NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE WEEK FLASHED BY CABLE FROM EUROPE

Revival of Historic Fairs at Berlin Christmas Time

"Alt Berlin" Reproduced with Architectural Fidelity, Plays, Bazaar and Target Competition in Capital and Shooting Party in Silesia for the Crown Prince.

TEA AND TANGO PARTIES ENTERTAIN AMERICANS

[SPECIAL DISPATCH.]
Berlin, December 20.

BERLIN is under the spell of the pre-Christmas season. The street fairs and markets, which were a unique feature of Berlin life until late in the last century, have been revived in an exhibition opened this week under the device of "Alt Berlin."

This historic quarter of the city, which has gradually disappeared before the encroachment of the modern metropolis, is here reproduced with absolute fidelity in architectural detail, and an interesting picture is given of the customs and costumes of the period.

In addition Christmas plays presenting in every possible variant the rich fairy lore of Germany claim the interest of the children, while the parents are asked to spend money at one of the many bazaars and Christmas sales by which some philanthropic project is to profit.

The most important of these is the annual Christmas bazaar held this week in the Hotel Esplanade for the benefit of the orphans of St. Catherine's House under the patronage of Hereditary Princess Salm-Salm, in her own right Archduchess Christina of Austria, but the task of the organization is in the hands of the Countess of Fugger-Kirchberg, well known hostesses in court society presiding over the various booths.

Target Shooting Competition.

Throughout Wednesday afternoon there was a dense crowd gathered about the shooting gallery presided over by Frau von Below, who had as her most active aides-de-camp in the sale of tickets Señorita Aurora de Quesada and Miss Margaret Lace. A group of young officers from Colonel von Below's regiment, the Augusta Guards, gave instructions in target shooting. The competition was unusually keen, as the two prizes were of a unique character.

Through the courtesy of the Hamburg-American line a free transport to Southampton and return was placed at the disposal of Frau von Below. The North German Lloyd's contribution was a return ticket to Bremen and Cherbourg.

At another table, presided over by Americans, were silver articles offered by the Baroness Speck von Sternburg and her sister, the Vicomtesse de Faramonde, wife of the French Naval Attaché.

Among the guests invited by Prince Guido von Henckel-Donnersmarck to join a shooting party at the castle of Neudeck, Silesia, arranged for the German Crown Prince, were the Count and Countess Johannes Stirstoff. With the exception of the venerable Countess Waldersee, the Countess Stirstoff is perhaps the doyenne of the group of American women who married into the ranks of the German nobility.

An American Hostess.

Before her marriage she was Miss Mary Knowlton, of New York. She is one of the few hostesses who of late years has had the honor of entertaining the Kaiser at the splendid old Silesian estate of her husband, and when she comes to Berlin for the winter season she is always a conspicuous figure in court functions on account of her commanding presence and fine jewels.

Prince Von Henckel-Donnersmarck's prize was a trophy [illegible] comprised 706 hares and 904 pheasants. The Crown Prince sustained his well known prowess, killing 90 hares and 113 birds, and was in consequence crowned king of the hunt.

A December Tea.

The first of two early December teas to which Miss Agnes Kerr has issued invitations took place this week with Mrs. T. Steward White as principal guest. Mrs. Thackara, whose name also appeared upon the card of invitation, was unable to be present. Dr. Alice Lane and Mrs. A. C. Wilkinson presided at the tea tables.

Among the large number of guests were the American Ambassador and Mrs. Gerard, Mrs. Walter H. Gherardi, Mrs. Paul Shorey, Mrs. H. A. Lane, Dr. and Mrs. George Allen, Mrs. Edmiston, Mrs. Anna E. McGhee, Mrs. Randolph Hall, Frau Hermann Stölle, Mr. W. C. Drecker, Mrs. Henry Theobald, Mrs. Arthur N. Davis, Mrs. H. S. Downs, Mrs. William Kugelmann, Mrs. Stephen S. McFadden, Mrs. Beach and Miss Mary Hunt, of Boston; Mrs. Alfred Thompson and Mr. Harold B. Quarton.

Tango Holds Its Own.

Mrs. H. V. Fisher, of Boston, entertained the younger set to the unusual given in celebration of the seventieth birthday of her daughter, Dorothy. Among the guests belong to some of the tango circles formed in Berlin this season, there were some interesting interpretations of the dance, which continues to hold its own in spite of royal disfavor.

