BISMARCKIANA.

Blood and Iron on the Battle Field.

HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR AMERICA.

The Chancellor's Cruelty and Barbarity Contrasted with His Kindness and Religion.

DIPLOMATIC PENCILLINGS.

Not Soldier Enough to Endure Poor Living in the Camp.

LONDON, Nov. 19, 1878.

Dr. Busch's book on "Bismarck During the War of 1870" still occupies the attention of the German and the English public. In Germany the first edition of the work passed through (for Germany) in the short space of a fortnight. In spite of its many shortcomings it abounds in characteristic sayings of Prince Bismarck, and affords rich material for the study of the great statesman. Dr. Moritz Busch, it may be said, was formerly editor of the *Grenzboten*. He travelled over the United States and in the East, and was residing in Berlin as a newspaper correspondent at the outbreak of the war of 1870, when he was called by the Chancellor to the imperial headquarters. Dr. Busch, though a Saxon by birth, was an ardent admirer of Bismarck, for whom he was imbued with that kind of hero worship considered by Carlisle peculiar to human nature. After a day's toil and fatiguing work Busch, before retiring to rest, wrote up his diary, carefully noting down all the doings of Bismarck as well as the casual remarks and observations which fell from his lips. Busch's diary became a source of amusement to the Chancellor and his *encourage*. The writer made no secret of his annotations, but seems to have promised not to publish them until the expiration of about thirty years. Why he broke his word has not yet been explained.

DR. BUSCH'S CAREER.

He may perhaps have been embittered by his dismissal from the German Foreign Office, occurring as suddenly as his nomination. Busch, often mistaken for his namesake, the Privy Councillor Dr. Busch, the head of the Eastern department in the Foreign Office and one of the secretaries of the recent Congress, never held any official rank, nor was ever he honored with a title. It must be said to his honor, however, that he intended by the premature publication of his reminiscences to glorify Bismarck and to further enhance his fame. If he was instigated by such motives he must be cruelly deceived by the effects of his writings. Certainly the mirror so transparently held up by Busch reflects a wonderfully true likeness of the Prince, but apart from a few human traits, the picture of the man, as delineated in his private life, is not always a flattering one.

THE CHANCELLOR'S FRIENDSHIP FOR AMERICA.

Before entering on an account of Busch's work we may devote a few lines to the references it contains to the United States and to Americans who came into contact with the Chancellor during the war. Bismarck's just appreciation of the government and institutions of the United States is too well known to need any special mention. He was unquestionably somewhat annoyed during the later phase of the war at the large export of arms and ammunition from American ports to France. This irritation, however, never influenced his amical feelings for the Transatlantic Republic. His predilection for everything American formed a marked contrast to the bitterness expressed by him in respect to England. With the single exception of Mr. O'Sullivan, an ex-American Minister in Brussels, who, supported by letters of high recommendation, having obtrusively endeavored to offer his mediation for bringing about a conclusion of peace, was rather unceremoniously expelled from Versailles, all Americans staying a longer or shorter time at the imperial headquarters met with a most gracious reception from the Premier. Bismarck was especially courteous to General Sheridan, who arrived with Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Maclean. These gentlemen received repeated invitations to Bismarck's table and obtained permission to go wherever they liked. General Sheridan produced a most favorable impression on Bismarck, and even now the latter speaks with pleasure of his relations with the famous cavalryman. Among the other Americans noticed in the book we name Mr. Home, the Spiritualist, whose arrival in Versailles formed the subject of general talk; and Mr. Moulton, of Ohio, a brother-in-law of Count Hatzfeld, the present German Ambassador at Constantinople.

BISMARCK'S ENTOURAGE.

Hatzfeld was then a leading personage of Bismarck's staff, numbering altogether about ten to twelve gentlemen, with whom the Chancellor lived on most intimate terms. They shared his quarters, were his guests at table and nearly always to be seen in his society. These knights of his round table were indeed a queer set of men. Abeken, long Cecewatch, was the highest in rank. A punctilious stickler for form and etiquette, he was often offended at his chief's boisterousness and easy manners. The old gentleman, whom Busch disliked exceedingly, caused much merriment by his vanity and juvenile habits. At dinner he sometimes recited sentimental verses—a habit ridiculed by his so prosaic chief. In the commencement of the campaign Prince Bismarck was exposed to many hardships. He repeatedly had to sleep on straw and was reduced to the simplest fare. The latter circumstance greatly annoyed him, for he is a pronounced gourmet and excessively addicted to good living. This peculiarity was shared by Busch, also an expert in the gastronomic art, and a reputed author of an excellent treatise on the best method of eating oysters. At a later period, and especially during the siege of Paris, Bismarck's table was laden with all the luxuries of the season. Venison, preserved meats, sweets, &c., were abundantly furnished by his numerous admirers at home. Notwithstanding his excessive duties Bismarck always found time daily to hold long conferences with his *chef de cuisine*, and he himself frequently made out the *menu*.

