The Players at the Baldwin Doing Excellent Work.

JARBEAU WILL FLIT BEFORE US.

Thatcher's Fresh Programme at the New California — The Alcazar Has a Second Shock of Shakespeare — Wearing the Breeches — Yankee Comedy at the Orpheum — Retrospective — "Gasparone." The Jewish Persecution—Banjo Concert. Investigating Shakespeare—Foreign and Domestic Notes.

The opening of the new season at the Baldwin was the theatrical event of the week, additionally accented by the production of a new play. We had been hearing about De Mille and Belasco's "Men and Women" for months past and were led to believe it exceptional in the elegance and terseness of its text, in the strength and completeness of its construction. We have been slightly disappointed in both respects. Still there are many good points in the drama which condone in a great measure occasional turgid lines and forced situations. The strong and effective acting, too, of several members of the company conceal the authors' defects from the eyes of those not disposed to be severely critical. The manner of De Belleville as the Jewish banker, of William Morris the cashier, of R. A. Roberts the counselor, of Mordaunt as the Arizona Governor, is so impressive that the casual listener is caught by it and apt to take from their hands unquestioningly the authors' plated ware as if it were solid silver and bore the hall mark of genuineness. The title of the play is not a happy one. Originally it was called "Governor Rodman's Daughter," which, although a little bulky, is certainly better than the vague and general one of "Men and Women." Such a title has no significance. It may be equally well applied to any drama produced on the stage.

THE LADIES IN THE CAST.

While we have only words of commendation for the actors—who are better than the play they act—we must not forget the artistic contribution to the general effect made by Miss Sydney Armstrong as Agnes, by Miss Maude Adams as Dora, in the serious features of the piece, and in its lighter aspects by Miss Odette Tyler as Mrs. Kate Delafield and Miss Etta Hawkins as Margery Knox. Miss Armstrong has made a most enviable position for herself in the profession during her short career. She wins one by her womanliness and refinement and at the same time by the exhibition of a strength and repose of character under circumstances calculated to disturb the best balanced mind. She is well placed in this cast and graces the position assigned her.

Outlying Talent.

Perhaps George Thatcher's Minstrel Company, now at the New California, is the best-managed burnt-cork combination on the road to-day. It embraces all the talent in this line outlying the Cleveland combinations, and, after listening to one of Thatcher's programmes we are forced to the conclusion that the amount of it is by no means inconsiderable. W. S., in trying to monopolize all this "dark" article in the country, has about as stiff a job before him as the operators had who tried to form a corner on the wheat crop. Talent of this kind makes very fast when there is a demand for it. Thatcher offers a new programme for to-morrow night, quite as fresh, quite as agreeable as the one the public enjoyed last week. One feature of it is the delightful quartet to be sung by Messrs. Jose, Moore, Lewis and Fullman, and a second, the "Old, Old Farm" solo, by the young man Jose, with the counter-tenor voice, as it used to be called in the old times, and the quality of which leads one to believe that the singer might at one time have vocalized in the Sistine Chapel.

Vernona Jarbeau

Opens at the Bush-street to-morrow evening in "Starlight." Jarbeau is a pretty, entertaining, lively farce-comedy actress, and her play, in which she assumes the title-role, gives her ample opportunity to exercise all these qualities. There is not much body to it. It is in the nature of a cadena of "Orient pearls at random strung," or a collection of glittering bric-a-brac, if you like, which renders a plot unnecessary. It flashes with fun, is replete with witty gags and clever situations, and Vernona is the central figure in all, full of vivacity, sparkling with chic. With her charming face, nicely molded form, sweet voice and graceful movement, she is the tout ensemble of the attractions of a soubrette. While she is thus prominent individually, Jarbeau has at the same time the good judgment to surround herself with the best talent procurable, allowing each member of her company full scope in his or her efforts to entertain, and placing no restriction on anything that might seem to detract from her own popularity. In the first act the star introduces, in company with four ladies, the cachuca from Gilbert and Sullivan's "Gondoliers." Charles Kirke, a valuable man in the cast, sings a German version of "McGinty."

