

AN OPERA AN CHAIKOWSKY

"PIQUE DAME" AT THE METROPOLITAN.

The First Performance of the Work in the United States—A New Role for Leo Slezak—The Music is Both Melodic and Dramatic in Expression.

Peter Ilich Tchaikowsky's opera "Pique Dame" was performed at the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday afternoon for the first time in this country. None of the famous Russian lyric dramas had hitherto found their way to the American stage.

The opera was written in 1890 on a libretto by the composer's brother Modeste, and the libretto was founded on a story by Pushkin. It is a strange story, compounded of those elements of tragedy, superstition and the supernatural which have always made an irresistible appeal to the Russian imagination.

The Queen of Spades ("Pique Dame") is an elderly Countess who has had a richly filled past. She is supposed to possess the secret of the ghost of the Countess who appears at the bar of the Countess and tells him the names of the cards.

Hermann has already become almost insane on the subject and now he reacts grossly mad. When he meets Lisa he acts irrationally and leaves her alone in despair by the river, into which she throws herself.

The last scene shows us Hermann in a gambling house testing the virtues of the three cards. He wins till the Prince faces him, and then in sudden remorse he stabs himself. Tenor and soprano now being dead, the opera has to end.

The recitation of the principal elements of the story makes them appear much less dramatic than they really are, for when once the mind of Hermann becomes thoroughly obsessed with the three card idea there is a decided thrill in the play and the episodes of the death of the Countess and the appearance of her ghost are impressive in their solemnity.

Tchaikowsky himself was pleased with the death of the Countess and was affected by reading the finished score of his last act. He felt that he had thoroughly identified himself with the inner life of Hermann and that he had successfully created a musical embodiment of it.

It seems that in the original opera there was some question about the declamation, but of course this cannot be considered in the German translation heard yesterday. The important point is that the work gives us a new lyric score filled with interesting music married to dramatic action.

The first scene contains the only attempt at ensemble writing for the solo voices, and this cannot be regarded as one of the composer's happiest essays. She is more at home in the treatment of broad forest dramatic arioso, of which the greater parts of the opera consist.

There are no set airs except when songs enter into the scene as they would if it were a play, as for instance Tomsky's narrative of the three cards and the duet of Lisa and Pauline in the second scene.

When Tchaikowsky introduces such numbers as these he writes in a purely lyric and melodious style, just as he does in his songs. But the warp and woof of his score is made of sterner stuff. Written twenty years ago, the music belongs to the present.

While the melodic idiom is of course very different from Puccini's, the method of setting the text is not so dissimilar. There are some poignant dramatic climaxes, as for example the finish of the first duet between Hermann and Lisa, the end of the scene in the Countess's bedroom and the conclusion of the scene in the barracks.

The third scene is perhaps the one which will please the eyes and ears of the thoughtful more than any other, but the reflective mind will surely question its suitability. It is charming in itself for the spectacle of the old French pastoral ballet with its music a la Haydn is captivating, and it makes something of the effect which the interlude must have made in the medieval lyric play.

But we of to-day are not so fond of having our tragedies interrupted by extraneous matter and this scene refuses to knit itself into the action or the music.

The lyric treatment of the bedchamber scene is rich in resource and in atmosphere. Indeed it should be said that the entire score clothes the play in an atmosphere of portent and intensity better felt than described. That the composer utilizes the dark colors of his "pathétique" melody, and in one place even brings in its melody, does not account for the dramatic accomplishment of his purpose.

The Directors Of ALWYN COURT

Fifty-Eighth St. And Seventh Ave.

—ANNOUNCE— THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE SEVERE FIRE TEST THAT ALWYN COURT WAS SUBJECTED TO ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH FOURTH, THE SVITES AT ALWYN COURT MAY BE INSPECTED AND ARE IN CONDITION AND READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

first appearance in the conductor's chair and demonstrated his value by an intelligent and communicative reading of the score. The opera was handsomely mounted, and the manner in which the heavy "sets" were changed was a credit to Edward Siedle and his well trained men.