A STATESMAN AND BEER DRINKER.

With particular delight Busch enumerates the immense quantities of beer and wine consumed by the Chancellor and his trusted servants. From his university days at Gottengen Bismarck was ever a copious drinker. He enjoyed relating his astonishing feats in drinking, accomplished as a "corps bursche," and regretted that the old practice of diplomatists to intoxicate their co-plenipotentiaries previous to important negotiations had gone out of use. If the custom still existed Bismarck would no doubt rarely find his match. He is never particular in the choice of his beverages; Rhein wine, claret and Burgundy vary with champagne, brandy, curacoa and other fine liqueurs. Beer, held responsible by the Chancellor for a certain lassitude in the German people, was somewhat scarce at Bismarck's headquarters. On the whole, he preferred porter mixed with champagne to German beer. No small part of Busch's reminiscences is filled with descriptions of the eating and drinking at Bismarck's table. To judge from the *menu* of the 23d of December, preserved by Busch, the Chancellor had no reason to complain of the poorness of his fare, for on that day onion soup, with port wine; wild boar, with German beer; Irish stew, with Rhenish wine; turkey and sweet chestnuts, with champagne at discretion were served. The dessert consisted of pudding and "exquisite" apples and pears.

BISMARCK AT ROTHSCHILD'S CHATEAU.

At Ferrieres, Rothschild's summer residence, where Bismarck, as Prussian Minister in Paris, had frequently been a guest, he was furious at the meanness with which the Emperor and himself were treated by the rich banker's *maitre d'hotel*. His Majesty had given orders that no damage should be done to the premises and the adjoining park and gardens. The steward, aware of these instructions, refused Bismarck's demand for a supply of fine wines for the dinner. The Chancellor, indignant at this effrontery, summoned the servant to his room, and then inquired if he knew what a straw bundle was. The steward became alarmed and replied in the negative, whereupon Bismarck informed him that such a thing was used to fasten obstinate stewards upon previous to administration of a sound thrashing. This admonition had the desired effect, for thenceforth the best wines were forthcoming. Numerous similar anecdotes, some of them of even appalling seriousness, might be extracted from Busch's reminiscences. They prove the truth of the general belief that the Chancellor is really a man of blood and iron (except in the matter of eating) entirely void of pity or compassion. This hatred of the French was nearly demoniac, and was fostered not only by his entourage but also by his wife at home. The Countess, afraid lest her husband should be deprived of the Bible in "shameless France," sent him the Old and New Testament, that he might read in the Psalms "that the wicked—viz., the French—should perish by the sword."

BARBARITY OF BISMARCK.

In his description of the battle of Sedan Bismarck said:—"I suddenly remarked an agreeable smell of roasted onions. The odor came from Bazeilles, where the bavarians, on being attacked by the villagers, had opened fire on them, and set the whole place in flames." He forgot to mention that at this dreadful catastrophe some human beings were burned alive. His olfactory nerves must be very sensitive. During the bombardment of Paris Bismarck, dissatisfied with the mere communication that some parts of the French capital were in flames, was desirous to have "a scent of the conflagration." Jules Favre, in his first negotiations for an armistice, complained of shells having been thrown from the Prussian batteries on the asylum for the blind. "I am quite surprised," the Chancellor coolly replied, "at your remonstrances. You are much worse: you shoot our able-bodied and healthy men." Thiers once debated on his perilous position in Paris. "Why," said the Chancellor, "incite a revolt now that you have the army at your disposal, and then crush it by brute force." On casually mentioning this counsel to his amanuensis in the evening, he observed:—"Thiers looked at me quite aghast, as if going to say, 'Oh, how sanguinary!'" And yet, it is only a few weeks since we heard in England of the barbarity of the Russians in firing into the city of Rustchuk.

BISMARCK AND THE CROWN PRINCE.

Subsequently the Prince is introduced as addressing the Crown Prince in this wise:—

"A few days ago I came home at a late hour, when the sentinel refused to let me enter my quarters. I noticed the man was a Pole, and addressing him in Polish at once obtained admission. Yesterday I tried to speak Polish to some soldiers in the hospital, who were delighted at a General conversing in their native tongue. It is a pity I did not know enough to go on. It might be advisable for the commander-in-chief to talk to these men occasionally in Polish."

The Crown Prince smiled and replied:—

"Well, Bismarck, you are constantly harping upon the same string, telling me I ought to learn Polish. But I shall certainly not do so."

To which Bismarck rejoined:—

"The Poles, Your Royal Highness, are good soldiers and excellent men. The only parties hostile to us in our Polish districts are the clergy and the nobility, with their field hands. The independent peasants never declared against us, despite all instigations of the clergy. I remember that once during an *émeute* our Polish regiments had to be withdrawn from Posen because acting cruelly toward their own kith and kin. At a fair in Northeast Pommerania, likewise, a Cassubian not long since got up a fight with a German because the latter presumed to call him "Pollak." The man would not be a Pollak, but insisted that he was a Prussak, as sound as any German. The Great Elector spoke Polish quite as well as German, and his successors down to Frederick the Great did so likewise. However Frederick the Great preferred French even to German, and that accounts for his neglecting Polish."

