

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

vous par l'auguste symbole. A few days afterwards I went to see Berlioz, and sitting down at the piano, I played the whole passage over to him. He opened his eyes very wide, and looking hard at me, he asked "What devil did you hear that?" "At one of your rehearsals," I replied. He could hardly believe his ears.

Most of the critics in London have treated Miss Olga Nethersole's Carmen in the manner it deserves. There seems to be no doubt that she has to do with the most beautiful and desirable features, but the general effect is still artistic and offensive. To say that a thing is realistic is no valid excuse for its public presentation, says the New York Evening Post. Such an argument, if allowed, would lay the stage open to every kind of unspeakable abomination. No doubt Miss Nethersole's Carmen is "realistic," is also vulgar, and being vulgar has no artistic merit. There are some good points in her performances, but they are not those to which her managers have thought industriously to direct attention.

The sensational suit of David Belasco against N. J. Harlow of Chicago, Ill., was decided in favor of the plaintiff on June 23. Mr. Belasco sued the Chicago millionaire for \$55,000 compensation for making Mrs. Leslie Carter a divorcee. The suit was brought in the name of the plaintiff, which was very voluminous, and afforded very entertaining reading. According to the testimony Mrs. Carter was subjected to a course of physical training, which, while effective in producing the desired result, was so extremely onerous that her perseverance and endurance were but little short of marvelous. We regret, says the New York Clipper, that the enormous volume of this testimony prohibits its publication in our columns, for we should be glad to present to our readers a condensed version of the horde of ambitious amateurs who think they can win success upon the stage by reason of supposed dramatic talent, and who fondly but vainly imagine that the possession of an art without knowledge of its rudiments, and without any preliminary training, Mr. Belasco succeeded in impressing the jury with the importance of his labor in behalf of the aspirant for stellar honors, and also imbued them with a realizing sense of the engrossing nature of his work, for the twelve good men and true, although they refused him the fortune he sought, awarded him \$18,000, a sum by no means contemptible. Upon application of Mr. Belasco to the judge added five per cent, \$800, to the amount Mr. Harlow will also have a very heavy bill of costs.

There will be no lack of opera next season in New York. Abbey Schooler & Grau will bring back to us old and tried favorites. Damrosch will do likewise in his German season, and in like manner the Metropolitan opera house has promised several novelties, says the New York Herald. But the greatest of all novelties to their generation, though it has a somewhat chestnutty flavor to the old staggers, is the return to New York of the veteran Colonel Mapleson. The gallant colonel has never been anything but original, and his present venture is no whit behind his previous efforts. He is bringing back a new opera, one of which, by the way, he has not yet secured, he talks of taking America by storm with a company never yet seen in London, Paris or New York, which he has christened "The Star" troupe, if the colonel's accounts can be relied upon.

The Imperial Opera Company is booked to open at the Academy of Music on Monday, October 28, with "Aida," and will remain in New York for four weeks. After that it will go to Boston and make the "grand tour," says the Boston Herald. The company has heard from four hundred to five hundred singers within the last six months, and having survived the ordeal has picked out a few who he believes will make the most successful troupe of the right sort of way. He has two "finds" whom he declares to be only a little less than the angels, vocally considered. These are Signor Ruggero Randolfo, tenor, and Signor Giuseppe, a positively sensational success for the past five years, he says, in Bologna, Pisa and Rome, but who has never yet sung in Italy. Then there is Mme. Bonnaplata-Bai, a mezzo soprano, the finest, says the veteran impresario, ever heard in Italy. She has been doing a very unusual thing—namely, singing in Italian engagements in Milan and Barcelona.

A writer who is interested in slang says that Campbell, the expression-wright, was responsible for the expression "See?" He explained this statement by saying that Campbell had long fingers, and when he was interested in his auditor on the stage, he would say "See?" in a persuasive way that was very effective.

