

# LAMBARDI AND MILLER AND OTHER GOOD THINGS

BY ASHTON STEVENS.



SCENE FROM ONE OF THE HENRY MILLER PRODUCTIONS AT THE COLUMBIA

The very desirable Lambardi opera singers, who seem to have sprung up out of nowhere in particular, just that we might have the chance to make marvelous and self-satisfying "discoveries," are the notables of the past week theatrical. Especially to the critics have the Lambardis been a big boon. They have supplied the matter for positive statements, and a critic is never so glad as when he can tell his public facts that are large and incontestable. There is nothing vague about this unpressaged little band of Milanese warblers. What they can do they do with cheerful enthusiasm, and what they can't do goes in much the same way. Their orchestra, for instance, would trouble the deaf, their chorus is violently unlovely to look at and not particularly sweet to hear, and in their productions I notice a general absence of the good stage manners that have come to be regarded as an essential part of a modern opera performance. But the principals, who are many, can sing, and in that the organization wins. You find yourself unconsciously making excuses for the shortcomings while you bathe in the delights of the actual accomplishments. And, without a name in the programme that is familiar to you, you can pick a jolly good artist nearly every night.

At all events, the gentlemen of the press have had no end of opportunity to work during the week past. There was a brand new play without a title, written by Mrs. Riggs, and produced in the Columbia by Herbert Keely and Edie Shannon, that had to be shelved; there was Johnstone Bennett at the Orpheum removed from the chaperonage of her much-advertised male valet—she was a patient disappointment; and best of all, there was the inimitable Lambardis at the California, with a surprise for almost every night. A wonderful barytone by the name of Salassa was discovered in the "Pagliacci" opening and a sturdy No. 2 Melba, entitled Sonorita Italia V. Repetto, was divulged in Wednesday night's "Lucia," to say nothing of many smaller successes that, together with the big ones just mentioned, have been fully listed in earlier issues of The Call.

Taken altogether, the immediate theatrical prospect is alluring. In the Columbia to-morrow night commences



AMELIA SOSTEGNI AT THE ALHAMBRA

the engagement of Henry Miller and what would appear to be an excellent company under the direction of Charles Frohman. This Miller season will no doubt turn out to be the most important of the year. The modern plays of the repertory are written by the best of the contemporary writers and the others are by Shakespeare, who, when

seriously presented, is always worth serious attention. It is said that Mr. Miller hopes to make this company a permanent stock affair in San Francisco. We need something of the kind, need it badly, for we are far behind in the new plays, most of which are in the hands of Mr. Frohman. This is a Frohman company, and that means much. Among the players is Edward J. Morgan, who was a fine young actor when we saw him several seasons ago. Since then he has increased in reputation, ambition, and, from all accounts, in art. The American stage is rich in clever young women, but it needs clever young men. Mr. Morgan's season here, which will be of considerable length, will doubtless be valuable experience for him as well as for us. The piece for to-morrow night's opening is Henry Arthur Jones' "The Liars," which is described as a comedy of manners. We are told that it deals in the polite fabrications of a

to bruised hearts and as a teacher of polite morality. The other members of the Miller company are Margaret Anglin, Mrs. Thomas Whiffen, Charles Walcott, Louise Thorndyke Boucault, Margaret Dale, Guy Standing, C. Leslie Allen, Blanche Burton, James Lindsay, Marie Derickson, Earle Browne, Joseph Adelman, Frank E. Lamb, Thomas Whiffen, Minna Roehn and Harry Spears.

**Columbia.** The story of "The Liars," in the main, tells of the infatuation of Falkner, a young African traveler, for Lady Jessica, who is married to a middle-aged man, Gilbert Nepean. She encourages Falkner. Her friends are interested in protecting her from possible scandal, and an important factor in this work is Sir Christopher Deering. Lady Jessica tells Falkner that she is to visit her aunt in the suburbs of London. As she has frequently, she says, mistaken the path, she may find herself at the Star and Garter Hotel at Shep-

Morocco has decided to withdraw his arranged programme and revive "El Capitain."

**Tivoli.** To-night "The Merry War" will be sung for the last time at the Tivoli, and to-morrow evening Leococci's "La Fille de Madame Angot" will receive an elaborate revival. There are no more catchy melodies in the realm of French composition than are to be found in this enduring work. Gracie Plaisted will be the Clairette, daughter of Madame Angot, a favorite part of hers. Tillie Sallinger will reappear as Mlle. Lange, Clairette's rival in the affections of Ange Pitou, the sedulous poet, sung by Phil Branson, and Edwin Stevens will be happily cast as Pomponnet, the barber.