At this juncture the Crown Prince, saying pointedly that he would not learn Polish, and that the Poles should learn German, put an end to the conversation.

BISMARCK'S GOOD TRAITS.

Arriving at the conclusion of the article, which, owing to the numerous details too interesting to be omitted, has far surpassed the ordinary bounds, I am desirous of adding some traits reflecting honor upon the Chancellor, whose dark sides I may otherwise be accused of having too forcibly brought to the foreground. He often visited the sick and wounded and strongly expostulated with the doctors if anything was wanting for the invalids. On one occasion he entered a sick room in one of the magnificent wings of the Palace at Versailles, and hearing the wounded soldiers complain of the cold he inquired why the fine pictures, decorations and gilded furniture were not used for making a fire! For the same reason he was furious with Steinmetz for his sacrifice of so many valiant soldiers at Spicheren and Mars la Tour. He called him a slaughterer regardless of the lives of his troops. The Field Marshal's subsequent removal from the command of the army may be traced to Bismarck's influence. He frequently interfered on behalf of the soldiers, if they were unduly exposed to exertions or suffering from insufficiency of provisions or the unhealthiness of the quarters assigned to them.

A GOOD FATHER.

Bismarck is a kind and affectionate father. His two sons had entered the army as simple privates on the outbreak of the war. The elder was severely wounded at the memorable cavalry attack on Mars la Tour. The Chancellor, hearing of this misfortune, at once hurried to the battle field, at no slight risk, to the side of his son, whom he at last discovered among a number of other wounded men. The doctor in charge had some scruples about seizing some of the fowls in a neighboring farm for the benefit of his patients. Bismarck, in order to quiet the doctor's conscientiousness, went himself and shot the coveted poultry.

BISMARCK'S PIETY.

Many will probably be surprised to learn that the iron Chancellor, although no "professing" Christian, is at heart a stanch Lutheran, and during the war never failed to perform his daily devotions. One morning when Busch looked into Bismarck's room, just after the chief had quitted it, he noticed on the table, near the bed, a book of Scripture texts, issued by the Moravians, a Bible and a prayer book "for strengthening the faith of believers." All three bore marks of frequent usage. In social intercourse Bismarck never hesitated to openly avow his firm religious belief. He frankly professed a very stanch faith, and wondered how without such the people could do their duty. But for his faith and his conviction that he was discharging his duty to the Almighty, Bismarck said, he would turn his back at once upon diplomacy and the authority of office, or, indeed, he would never have undertaken them; for he did not care for honor and distinction; he was well off and distinguished enough to dispense with them. If he had displayed unusual perseverance it was all owing to the sense of religious responsibility.

LOYALTY TOWARD THE EMPEROR.

A deep feeling of loyalty is apparent in Bismarck toward the Emperor. He sometimes grumbles at the difficulties attendant on persuading the gray-headed racnarch, but this irritation, never very pronounced, soon passes away. The Emperor on his side is doing all he can to please his leading statesman. He occasionally called on him late in the evening personally to apprise him of important military news. The Crown Prince shares his father's attachment to the Premier. Once he dined with him and his staff, and on the termination of the repast drew out his pipe to have a smoke with the "chief" and his subordinates of the Foreign Office. Moltke is a great friend of Bismarck. He described him as so gloomy and despondent in time of peace that one could not recognize in him the cheerful and active warrior. With other generals Bismarck was during the war not on the best of terms. He is angry at their secrecy and pompousness. Part of this irritability was due to the hesitation prevailing among them with regard to the bombardment of Paris, resolutely insisted upon by him.

HIS FAME.

Busch's reminiscences, soon to appear in English, are sure to make the same effect in Great Britain and America as they have done in the Fatherland. May the Chancellor meet in his foreign critics with a kinder judgment than has been passed upon him by many of his countrymen on the information published by his former amanuensis! His unquestionable greatness as a diplomatist and statesman will not be lessened by the insight afforded into the workshop of his daily life. The same cannot, however, be said of his personal character, considerably stained and blemished by Busch's detailed narrative, albeit it must be borne in mind that "no man is a hero in the eyes of his valet." Yet it must not be forgotten that the portrait as drawn for us by Dr. Busch is painted in the glaring and bloody colors of war and national hatred then freshly aroused. Bismarck is simply human. He expresses often what a hundred thousand other Germans thought and said at the same time about France under far less pardonable circumstances.

HERR BUSCH RAISES A NEST OF HORNETS—WOULD BISMARCK FIGHT A DUEL?

[From the London Echo.]

