"

Sig. Campanini's large dramatic and musical proportions are so fitted, and so necessary, to the fine rôle of *Rhadames*, that when, as last night, a lyric tenor, like Sig. Runcio, is suddenly called on to take the part, it might be feared that he would hardly fill out the heroic outline, but, like the Doctor, "rattle round" in the armor of the Egyptian. Yet it is gratifying to be able to state that Sig. Runcio succeeded in giving a fairly strong and symmetrical presentment of the rôle after a very creditable fashion. The famous third act showed little falling off, in vigor or popular approval, from the preceding representations. Throughout the opera, if a careful scrutiny might detect some want of the "high Roman fashion" to which the more dramatic tenor has accustomed us, Sig. Runcio's acting and singing did not set coldly off or make any unkindly break in the large pattern of the whole picture.

Gainsay was, as always, a magnificent *Amonasro*; Signora Cobianchi, as *Amneris*, deserved approval for the breadth and fire of her acting in the trial scene, and Signorina Bossini repeated her triumph in the trying and difficult rôle of *Aida*.

"Patience" at the Metropolitan Casino.

Gilbert and Sullivan's tuneful and merry work took a new departure at the Metropolitan Casino last evening, under the auspices of Haverly's "Patience" company.

The organization takes the stage perfectly equipped, for a smoother performance could scarcely have been expected even from a hundredth night instead of a first. It was given with the following cast:

Reginald Bunthorne	Mr. Wm. H. Seymour
Archibald Grosvenor	Mr. J. F. Dalton
Colonel Calverley	Mr. Edward Connell
Major Murgatroyd	Mr. Henry Lee Cook
The Duke of Dunstable	Mr. Henry Hirsch
The Lady Angela	Miss Louise Sanford
The Lady Saphir	Miss Pauline Hall
The Lady Ella	Miss Rose Wilson
The Lady Jane	Miss Gertrude Orme
Patience	Miss Dora Wiley

Of course the Standard Theatre set the key for this opera in this country, and in attitude, action, stage business, and all the surroundings of the opera the later representations are a more or less faithful reflection of the first. But this perhaps is a virtue, and not a defect. Certainly, the performance is smooth, well balanced, and commendable. Mr. Seymour's *Bunthorne* was especially noteworthy, being admirably grotesque in posture and acted throughout in a manner perfectly to illustrate Mr. Gilbert's extravagant and fanciful creation. It is subject for a separate entering into details as to individual merits or demerits, to say that the representation, as a whole, was one entitled to public favor. Last evening the audience was rather apathetic, and Mr. Gilbert's quips and cranks and jests went by, one after another, without eliciting the important appreciation. Probably the audience was largely composed of those who knew the work pretty thoroughly, and who attended on the first night to see how a new company would do it. It certainly is not in human nature to laugh at the same joke more than once, and our city audiences are beginning to require a little patience for "Patience." But the country is wide, and the work will burst upon the towns that know it only by name in all the glory of freshness and novelty.

"Olivette" at the Bijou.

As hypocrisy is said to be the homage which vice pays to virtue, so in certain forms of art popularity might be called the homage of crude taste to mediocrity. "Olivette" is a poor drama, and the music, though bright and singable, is cheap and flimsy in texture; yet the piece is a popular success, and likely to remain so when works of more real merit are shelved.

"The gorgeous revival of 'Olivette'"—to use the language of the programme—at the Bijou Theatre, by Mme. Selina Dolaro and her company, will hardly add to the vogue of the piece. As a play it needs dash, sparkle, and unctuous humor; as an operetta, at least tolerable singing. Of these requirements but the faintest traces were perceptible in the representation last night, and little blame has falling on any of the *ingenue* to adapt her to the title rôle, spite of some laudable effort in that direction; and apart from her work the acting was painfully flat. Neither did the singing show any quality which could merit praise from the most indulgent critism, yet, we except some fair work from Miss Lillian Russell, as the *Countess*. This young lady has a clear, thin, and high soprano, which she uses with some degree of taste and skill, while her acting is amateurish to the last degree.

Yet the piece is a popular success which the place may have under its new auspices will probably rest more on its past reputation than its present merits.

John McCullough as Brutus.

At the Fifth Avenue Theatre last night John McCullough played *Brutus* in John Howard Payne's tragedy, "Brutus, or the Fall of Tarquin." This play offers to Mr. McCullough comparatively few opportunities for the display of those qualities which have made his interpretation of such characters as *Virginius* and *Spartacus* famous. But of the opportunities offered he made the most. In the first act the scenes in which he plays the fool, and the moments in which he throws off his simulated madness and concentrates his thoughts on vengeance, were contrasted with consummate skill. In the latter especially he conveyed a sense of latent strength which gave to them the same powerful effect he produces when he gives full play to voice and gesture. In the last act the parting words with his son were full of the gentle grief of sorrowing manhood.

