

Tromben in Title Role of "Lucia" Is Handicapped by Comparison

Her Art Is Weighed Against That of Tetrizzini

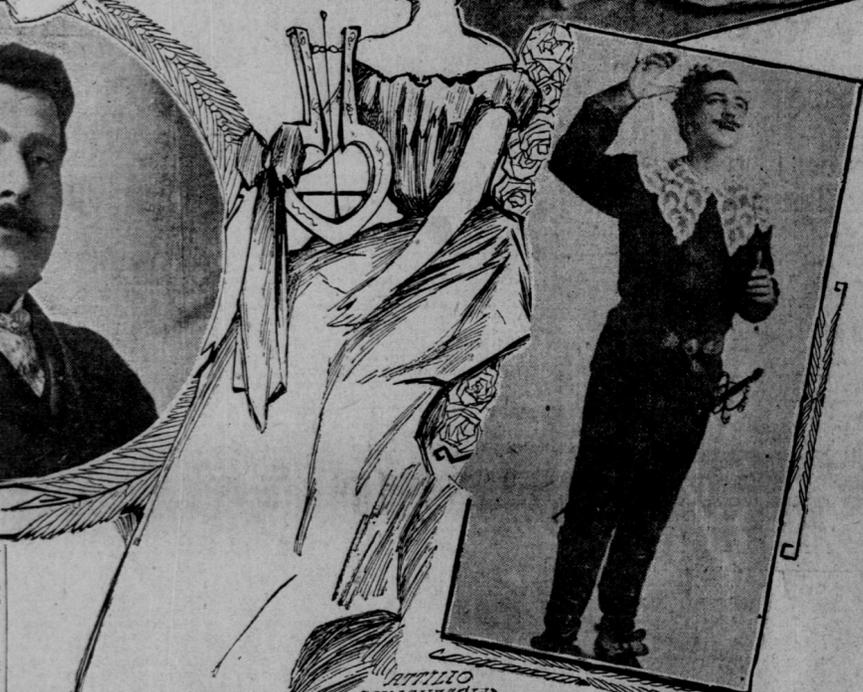
By James Crawford

Itinerant producers of Italian grand opera are passive slaves of usage, and San Francisco's loyalty to its operatic idols is not easily shaken.

For the existence of this combination of circumstances the Signorina Adelina Tromben, prima donna coloratura soprano of the Lombardi company, has no reason to feel grateful, and I will explain why.

It is the invariable custom of the impresario to open a season with a heavy Verdi opera, either "Aida" or "Rigoletto," and to present a Donizetti work—"Lucia" preferred—asa second offering. "Aida" was Signor Lombardi's initial production at the Central Theater, and the tremendous hit scored by it was rather reflective of sound shrewdness on his part, but the prestige he thus acquired was counterbalanced by the blunder he committed by presenting "Lucia" as his second opera. For was it not almost equivalent to inviting comparison of the Signorina Tromben's singing of the title role with the Signorina Tetrizzini's warbling of it little more than a year ago at the Tivoli—the Tetrizzini whom San Francisco took to its music-appreciating heart and crowned the queen of all Lucias it had ever heard, not excluding Patti or Melba or Sembrich?

While the Signor Lombardi may not have intended to have such comparison drawn, the fact remains that San Francisco apparently accepted his announce-



ment of the Signorina Tromben's appearance in "Lucia" so soon after the opening of his season as a challenge to its discernment.

SUFFERED BY COMPARISON

That is why the Signorina Tromben did not make as much of a hit last night as she would have made in any other opera suited for her vocal equipment. Her performance from beginning to end was weighed against that of Tetrizzini and it suffered by the weighing. For her voice lacks both the strength and the sustained velvety smoothness that made her predecessor's singing such an unforgettable thing, and she also is deficient in that equally important essential to audience-winning—the ineffable charm, personality—with which Tetrizzini was so abundantly laden.