These are the days of golden sunshine at the Manhattan Opera House. "Rigoletto" on Wednesday crowded the theatre and "Elektra" which may have another hearing this season after all, filled it to capacity on Friday night.

"Tales of Hoffmann" remains one of the best witnesses to the operatic sagacity of Mr. Hammerstein. The revival of the Barber-Hoffmann work was carried out artistically and its attractiveness has been well maintained without a trace of the perfunctory. The drama, or rather the trio of one act plays constituting the text and action, keeps its hold upon the spectator and Offenbach's delightful music does not grow stale.

Last evening's cast was the same as on previous occasions. Maurice Renaud was once more its ruling spirit in his several guises, first as the uncouth Dapertout, then as the elegant scoundrel Cypriote and finally as malevolent Dr. Miracle.

Little Miss Trentini makes a captivating creature of Olympia, the mechanical doll, and she pattered about the stage last night with dainty tread besides singing perfectly. Her second incarnation as Antonia, the young girl consumed by devotion to her art, sounded a note properly sombre. There was also to be seen the Quintette of Miss Cavalieri, surely a unique spectacle and beautiful withal.

While the Hoffman of Mr. Devries was a manly and romantic personation and one musically acceptable save for an occasional lapse from the stich, Mr. Gilbert, Miss Gentle and a throng of others gave of their best to vivify the minor characters and Mr. Charlier conducted with zeal.

"ORFEO" AND "COPPELLIA" Double Bill at the Metropolitan Provides an Artistic Evening.

"Orfeo ed Euridice" followed by the first act of "Coppelia" drew a fine audience last evening at the Metropolitan Opera House and one that showed genuine pleasure at what passed on the stage.

"Coppelia" first act, following "Orfeo" brought Anna Pavlova and Michael Mordkin, with Miss de Levin and Mr. Saracoe, to the fore in the ballet that has already become the talk of the town. Delibes' charming music was conducted by Mr. Podest.

The Minerva Club and Daughters of the Confederacy Entertainment. The Minerva Club and the Daughters of the Confederacy have combined to give two entertainments in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria on March 12.

"Seline" at the Manhattan. "Seline" was revived at the Manhattan Opera House yesterday afternoon. There was a large audience and the creation of the combined genius of Oscar Wilde and Richard Strauss held its attention. The performance was remarkably brief and therefore to the point.

STOVER JABS SETTLEMENT

WANTS IT NOT TO BE TOO SETTLED, BUT TO GET A MOVE ON.

Thinks It is Not Doing All It Might to Even the East Side and Goes Into Specifications—Head Worker Gilman Thinks It is Doing Pretty Well.

Park Commissioner Charles B. Stover, who was scheduled to speak on little parks in the East Side at the annual meeting of the University Settlement Society, held yesterday afternoon in the settlement house at 181 Eldridge street, did not say anything at all about little parks on the East Side, but devoted his speech to criticism of the settlement's work and suggestion as to what might be done.

The Commissioner used to be head of the settlement when it was known as the Neighborhood Guild, and he said yesterday that it was not wholly accord with the method and form of its present day work.

"The institution," said he, "should pay more attention to outside affairs. It is too modest considering the expense of its vast plant. How many people who pass by its doors care anything about it? And yet the University Settlement should be the most honored institution on the East Side, as it is not to-day. The Neighborhood Guild of twenty years ago had as much influence as the settlement has to-day."

The Commissioner has been riding a great deal lately upon the Second avenue elevated and people have banded around him on his way up and down stairs. According to Mr. Stover, the settlement ought to make the authorities provide wider stairways.

"I hope to plant 250 Lombardy poplars on Delancey street," he continued, "but how long will they live if people are allowed to treat East Side parks as they do? The settlement ought to address itself to the children and their parents and teach them to respect growing things."

The proper construction of ash wagons and the flushing of streets in summer by the use of the salt water plants were two other topics in which the settlement should be interested, according to Mr. Stover. He also advocated the establishment of an East Side museum and art gallery.