**Brownies Again.** Four new Orpheum attractions are announced. Perhaps the best known to Orpheum patrons is Tacianu, the female impersonator, who has just returned from successful tour of Europe. He is consid-



WILLIAM WOLFE AT THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE



MRS. KRESING CHUTES

ford. Falkner meets her there, and the inopportune arrival of several of their mutual friends complicates matters. In the meantime Gilbert Nepean is notified by his brother that all is not right, and he returns post haste. Complications ensue, which are cleverly adjusted by Sir Christopher.

**"Turtle" at the California.** "The Turtle" will be seen for the first time in this city at the California Theater to-night. This much discussed French farce had a two years' run in Paris, a 200 nights' run in New York and is still occupying the boards in Berlin and Vienna. Whatever may be said of the morals of the play, it is conceded that it has been dignified by splendid acting and artistic treatment in every way. It is said to have one of the funniest third acts seen on the stage in years. This audacious farce, for it can be classed under no other heading, is perhaps the most widely discussed play in the country.

**Alhambra.** To-night the Lambardi Italian Opera Company will transfer its scene of operations to the Alhambra, corner of Jones and Eddy streets, where eight performances will be given. The repertoire is as follows: To-night, "Aida"; Monday, "Lucia"; Tuesday, "Traviata"; Wednesday, "Ernani"; Thursday, "Il Trovatore"; Friday, "Un Ballo in Maschera"; Saturday, "Aida"; Sunday, "Rigoletto"; Saturday night, "Aida." The prices that prevailed at the California Theater will continue, reserved seats ranging from \$1.50 to 25 cents.

**Grand Opera House.** To-morrow evening the Southwell Opera Company will again present Sousa's favorite opera, "El Capitain," at the Grand Opera House. It is just five weeks since this popular bill was given to crowded houses for two weeks, and so numerous have been the requests at the box office for a repetition of it that Manager



TACIANU FEMALE IMPERSONATOR IN MALE ATTIRE

ered about the most talented person in his line of work on the vaudeville stage. Hanley and Jarvis, known as the rapid-fire talkers, are Eastern vaudeville favorites and are expected to make a big hit here. Fred Niblo, a monologist who makes a specialty of high-class club work, has been induced to make a try at the Orpheum audiences. The Wartenberg brothers are comedians, musicians and acrobats.

**Brownies Again.** So many requests have been made for a repetition of "The Brownies in Fairyland" that Manager Friedlander has decided to give the operetta again on the afternoons of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and on Saturday evening, June 21, 22, 23 and 24.

**Alcazar.** Mr. Morrison has selected as his offering for this week, commencing Monday evening, "The Master of Ceremonies," a dramatization by George Foster Platt and Harry J. O'Brien from George Manville



QUERITA VINCENT

Fenn's popular novel, written about scenes and people of the Beau Brummel period.

**The Chutes.** The Chutes theater offers a strong vaudeville bill this week, which includes Stanley and Scanlon, musical comedians, who play on chandeliers, clocks, chairs and other weird instruments; the flying Burvards, aerialists, who are said to equal the famous Jordan family; Mr. and Mrs. Keesing, vocalists; La Jesse, contortionist, and Max and Matland, delineators of crowd eccentricities. This afternoon Emil Markeberg will walk a tight-rope stretched at an altitude of ninety feet.

**Olympia.** The Olympia's new bill has Querita Vincent, who comes for a very short engagement, as she is booked East for nearly one year. She has some new costumes and songs. Mrs. Craigie's one-act play, "A Repentance," was criticized in London for its

lack of plausibility, and it is understood that the author rather resented this because, as a matter of fact, she had historical authority for her incidents, and had made careful study, extending over three years, of the period. Of course neither her labor nor her accuracy had anything to do with the matter. Truth, we all know, may be stranger than fiction, and fiction is just as likely to be more plausible than absolute truth when seen across the footlights. It is the old distinction between realism and reality. There has been a recent discussion of this subject in Paris in relation to a drama entitled "La Belle Madame Hesselin," by M. Edouard Gaillet. In reply to a charge of improbability brought against him the author indignantly retorted that he had placed upon the stage, without altering the slightest detail, "un morceau de realite, une tranche de vie," and that the critics who had fallen foul of him in this respect were consequently altogether in the wrong. Whereupon the critics fell upon him again in a body, and it is hoped that he has been converted from the error of his views.