One explanation is as good as another when it comes to the origin of slang. "See?" as it is now used, didn't become popular until several years after the death of Bartley Campbell, the undersized comedian who made a fortune out of his puns and quips. It doesn't deserve either credit or odium of it. As a matter of fact, however, many of the popular expressions of this sort may be safely credited to the past half-dozen years, and the fat comedian with nimble feet and a concert hall voice, who has appeared only in the past few years, has coined a score of slang expressions that are popular. Some which arouse his audiences and are repeated as his own property, and some which were expressions that were popular when he was a boy in the old Ninth ward, and their trinquity is beyond the memory of the oldest citizen.

All the slang expressions may have as many lives as a cat if they are resurrected at the right time in the right way, punning seems to have had its effect. When "Evangeline" was first produced its lines were applauded. The audience laughed at them. The opera has been revived this summer, and the puns with which it is filled are not worth the effort of speaking. This kind of humor isn't popular now.

We will not cross swords with a player, singer, dancer or public performer of any kind, says the New York Press. What would be the use? Actors and their kind are emotional folk, not brainy folk. They have no sense of logic. If you pin them down on one point they escape confession by bringing up a hundred irrelevant arguments. We have never met an actor who did not believe that if accident had not put him on the stage he would have been a brilliant lawyer or statesman. Not a single actor is able to conceive of an actor that he was in anything, from the conception of Hamlet to the prospect of the crops. The reasoning faculty is left on the shelf. They think by instinct, not with the usual gray matter. When, by some vague and circuitous process of argument, they decide a subject, all the learned doctors of modern times could not shake them from that position. When Sir Henry Irving was remonstrated with for his interpretation of Macbeth, and which was shortly to be given in public for the first time. I was so struck by the grandeur and breadth of the great finale of the "Reconciliation des Montaignes et Capulets," that I was unable to remember the whole of Friar Lawrence's splendid phrase, "Jurez

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with actors. They are wholly irresponsible creatures. Edwin W. Hoff, formerly of the Bostonian opera company, is now in Paris studying voice culture at the Conservatoire de Paris. He is acting under Gerhardt, who was the favorite pupil of Desmet. He will return to New York city to establish a conservatory of music in that city.

Among the melodramas which Manager W. A. Brady has in store for the public next season is one entitled "Straight from the Heart." Would "Straight from the Shoulder" be a more appropriate title for one of Mr. Brady's plays?

Walter Damrosch, who returned from Europe July 1, will next season present "Don Giovanni" in addition to last season's repertory. He has secured Mme. Lillie Lehmann, Herr Kallisch, her husband, and Herr Krauss to strengthen his organization. Herr Krauss will be the baritone of the company, and Mme. Gadski, Herr Fischer, Herr Metron, and a number of other minor singers will be with him last season, have been engaged. He is also negotiating with another soprano.

Rose Cophlan will shortly enact the title role in a dramatization of "Carmen" to the Don Jose of Frederic Walle. Her performance will be given in San Francisco.

The Cyclone cleared yesterday with a raft of logs for Taber & Co., Keokuk. The Robert Dodds will get out today with a raft of logs for the Cascade Lumber company, Burlington. Mrs. J. C. Foley, B. J. Mosier and J. C. Nettaway returned yesterday from a trip to Chicago and Cincinnati. Mr. Foley was a delegate to the National Independent Order of Foresters of which deceased was a member.

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LOCAL NOTICES. The Borton Liquor Cure. Vegetable remedies, better than gold. Institute, 340 West Third St. Low Rates to St. Louis. On July 19, 20 and 21 the Minneapolis & St. Louis R. R. (the official route of the National and American Silver Convention) will sell tickets to St. Louis and return at one fare.

DIED. WILDER—In St. Paul, at family residence, No. 218 Acker street, Friday, July 10, at 8:30 p. m., Bernard Wilder, aged twenty-seven years. Funeral from above residence Monday, July 13, at 8:30 p. m. Services at St. Patrick's church at 9 o'clock.

CITY NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that I will make application to the District Court in and for the County of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, at the general June, A. D. 1896, term of said court, on Saturday, July 25th, 1896, at the Court House, in St. Paul, Minnesota, for judgment against the several lots and parcels of real estate which are delineated and parcels of real estate which are delineated in a warrant in my hands for the collection of the assessments, with interest and costs thereon, for the heretofore named special assessments.

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