Among those who proved themselves adepts at tangoing were the young hostess, Miss Charmian von Wurzand, Miss Helen McFadden and Miss Marianne Lane. Others participating were Miss Louise Cavalli, Miss Dorothy Mitchell, Miss Anna Bultman, Miss Isabel Phillips, Miss Dorothy Berry and a group of young women from the Willard school.

Mrs. Stephen H. McFadden was hostess at a dejeuner given for Mrs. Henry Theobald, of Toledo, Ohio. Among the out of town guests were Mrs. H. L. B. Beach, of Boston, who will introduce herself to Berlin concertgoers in the two-fold rôle of pianist and composer next week; Mrs. T. Steward White, of Grand Rapids; Mrs. Paul Shorey, of Chicago, and Mrs. H. S. Downs, of Paris.

Auction Bridge.

Many guests went to an auction bridge party given by Mrs. Genevieve Anderson.

Mr. Isaac Wolf, Jr., president of the American Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Wolf entertained at dinner on Tuesday at their new apartment in the Tiergartenstrasse. The Consul General and Mrs. Thackara, for whom the dinner was originally arranged, were not present, having cancelled all social arrangements on account of the death of the latter's sister.

Among those present were the Cuban Minister and Señora de Quesada, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. McFadden, Professor Nicolai, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Conger, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick William Wile and Mr. and Mrs. Alton Derrick.

Professor Paul Shorey, of the Chicago University, and Mrs. Shorey are being overwhelmed by that genuine German hospitality which under certain conditions is lavishly bestowed upon the stranger within the gates. They have been entertained by many of Professor Shorey's distinguished colleagues at Berlin University, to which the American scholar is accredited this season as Roosevelt professor.

Mrs. Shorey Entertained.

Professor Blanck, the well known scientist, who is filling the elective office of rector of the university, has given a dinner for them. Arrangements have been made for Professor Shorey to deliver an additional course of six lectures at the Colonial Institute, Hamburg, on the history of civilization and on American literature.

Mrs. Bernard Goldsmith entertained on Monday afternoon for Mrs. James W. Gerard, the ladies asked to meet her being Mrs. Joseph Clark Grew, Mrs. Paul Shorey, of Chicago; Mrs. G. Anderson, Mme. Kirsinger, Frau Hermann Schmidt, Mme. Minette Peterson, Frau Arthur Schlubeck, the American wife of the well known portrait painter, and Miss Helen Wickert.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar A. Gerst, assisted by the latter's mother, Mrs. Morris Cottlow, and Mrs. Addie A. Gerst, have resumed their monthly receptions, which always bring together many Americans interested in music. Mrs. Gerst, who before her marriage was Miss Augusta Cottlow, is a well known American in the music world.

Naval Attache in Dutch Court.

Lieutenant Commander Walter R. Gherardi, who is accredited to both Berlin and The Hague as United States Naval Attaché, and Mrs. Gherardi will be presented to Queen Wilhelmina at the first drawing room of the season, to take place on January 2. This event is conducted with far less ceremony than is customary at the German court, the ladies of the foreign Diplomatic Corps not being required to appear with a court train, which is considered de rigueur in Berlin.

Countess Moltke, wife of the Danish Minister to Germany, has returned a call of some length to her mother, Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer, of Boston.

Mrs. Alexander Kirk, of Chicago, is returning to America aboard the George Washington today after passing the summer and autumn with her daughter, Mrs. Albert Billing Ruddock.

A young Polish-American composer named Stanislaus Letowsky has written an opera which will be produced at the new Municipal Opera House in Posen, lately erected through the initiative of the German Emperor. Mr. Letowsky, who is only twenty-three years old, is a native of Omaha, Neb., and is well known in Berlin, where he took a course of study at the Royal High School of Music. "Frau Anne; or, the Lady at Her Dressing Table" is the title of his three act comic opera, the scene of which is laid in Holland at the time of Rembrandt, and an interesting historical note is given to the work by having the master painter of the Netherlands school appear upon the stage.

Lecture on Blackfeet Indians.