Persecution of the Jews.

It is proposed by parties competent to the work to produce at the Orpheum during the present month a drama, the motive of which is the cruel barassment of the Jews in portions of Europe, not only in the dominions of the Czar of Russia but also in the Ionian Islands, where (in Corfu) the antagonism to the Semitic race seems to be even more cruel than that shown by the Muscovite. It is a question whether this movement against an inoffensive people be a political or a religious one. If the latter the Greek Church has certainly adopted a system of proselyting unexampled in its terrorism. It would seem that a drama presenting in mimic form the startling incidents we find detailed in the columns of our newspapers every morning would be appropriate and interesting just now. The production, we are informed, will be an expensive one, and the cast embraces such names as Lawrence Hanley, George W. Bryant, Harold Russell, Darrell Vinton, Theodore Roberts, Scott Cooper, Inigo Tyrrell, Dorothy Rossmore and Jean Clara Walters, together with upward of one hundred supernumeraries and choristers. Mr. Inigo Tyrrell, the author of the drama, will supervise its first presentation to the public.

A Visit From the "Divine William."

The Bates testimonial at the Alcazar on Thursday afternoon last afforded an opportunity for the ghost of Shakespeare to visit that theater a second time. Twice only, we believe, has the shade of the divine William been allowed within its walls, and both times it came with "Julius Cæsar"—once to allow Mr. Grismer to show the public how little he knew about legitimate acting, when he undertook Brutus, and this time to afford cause for mild astonishment that a hitherto neglected member of the company, Mr. David Davies, could read Shakespearean text so well, and by doing so, as Trebonius, in the "quarrel scene," actually hold up the scene and prevent it being a fiasco, as the Grismer company's acting of the whole play was in the first instance. Mr. William Beach knew nothing of Brutus at this matinee and Mr. Hanley was equally ignorant of the requirements of the cynical Cassius, or else he had looked too fondly on "the wine when it was red, and when it gave its color in the cup." Davies regards Shakespeare con amore, it would appear. At least, his reading of the Trebonius lines showed great natural feeling, and by the sympathetic tones of his voice that he was deeply imbued with the spirit of the part. The rest of the bill was taken up with "The Plunger" (one act), and "The Private Secretary" (one act), vocal music by Miss Tillie Salinger and recitations by Miss Fanny Bowman.

Wearing the Breeches.

Miss Katie Emmett, who produces "The Waifs of New York" at the Alcazar to-morrow night, plays a boy's part in the drama, from first to last—that of a bootblack. Her adoption of the male rig on the stage had a queer cause. She was stopping at an Eastern watering place several seasons ago, when an acquaintance of hers proposed a wager, the terms of which required Miss Emmett to dress as a boy and go about for an afternoon and evening, mingling with the thousands, without detection. It was promptly accepted, and a small party of friends, witnesses of the wager, accompanied the pretty young actress and the proposer of the wager on their rounds. Miss Emmett made such a charming and altogether natural boy that she attracted a good deal of attention, many people turning to look after her and remark: "What a handsome little fellow." Having won the bet (the stake a supper for the party), it was collected, and it was during the discussion of the elaborate spread, Miss Emmett being still in male attire, that somebody asked her why she didn't star as a boy. The idea was warmly commended by everybody present, and so urgent was the advice of friends that Miss Emmett concluded upon mature deliberation to try it. Her first season in "The Waifs of New York" was such a positive success that her use of petticoats and bonnets will be confined to private life for a considerable time to come. In many of the smaller towns admiring matrons refuse to believe Miss Emmett a girl and wait at the stage door to see her, along with the troop of boys who are always there. "Before the Waifs of New York" is worn out it may be that Miss Emmett will be compelled to call herself "Tom" Emmett, or some equally masculine name, in order to make the public think she isn't deceiving them.

THE CAST.