Mrs. Beerholm Traa has acquired the English rights to "Mme. de Lavalette," which Rejane has been playing.

**AMUSEMENTS.**  
**Orpheum**  
WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY MATINEE, JUNE 11.  
Second and Last Week of JOHNSTONE BENNETT'S VAUDEVILLE CELEBRITIES in conjunction with ORPHEUM STARS.  
**6 NEW ORPHEUM 6 MAGNETS.**  
Important Engagement of the European Celebrity.  
**TACIANU!**  
Far-Famed Female Impersonator and Talented Double-Voiced Vocalist.  
Coast Debut of  
**HANLEY & JARVIS,**  
Comedians, Funsters and Eccentric Dancers.  
The European Wonders,  
**WARTENBERG BROS.,**  
Comedians, Musicians and Acrobats, Introducing Their Sensational Risley Act.  
First Appearance Here of the Club Member,  
**FRED NIBLO,**  
Refined Monologist.  
**JOHNSTONE BENNETT,**  
Assisted by ANTONIO WILLIAMS in "A QUIET EVENING AT HOME."  
**MCVOY AND MAY,**  
The Cyclone Comedians.  
**HENRI FRENCH,**  
Bicyclist and Juggling Expert.  
The Mysterious, the Mystifying  
**HOUDINI,**  
In New Feats, Including the Removal of the Famous Oregon Boot and Escape From the Insane Restraint Belt.  
**MATINEE TO-DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 11.**  
Parquet, any seat, 25c; Balcony, 10c; Children, 10c, any part.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

**COLUMBIA.** The Leading Theater.  
INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE  
**TO-MORROW (MONDAY) EVENING!**  
CHARLES FROHMAN PRESENTS.  
**MR. HENRY MILLER**  
AND A SPECIAL COMPANY  
In Henry Arthur Jones' Brilliant Comedy,  
**"THE LIARS."**

Among the members of the great organization to appear with Mr. Miller are:  
E. J. MORGAN, MARGARET ANGLIN,  
MRS. THOS. WHIFFEN, CHAS. WALCOTT,  
LOUISE THORNDYKE BOUCAULT, MARGARET DALE,  
DYKE BOURN, C. LESLIE ALLEN,  
GUY STANDING, JAMES LINDSAY,  
BLANCHE BURTON, EARLE BROWN,  
MARIE DERICKSON, FRANK E. LAMB,  
JOSEPH ADELMAN, MINNA ROEHN,  
HARRY SPEARS, THOMAS WHIFFEN.

**ALCAZAR THEATER**  
TO-NIGHT—MORRISON AS HAMLET.  
TO-MORROW NIGHT AND ENTIRE WEEK  
**MR. LEWIS MORRISON,**  
Supported by MISS FLORENCE ROBERTS  
In the Interesting Drama,

**THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES.**  
Magnificent Scenery and Effects.  
15c, 25c, RESERVED 35c, 50c.  
SHERMAN, CLAY & CO.'S HALL,  
TUESDAY EVENING, June 15th, at 8:30,  
First Lecture in the United States by  
**MR. JOHN W. TAYLOR,**  
Ex-Superintendent of Public Schools of San Francisco.

Subject: "PHILIPPINE ISLANDS."  
Their extent, productions, climatic conditions and natives, from recent personal observations. Illustrated by 200 photographic views.  
Reserved Seats, 50c and 75c. On sale at Sherman, Clay & Co.'s.

## AMUSEMENTS.

**CALIFORNIA THEATER.**  
S. H. FRIEDLANDER, Manager.  
ONE WEEK. Starting THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 11th.  
THE SEASON'S SENSATIONAL SUCCESS,  
THAT MUCH-DISCUSSSED FARCE....  
**THE TURTLE**  
"If all French grocers' wives had such a knack of undressing as 'Lucie,' then they would be the most bewitching creatures in the world."—New York Herald, September 4, 1888.  
**THE NOTED CAST:**  
Isabelle Evesson, Signor Perugini, ALL PARIS AND BEHIND  
Ada Deaves, George Holland, FLOCKED  
Marion Ballou, Hudson Liston, TO SEE IT  
Jane Reiffarth, Urie Collins,  
Isabelle Bowman, Louis Imhaus.  
The piquancy and dash of the Comedie Francaise and Palais Royale Interpreted by Skilled American Artists who possess the true French Essence.  
Reserved Seats.....25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00.