Mr. Walter McClintock, of Pittsburg, has just returned from Copenhagen, where he went by invitation of Baron and Baroness de Hegerman-Lindencrone, to give his illustrated lecture, "Fifteen Years with the Blackfeet Indians." A large number of guests from court and diplomatic society, as well as leading members of the Royal Geographical Society were present. Interest in the scientific researches of the American anthropologist was so great that he was asked to repeat the lecture for a public audience. Mr. McClintock leaves for America on board the Rotterdam today to fulfill a lecture engagement.

Among well known Americans in the city this week are Mr. Allison Armour, who is stopping at the Hotel Bristol; Mrs. C. E. Tracy, of New York, and her daughter, Miss Anne Tracy; Miss Ellicott, of Baltimore, who is registered at the Kaiserhof; Mr. J. H. Dennison, United States Consul at Dundee, and Mrs. Dennison, who is sightseeing in Berlin; Mr. J. Shannar White, who is recovering from a busy season as manager of Mr. William J. Bryan's Chautauqua circuit.

The most prominent American arrivals at the Hotel Adlon include Mr. C. L. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Lingheim, Mr. Philip Berlinger, Mr. M. Guggenheim, Mr. Gaston Nothman, the Misses Emma and Carmen Nothman, Mr. Louis Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Whiteley, Mr. and Mrs. John Morris and Mr. and Mrs. L. Lowek, all of New York.

Sure.

Cincinnati Enquirer:—

You give it free, and that's why we imagine you take it.

For your advice demand a price. Advice will rush to take it.

LONDON TRADESMEN SAY THEIR CHRISTMAS TRADE IS EXTREMELY GOOD

Royalty Joins the Throngs in the Streets for Shopping Tours.

SPANISH MONARCHS ENJOY THEIR TRIPS

Country People Follow King George and Gape in Amazement at His Markmanship.

[SPECIAL DISPATCH.]
London, December 20.

THERE is life and plenty of it in London just now. The hotels are full and the west end is a scene of bustle and bustle from morning to night. The congestion of traffic is terrific and there is hardly room to move. All need to exercise the greatest patience and yet everybody is in jovial spirits, for London has entered upon its last mad rush before Christmas.

Wherever the money comes from, everybody seems bent on shopping, and the west end tradesmen have ceased to grumble and all are beaming with joy. They say they never had a merrier or more profitable time.

Though the King and Queen have been away at Chatsworth, there has been plenty of royalty in town for the events, the chief of which have been the first public début since her marriage of Princess Arthur of Connaught, when, with the Prince, she opened the military bazaar in the Royal Agricultural Hall, accompanied by Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll. It was noted how much improved the Princess is since her wedding. She is much brighter and happier. Before she seemed always to wear a sad expression, but now she is all smiles and her laugh is that of a happy girl. Before her marriage she dressed very simply and her clothes scarcely could be said to reflect any particular style. Now the happy Princess is going in for very smart clothes. At the bazaar she looked lovely in a Nattier blue velvet dress with a frill at the neck and a black hat encircled with aigrettes.

After Prince Arthur had formally opened the bazaar Princess Arthur and Princess Louis became saleswomen at the regimental agency stall, assisted by the Countess of Londesborough and Lady Curzon and Lady Irene Denison.

Spain's Monarchs Leave.

Princess Henry of Battenberg in heliotrope velvet sold at the Guards brigade stall.

The King and Queen of Spain after a few days of bustle have left for Madrid. Before going they established a record. It happened that Prince Alexander of Battenberg, the queen of Spain's brother, had been doing duty during the royal stop as an officer of the Guard at St. James' Palace, and therefore had not seen his sister. So before going she and the Queen had luncheon with Prince Alexander in the messroom over the Guards' quarters at St. James', the first time a crowned head ever has taken a meal there.

During the next few days there will be another merry royal shopping party, as Queen Alexandra, Princess Victoria and the King and Queen of Norway intend to pass some time at Christmas buying in London. The Queen mother, in particular, always looks forward to a shopping expedition, usually in one of the small royal broughams, which pass unnoticed in the general traffic. Her selection will be very great, for there are scores of articles to be sent away every year to little nieces and other relatives and other young acquaintances, whom, once remembered, the Queen mother never disappoints.