Fair and physically fragile is this Tromben. Her voice is clear, limpid and evenly balanced, and her phrasing is delightful. But her voice and trills do not possess the volume—the carrying quality—that brought "bravas" to Tetrizzini from the farthest corners of the Tivoli's topmost tier, nor is her voice as birdy in the higher register. In the ensembles it was pitilessly submerged, and even in the duos it was nigh smothered, although the masculine party of the other part, witty—with the tenor of barytone, considerably exercised tone-repression in her behalf. It was almost inaudible in the full volume of the sextet, which, by the by, was sung with a vigor and harmony that compelled an encore. Why did not the Signor Lombardi cast custom to the winds and either introduce the Signorina Tromben in some other opera last night or reserve her Lucia—if it had to be produced—until later in the season? I have heard, and can readily believe after hearing her sing, that she is excellent as Norina in "Don Pasquale" and Elvira in "Puritana." May we be privileged to hear her in both of them or something else that will not bring her into comparison with an established idol.

TENOR WINS APPLAUSE

Salvaneschi was the tenor and acquitted himself creditably enough. His voice is of even range and would have been more sympathetic in tone, perhaps, if the beauty quality of the music allotted him had permitted. Like most tenors of his school he is given to finale shouting when mezzo notes are demanded by the score—but shouting the composer's intention might fail to bring them.

Pacini, the barytone, was good looking and sang his lines with a gusto that was always judicious. But he is an artist who will do much to make the season a success, for his voice has depth and power and sensuous beauty—and he is good to look upon from a feminine viewpoint.

Signor Canetti exploited a basso that is almost equal in every detail of charm to the big voice of Lombardi, which contributed so heavily to the success of "Aida." The company seems to be well supplied with vocal robustness.

The staging was again more than up to the requirements—and that might have had something to do with the early production of "Lucia." Thus the pictorial side of the Lombardi offerings has been adequate, which is all the more refreshing in view of the fact that we were warned to look for cheap settings and costumery.

SINGS WITH GUSTO

In the matter of the chorus, too, we are afforded agreeable surprise. The least lovely of the feminine contingent is artfully backgrounded—unlike the inquisitive children who are to be seen but not heard—and the men are not such a bad look-

FOUR OF THE PRINCIPALS WHO SANG IN "LUCIA" AT THE CENTRAL THEATER LAST EVENING.

ing coterie. And how all of them sing! Right up from their chests roll the vocal volume that makes the ensembles so well worth hearing.

Persistent rehearsal was clearly reflected by the improved work of the orchestra last night. Signor Lebegott had his men under more perfect control, and it was needed, as the Donizetti music called for more individual execution from strings and lighter woodwinds than was necessitated by the Verdi score the preceding night. The harpist, Lucia Cimini, played a solo preliminary to the lifting of the second curtain and was rewarded with an encore almost as insistent as that which compelled a repetition of the sextet.

"Faust" is announced for tonight, with this cast: Faust, Signor Patti; Valentine, Signor Pacini; Mephisto, Signor Lombardi; Wagner, Signor Martina; Marguerite, Vella Giorgi; Siebel, Maria Millon; Martha, Fernanda Franceschini.

BILLS AT OTHER THEATERS

"Yon Yonson" will be the attraction at the Novelty Theater up to and including next Sunday evening, and on Monday comes James O'Neill, after an absence of ten years. The romantic actor will offer his farewell performance of the Dumas play "Monte Cristo," with the success of which he has become so closely identified, and during the second and last week of his engagement a new play called "The Voice of the Mighty."

Wilfred Roger and Izetta Jewell continue to win plaudits by their clever work in "The Christian" at the Colonial Theater. The play is running very smoothly. "The Butterflies," in which John Drew scored one of his big successes, is announced for next Monday evening.

The Orpheum Road Show is getting a big share of the holiday theater patronage. Hyams and McIntyre are in their last appearances, and new people are announced for next Sunday and May Edouin and Fred Edwards, presenting "A Bachelor's Dream," and Emilia Rose in her acrobatic novelty. The entire road show will be retained, of course.

"Bankers and Brokers" has been whipped into smooth running order by the Kolb and Dill company at the Davis, and will be the attraction there for some time to come.

PASSED SPURIOUS CHECK

NAPA, Dec. 26.—Constable Daily of Elmira today captured a man who is wanted in Napa for passing several spurious checks on merchants of this city. Description of the man was sent to different counties, which led to his arrest today.

