

LONDON LETTER.

Production of Gilbert and Sullivan's New Opera at the Savoy Theater.

Gilbert's Libretto Appropriated from Various Sources and Not Witty.

His Silly Lines Set to Superb Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan.

Some Description of the Setting of the Piece and of the Performances.

Special Letter.

LONDON, Jan. 26.—Last night the new Gilbert and Sullivan opera was produced at the Savoy theater. Rumor had been so busy with the promised work that long before the first night seats could not be had for love nor money.

The curtain rose on a splendid house, although few great dignitaries were present. The appearance of Sir Arthur Sullivan in the director's chair was the occasion of a complete ovation in the distinguished company.

The plot of Mr. Gilbert's libretto is a professedly respectful perversion of Tennyson's "Princess." The same was given in a piece some years ago in London, and I know of no reason why it should have been resuscitated except the adage that "economy is wealth."

The argument, in brief, is this: King Gama's daughter, the Princess Ida, was betrothed to the early age of King Hildebrand's son. In the meantime she had her royal spouse have never met, who is shut up in the castle with a hundred young women who study metaphysics and woman's philosophy.

King Gama, the Princess's father, is a good part, closely copied from Dick Dada-Eye. The role of Ida is charmingly conceived, and also that of Lady Blanche, really the best one of the piece. Ida is a second Agassiz, and Minerva-like, wishes that all women so far should think only of philosophy.

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AMATEUR WAITERS.

A Correspondent Who is Oppressed With a Fear That the Grade of Department Respectability May Be Lowered.

The public, as well as the great majority of the clerks, owe their best thanks for your article in yesterday's Republican concerning the question of department employees hiring out as waiters at the public and private receptions and dinners which are such features in Washington society.

Let me give you a case in point: In company with a fellow clerk I attended a reception given a few evenings ago by one of Washington's leading society ladies. At the supper table a hired waiter on the guests was a person who, my friend assured me, was a clerk in the most prominent and select and high-toned department of Washington.

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Bishop Granberry on the Press.

Bishop J. D. Granberry occupied the pulpit of the Mount Vernon Place church last evening, and lectured to a large and attentive audience. He took for his text St. John, xvi, 16, 18, in referring to the influence of Christianity he said that men went away from Christ because they looked upon religion as a diversionism.

Those wishing to hear a good lecture would do well to attend the Young Men's Christian association to-morrow evening. Mr. Theodore C. Cony, of Georgia, will deliver a lecture entitled "Christian Truths and Common-Sense Conclusions, Religion, Science, and Insuperableness, from the Standpoint of a Man of the World." The subject will be presented in a logical manner. It will be short, but compact with thought.

The Singsongbund took place at Abner's music hall last night. The programme was rich as ever, and well executed. The "Famenchor," especially, was greatly admired, and Miss Nellie McCarrie, Miss Dietrich, Messrs. Gathorn, Knapp and Holer, the director of the Singsongbund, were the stars of the evening.

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