Meanwhile the King and Queen are making new history at Chatsworth, the King with his gun and the Queen in her quiet way making the acquaintance of the humble subjects of the countryside. One day the Queen went to the ancient fourteenth century Haddon Hall, home of the Rutland family, where she saw the wonderful tapestries which have been hanging there more than three centuries, and one of which is said to be the work of Mary Queen of Scots and is hanging in the bedroom of the famous Dorothy Vernon, daughter of George Vernon, the last of his race.

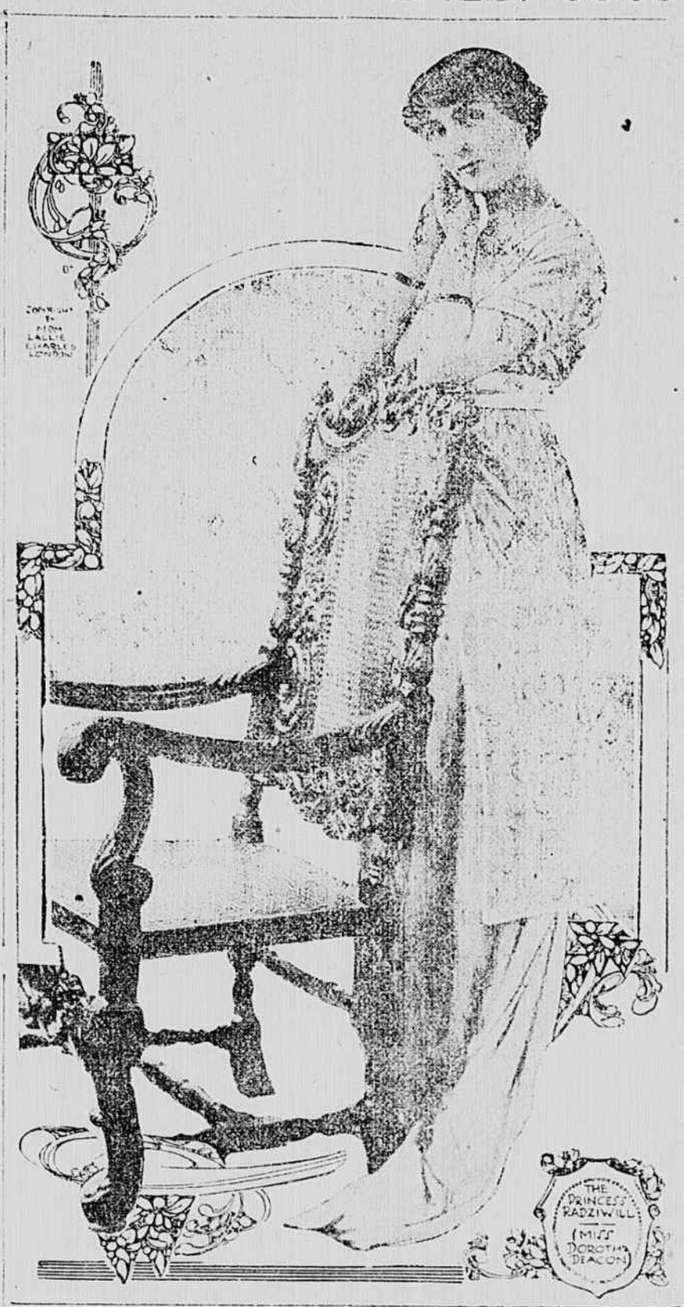
The Queen's Adviser.

The Duchess of Devonshire is hostess at Chatsworth and holds a position only fully realized by those in touch with the court. Not only is she Mistress of the Robes but the Queen's adviser in many matters of prime importance. Thus the recent formal edict the Queen issued against the tango and similar dances being performed in her presence was first discussed with the Duchess of Devonshire, who expressed thorough approval of the step. The Queen also consults her about the large amount of money she distributes in charity yearly.

While the grouse has proved to be a comparative failure the King has had excellent sport among the pheasants. One day he was followed by several hundred of the country people, who had a good view of the sport and were amazed at the accuracy of the King's shooting. At one point the King was shooting from a garden, and the crowd within a hundred yards saw him bring down bird after bird without a miss. All declared it was the most wonderful sight they ever had seen and have spoken of it since as something amazing. And these are people to whom pheasant shooting is a common sport.

At Covent Garden.