EDUCATORS MEET IN RAISIN CITY

Fortieth Annual Convention Attracts Eight Hundred Teachers of the State MANY AT RECEPTION

FRESNO, Dec. 26.—About 800 educators from all parts of California attended the opening today of the fortieth annual convention of teachers. City Superintendent James A. Barr of Stockton read a paper today on "Why Men Teachers are Leaving the Profession," claiming that the male educators were not sufficiently paid and that there was little opportunity for advancement. He recommended a higher scale of pay and also an arrangement whereby advancement might be held out to men remaining in the profession.

C. E. Moore, City Superintendent of Los Angeles, read a paper before the Commercial and Drawing Department, discussing to what extent other subjects than strictly trade branches should be introduced in the trade schools. He favored a strictly trade training. This matter will come up again Friday and there promises to be a lively fight between the utilitarians and the advocates of the classics.

One of the most prominent personages at the convention is the president of the State Teachers' Association, C. C. Van Liew of Chico. When interviewed this afternoon he said that the most important business of this year's session would be the adoption of a new constitution. This was submitted to the association during its session at Berkeley last year, and will come up for adoption or rejection at the session Friday. First in importance in the new constitution is the paragraph calling for an incorporation of the association under the laws of California, which would make the association a more important business-like management of finances and a legal board of directors.

Van Liew stated that the incorporation would give the body a better business standing, a more business-like management of finances and a legal board of directors.

One of the interesting sessions as having direct bearing on the education of the child will be taken up by Judges Frank J. Murray of San Francisco and Curtis D. Wilbur of Los Angeles. This will be an explanation of juvenile court work along the lines made famous by Judge Ben B. Lindsay of Denver of the state.

At the Hughes Hotel tonight the visiting teachers were given a reception by the residents of the Raisin City, the hostelry being thronged by hosts of guests.

NO OVERTURES IN MINERS' STRIKE

GOLDFIELD, Dec. 26.—The report in Goldfield this morning that the strike had been settled is absolutely unfounded. Outside the miners' union hall is a bulletin board, and written on it this morning was the following: "There is no settlement."

The mine owners claim that no overtures have been made to them by the miners and the miners state that no overtures have been made by the mine owners to them. Matters are at a standstill.

It has been denied that a committee has been appointed by either side for the purpose of meeting and settling the strike. There is no doubt, however, but that they will meet each other very soon.

Despite the everything the feeling is that the mine owners and miners are bound to come to terms within the next few days. United States marshals were stationed yesterday to guard the mines, but the engineers refused to work if they were allowed to stay. This settled the question and the marshals departed. Most of the mines and all the leases are working. Most of the miners on strike are doing assessment work, and every thing bids fair for a speedy settlement.

TWO VICTIMS OF FEUD BATTLE

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 26.—Herman Mullins and his son were shot and fatally wounded in a feud battle at their home with a gang headed by Charles and Bud Little and John Brewer. There had been a feud of long standing between the Little and Mullins families. Today the men met and the Little's fired on the Mullines. The latter made a running fight to their home, where they barricaded themselves. The Little's followed, shooting as they ran. They surrendered Mullins' home, firing rifles and revolvers. The battle ceased only when both the Mullines were shot down.

ANOTHER FORGERY CHARGE

PITTSBURG, Dec. 26.—An additional charge of forgery was today preferred against J. D. F. Rinehart, former cashier of the Farmers' and Drivers' National Bank of Waynesburg. Rinehart waived a hearing and gave bail for his appearance at the February term of the Criminal Court.

BE PROTECTED AGAINST COLDS

By keeping the system strong and healthy and the blood pure. The Bitters will do this quicker than anything else you might take. Thousands have found this true.

Hostetter's Stomach Bitters advertisement with image of the bottle. Text: "should therefore be taken regularly during the winter months by every member of the family. It not only prevents Chills and Colds, but also cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Costiveness, Biliousness, Female Ills or Malarial Fever. Try it, also get a free copy of our 1907 Almanac from your druggist."