Willie Rufus, a New York bootblack.....Katie Emmett
Hans Schnederkopf.....George W. Thompson
Herbert Singleton.....French Roberts
Harry James.....W. H. Murdoch
Pietro Bama.....George W. Mitchell
Judge Rogers.....Miss Hennessy
John Jordon.....R. G. Thorpe
Prosecuting Attorney.....Edward Lester
Lawyer Russell.....Will Lawrence
Officer O'Rafferty.....Thomas Massingale
Alice Baldwin.....Elizabeth Garth
Katrina Schneiderkopf.....Emma Rice
Little Gertie, a waif.....La Petite Lillian
Biddy McShane.....Amy Ames

The Banjo Asserts Itself.

A novelty in the way of a banjo concert will be given at Irving Hall on Wednesday, May 20th, under the direction of Mr. Charles Morrell, assisted by the following well-known teachers and their pupils: Thomas W. Bree, Ashton P. Stevens, William West, M. Kolander, Gatty Jones, D. Mansfield, E. J. Appleby, Charles A. Thelly, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Baldwin, the Misses Belle and Lotta Rodgers, James Nounan, Joseph Nounan, together with Blum's Orchestra. It will be the first musical event of the kind in this city. We have had guitars, mandolins and other means for sketchy music in concert, but the florid and mellow old banjo that came in with negro minstrelsy, never. This instrument has a breadth, warmth and florid color in its tone that symbolizes the African's nature. It was a favorite with Thackeray, who loved to listen to it when played by strolling minstrels on the English race-course and at the fashionable watering places during bathing hours. The great novelist held the queer idea that the comparatively crude banjo had, more than any other instrument, a pathetic quality in its tones that always moistened his eyes.

What Grismer Is Doing.

Joseph R. Grismer, now in New York, has secured at least one notable success for next season, having just completed arrangements for the production of the comedy-drama, "Fernecliff." The play was written by William Haworth, a brother of Joseph Haworth. It was originally produced in New York last season and created a very good impression. Mr. Grismer first made overtures for its purchase a year ago, but owing to differences which arose between the author and his business partner, only recently settled, he was unable to secure it before. It is said to be very strong and to be somewhat on the order of "The Burglar," though there is no similarity in plot, stronger in situation and with rather more comedy. The story is full of human interest. Though founded on the Civil War there are no battle scenes, the whole action of the play takes place in Rhode Island. The war makes no figure in the plot. There are a number of good characters in the cast. Mr. Grismer will not return to San Francisco before the end of June. Besides "Fernecliff," he will secure some other novelty while in New York. He will also revive "The Burglar," giving it a strong production next season, which will open at the Bush-street Theater the last of next August.

The Orpheum,

That house of varied fortunes, will reopen to-night with a new company from the East, including Mr. J. C. Lewis and twenty members in support. They propose to produce a refined Yankee comedy called "Si Plunkard," which gives, according to the claim put forward, a truthful picture of rural life as it actually exists in New England. The particular realisms of the piece are a regular thrashing machine in full operation on the stage, and a scene of farm life. From what we can learn the piece belongs to that class of New England dramas which of late years has sprung up as a volunteer crop in the field originally carefully cultivated by Denman Thompson to grow his "Old Homestead" and "Joshua Whitcomb." As a rule the Yankee drama has been successful, and it is be presumed "Si Plunkard" will prove no exception. Preparations are being made to produce the Jewish persecution play "The Rabbi" at this theater.

O'Neill's Mistake.

According to the New York Truth James O'Neill has bided too long with "Monte Cristo," for now his whole professional being is intertused with the color of Dumas' imagined hero. He tried a new play in New York recently, written by a gentleman named Swartz of Philadelphia—that source and center of contributions to the lyric and dramatic stage of the United States—based upon the Mafia in certain lines, and in others on Jack the Ripper's performances. The chief character is that of an Italian count, undertaken by Mr. O'Neill, and the verdict is that while in its realization he brought out the mannerisms of the French Monte Cristo more strongly than ever, he failed to give the character of the Italian, even the faintest vraisemblance. James has discovered that he cannot win on the double event.

Retrospective.