The King and Queen returned to London this week and witnessed a performance of "Joan of Arc" at Covent Garden, bringing to an end Raymond Rose's season with the opera, which is British made, by a composer partly French and singers mostly German, with the chief character the national heroine of France. It is a considerable time since the King has been at Covent Garden, because though genuinely fond of music he is not a regular attendant, like his father, who never missed an opportunity of seeing his favorite "La Bohême."



Everybody is now wondering when King Manuel and his bride are really coming to Fulwell Park, Twickenham, their future home. It has been ready for their reception for months, but nothing is known when they may be expected, and a belief that there is some unexplained mystery connected with the continual postponements of their homecoming is growing in the district. A week ago it was announced that they would arrive on Wednesday of this week, and preparations were made accordingly by the Richmond and Twickenham local authorities to present addresses of welcome. Now the announcement comes that King Manuel and his bride will not arrive for another few days. One report is that this homecoming has been deferred until the new year.

A curious misunderstanding, too, has arisen between Queen Amelie of Portugal and Mr. Stanley Paul, a well known publisher. A few days ago it was stated that Queen Amelie had written a volume of memoirs, giving a history of the revolution in Portugal, throwing a flood of light on that and the succeeding events in the tragic history of that country. Now a letter has been sent to the newspapers stating that there is no foundation for the report, and that the Queen never intended to publish her memoirs. Yet the fact remains that the manuscript is in the hands of Mr. Paul awaiting translation. Mr. Paul says he is unable to understand or explain Queen Amelie's denial of the report, but an explanation, nevertheless, is not difficult to find. The Portuguese government had heard of the proposed publication and vetoed it. As the exiled King still draws certain revenues from Portugal it would be impolitic for these to be endangered by any published memoirs which would lay bare the secrets of the revolution and perhaps throw a harsh light on some of the present rulers of Portugal.

Grand Duke to Appear.

It is not every day that a Russian Grand Duke, a cousin of the Tsar, gives evidence in an English court of justice, and exceptional interest therefore is taken in the appearance in the law courts soon of Grand Duke Boris, who sued a publishing company for alleged libel in connection with his experiences in the Russo-Japanese War. The proceedings, though a settlement has been effected, are likely to be piquant. The Grand Duke has had occasion to protest several times against the treatment meted out to him by certain of the American press in 1912 after a brief journey to America. He was made the subject of a bitter attack by yellow journalism. His secretary, speaking on his behalf, described the journalists as "a set of roughs, whose conduct was disgusting. They asked the Duke," he said, "the most delicate and insulting questions. Twenty cabs filled by reporters followed us wherever we went, and if the Grand Duke refused to see them it made no difference, as a long interview appeared all the same.

"After the Japanese war, in which he won the Cross of St. George for valor, the Grand Duke expressed to a St. Petersburg correspondent of a Paris newspaper his indignation at various published rumors about his conduct in the Far East, characterizing them as a tissue of lies. It was even rumored that he said that 'I struck General Kuropatkin because he refused to grant me leave of absence.'"

The Grand Duke is thirty-five, unmarried, tall, handsome, of good physique and an athletic soldier. His manner is attractive and as a rule he bubbles over with great good humor.

No Sex in Art, Cry in London

[SPECIAL DISPATCH.]
London, December 20.

PLAYGOERS often wonder why so many good actresses who have established themselves by sheer merit often disappear from the boards and are seldom heard of again, and why so many whose only recommendation is good looks usurp their places. Leading actresses whose only recommendation is histrionic talent are beginning at last to resent this state of affairs, and "The Woman's Theatre," a new enterprise of the Actresses' Franchise League, has been established with the idea of setting this right.

"The Woman's Theatre" is to produce on December 8 at the Coronet Theatre a translation by Mrs. George Bernard Shaw of Brieux's "Women On Her Own" ("La Femme Seule"), and Brieux has given it to the Woman's Theatre on exceedingly advantageous terms.

On December 11 another feminist play, "A Gauntlet," by Bjornsen, translated by R. Farquharson-Sharp, will be produced.

Miss Inez Bensusan, the organizing secretary of the Woman's Theatre, being asked about the primary aims of the movement, the committee of which includes many of the foremost women of the day on the stage and in the literary world, said:—

"The Woman's Theatre has no idea of ousting men or being antagonistic to them. Its main idea is to help women. The stage is very much overcrowded as far as women are concerned. There are twenty applicants for every woman's vacancy for two to every man's. The Woman's Theatre is going to extend woman's field in the theatre to other branches besides acting. Many modern actresses have excellent business capabilities, and we are going to have women stage managers, women producers and women in charge of the box office at our headquarters. Men will not be employed except as actors.