Herr Moritz Busch is likely to get himself into trouble by his too lively book upon "Bismarck und seine Leute." A Berlin correspondent states that no work has ever been published in Prussia which has caused so much irritation among the Junkers. Many members of the highest aristocratic families declare that they have been insulted, and not a few are taking steps to proceed against Busch for libel. The Crown Prince has been deluged with complaints against the Chancellor himself for exposing a number of faithful servants of the Prussian throne, including dead statesmen and ambassadors, to the laughter of Europe. There is even a talk of compelling the Chancellor to make satisfaction by a public recall or disavowal of the sentiments and speeches which Busch has put into his mouth. The grim hero of the book is not the man to yield to such pressure. The revenge of some of the satarized statesmen and generals has been taken up by their sons. The sons of the Minister von Arnim-Boytzenburg complain that Prince Bismarck has not even spared the honor of reigning princes. The stark old conservatives are horrified, and doubt whether there can be a true heart at the bottom of Bismarck's reactionary measures; nearly all the Bismarckian judgments upon great personages, they assert, have a destructive and levelling tendency. If the Chancellor or his literary henchman were living in France they would undoubtedly have a score of duels upon their hands. But any German who found the daring hardihood to challenge the Imperial Chancellor would not only cover himself with ridicule but would probably find himself in the hands of the police on a charge of "Bismarck-Beleidigung."

FIELD DAY IN THE CORTES.

SPEECHES BY EMILIO CASTELAR AND CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO—DEBATE ON THE SUFFRAGE BILL.

[Madrid letter to the London Daily News.]

A violent scene has taken place in the Cortes by the last and crowning act of the policy which Señor Canovas del Castillo has carried out with unflinching determination during the three and a half years which have elapsed since the Restoration. One by one have the reforms and conquests of the revolution of 1868 been swept away by the statesman who has skilfully pursued a work of reconstruction to surround the restored dynasty with almost all the institutions that existed before the pronunciamiento of Cadiz. Liberty of conscience was done away with in order to suppress civil marriages and restore to the Church its right of supervision over the civil status of the subject at the same time as it recovered its princely revenues, its convents, its schools and latterly its religious orders. The liberty of teaching was curtailed, and eminent professors were expelled from the university, which was placed once more under the influence of the Church of Rome, to arrest the progress of science, to check philosophy and discipline the youth of Spain in the hard school of the Syllabus. Liberty of the subject was interfered with by arbitrary arrests, deportation to Ceuta or the Philippines, state of siege in the Basque provinces and an encroachment upon the judicial authority by courts martial. Liberty of the press has been curtailed by special laws and circulars of the Executive, and fettered by fines until it has become no uncommon occurrence to see five out of nine liberal papers in Madrid brought up for sentence in one week.

REFORMS IN DANGER.

Universal suffrage was one of the few reforms of 1868 which had been untouched, though every one could foresee its doom when a limited franchise and restrictions were introduced in the elections of town councils, in those of provincial assemblies and even of the Upper House of the Cortes. Last week it was reported that directly after the Army bill the House would be called upon to vote the measure destined to reform the electoral suffrage in political elections. The approach of the general election in 1879 has induced the opposition to make but little resistance to the series of bills brought in by the Cabinet in quick succession. All the parties in the Parliament look forward to the elections as an event likely to bring about a crisis which might, perhaps, induce the conservative Cabinet to resign and allow a more liberal government to consult the opinion of the constituencies without the unfair pressure which is usually brought to bear upon the voters. For no other reason, perhaps, has this session been so quiet and void of interest. Otherwise, indeed, the Army bill, which vests the supreme command and control of military institutions and military resources in the hands of the Sovereign and creates in time of war an irresponsible commander-in-chief, would have probably been vigorously resisted in the Cortes.

CASTELAR SPEAKS FOR LIBERTY.

The apathy and indifference of the Lower House were disturbed on Saturday, when a brilliant skirmish took place between the liberals of the Sagasta school and Señor Romero Robledo, Minister of the Interior. The liberals in the Cortes reminded the Home Secretary of other times, when His Excellency used to sit among the earnest advocates of universal suffrage even to that extent that he was an active promoter of the revolution of Cadiz. The atmosphere had become rather tempestuous in the sitting of Monday, and the galleries began to fill just before five o'clock, as it was known that Emilio Castelar would speak before a division was taken. The lobbies and saloons of the House were much crowded all the afternoon, and every inch of space in the large session hall was filled with eager spectators and members of both Senate and Lower House. A little after five, Emilio Castelar rose in his seat among the benches of the Left and began one of the most eloquent speeches of his brilliant career. In a magnificent exordium he sketched the evils which had attended the series of pronunciamentos and violent changes to which every party in succession had appealed in order to reach the common goal of all alike—power and exclusive monopoly of all the institutions in this country. In a single period of this oration Castelar rapidly described the rise and fall of absolutism and the progressista schools, the quick success of the reaction and of the revolution in 1836, in 1856, in 1868, and he provoked in conclusion a great uproar when he said:—"The sovereignty of the nation supplanted the ancient monarchy by an armed revolution in 1868, and it gave way to the restoration when the unfortunate *coup d'état* of Sagonte took place." The President of the Cortes, Señor Ayala, called the orator to order, amid loud exclamations of the Right and Centre, most of whom had risen to their feet. Alone the ten Ministers of the Crown sat motionless on the first bench of the Right. Señor Castelar, calm and almost smiling, let the storm pass away, and in a quiet, subdued, but slightly trembling voice, again denounced, with passionate eloquence, the fatal consequences of the pronunciamento system, which, in his opinion, makes the possession of power a monopoly for its temporary tenants, and inspires all the other parties with the inveterate habit of seeking its acquisition by every means, foul or fair.

A REACTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

Castelar analyzed the defects of the new Limited Franchise bill, and pointed out what a great error had been committed by a conservative policy by so-called partisans of the restoration, who suddenly cast outside of their political arena several millions of electors who for ten years have exercised their rights, and who are now "condemned to stand in an abyss from which they will think they can only escape by war or by revolution." This policy of the government Señor Castelar considers reactionary and fraught with perilous consequences in a country in which political schools are only too prone to resort to violent and illegal modes of reaching power. He asked the Cortes whether the electors of universal suffrage who had sent them to sit in the Congress had indeed authorized them to sweep away by any legislation the rights of about two-fifths of the adult male population of Spain. In conclusion, Castelar declared that he was the advocate of a liberal policy, and that neither he nor his followers would systematically oppose such a policy if it did sincerely and truthfully consult public opinion. "That liberal policy need not fear any disorders or any violence on the part of democracy; democracy has passed from the ardent impulses of its earlier days to the quieter judgment of matured experience; it will give up its ancient prejudices, when once more restored to its rights, and it has recognized that the path of free debates and peaceful elections may be the slowest, but is at the same time the safest road to success."

CANOVAS WANTS TO KNOW.

Señor Canovas del Castillo rose to answer the harangue of the republican leader, and he confined his remarks to a defence of the Limited Franchise bill. The Prime Minister challenged Castelar to show on what grounds he ventured to speak in defence of democracy and of Spanish republicanism, as it is a well known fact that the bulk of his party incline toward the more radical doctrines of Ruiz, Zorrilla, Py Margall, and even of Cantonalism. Some surprise was evinced by the House, and even more so by the galleries, when the Premier declared that few authors and fewer statesmen nowadays defended universal suffrage. In conclusion Señor Canovas del Castillo assured the House that after passing this bill the constitutional monarchy of Spain would be complete.

DISTURBING THE DEAD.

THE END OF THE OLD BUSHWICK GRAVEYARD, LONG ISLAND'S MOST ANCIENT BURIAL PLACE.

The last relic of the "Old Bushwick Graveyard" was raked up yesterday and dumped into the cellar of the old Reformed Church, where the bones will be packed into boxes and stowed away in the unoccupied vaults in the adjoining church yard. The old graveyard, said to be the first established on Long Island, has not been used for interment within fifty years, and allowed to go to ruin, it has long been an eyesore to the neighbors. The records of interments were in possession of the Consistory of the old Reformed Church, which had taken charge of it since 1711, and when interments ceased, about 1828, with the erection of the new church edifice the records were packed away in a trunk and in fancied safety allowed to remain in one of the lofts. The recent extension of Kingsland avenue necessitated the removal of the remains, as the line of the thoroughfare is over the burying ground.

The church accordingly took into consideration the subject of their removal and made a contract with Messrs. Doran & Brennan, cellar diggers, to do the work. The fence had been torn down and destroyed years ago and naught remained save eight or nine fractured headstones and a fragment of railing around one of the tombs; these and all else spoke but of desolation and neglect. The boys of the neighborhood had made it their playground, and many bonfires had split and destroyed the ancient monuments, one of which, stolen by some relic hunter a short time ago, bore the date 1655, though the name of the deceased was illegible. Others of the same period were on the ground five years ago, but that section having built up rapidly they successively disappeared, until

> The very grasses' growth
> Around it seemed forlorn and hoth;
> The very ivy seemed to turn,
> Askance that wreathed the neighbor urn.
> Sunk was the slab; the head declined;
> And left the rails a wreck behind.
> No name; you traced a "G" a "J,"
> Part of "affliction" and of "heaven;"
> And then, O! irony austere!
> You read in letters sharp and clear,
> "Though lost to sight, to memory dear."

The contractors ready to commence their work asked for the records that they might do the work in proper shape and give each grave its proper box, but lo! when the records were lifted from their receptacle they fell to pieces—the church mice, poor things, for want of something better to do had minced them up, thus extracting all that was good from them.

The disinterment was therefore done *en masse*, the whole ground being turned over to the depth of six feet; and when a plate or fragment of coffin sufficiently large to show that all that little bunch of bones belonged to one corpse it was deposited by itself in a small box, but not more than a dozen won this distinction. The bones as the ground was turned over were picked up and carried, load after load, to the cellar of the church, where they now are awaiting the completion of the boxes in which they will be repacked and placed in the vaults selected for the purpose.