Looking over a record of vocal music rendered at the exercises of Mills Seminary, from 1874 to 1890, just issued by Mr. Alfred J. Kelleher, we came across three names of pupils that have become conspicuous in the eyes of the public—Miss Emma Wixom (now Emma Nevada), Miss Grace E. Plaisted, and Miss Mary (now Marie) Barnard. Miss Wixom's first venture was at the commencement of 1874, with Mayer's piano solo, "Das Schlafende Kinde"; her next was in 1875, with a fellow-scholar, Miss Spencer, and the music-master, Mr. Kelleher, in Bellini's trio, "Angioli di Pace." Since then Miss Wixom has delighted European audiences by her singing, and is still pursuing a successful lyric career. Miss Grace E. Plaisted began in 1876, with the Leslie trio, "Memory," then we find her singing the "L'Ardita" solo, and grown more ambitious subsequently, selections from Bellini's "Norma," including the "Casta Diva." The most pretentious effort of this young lady before the general public was an operatic tour through the Australian colonies, with Miss Emilie Melville. Miss Plaisted was highly appreciated and cordially treated by the colonials. She returned some years ago, and not much has been heard from her since. She does not care to sing in public unless the opportunity offered be an eligible one. Miss Mary Barnard makes her appearance on the college platform December 13, 1880, in Lucantoni's duet "Springtime," followed by the Cowen solo, "Children's Home," and Reinecke's trio, "Praise of Spring," Rocket's solo, "The March of Time," and many others subsequently, more difficult in composition as her musical study advanced and voice improved. Her record before the outside world, so far, has been made as prima donna of the Mendelssohns, with which musical organization she is traveling through the United States and Canada this season. She has elected to make concert singing the line of her professional life, and the great city of London the place of her future residence. In both respects her choice is a wise one. Her lovely quality of voice will insure the lady recognition in any community, but chiefly so in the center of the world's musical culture. This Kelleher record of the preening, as it were, of the young song-birds before taking flight, although a mere list of names, possesses great interest, because members of families in nearly every part of the State may find themselves set down in its modest pages, and also a note of their first effort in a lyric way.

The "Twelfth Night" Cast.

For the production of Shakespeare's exquisite comedy, which Miss Lillian Lamson proposes to give at the Avon Theater, Stockton (under the direction of J. N. Long), on Saturday evening next, May 23d, the following cast has been arranged:

Malvolio.....James E. Wilson
Duke.....John Paul Craig
Clown.....Nick Long
Sir Toby Belch.....Julius Kahn
Sir Andrew Aguecheek.....George R. Trader
Antonio.....Harry Seriy
Sebastian.....Lloyd Lowndes
Fabian.....Thomas Kierns
Roberto.....George Fleming
Officer.....George Hermance
Olivia.....Emmie Wilmot
Maria.....Fanny Bowman
Viola.....Lillian Lamson

"Gasparone."

The Tivoli, after a profitable run of "The Beggar Student," in which Miss Tillie Salinger distinguished herself, will submit another Millocker comic opera, titled as above, to-morrow evening, May 18th.

THE ARGUMENT.

