

PATTI, GREATEST OF SONG-BIRDS, IS COMING TO ST. LOUIS FOR ANOTHER "FAREWELL" VISIT.

Personality and Career of the Diva, Who Has Sung in Every Civilized Country in the World.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.
Adelina Patti, a Spaniard by birth, an American by adoption, Swedish baroness by marriage, unquestionably the most noted singer in the world, and unconquered in the realm of music, is coming to St. Louis for another "farewell" visit.

When Adelina Patti sings in the Music Hall on the night of December 19 it may be the last opportunity that St. Louis folk will have of hearing this woman, who has been applauded by countless thousands in her career extending over a period of almost fifty years.

Yet this same prophecy has been made before. Eighteen years ago Adelina Patti made a farewell visit to St. Louis. In the precious cabinet of W. W. Nibbet, the interesting proprietor of "The Shakerhead" at No. 12 South Broadway, there are old programmes, yellow with age, which bear evidence of Patti's farewell.

There is one printed for her engagement in Music Hall in 1885, in which was positively announced that Patti would sing for the last time before a St. Louis audience.

Again, under date of 1888, another programme tells of another "farewell" in Music Hall. It was an appearance "positively the last."

If a one-ring circus, carrying a few acrobats and a carload of animals, were to start out under the name of "P. T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth," the people would patronize it, because the name of Barnum is as well known in an American household as that substantial diet, bread and milk.

If Patti, at the age of 75 years, returns to St. Louis and sings, it is probable that she will set a large audience for the desire that has existed in the minds of Americans for fifty years will still be burning, and several thousand persons will undoubtedly be willing to pay their money to see and hear the woman whose voice has enraptured the hearts of millions and caused Kings and Queens to pay homage to her art.

"FAREWELL" A JOKE.
While it can be dispensed that Patti in her day has been the greatest of song birds, seeing and hearing Patti has been a fad in all countries, and in America "farewell" visits have been a joke, although the joke has brought the best possible means for the serving of the diva's name conspicuously before the public, with the result that the box office was enriched and her managers were made wealthy.

It has been remarked that when Jenny Lind used to sing "Beautiful Snow," the rendition of the song was so effective that the men in the audience put on their overcoats and the women their sealings. When Patti sang "Home, Sweet Home," there is even more realism, for the man in the box office is counting enough money to buy whole rows of flats, and the most of this princely sum goes to the woman whose personality and art has drawn it.

The world has probably never seen a better advertised person. From early youth boy and girl hear and read about this wonderful singer. And when manhood or womanhood is reached the desire to see her is so strong that many a man is tempted to emulate the example of Bardou, and pawn his overcoat just to get a seat in the theater.

There is another peculiar characteristic of the people who fight to gain admission to a Patti concert. It is that desire to see the person rather than to hear her. Once upon a time, when Patti was making a "farewell" tour" of the Western States, a manager in a certain city received a telegram one day announcing that Patti, who was billed to appear in his city within a week, would be unable to sing on account of a sore throat.

The manager hastily wired that he had sold every seat in the theater, and that unless something were done he would have to refund the people their money. The diva's manager replied that, while Patti would not sing, she would be glad to be present on the night of the concert and occupy a box.

Notice of this change in the programme was made in the newspapers, and the local manager advertised the fact that any person who had purchased tickets could get his money returned upon presentation of his coupon at the box office.

Did anyone ask for his money? Nay, not a single person. Patti was going to be in a box. The people could see her. That was sufficient. Several hundred standing-room tickets were sold and the event seemed as enjoyable as if the prima donna herself had appeared on the stage and sung her favorites.

It is told that, although Patti early showed great talent as a singer, she was not inclined to undergo hard study, preferring to sing the simple songs that she knew, rather than to work for hours on the exercises that her half brother assigned to her.

As a means of insuring study it is said that Barilli at times locked his little pupil in a room, with the understanding that she would be released within a few hours, provided she had worked faithfully upon the lessons prescribed for her.

Patti was brought to America when she was 8 years old and early musical education was gained in this country. She made her debut in the Academy of Music in New York, November 24, 1859, when she was 16 years old.

On the programme was her sister, Amelia Patti, who achieved marked honors in concert and grand opera, and the Italian Opera, under whose auspices her debut was made, was under the management of Maurice Strakosch, her brother-in-law.