"It is our intention also to fight to our utmost against the sex qualification in the theatre. There ought to be no sex in art, and yet it is an undoubted fact that a large proportion of managers still appraise an applicant not by her abilities but by her physical attractiveness. A woman of talent ought not to be compelled to go through the ordeal of being regarded much as if she were some prize animal. I have been through the experience myself, and I will never forget it.

Society Circus Killed by Charge That Animals Are Tortured by Trainers

Remarkable Facts Brought to Light in Court Proceedings in London Regarding Claims of Creditors Against the London Opera House, Which Now Is Closed Again.

TRAINERS DENY CRUELTY, BUT CONCEAL METHODS

[SPECIAL DISPATCH.]
London, December 20.

COURT proceedings relative to the claims of creditors against the London Opera House have brought out the fact that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals here scored the greatest victory in its career when by systematized efforts it turned public favor away from the society circus playing there on the ground that training animals to perform so skilfully necessitated cruel methods.

Representatives of the society stood outside the theatre doors in Kingsway and loudly implored spectators not to enter and solicited signatures to petitions asking persons to remain away from theatres where animals perform.

As a result, the circus which began exceedingly well fell off in attendance, despite protests from the trainers, who denied most emphatically that any cruelty was involved.

The grand climax came on Saturday night, November 29, when, with dramatic suddenness, the opera house managers informed the audience that the doors would be forthwith closed and the run of the circus cease, owing to the lack of public support.

The glaring signs in front of the theatre were blotted out and three hundred employes thrown unceremoniously out of work, the Amalgamated Musicians' Union promising to take the matter up in the courts.

Controversy Arises.

On the following Monday Mr. E. A. V. Stanley issued a statement confessing that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was responsible for the sudden dramatic failure, as it educated the public into believing cruelty was involved, which he protested was not at all the case.

The question as to whether cruelty was involved then gripped popular interest here, leaving the trainers at a distinct disadvantage, as by exposing their methods they would be giving away the secrets of their life work, permitting others to imitate them. Consequently the trainers contented themselves with statements to the press that cruel methods in a lions' den with a man surrounded by twenty-eight lions would be equivalent to suicide, also adding that kind and not cruel methods are the secret of the successful training of ponies, dogs, &c.

This version, however, was vigorously opposed by several special writers in the London newspapers, who backed the contention of the Prevention of Cruelty Society and challenged the trainers to expose their methods.

A call made by your correspondent to the society circus when it was in full swing showed a series of thrilling animal tricks performed which seldom have been equalled on any stage. For example, a trainer appeared with twenty-eight lions, some appearing to be ferocious and growling and clawing at him, to the stupefaction of the spectators. At a critical moment, after appearing to hold the animals cowed by revolver and whip, the trainer threw these away and precipitated himself on the most ferocious beast, dragging and carrying it across the stage and finally sinking under its breast, while this and the other lions playfully stroked him, licked his hands and face and pulled and pushed him about like a kitten playing with a rubber ball.

Its Future a Problem.

Present arrangements for attractions there are not settled, the opera house now being closed. Mr. Alfred Butts has approached the directors with a proposal to let him produce variety acts in the house.

The London Opera House's history is interesting. The site belongs to the London County Council and was leased to Mr. Hammerstein in 1910 on a ninety-nine years' lease at $24,375 a year. That sum, therefore, is a first charge on the undertaking. Then Mr. Hammerstein put up the opera house on it at a cost of between $750,000 and $1,000,000. Early in 1912 he refused $900,000 for the house and also refused a rental of $82,510. The house had mortgages of $350,000 on it, and these formed a second charge on its prosperity.

Then, in November, 1912, Mr. Hammerstein leased the house to Mr. Fernand Akoun, of Luna Park, Paris, for fifteen years at a rental of $60,000 a year.

The next turn of the kaleidoscope came in May, 1913, when Mr. Akoun returned to Paris and Mr. E. A. V. Stanley acquired the rights of Mr. Hammerstein in the house. It is understood that he paid about $350,000.