Benozzo and Massacio are smugglers. To avert suspicion from themselves they fix it upon Gasparone, a celebrated brigand whom they claim to have seen in the vicinity. While Nasoni and the coast guards are in the search of Gasparone they conceal their booty. They are discovered by Count Erminio, who threatens to expose them if they do not do his bidding. Erminio is in love with Carlotta, a Countess, and demands that they shall capture Zenobia, her duenna, while she and Carlotta are riding to the inn, and so enable him to meet the lady he loves alone. Disguised as robbers they seize Zenobia and Erminio rescues Carlotta from the supposed robbers. Nasoni has recovered a fortune of 1,000,000 lires for the Countess Carlotta and determines to retrieve his own fallen fortunes by marrying his son, Sindulfo, a reckless, dissipated youth, to the Countess. Out of gratitude she consents. Erminio seeing Sindulfo an obstacle in his path, determines to have him carried off. Massacio, having returned from his fruitless search, receives a letter from the supposed Gasparone demanding 10,000 seguins as a ransom for Sindulfo, and Benozzo departs with the ransom money, the Countess having generously proffered it. Festivities are in progress at the castle of the Countess in honor of the betrothal of Sindulfo and the Countess Carlotta, and they are anxiously awaiting the return of the bridegroom from the hands of the supposed Gasparone. Carlotta has conceived an affection for Erminio, but her stern sense of gratitude to Massacio compels her to keep her word and marry Sindulfo. Erminio, knowing that Nasoni's only object is to gain her wealth, disguises as a robber, and while Carlotta is alone in her room enters, demands the key of her safe, extracts her money and decorates, but not before Carlotta has recognized him. Overcome she faints and is found by her maids, to whom she relates the story of the robbery, omitting Erminio's name. The act closes with the return of Benozzo with Sindulfo. The city is placed under martial law pending the pursuit of Gasparone. No more smuggling for Benozzo and Massacio. Their aim is to keep from betrayal. Sindulfo, having been forbidden to marry the Countess, mourns her loss. Nasoni mourns the loss of the million, and cheerfully releases Carlotta from her promise to marry his son, now that she is poor. At the examination of the witnesses to the robbery Carlotta shields Erminio, whom she believes to be Gasparone. He confesses to her that he stole the million to relieve her from her promise to marry Nasoni. Benozzo returns with a letter from the supposed Gasparone, informing them that he has left the country and returning the ransom money, which Nasoni pockets. The million is returned as a wedding present, and Erminio and Carlotta are happy.

THE CAST:

Barbolena Nasoni, Podesta of Syracuse.....A. W. F. McCollin
Sindulfo, his son.....Tom Ricketts
Count Erminio.....Francis Gillard
Luigi, his friend.....Melville Stewart
Benozzo, inn-keeper.....Phil Branson
Massacio (smuggler), Benozzo's uncle.....Frank Pearson
Guarini, Lieutenant of Carbinieri.....D. Smith
Carlotta, Countess of Santa Croce...Tillie Salinger
Sora, Benozzo's wife.....Fanny Hall
Zenobia, Duenna to Carlotta.....Alice Gaillard
Marietta, waiting-maid to Carlotta.....Mollie Stockmeyer

Sunday Afternoon Music.

The fourth musicale Sunday afternoon will be at date (17th), at Steinway Hall, 206 and 208 Post street. A programme opulent in musical selections will be submitted, and a marked feature is the first performance in San Francisco of Brahms' beautiful love songs.

THE PROGRAMME.

1. String quintet, C sharp major.....Beethoven
Two violins, two violas and violoncello.
Messrs. Hermann Brandt, J. Josepus, Louis Schmidt, F. Knell, Louis Heine.
1. Allegro. 2. Adagio molto expressivo. 3. Scherzo allegro. 4. Presto.
2. "Liebes-Lieder," Op. 52 (first series).....Brahms
(Five numbers.)
For mixed quartet and piano a quatre mains.
Miss Julie Newman, soprano.
Miss Regina Newman, alto.
Mr. Alfred Winkie, tenor.
Mr. C. D. O'Sullivan, bass.
Under the direction of Mme. Rosewald.
3. Piano solo, "Toccata".....Rheinberger
Signora Ursumando.
4. Sonate, D minor, Op. 121.....Schumann
(Piano and violin.)
1. Lento—vivace. 2. Allegro di molto. 3. Sempilce. 4. Con moto.
Signor Ursumando and Mr. Landsberger.
5. "Liebes-Lieder," Op. 52 (second series)..Brahms
(Six numbers.)

Another Link.

Al Hayman concluded arrangements yesterday (says the Chicago Inter Ocean of May 10th) with Senator H. A. W. Tabor and his manager, Peter McCourt, whereby he secures an interest in the Tabor Grand Opera House, Denver, beginning May 25th. This will give Mr. Hayman a chain of theaters as follows: The Columbia Theater, Chicago; the Tabor Grand, Denver; the Marquam Opera House, Portland; the Baldwin and California theaters in San Francisco, and the Salt Lake Theater in Salt Lake City, which constitute probably the strongest chain of theaters ever under the control of any one manager in the United States.