The closing scene of the job was witnessed yesterday. Three men with rakes and a fourth with a basket went over the surface of the upturned ground picking up the fragments, and the success of the movement suggested the fact that numerous bones that had hitherto rested in peace were now scattered freely all through the earth that had formed the enclosure; and many of the surrounding residents feel indignant about the matter, though they acknowledge that the contractors did their work as carefully as possible.

LIFE BEHIND THE SCENES.

The case of Mrs. Clara Rousby, who claimed to have been assaulted by Mr. Bandmann while rehearsing the part of Madeline Morel, came before the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench Division, in London, on the 19th of November. The salient facts have already been published. The blow, the bruised arm and the mutual indignation were fully described in court. Surgeons testified to the indignity received, and on cross-examination a number of curious contradictory facts were elicited. The case at last advices, however, was still in progress.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE BANKER'S DAUGHTER—UNION SQUARE THEATRE.

John Strebelow, a rich American gentleman ..... Mr. Charles R. Thorne, Jr.
Laurence Westbrook, of the firm of Babbage & Westbrook, Broad street ..... Mr. John Parselle
Mr. Babbage, senior partner of the firm ..... Mr. J. H. Stoddart
G. Washington Phipps, an American tourist ..... Mr. J. B. Polk
Mr. Brown, a retired millionaire ..... Mr. W. J. Le Moyne
The Count de Carojac, a French nobleman of the new regime ..... Mr. M. V. Lingham
Harold Routledge, an American artist ..... Mr. Walden Ramsay
M. Montvillais, a French art critic ..... Mr. C. W. Bowser
Dr. Watson, an English surgeon ..... Mr. H. F. Daly
Jerrold ..... Mr. W. S. Quigley
Lilian, the banker's daughter ..... Miss Sara Jewett
Florence St. Vincent Brown, maid, wife and widow ..... Miss Maude Harrison
Mrs. Fanny Helcombe, Lilian's widowed aunt ..... Mrs. E. J. Phillips
Lisette ..... Miss Sarah Cowell
Natalie, Lilian's daughter ..... Little Eva Barrett / Little Lelia Granger

An audience as large as could be packed into the Union Square Theatre viewed last night the initial performance of Mr. Bronson Howard's drama, "The Banker's Daughter," and it evidently considered the piece a success. Certainly nothing was lacking in either the appointments or acting, and although the piece is not as compact as it should be, and probably will be, it is symmetrical, interesting and strong.

The story hinges upon the love of Lilian, which, divided between Routledge, her lover, and Westbrook, her father, abandons the former and marries Strebelow, a rich man, considerably her senior, to save her father from impending financial ruin, which is averted by Strebelow, who does not understand the motive of Lilian in accepting him. Five years after marriage Lilian, at her home in Paris receives Routledge, to whom she explains the reason of her acceptance of Strebelow; she also receives on the same day the Count de Carojac, whose addresses she had years before declined in favor of Routledge. The Count, who has nursed vengeful feelings during the interval, quarrels with Routledge and kills him in a duel; as the latter falls, Lilian, her husband and others appear upon he ground, and over the dying man's form Strebelow learns that his wife's first love has not been supplanted by her husband. A separation, tender and sad, ensues, the wife returning to her father's home in America, while in Europe the husband awaits for three weary years the call of his wife, without the assurance of whose love he will not return. A letter from his child, eight years old, finally recalls him, and the curtain falls upon a fitting reconciliation.

The development of the plot is attained by considerable use of material peculiar to the French emotional school, and the "American" character of the piece, upon which some emphasis has been laid, consists principally of the fact that it was written in America and by an American. There is nothing in this, however, to either help or hinder. The merits of the piece are many. The action after the first act is generally rapid, the sentiment and even the fun, of which there is a great deal, is perfectly pure, and the sense of fitness, except in the death of Routledge, is uniformly respected. The only prominent fault is diffuseness of interest. The leading characters have not enough to do, though all that is set down for the subsidiary parts is well done. The details of this very fault, however, give Mr. Thorne, as the mistaken, loving, patient husband, opportunities for more delicate work that is usually allowed the leading man of a play and he improved them handsomely. Miss Jewett as Lilian receives partial compensation for the lack of a stronger part by a fine chance to contrast charming girlishness with sorrowing wifehood, both of which *rôles* she played almost faultlessly. In Routledge Mr. Ramsay had by far the most important part we have yet seen him in, and he sustained it as well as his best friends could have wished. Mr. Lingham, as De Carojac, was a little more the villain than necessary, but played his part with his customary excellence in such *rôles*. Mr. Paselle did the traditional rich and dignified parent in a finished manner. The humor of the piece, which is delightfully abundant, was supplied by Miss Maud Harrison in a character which should somehow be made consistent, and Messrs. Le Moyne, Stoddard and Polk. Mr. Stoddard found a house full of friends to welcome him heartily after his sometime absence, and was his grim, comical self, with some good text to help him. Mr. Polk, as an American business man abroad, was, though not long or often on the stage, considerably more amusing than ever, which is saying a great deal. Indeed, there was scarcely anything to criticise in the acting, the movement was smooth, the toilettes elegant, one of Miss Jewett's being the most tasteful bit of dress ever seen on the American stage. The scenery, with a single exception, was admirable, that of the fourth act eliciting the most continuous applause of the evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—"LA SONNAMBULA."