"It should be more militant," Mr. Gilman said, speaking directly to Head Worker Robbins Gilman, who was an attentive listener. When the Commissioner was through and the applause had died down Mr. Gilman arose to give an account of the work done at the settlement. He said that the matter of the Second avenue elevated trains had already been taken up by the settlement and was now before the Public Service Commission.

He stood solemnly for broadening the accepted settlement's program, and he, and prophesied great advance along the lines of outside activities. He reported that 130,000 baths had been sold at the settlement in the last year and that in January, 1910, 9,500 children had been in regular attendance at the meetings of the clubs formed by the settlement. The settlement house in the East Side is the largest in the United States and Canada.

"In January last 35,000 people came into the settlement for some purpose or other," he said, "and I maintain that there must have been some influence for good exerted by the settlement's work." James Speyer, whose resignation as treasurer of the settlement had been accepted early in the meeting with recollections of regret, came up to the platform for the second time in the twenty years that he has been connected with the settlement, as he said himself.

"It is not due to the remarks of Mr. Stover that I have resigned," said he, "but to the fact that I was not satisfied with the settlement. I would have remained a treasurer," he praised the work of Mr. Gilman and said that good had been done in the settlement house in the past year and that the settlement should be able to walk up to the elevated and return to the house in the East Side. Mr. Speyer would bear many leaves to shade the Commissioner's head.

The Commissioner seemed to think that he had spoken somewhat too hastily, for he apologized for saying that he believed that such work as the University Settlement was doing was worth what it cost, but inasmuch as it is the first settlement house in America it should be the greatest in the country, "which, according to the common opinion, is not the case," he said.

Nicholas Murray Butler, Commissioner of Immigration, the first speaker, said that at present immigration was very heavy and that 2,000 people passed through Ellis Island yesterday.

In addition to the resignation of Mr. Speyer, Seymour L. Cronwell resigned as secretary of the settlement and will continue to serve on the council and Pierre Jay will take his place as treasurer. Robert G. Mead is the new secretary. New members of the council to serve for three years are V. Everett Mary, Edward H. Peaslee, Thomas M. Debevoise and James B. Reynolds. Nicholas Murray Butler is president.

Emmet Celebration in Brooklyn. The Hon. John Purroy Mitchell will be chairman at the celebration to be held this evening at the New Montauk Theatre in Brooklyn in honor of Robert Emmet under the auspices of the Brooklyn "Clan-na-Gael." The Rev. Matthew J. Tierney, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, will deliver the principal oration. Other speakers will be J. Gratton MacMahon and John J. Meagher. A special musical programme has been arranged and a rendering of Gaelic songs will be a prominent feature.

LUSITANIA WOULDN'T WAIT.

Made Custom House Men Cross on One of Uncle Sam's Half Days.

The Cunarder Lusitania, which arrived in Quarantine from Liverpool and Queens-town on Friday night, started up the bay yesterday morning at sunrise, 6:25 o'clock, her commander, Capt. Charles, apparently expecting the revenue cutter to intercept her on the way, as happens sometimes. Now, the cutter does not leave the Battery until 7:30 o'clock, and the customs men thought that Capt. Charles knew this.

The first intimation that the big ship was out of Quarantine came to Boarding Officer Howard Steiner when she loomed off the Battery. Pursuing her with any hope of catching up was hopeless. The cutter went to Quarantine and put aboard vessels there, including the Hamburg-American liner President Lincoln, which had 7,970 steerage passengers, the usual force that takes the declaration of passengers. Most of the deputy surveyors, deputy collectors and inspectors assigned to take care of the Lusitania's passengers took the continental route to the Custom House at the foot of West Thirtieth street, saying things not complimentary to Capt. Charles.

One of the reasons for the Lusitania's hurry, it was said, was to get in to her dock in time to land all her immigrants, more than a thousand, at Ellis Island before the end of the short Government day which ends at noon. She was successful in this aim, thus got rid of the necessity of boarding and watching the immigrants until this morning. The President Lincoln, having waited for the revenue cutter, was unable to land all her immigrants at the island.