Carnegie's Tone Temple.

As the new Music Hall is called, which was opened in New York May 5th, is the gift of the capitalist of Scotch birth, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, to the people of that city. It is the first edifice erected there as the special home of orchestral and choral work, and, according to description, is spacious in proportion and graceful in its architecture. Bishop Henry C. Potter made a very happy dedicatory oration. The Herald says: Society and letters, wealth and brains, musicians, sang Selah and Amen for the Bishop. Beauty beamed and culture yawned while the Bishop explained the end and purpose of the temple. The oration was preceded by the playing of "Old Hundred" and followed by the audience rising and lifting up its thousand voices to the tune of "America." Walter Damrosch led the concert that succeeded, the famous Russian composer, Pieter Tschaikowsky, conducting his own work, the "March Solennelle. Berlioz's "Te Deum" closed the programme. Signor Italo Campanini sang the tenor solo in the "Te Ego." There were five hundred people on the stage and five thousand in the auditorium. The acoustics are said to be perfect.

A Shakespearean Investigation.

Dramatic Editor Call: In your issue of Sunday, May 3d, you say that it may be suggested that Mr. Darrell is straining a point in his make-up. Shakespeare had no reputation as an actor or speaker. It is of record that the only character of the many in his plays which he personated was old Adam in "As You Like It." In extenuation of my venture I should like to say that as far as I can learn we have no authentic record of Shakespeare, not even that he was the author of the plays credited to him, and as to his reputation as an actor it must be borne in mind that in his age the actor was a degraded personage, and he who cared so little for fame that he left no trace which could prove his life-work his would certainly not leave evidence of what was then considered notoriety.

The record of his representation of Adam, so far as I can learn, was from the reiterated boasting of his brother, which by some commentators is accounted doubtful.

TWO COMMENTATORS.

I beg leave to quote from two commentators. Dowden says that "in the account of the Treasurer of the Chamber-London, we learn that Shakespeare appeared twice with Burbadge as a member of the Lord Chamberlain's players before the Queen in Christmas time, 1593"—also in 1592 he is spoken of as a successful actor and author.

F. G. Fleay says that Shakespeare probably joined the players in 1587, and in 1591 was a member of Lord Strange's company, who played "Two Gentlemen of Verona."

In 1592, Greene A. Fullow, dramatist, jealous of Shakespeare's growing popularity, issued a manuscript directed against a company of players "Burs, puppets, antics, apes, grooms, among whom is an upstart crow, a Johannus Factotum, a shake-scene who supposes he can bombast out a blank verse."

Fleay says: "This was probably directed against Shakespeare and Lord Strange's players, for whom he (Shakespeare) was then writing and with whom he was then playing."

In 1593 Lord Strange died, and the company found a new patron in Lord Hunsdon, the Chamberlain.

The Chamberlain's players, under Shakespeare & Burbage, reopened the old 'theater' where, in 1594, they enacted "Titus Andronicus" and "Henry VI."

Until the establishment of the Chamberlain company Shakespeare had been an actor, gradually rising in the esteem of his fellows. But henceforward he takes his place as one of the chief actors in the principal company of London, acting in a licensed theater.

Shakespeare retired from the stage about 1610.

Yet, with all this evidence of Shakespeare as a player, it is not recorded that he played any character in his own plays; neither can I find any record that he did not; but certain it is that he was a member of at least one company which enacted many of them, if the statements of these commentators are true, and I am of opinion that their authority is as certain as any, at least that supposed boast of his brother. Yours respectfully, GUY DURRELL.

Personal and Other Jottings.

Mr. and Mrs. Rickards, Australian actors and vocalists, arrived from Sydney on Friday last by the steamship Alameda.