TOWN THROGGED BY ARMED NEGROES

Fear of Being Injured by White Men Causes Blacks to Assemble in Force TROOPS STOP RIOTING

SCOOBA, Miss., Dec. 26.—A newspaperman who arrived in Scooba tonight about dark found the streets crowded with negroes, who had gathered from towns around. They were armed, but they were not threatening in their demeanor. According to their statements, most of them had gathered through fear that violence would be done them if they remained in the surrounding districts, and fear alone had driven them into the town.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 26.—Advices from Scooba and Watahala, Miss., tonight state that quiet prevails at both the towns as well as throughout the surrounding territory and that the troops and city authorities are in control of the situation.

According to the most reliable reports, the disturbances of the last few days in Kemper County were not as serious as at first reported. The trouble is attributed to the actions of a reckless mob, which, in searching for the negro who attacked Conductor Cooper on a Mobile and Ohio train last Sunday and shot and killed Constable O'Brien of Watahala, killed three negroes and wounded several others.

The feeling against the blacks was intensified by the killing by negroes of Conductor E. N. Harrison of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad at Crawford on Monday night, and, believing the mob was beyond control, Deputy Sheriff Alexander, at Scooba, asked that troops be sent in order that the people might be protected. Two companies of State troops are now encamped at Scooba. Late this evening Governor Vardaman, accompanied by twenty-five members of the company of State militia stationed at Jackson, left for Scooba. Governor Vardaman stated that there had been no fresh outbreak, but that he is going to the scene in order that he might make a personal investigation.

Office diaries and calendars, also calendar pads for 1907, now ready at Le Count, Clark & Ormond's, 220 Market st.

HARRISON PARKMAN DEAD

TOPEKA, Dec. 26.—Harrison Parkman, the man who first brought alfalfa from South America and planted it in the United States, died at Emporia, Kan., today, aged 75 years.

TWO HURT IN CAR ACCIDENT

Rusty Rails Responsible for Collision That Sends Inspectors to Hospital WRECK TIES UP LINE

Two men were badly injured last night in a collision between a runaway car on the hill at Haight street and a Castro street car speeding toward the ferry.

The cars met at the intersection of Market and Haight streets. The Castro street car had no passengers and both members of its crew saved their lives by jumping.

Inspectors S. McDermott and T. T. Richardson were on the Haight street car testing the new tracks at the time of the accident.

Neither was able to jump owing to the speed at which the car was being driven. McDermott, besides a number of severe abrasions and contusions, suffered a probable fracture of the skull. Richardson's leg was broken and his body bruised.

The Castro street car was demolished by the impact. The wreckage was strewn across the tracks and blocked traffic on upper Market street for nearly two hours.

The accident was due to the rusty rails on the Haight street hill, which made the brakes of the car useless.

SUPERIOR JUDGE GUILTY OF GROSS IMPROPRIETIES

Bar Association of Chicago Finds Arthur H. Chetlain Used Place as Beach for Personal Gain

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The judiciary committee of the Chicago Bar Association, which has been investigating charges against Superior Court Judge Arthur H. Chetlain of having become interested in various financial transactions which came under the jurisdiction of his court today found the jurist "guilty of grave infractions and of conduct unbecoming a Judge and that he is going to the scene in order that he might make a personal investigation."

Impaired his usefulness as a Judge,"

Nell O'Neill and Karl Eber, the ferry jewelers, now at 1744 Fillmore.

GUESTS AT GERMAN EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth and the Roosevelt children were today guests of Baroness von Sternburg at the German Embassy, where a Christmas tree was given for the Roosevelt children.

Is Yours a Pianoless Home?

There is no reason why it should be. It takes but little effort to own a good piano now. See Eilers Music Co. Either store, 1220 Fillmore or 1130 Van Ness. Same fair dealing, same generous policy, and prices everlastingly the lowest, for strictly standard reliable goods. No stencils, no cheap stuff, no make-believes.

Yesterday we sold fourteen pianos. Most of them were of the highest grade. But each customer saved a very snug amount of money in dealing with us. We are in a position to do it, because we sell so many pianos. No other concern can furnish as much intrinsic piano value for the money as we do. See the piano we are selling for \$186, terms \$6 a month. Other firms, with their antiquated methods, must charge at least \$300 for such a fine instrument. You will find everything else here at correspondingly reduced prices, and the largest selection in the State of California.