**GRAND OPERA HOUSE**  
TELEPHONE MAIN 152.  
—LAST NIGHT OF—  
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE AND I PABLIACCI  
—TO-MORROW EVENING—  
By General Request, Revival of Sousa's  
**EL CAPITAN!**  
By the Full Strength of the SOUTHWELL OPERA COMPANY  
Reserved Seats, 25c and 50c; Gallery, 15c.  
Branch Box Office Just Inside Main Entrance Emporium.

## AMUSEMENTS.

**TIVOLI OPERA-HOUSE.**  
LAST NIGHT OF  
**The Merry War.**  
MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 12.  
Elaborate Production of Leococci's Brightest Opera,  
**LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT!**  
With Gracie Plaisted as Clairette  
UNEQUALLED CAST! MAGNIFICENT ACCOUTREMENTS!  
MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2 O'CLOCK.  
Next-OFFENBACH'S "BRIGANDS!"  
Look Out for DENNIS O'SULLIVAN IN "SHAMUS O'BRIEN!"  
**PRICES - - - 25c and 50c**  
TELEPHONE BUSH 9.

**CHUTES AND ZOO.**  
A MATINEE EVERY DAY!  
**GREAT BILL IN THE THEATER.**  
MR. and MRS. KEESING, Vocalists.  
EUGENE HUGHES and LINA CREWS  
HUGHES IN "A MODEL HUSBAND!"  
—AND A HOST OF NOVELTIES—  
THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON!  
Markeberg Will Walk a Tight Rope  
**90 Feet High.**

## AMUSEMENTS.

**THE ALHAMBRA THEATER,**  
Corner Eddy and Jones Streets.....S. H. FRIEDLANDER, Manager  
**TO-NIGHT!**  
**THE LAMBARDI GRAND ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY!**  
THE SENSATION OF THE SEASON!  
THEIR LIKE HAS NEVER BEEN HEARD HERE!  
NEW PRINCIPALS FOR EVERY OPERA!  
For Their Second and Last Week This Will Be the Popular  
**REPERTOIRE:**  
**TO-NIGHT, SUNDAY - - - - - AIDA**  
Monday....."LUCIA"  
Tuesday....."ERNAI"  
Wednesday....."TRAVIATA"  
Thursday....."TROVATORE"  
Friday....."THE MASK BALL"  
Saturday Matinee....."RIGOLETTO"  
Saturday....."AIDA"  
RESERVED SEATS.....25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00  
BOX SEATS.....\$1.00, \$1.50  
Seats will be on sale on SUNDAY at the ALHAMBRA.  
Commencing with MONDAY, June 12, at 9 o'clock, seats will be on sale at Sherman, Clay & Co.'s music-store.

**GLEN PARK.**  
TO-DAY.  
**FREE CIRCUS MATINEE!**  
PRIZE CONTESTS!  
ELISIE ST. LEON.  
The Celebrated Bareback Circus Rider in New and Daring Equestrian Feats.  
BALLOON ASCENSION  
By Daniel Maloney, the Boy Aeronaut.  
**DU BELL,**  
The Prince of Aerialists, on the Double Trapeze.  
**AMATEUR DAY.**  
Cake Walk, Singing, Dancing and Recitations, all by amateurs.  
Prize Horse Racing and Pole and Ladder Climbing Open to all Children.  
—ADMISSION TO PARK, 10c.—

## AMUSEMENTS.

**UNION COURSING PARK.**  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,  
JUNE 10 and 11.  
**SUPERB OPEN STAKE**  
50-NOMINATIONS-50  
\$25-PRIZE MONEY-\$25  
TRAIN SERVICE:  
Leaves Third and Townsend Streets—Saturday, 12:55 p. m.; Sunday, 11 a. m., 12 m. and 1 p. m. Twenty-fifth and Valencia streets five minutes later. Returning from Park immediately after last course. Extra train from Park on Sunday at 4:45 p. m. San Mateo electric cars every ten minutes.  
ADMISSION, 25 cents. LADIES FREE.

**Battle of Manila Bay!**  
GREAT REALISTIC WAR PANORAMA!  
Prof. W. G. ROLLINS, the eminent orator, lectures half hourly, Market st., nr. Eighth.  
Admission 50c. Children 25c.  
**SONG RECITAL,**  
Given by MISS DAISY MAE CRESSY, at SHERMAN & CLAY HALL, (Central Block), 221 Sutter Street, THURSDAY EVENING, June 15, 1897. Tickets—50 Cents.