Gertrude de Auld, whose sympathetic voice has delighted so many this past season, is going to Europe to finish her studies under William Shakespeare, the famous music master. On the 25th she will give a concert d'adieu at Irving Hall, for which an attractive programme has been arranged.

Mr. Joseph J. Levy, who for many years was the late Lawrence Barrett's lieutenant and faithful agent, has contracted to manage Miss Margaret Mather's tour next season, which, Mr. Levy says, will be over territory that has been profitable to her. Miss Mather and her leading actor, Otis Skinner, sailed for Europe by the steamship Normandie on May 7th, to make arrangements for a new spectacular play of which Sardou is the author. The arrangement with Mr. Levy was made twenty-four hours before Miss Mather's departure.

De Wolf Hopper's new burletta, "'Wang' Goes With a Bang," say the New York press.

Signor Perugini has secured the right for Sir Arthur Sullivan's "Ivanhoe" for the United States.

It is said that Francis Wilson has made $100,000 this season and, therefore, Arthur Canby, his manager, makes $10,000 over his salary.

A new play has just been published in London and has caused considerable criticism, both adverse and favorable. It is from the joint pens of J. M. Barrie and H. B. Marriott-Watson and deals with the life of the celebrated Richard Savage very much as Beau Brummel, the famous fop, is dealt with. It was after Richard Savage that the well-known Bohemian Club of London took its name.

Mrs. David Eberle, mother of Eugene Eberle, so long stage manager for the late Lawrence Barrett, is now 84 years old. When Mr. Barrett died, the old lady, who is a stanch Protestant, went to a Catholic church in Philadelphia and had a mass celebrated for the repose of his soul. The poor old lady said: "I do not believe in it, but Mr. Barrett was a Catholic and I know it would please him could he know it."

The Brooklyn Eagle is responsible for the item that an English obituary of P. T. Barnum mentions that "although constantly engaged in selling liquor his habits were not bad."

Little Ida Mulle's divorce case against Ben Tuthill of the defunct Fashions Company is still on file, says the St. Louis Star-Sayings, though whether there will ever be a trial or not is a question. Mr. Tuthill says there will not. Jim Purnell, Miss Mulle's lawyer, says that there will. And there you are.

Geraldine Ulmer, who married Ivan Carril last March, and who then announced her determination to retire from the stage for a year or so, has changed her mind. She will reappear in public very shortly in a new operetta written for her by her husband. An actress may marry, grow gray if she will, but a thirst for the stage will cling to her still.

Mrs. D. P. Bowers will shortly produce the new American comedy-drama entitled "J. Pickering Pick," which was written by Robert Benedict.

Charles Frohman will, a year hence, bring Mr. Daly's leading man, John Drew, out as a star.

Clara Novello, once the leading oratorio soprano of England, is now the Countess Gigliucci. A dispatch to the New York Herald says: She still sings charmingly, though over 70 years of age.

From London it is reported that Wilson Barrett is not a success in a piece called "The Acrobat," but that the piece itself is popular and running well. The statement is difficult to reconcile.

Marie Wainwright has engaged Mr. Henry Miller to play Leicester, the principal male part in "Amy Robsart."

C. W. Couldock denies that he proposes to retire from the stage. He has not yet had enough of Dunstan Kirke.

The New York Herald is quite right in saying Louise Muldener is the best Maria in "Twelfth Night" on the American stage.

Patti is hard at work on her autobiography.

The Chicago Inter Ocean of May 10th says: There is a rumor to the effect that the Emma Juch Opera Company collapsed last Saturday night in the City of Mexico, leaving Manager Locke some $8000 behind in salaries and transportation dues. Manager Locke is reported to have telegraphed the managers with whom he had dates to cancel and fill with what they could. The company was to have opened to-morrow night in St. Louis. The sale of seats for his engagement has not been stopped.

An English version of "Jean Marie," played at the New York Lyceum, has made quite a reputation for Miss Anna Ward Chappelle, who appeared as Therese, an emotional part. The story is that made familiar in the ballad, "Auld Robin Gray," where coin, with years, wins the race for the hand of the Scottish maiden against young Jamie, who, saving a crown, "had nae a bawbee."