The intermediate acts are full of strong situations. But in these the diction of the play is weak—so weak that not even Mr. McCullough's vigorous and graceful delivery can do full work. Mr. McCullough in this, his last week, continues to draw large houses. On Friday he plays *Virginius* for his benefit.

The Vokes Family at Booth's Theatre.

Booth's Theatre this week is given over to the frivolities of the Vokes family. They are, if possible, brighter and funnier than ever, and they kept a large audience last evening in roars of laughter from the beginning to the end of their performance. They give the "Belles of the Kitchen," but precede it with an amusing farce called "Cousin Joe," in which Miss Victoria Vokes as *Lady Margery* is completely irresistible. Mr. Fred Vokes takes the only other part of it in any consequence, that of *Cousin Joe*, and with the efforts of the two a most boisterous and entertaining little piece is enacted. The "Belles of the Kitchen" last evening was given with excellent effect, and Miss Victoria's drapery dance was never more brilliantly or triumphantly executed.

Next week at Booth's there will be a revival of the "Two Orphans," with a deep design on the Christmas holiday season. Miss Claxton is to appear in her celebrated impersonation of the blind *Louise*, and she is to be sustained by several other members of the company that originally played in the drama during its memorable run at the Union Square Theatre.

Notes of the Stage.

The Wilbur Opera company appeared in "The Mascotte" at the Brooklyn Park Theatre last evening.

The Hanlon-Lees have moved again, and last night "Le Voyage en Suisse" was given at Niblo's Garden, provoking the laughter of a fluttering large audience.

Miss Annie Pixley's "Miles" drew a large audience last evening to the grand Opera House, especially attractive to the young people, who seemed to relish Miss Pixley's practice indispensable to the evolution of a child of the *Sol* race.

Messrs. Hickson and Crane produced their latest play, "Sharps and Flats," at Union Square Theatre last evening. They were in the highest of moods, and *Cute Sharpshot* and *Jumbo Flat* were as humorous and entertaining as ever.

Tony Pastor began the week last evening at his new theatre in Third street with a very attractive bill, which comprised a double quartet, and embraced opera and vaudeville—rather strange, but very promising new departure for a theatre that has hitherto held out the musical outside of the notes of song and dance man and breakdown behind scenery.

Jarrett and Rice's *Mary Stuart* drew a large audience to the Windsor Theatre last evening. The play, text, scenery, and the enthusiasm which greeted the actress received a response in perfect accord. "Hamlet" "Romeo and Juliet" and "Macbeth" are to follow. Johnson has remaining but a few more weeks in Boston, and "Rob Roy" will be played at the Wednesday and Saturday matinees.

The Hanlan-Ross Match.

TORONTO, Dec. 19.—In reply to Ross's telegram of Saturday, Hanlan says he will increase his deposit to $500 to-day, and will agree to row Ross on Tuesday, June 20, over a course to be agreed upon a month before the day of the race. He also agrees that in the event of no mutual decision being come to regarding the course, the stakeholder shall name the same, and that the stakes be also deposited in the hands of a third party, in the way of national sweepstakes, &c., shall go to the winner, and one-third to the loser. He would further like Ross's willingness to increase the stakes from $1,000 to $2,000 a side.

Hanlan adhered with Hanlon's last proposal to row on June 20, but stuck to his original amount of stakes, viz., $1,000 a side.

Holiday Presents.

Engraved Glasses, cloth sleeves, new to Tue. Kid Gloves, plain and fleece-lined, also other novelties in Kid Gloves. Real Astrakan Cloaks, display to-morrow. Boxes, $1.50 to $2. Seep Mfg. Co., 80 Nassau st., 307 and 1,193 Broadway.—Adv.

A Sure Cure.—A bottle of Dr. Fuller's Pocket Injection, with syringe combined. All druggists, $1.—Adv.

MR. BLAINE AND THE LANDREAU CLAIM

The Retiring Secretary's Instructions to Special Envoy Trescot.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—All the correspondence between the Department of State and the Chilian and Peruvian legations is now being copied to send to the Senate, in response to the resolution of that body. As that may require several days, Secretary Blaine, with the approval of the President, to-day gave the following despatch to the press:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1881.