The London Opera House has had one of the most extraordinary histories of any London place of amusement. Mr. Hammerstein said in interviews that he was animated in building it by a passion for popularizing grand opera, but he could not get the choicest stars, and he could not even get the right to produce certain of the most popular operas.

But, worst of all, he could not get the social "tone" which Covent Garden possessed and which is so essential to the production of the highest form of musical art in a country like England.

Its Many Scenes.

Mr. Hammerstein opened the opera house with "Quo Vadis" in November, 1911. He reduced his prices to theatre prices in February, 1912. In July, 1912, he suddenly closed the house and returned to America, where he uttered some frank comments on the English musical taste.

On boxing night, 1912, the opera house was reopened under Mr. Akoun's lease as a picture house. It was intended to give a combination of variety turns and cinema. That lasted till March 8, 1913, when the house again was closed. On April 12 it was reopened with the revue "Come Over Here," which Mr. A. V. Fischer, the new manager, had brought from America. The first month of that revue proved an immense success. About fifty American chorus girls of exceeding comeliness were brought over, and their appearance in costly furs and evening dresses walking down an illuminated gangway laid from the stage to the back of the stalls became the talk of London.

The revue had two big stage carpentering sensations which rivalled the parade of fashion—the race between the railway train and the automobile and the mystery of the chorus girls who walked down into a lake and disappeared below the surface.

The success of the revue was so great that for several months it took in $20,000 a week. A series of performers of varied qualifications appeared at various stages in this dramatic olla podrida. They included La Belle Otero, Anna Held, Polaire, Carmelita Ferrer, May Yohe, Georges Carpentier, J. F. McArdle and Charles Hart, a negro comedian. The "second edition" of "Come Over Here" had a very short life, and the next entertainment was the circus.

Some time ago it was announced that the London Opera House would witness another season of grand opera under the management of Mr. Thomas Beecham, but that, too, has been abandoned.

"LOVELIEST OF ALL HIS MADONNAS"

The Panshanger Raphael, Acquired by the Messrs. Duveen, Praised by Morelli.

[SPECIAL DISPATCH.]
London, December 20.

"THE loveliest of all the master's Madonnas," as the little Panshanger Madonna, which has passed from the Desborough family into the hands of the Duveen Brothers, as already described in a recent cable despatch, has been called by Morelli, is a panel painting about two feet three inches high by one foot six inches wide.

Better known as the "Cowper Madonna," it was in the possession of the Cowper family since 1780, when the third earl, who was British Minister in Florence, acquired it, and now, for the reasons already explained, it is going to America.

What the Messrs. Duveen paid for the picture is a secret, but it must have been a very large sum, when it is considered that the Trustees of the National Gallery could not meet the Messrs. Duveen's offer to take it over for exactly the same sum as they paid for it, and also when it is recalled that the National Gallery purchased from the Blenheim Trustees, in 1885, for $50,000, the "Madonna degli Ansidei."

Julia Cartwright in "Christ and His Mother in Italian Art," says of this little picture that it "belongs to the master's early Florentine days and must have been painted soon after the 'Madonna del Granduca,' which it resembles in more points than one. The Child is of the same type as the Babe of the Granduca, but fairer and smaller.

"In the distance on the right we recognize the marble porch and campanile of the Church that Cronaca had lately built on the way to S. Miniato and which Michelangelo called his 'Bella villanella'."

TANGO IS TAUGHT IN MUSIC SHOP

Craze for the Dance in London Is Spreading and the Lessons Come High.

[SPECIAL DISPATCH.]
London, December 20.

FOR tango, add tango for tea. The craze is indeed spreading. Even a little music seller's shop in North London announces, "Tango taught here." It shows how the demand has grown up among the patrons of the dollar "hop." You may pay anything up to $50 for a lesson in the west end of London.

Speaking of tango—and one seems to speak of little else—managers who are recruiting performers for the suburban and provincial pantomimes complain of the great difficulty in finding dancers. All are making the essence of the contract the fact that the tango should figure in the pantomime. Practically any one who knows the dance well or can learn it during the next few weeks may earn a big lump of money during the Christmas season.

Nothing Happened.

Judge:—

She sat beneath the mistletoe,
Without the slightest fear;
She felt no wild, glad tremor, though
She knew he lingered near.
She sat there calm and unafraid,
And sleepily he yawned, for they'd
Been married for a year.