Talking machines at cut prices. To introduce our Fillmore Street talking machine department we are now selling a fine \$25 talking machine and 10 sixty-cent standard records, (your choice) total value \$31, for \$16.85 cash, or \$17.50 on payments of \$1 a week. Four hundred machines will be sacrificed this way. They are going fast. Please hurry if you want one. Eilers Music Co. Two city stores, 1130 Van Ness or 1220 Fillmore. Other stores, 1075-77 Clay Street, Oakland; Mail Building, Stockton, etc.

JUST FOR LADIES

To Obtain More Room for My Large New Stock of Ladies' Wearing Apparel

I have secured the fine commodious store at the corner of Devisadero and Post Streets, in addition to my present store, 1632 Devisadero Street. MY NEW STORE will be devoted entirely to Ladies' Toggery. All new stock for fall and winter wear, and shall extend my usual liberal credit to all. 10 per cent discount on all Cloaks and Suits for one week.

L. HEILBRONER

1555 Devisadero St. Cor. Post St. Formerly 518 Ellis Street.

INDICTED MEN ARE WAYWARD GIRL IS ELECTED AGAIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—After a session lasting two hours the directors of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company re-elected Frederick A. Burnham president and George D. Eldredge vice president of the company. Nine of the twelve directors were present and the vote on the election of Burnham and Eldredge is said to have been very close. None of the directors would discuss the meeting. George R. Harper, son of a former president of the company, was not re-elected treasurer.

Burnham and Eldredge are both under indictment in connection with the administration of the company's affairs.

ELKS ARE EXONERATED

FARGO, N. D., Dec. 26.—After hearing the testimony of several physicians, the Coroner's jury, which has been investigating the death of Calvin Good, a negro, who died after being knocked out during a boxing contest at a recent social session of the local lodge of Elks, rendered a verdict that Good died of pneumonia, and no blame is attached to the Elks. Good went on for a ten-round bout with Jim Gains, another negro pugilist. In the eighth round Good fell unconscious and remained in that condition until he died, several hours later. Gains fled to Winnipeg.

Volna Taut, the 16-year-old daughter of U. S. Taut of Tulare County, and a recent graduate of the Stockton Business College, was found in this city yesterday after an absence from home that had greatly alarmed her parents.

Policemen C. J. Wade and E. J. Plume, who had been detailed to work on the case, discovered the missing girl after a search of two days, in a lodging house at 1127 Golden Gate avenue, where she had been placed by a chauffeur, whose name she steadfastly refuses to divulge.

Immediately after receiving her diploma from the business college the girl came to this city to accept a position as stenographer for a local automobile agency, and a few days after her arrival she ceased writing to her parents. The father came here two days ago in search of his daughter and immediately asked the aid of the police department.

The wayward girl was locked up at the Bush street station on the technical charge of vagrancy. The broken-hearted father made a strong plea to be allowed to take the girl home with him, but disposition of the case cannot be made until it is taken up in the Police Court today.

DECISION AGAINST PRESS FEEDERS

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—By a decision handed down by the Supreme Court of Illinois today four union press feeders, including the president and the secretary of Franklin Union, will be obliged to go to jail for periods ranging from thirty days to six months. The two officials of the union must also pay fines.

This decision ended a fight in the courts which had lasted for four years. During the strike in 1902 of the members of Franklin Union against the printing shops of the Chicago Typothetae the men violated an injunction forbidding the picketing of the strike-bound establishments. Sentences and fines were imposed by the lower courts.

The four men who will be committed to jail under the decision are Charles Warner, president; John M. Shea, secretary; Harry Brown and Michael Flannery.

MRS. DENBY PASSES AWAY
EVANSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 26.—Mrs. Martha Fitz Denby, widow of the late Charles Denby, former United States Minister to China, died at a local hospital today, aged 70 years.

VICHY CELESTINS

Natural Alkaline Water

CURES Dyspepsia and Stomach Troubles

The genuine is always sold in bottles like this

Beware of Syphons, they do not contain VICHY