To the customs men it looked as if the Lusitania had deliberately set out to "do" the Custom House and they were not like showing favors on the Lusitania when she arrived in dock. Capt. Charles was told that he would have to go to the Custom House and that his ship would be permitted to begin discharging cargo, and he did. The cabin passengers were permitted to land and their declarations were taken on the pier. This meant a delay of more than an hour, and the passengers did not like it. The general opinion, however, was that the Lusitania got a shade the better of it by docking first and submitting to examination later. The line said that no affront was intended to the customs men.

FATAL LADDER CLIMBING.

Young Man Falls Dead After Race Up From Depths of a Mine.

MORRIS HORN, N. J., March 5.—After climbing two ladders leading out of a mine shaft here early this morning Jacob Evermont of the night shift fell dead of heart disease. He was 19 years old. The ladders are each 105 feet long, and Evermont climbed both rapidly. He was employed by the Empire Steel and Iron Company.

Evermont started during the lunch hour to climb out of the mine on a friendly race with fellow workmen to see who would reach the surface first. He was to reach the cage which carries the men the last stage to the surface the two ladders have to be negotiated first. Evermont was the first to reach the top and he climbed swiftly. He never slackened his pace though his rivals were far below him. Just before he reached the surface he was dropping on his face and when picked up he was dead.

The young man had worked here but one week. He lived in Hibernia with his mother. His father was killed in a mine there several years ago.

PRIZE FOR YALE PLAYRIGHTS.

Frederic Thompson Offers \$5,000 for an American Play.

NEW HAVEN, March 5.—The Yale Dramatic Association announced to-day that Frederic Thompson had offered a prize of \$5,000 to the Yale undergraduates to help build up playwrighting at the university. The play must be on American life of to-day. No play with foreign or historical setting will be accepted. Preference will be given to a drama dealing with a current question of vital and common interest, but full freedom is allowed in the choice of subject. No limitations are set on the construction of the play, save that it must not require a large cast, nor should it be a scenic affair. The play is to be selected by a committee of the Yale faculty member of the committee.

If no play is found of sufficient merit Mr. Thompson reserves the right to withhold the prize. In the event of acceptance the winning play will be brought to New Haven and several New York newspaper men. It is said that Prof. William Lyon Phelps will be the Yale faculty member of the committee.

The closing date of the competition is July 1.

"67" HUMPHREYS' SEVENTY-SEVEN FAMOUS REMEDY FOR COLDS & GRIP

Grip, like Malaria, assumes many forms, so that "When Grip prevails everything is Grip." "Seventy-seven," taken early, knocks it out promptly. Taken during its prevalence, preoccupies the system and prevents its invasion. Taken during an attack, it lightens, shortens and ultimately cures. "Seventy-seven" breaks up hard stubborn Colds that cling. Handy to carry, fits the vest pocket. All Drug Stores, 25c.

Humphreys' Homeo. Medicine Co., Cor. William and Ann Streets, New York.

Kitty Chenham's Recital. Miss Kitty Chenham will give a recital on Wednesday afternoon, March 10, at 3 o'clock, at the Belasco Stuyvesant Theatre for the benefit of the music school of the East Side House Settlement at Seventy-sixth street and the East River.

Alwyn Court 58th Street & 7th Avenue. The plaster remains on the walls and ceilings of the apartments burned in the above building on Friday last. No better evidence of the quality of our workmanship can be shown.

McNulty Brothers PLASTERERS 549 West 52nd St., New York City.

Alwyn Court 58th Street & 7th Avenue. The partitions in this building, which are built of plaster blocks, successfully withstood and retarded the fire of March 4th. These blocks were manufactured by the United States Gypsum Company 1123 Broadway, New York City.

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THE BOOK IS FREE OF CHARGE to the Long Island men or women who present this coupon at our book department.