The opera of "La Sonnambula," with Mme. Gerster and Signor Campanini in the cast, was the exceptionably attractive bill presented at the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon. As a consequence, one of the largest audiences seen at a matinée for many years filled the house. Comparison was suggested with the memorable matinée performance of "Il Trovatore," when Wachtel, Parepa-Rosa, Santley and Phillips appeared on the stage together. Signor Frapolli had been originally cast as Elvino, but illness preventing his appearance, Campanini assumed the part. Mme. Gerster was in excellent voice and received an ovation at the end of the opera that must have gladdened her heart, coming, as the praise did, from conservative and usually undemonstrative New Yorkers. She was recalled more than half a dozen times and finally gave "Ah non giunge" before the curtain. Campanini and Del Puente were received with the strongest evidences of popular approval. The ballet was given after the opera, but the "little butterflies" were missing.

STEINWAY HALL—THE REMENYI MATINEE.

M. Reményi made his tenth appearance in America at the matinée at Steinway Hall yesterday, rendering the same numbers given at his concert of Tuesday, with the exception of his transcription of Schubert's "Serenade," which he added to his former selections. The "Divertissement à la Hongroise," played by the violinist with the stringed quintet, deepened the favorable impression which it made at its first performance on Tuesday. It is a remarkable work, and is one of the most important novelties added to the repertory of the violin which has been heard here of late years. M. Reményi again aroused the audience deeply by his playing, especially in Mendelssohn's "Spring Song." He may not interpret the composer in a manner to gratify the purists, but the abandon and magnetism of his playing are such as to disarm sober criticism, and if the artist has eccentricities he is none the less a player who sways an audience in his way as no other artist in his sphere has done. The novelty of the programme was the first regular public appearance here of Miss Emily Winand. The young lady has a round, mellow contralto of unusual range, which she uses with a skill evidencing the best cultivation. She sang the aria, "Ah! rendimi quel core," with nice appreciation and good expression, and "The Last Chord," by Sullivan, with the fervor and feeling for which this simple but effective song calls. She made a very favorable impression, and will prove an acquisition to our concert stage. Mme. Constance Howard showed in the Chopin concerto in E minor, No. 1, the delicacy and sympathy of a refined player. With more extended experience this lady should prove a brilliant artist. Mr. Courtney, the English tenor, who has not been in really good voice at any of his public appearances in America, was obliged to struggle against severe hoarseness in his renderings of "Sound an Alarm," from "Judas," and the song, "Saved from the Storm." The oratorio aria lies exactly within the range of the artist's voice, and, had it had its natural resonance, a rarely excellent performance would unquestionably have resulted. But spite of the local disadvantages from which he suffered he showed himself a most admirable artist, and when he is free from his cold he will unquestionably make an exceptional success with the public. The audience was large and appreciative.

STEINWAY HALL—THE ORATORIO SOCIETY.

The concert given by this society last night showed better results than were to have been expected from the public rehearsal yesterday. There was a transposition of the numbers of the programme of the rehearsal, and Mendelssohn's "114th Psalm" opened the concert, instead of following the Handel work, as at the rehearsal. The chorus, as was expected, was better balanced, from its fuller number of voices. It is not a great body of singers like the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, but what it lacks in quantity it makes up in quality, and in nice effects of shading it does better work than would be possible with a large chorus. Seldom has a body of 225 singers produced such a delicate pianissimo as was heard last night from this chorus in "The List'ning Crowd," in Handel's "Alexander's Feast."

The orchestra, probably from the opportunity afforded by the rehearsal of playing the unfamiliar music together, gave an admirable performance of the instrumental parts. The soloists did not, on the whole, improve upon their efforts at the rehearsal. Miss Ames was, as before, too closely confined to her book, and her performance suffered from the artist's too evident anxiety. She delivered her high notes clearly and sang with nice appreciation of the composer's work. Mr. Courtney's unfortunate hoarseness again clouded the best effects possible to his voice and method, but his disability did not prevent him from showing his finished manner of executing the trying florid passages of Handel's score, nor did it obscure his eminent fitness in the classic form of music. Mr. Remmertz sang as boldly and emphatically as ever, but paid the penalty of rashness by losing his hold of a high note in his first air, with the usual results of such a misfortune. The audience was much larger than at the rehearsal, nearly filling the hall. The performance was received with many marks of approbation, and, if not as satisfactory to the public as an oratorio would have been, was most creditable to Dr. Damrosch and the society. A delegation from the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, which has, as yet, never given "Alexander's Feast," was in attendance last night. The work is in contemplation for the next triennial festival of the Boston society.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

"Logaire" at the Theatre Comique has proved an attraction.