From the moment that Adelina Patti first sang with the Italian Opera in New York her march to fame was rapid. For the remaining weeks of the New York season she was the reigning success and Strakosch, the steward brother-in-law, seeing the possibilities in the star that had been raised in his own family, put the girl under complete tutelage and gave the finish to her vocal education that was necessary to the permanent success of her career.

VISITED HAVANA IN 1880.
In 1880 Patti was taken to Havana, where for an entire season she won the plaudits of the Spaniards of the Cuban capital, which was then one of the greatest operatic centers in the world.

A year later, she made her debut with the Royal Italian Opera in London, and with that same marked success that greeted her efforts for the two seasons

previous, she won the admiration and attention of Britisheers and was finally summoned before the Queen, who sat enthroned as she listened to the wonderful voice of the fair singer from America.

Her London engagement was the means of making permanent Patti's position as the greatest of world's singers. She next sang in Covent Garden and for years after her appearance in that most celebrated of London resorts, was the signal for a great outpouring of nobility, who nobility has courted her favor. Crowned heads have invited her to sing before them. Monarchs have presented her with the costliest jewels in the world as a token of their admiration.

ENTERTAINED BY ROYALTY.
In Russia the nobility gave her a diamond necklace on the occasion of her first visit to St. Petersburg.

In America the brilliancy of her career is too well known. Thousands have attended her concerts. Thousands have pushed and jammed to see her. Curious as to the remarkable fame of the person who had led to which is attributed the great length of her career as a public singer. Proper indulgence in all things has been the simple rule which Patti has observed during all the years of her life. Plenty of sleep, plenty of exercise, prop-

er diet, proper exercise of the mind, an observance of the interesting items in the world's history, these constitute the daily routine of Patti's life.

If the hours that Patti has given to study were placed in a grand total, they would make years. Her repertoire covers over forty operas, taken from the best of the French, Italian and English classics.

Being immensely rich, she can have plenty. The food that she eats, even while on tour, is selected by her own chef and prepared by him.

The private car which she occupies is a moving palace. In St. Louis the most richly furnished rooms in the Planters Hotel have been selected for her.

Her husband, Baron Cederstrom, is her constant companion. Baron Cederstrom, whom she married only a few years ago, is her third husband. Her first husband was Marquis de Camp, Esquerry to Napoleon III, whom she married July 29, 1853, and whom she divorced in 1855. In 1856 she married Signor Nicolini, a famous tenor, to whom she was devoted until his death.

SOME OF HER CHARITIES.
There is one side to Patti's life that receives little attention from those who have

chronicled her history. It is her love of charity. Patti, though the world knows little of it, is of a benevolent nature, and she has given much to the poor.

In 1855, when the diva was singing in Florence, Italy, the Asiatic fever broke out among the laboring classes. The epidemic raged with great fury. The singer, at a great personal sacrifice, gave up her engagement, which was for ten performances, and organized a relief society for the aid of the sufferers.

In 1875 she sang for the Deaf and Dumb Hospital in London. The erection of the

hospital was not yet begun, and funds were needed to complete it. She gave a concert in the metropolis which netted many thousands of dollars for the charity, and in return was given the honor of laying the corner stone of the new building.

She was in Paris after the Franco-Prussian war, and by her own motive offered a benefit concert for the aid of the wounded soldiers, whose condition was most pitiable. This concert brought over \$12,000 for the afflicted men.

In 1880 she gave a concert for those who suffered in the fire at the theater of Nice, which netted over \$25,000.

While it is known that Patti has given to private charity on innumerable occasions, facts regarding her deeds are never given out.

Adelina Patti has never advertised her generosity.

Adelina Patti in 1887.



ADELINA PATTI AT THE AGE OF EIGHT YEARS.

- INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PATTI.
- She was born in Madrid February 19, 1842, and is, therefore, almost 61 years old.
 - She came to America when she was 8 years old.
 - She made her debut at the Academy of Music, New York, when she was 16 years old.
 - She made her London debut when 18 years old.
 - She has sung in every civilized country in the world.
 - She has been singing in public for forty-five years.
 - Her repertoire includes over forty of the best French, Italian and English operas.
 - Her first husband was the Marquis de Camp, her second Sig. Nicolini, her third and present husband Baron Cederstrom.



ADELINA PATTI FROM A PAINTING.

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