Mr. W. Trescot, Jr., Special Envoy, &c., Santiago:

SIR: Some erroneous statements now being circulated in a portion of the American press may reach Santiago and create an injurious impression in the minds of the Chilian Government, and I write you this just before leaving office to request you to inform the Government as in some way giving encouragement to the Cochet claim against Peru, which, being acknowledged, should enable the United States to pay an indemnity to Chili and then proceed to collect from Peru, either directly or through an assignation of American citizens. This is the extreme statement, and it has many shadings and variations. You will take prompt and energetic steps to anticipate anything that might result from these rumors being circulated in Chili for a disavowal and denial of them in whole and in every part.

Further than this the Department has not yet authorized us, and I must express the hope that the Governments of Peru and Chili, to both of which you are accredited, will recognize the moderation and justice of the request made by this Government. I am, sir, your obedient servant, JAMES G. BLAINE.

The Peruvian Minister, Mr. J. I. Elmore, further handed in to the Department of State a statement concerning the Cochet and Landreau claims against the Government of Peru, Mr. Elmore begins by characterizing as entirely without foundation the statements made in a number of American newspapers upon the authority of Mr. Shepard, that President Calderon and Calderon admitted the justice of the Cochet and Landreau claims—amounting in the aggregate to one thousand million dollars—and that on the day when he was arrested by the Chilian authorities he intended to sign a formal acknowledgment of this national indebtedness. Mr. Elmore said:

As the Minister of Peru, as the representative of the Provisional Government, and as a friend of Señor Calderon, I formally deny the supposed facts contained in Mr. Shepard's statement, for the following reasons: First, I know personally Señor Calderon, his upright and honorable character, and his patriotism, and I know that even if he had entertained the idea which is imputed to him, of recognizing a debt of one thousand million dollars (instead of $1,000,000,000), he would never have recognized them, even supposing their validity, until he knew more about them, and until he were authorized to do so by the Peruvian Congress.

Second—President Calderon is an eminent jurist and one of the most distinguished lawyers of Peru, and no Peruvian would believe that he would, even if he were so inclined, sanction, without searching investigation, the most gigantic claim which history records.

Third—Neither the Peruvian Government nor the Peruvian legation in Washington has taken any serious notice of the so-called Peruvian Company's claims. Mr. Shepard spoke to me once on the subject and said the claims were based on a contract made with Mr. Cochet, and his notification to the Chilian Minister. I never even acknowledged the receipt of that communication, except with a verbal card, and I never had any conversation on the subject either with President Calderon or the Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Calderon would not even have thought of such a claim without full hearing from the Peruvian Legation in the United States and without consulting the Peruvian Minister of Foreign Relations and of Finance, who knew nothing officially on the subject.

Fourth—It is absurd to suppose that President Calderon would have recognized the Peruvian company's claims, and thus made their validity, and the nature and the objects and purposes of said company, valid and solemn contracts exist between the Government of Peru and a most honorable and powerful financial society of Paris called the Société Générale de Crédit Industriel et Commercial. Among these contracts are those of Jan. 7, 1869, and Feb. 1, 1871, which are intended to secure the payment of the foreign debt of Peru and other national debts by placing in the hands of the Credit Industriel the guano deposits and the payment of the foreign debt and other national debts. Now, as a consequence of these national contracts, negotiations between the said Credit Industriel and Peru were begun more than a year ago, which have led to a Peruvian loan of $10,000,000 at 6 per cent, which loan, if the Peruvian Government were advised with the object of affording to Peruvians or subjects the means of paying the Cochet claim, would be impossible without searching the integrity of Peruvian treaty. Peru has thus been considering a loan, honorable, and in accordance with the contracts made, and the claims of Chili, and there was no possibility of Señor Calderon taking for one moment into consideration either the Peruvian Company's scheme or any other of the wild-cat schemes which have sprung up since the war, to rob and to bring upon it censure upon the honorable public servants of the United States.

The Chilian-Peruvian conflict is already of itself sufficiently complicated without the necessity of making it complicated more difficult by the capricious interpretations of various writers, and the sensational rumors to serve personal or political purposes.

The solution of the South American conflict is in the hands of the United States and the American people and the world will be content to leave it there. The United States Government and their representatives in Peru has been exercised in the spirit of absolute impartiality, justice, and honor.

J. F. ELMORE, Peruvian Minister.

ANARCHY IN PERU.

Claimants to Authority Everywhere Springing Up and Factions Fighting.

PANAMA, Dec. 19.—The latest reports from Lima represent the population as broken up into local factions or political parties, each under its own