Sothern plays six nights in Dublin, commencing on the 2d of December.

"Rigoletto" is announced for to-morrow evening at the Academy of Music.

A bal français is announced for Thursday evening, December 5, at Irving Hall.

"Rob Roy" will be played at the Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, this week.

Fanny Davenport is playing "Pique" to a fair business in the Grand Opera House, Cincinnati.

Miss Mary Anderson begins an engagement at the Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, on Monday.

The attractions at the Aquarium comprise Captain Bogardus and the trained Kentucky thoroughbreds.

At the Lyceum Theatre Miss Kate Claxton opens to-morrow night with "Double Marriage," by Charles Reade.

A suit for $10,000 has been commenced by Mr. Louis Simon against Blanche Meda for defamation of character.

A concert in aid of Holy Innocents' ward of St. Ignatius' Guild is announced for to-morrow evening at Chickering Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Williamson open at the Brooklyn Park Theatre to-morrow in "Struck Oil" and "The Chinese Question."

"Almost a Life" at the Standard still holds the boards and is a testimony to the good judgment which adapted it for the stage.

The Tracy Titus English Opera Company go from New York to Providence. They closed a successful three weeks' engagement last night.

At Niblo's Garden, commencing to-morrow, "Eighty Days Around the World" will be reproduced. The ballet is under the direction of Bonfanti.

Abbey's New York Park Theatre company will be at the Arch Street Theatre, Philadelphia, this week, playing "Hurricanes" and "Old Love Letters."

The sale of subscription tickets to the season of Mapleson opera in Boston, opened yesterday and reached $18,000. The season of two weeks opens there on the 30th.

To-morrow evening Miss Rose Lisle will commence her engagement at the Bowery Theatre, producing her new play, "The Foundlings," which will on that occasion receive its initial performance.

Miss Anna S. Hill, of Cincinnati, made her début at St. Louis last evening with the Strackosh opera company as Marguerite in Gounod's "Faust." She was favorably received by a large audience.

The performance of "Carmen," to be given at Newark on Tuesday next, with the original cast of the Mapleson troupe, will be the most important operatic entertainment ever given in that city.

The concert of Miss Selma Borg, a lady whose accomplishments entitle her to much consideration, takes place on Tuesday at the hall of the Young Ladies' Christian Association, on Fifteenth street.

The San Francisco Minstrels are attracting large audiences. Sometimes they overflow in numbers, but they rarely contain themselves in fun. The performances are of a laughter-provoking character.

Mlle. Ilma de Murska, Gilmore's Band, Levy, Susini and Professor Hill appear in concert this evening at the Grand Opera House. The duet between the cornets of Levy and Gilmore will take place next Sunday.

At Steinway Hall, this evening, a concert will be given by Downing's Ninth Regiment Band. The solo artists are Miss Fannie Goodwin, Mr. Chr. Fritsch and Mr. J. N. Pattison. The programme is admirably adapted to the popular taste.

"That Lass o' Lowrie's" has been so successful at Booth's Theatre that it will be repeated another week. Miss Gordon's representation of Joan is full of picturesque beauty, and there are other features in the play which make it interesting.

"The Comedy of Errors," at the Park Theatre, has been among the successful plays thus far introduced on the New York stage during the present season. Robson and Crane are the funniest of comedians. On Thanksgiving night the management took in $1,460.

The present is the fifth and last week of "Otto." The play has proved to be one of the successes of the season. Mr. Edgar, one of the proprietors, will probably appear during the month in "King Lear," an impersonation that has secured for him not a little praise.

The arrangements for the grand concert which is to be given on the 7th of January in aid of the building fund of the Nautilus Boat Club are progressing admirably. Several of the most prominent artists in the city have already volunteered their services, and the occasion promises to be one of the most interesting musical events of the season.

At to-night's concert at Booth's Theatre, Reményi will play his own fantaisie on "Les Huguenots," his Hungarian melodies, the capriccias (Nos. 17 and 24) by Paganini, and two pieces by Chopin. Mme. Parodi, Mme. Pisani, Signor Frapolli, Signor Galassi, Mr. Dulcken and Signor Bisaccia will assist in the varied programme to be presented.

The testimonial to Mr. John Gilbert on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary as an actor will take place on the 5th of December. The occasion promises to be a peculiarly interesting dramatic event, inasmuch as many of the most prominent artists in the city will appear, and every old theatre goer will take a lovable interest in paying tribute to the veteran.

The present is the last week but one of the engagement of Edwin Booth at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. To-morrow night he appears in "Hamlet," on Tuesday in "Richelieu," on Friday in "The Fool's Revenge." Mr. D. H. Harkins will be the