Our Spring Exhibition of Rich Paris Pattern Hats

—undoubtedly the most gorgeous and correct showing in Greater New York—will be strikingly distinguished by the demonstrations that will be made by

Living Models from 9 to 5 o'clock tomorrow, Monday, in the Millinery Salon, second floor. Paris and London's last style thoughts will be abundantly displayed. So will modified foreign modes and elaborate originals—the result of the master touch of our own corps of experts.

100 Imported Models from the famous Paris ateliers that boast the names of Talbot, Virot, Blum, Esther Meyer, Germaine, Heitz Boyer and Pouyanne

form the hub around which will revolve this most attractive exhibit. 100 New Chantecler Hats, the most striking new effects, are on exhibition. Evening Hats, Garden Hats, Carriage Hats, Afternoon Hats, Walking Hats, Automobile Hats in remarkable diversity of recherche effects. Dozens of prices from

\$10.00 to \$100.00

Our Spring Exhibition of Suits, Costumes & Dresses

To-morrow, Monday, from 10 to 4 o'clock, the choicest new Gowns and Suits, including the famous Chantecler Gown, will be

Demonstrated on Living Models To have accomplished such results, to have assembled such a superb showing, meant delving and diving into untold makers' warerooms, selecting and rejecting with the wisest discrimination, and now we want you to come and see the myriad styles at the dozens of prices from

\$10.00 to \$75.00

Annual Spring Merchant Tailoring Sale

Commences To-morrow, March 7, and Ends Saturday, March 19. We have gathered thousands of yards of choice woollens from the best mills in the country for your selection and have engaged the best tailors we could find to make the clothes for you. Remember, we assure you of perfect satisfaction or give back your money.



\$12.80 matter what your size may be, a Suit, an Overcoat, or Raincoat, in any style you may want—or the most fashionable Prince Albert Coat and Vest, for

Suit Materials: Blue Serges, All shades of Gray, All shades of Tan, and the Fashionable London Smoke. Our Guarantee—Absolute satisfaction in material, workmanship, fit and style, or your money back.

400 Day Clocks—Another Great Sale Monday at \$5.94

It remained for Bloomingdale's to bring the price of these clocks to this marvellously low point. When they were first introduced to America the price was \$20.00.

The new lot just out of the French boxes will not linger more than a day. With the glistening crystal globe and the delicate polished mechanism, artistic shape, beautiful ornaments and handsome dial, they are bound to add to the prettiness of any room. Remember, they need to be wound but once in 400 days. Not more than one clock will be sold to a customer at this price.

\$5.94 BLOOMINGDALES', Lex. to 3d Ave., 59th to 60th St.

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NOW ON FREE VIEW FROM 9 A. M. TO 6 P. M. A valuable collection of genuine Colonial, Sheraton, Adams, Dutch, Spanish, English, Venetian and French Furniture. IN THE ORIGINAL AND REFINISHED CONDITION, COLLECTED BY James Curran, of Philadelphia, Pa., consisting of a pair of ball and claw feet Arm Chairs and Washstand, formerly the property of GEORGE WASHINGTON; also high case Clocks, Exeter Chairs, Sideboards, Dining and Extension Tables, Fire Chest Tables, Highboys, Lockers, Chests of Drawers, Card and Work Tables, Dressers, high post Bedsteads, Sofas, Wardrobes, Cellarettes, Pier and Side Tables, Desks, Bookcases, Mantel Clocks.

Spanish, Elizabethan and Gothic Cabinets, Directoire Desk, Jacobean and Venetian Chairs, Louis XIV. and XV. Reception and Parlor Suites.

ANTIQUE FLEMISH TAPESTRY. Capodi Monti, Sevres, Lowestoft, Cantagalli and Empire Porcelains, Sheffield Plate, Washington Andirons and Feeders, Solid Silver, Cut Glass, &c. Sale Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 10, 11 and 12, at 120 o'clock. CATALOGUES SENT ON APPLICATION.

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR IT. Advertisements for THE SUN and THE EVENING SUN may be left at our District Messenger office in the city.