The barytone, Charles Santley, is tickling the New Yorkers by his splendid voice. At the Chickering Hall matinee on May 4th he sang Handel's "Ruddier Than a Cherry," Schubert's "Erl King," Hatton's "To Althea," and the fine old troll, "Simon, the Cellarer," with triumphant success. Some of the critics say his voice has assumed a deeper basso tone than it formerly possessed, otherwise it is of the same quality as of old.

Clementina de Vere has been re-engaged as soprano of Rev. Dr. Paxton's church, at a salary of $4600. She will also have a summer vacation to go abroad and fill concert engagements in London.

Agnes Booth will leave Palmer at the close of this season and visit Europe during the summer, playing in French in Paris.

Mons. A. L. Guille has signed with Henry Wolfsohn for three years.

Manager Stockwell of the Alcazar Theater returned from the East on Friday morning last, bringing a budget of new plays.

"The Pirates of Penzance" will be presented at the Bijou, 729 Market street, by amateurs on Tuesday evening, May 19th, for the benefit of Alta Parlor, No. 3, N. D. G. W.

The next attraction at the Baldwin will be The Liliputians, with their great success, "The Pupil in Magic."

It seems to be almost definitely settled that Augustin Daly will have a theater in London. A site has been selected at Waterloo House.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rosewald, Miss Ada E. Weigel and Miss May B. Thome gave a very interesting and well-attended concert at Martinez on Friday evening last, under the management of Mr. Charles Augustus Benton.

The Bandurria Club of San Francisco, under the leadership of Senor Don Jose Sancho, formerly one of the original Figaro Spanish Students, will give a concert in San Jose on Saturday evening next, May 23d.

Jane Coombs has emerged from retirement, and is playing at the People's Theater, New York.

Louise Thorndyke Boucicault will appear next season in "The Solicitor" at Herrmann's Theater, New York. She is under contract to Charles Frohman.

Rice's "Evangeline" has made a decided success in Melbourne, Australia, where it was produced at Her Majesty's Opera House, Monday, May 4th. The Australians are much taken with the American artists.

The Siege of Paris picture, recently on exhibition at the corner of Eddy and Mason streets, will be shipped to Sydney, N. S. W., on Thursday, the 28th inst., by the steamship Alameda.

Kate Castleton has recovered her health, and is again ready for the stage.

Mrs. Georgie Drew Barrymore is in Bermuda, health-seeking.

Nadage Doree, the purified Iza, is engaged writing novels in New York City.

The cast of "Alabama," as it will be presented at the Baldwin, will embrace many of the strongest favorites, notably J. H. Stoddart, E. M. Holland, Maurice Barrymore, Edward Bell, Henry Wood ruff, May Brookelyn and Nanuie Craddock.

Beatrice Cameron has been divorced from her husband, George R. Phoebus, and is now free to wed Richard Mansfield. It is said the actor and his leading lady will be married at once.

Mrs. Margaret Stowe, the first female magician in the United States, died recently. She was mother of John F. and Burt Stowe, circus owners. Other deaths in the profession recently are: Paul Deshayes, the well-known French actor; Austine Herne, singer and soubrette, of blood poisoning, at Spokane Falls, and Charles Knox Futando, for many years acting manager of the Princess', London.

The correct thing now among actresses is to perfume their suede gloves with orris root.

"Linda Grey," the play by the late Sir Charles Young recently produced in London by Mrs. Langtry, about which a great deal of fuss has been made, was produced in New York at the Fourteenth-street Theater under the title of "The Scapegoat" by Mrs. Henrietta Chanfrau, September 20, 1886. The play failed here, as it has lately in London. Some folks have said Sir Charles Young never intended to have it produced, and his executors have been blamed for putting it before the public. But he sold the right to present the piece in America to Mrs. Chanfrau, who bought it because of the success of "Jim, the Penman."

The Society of Pure Young Girls on the Stage has changed the name of its mutual chattering organization to that of The Twelfth Night Club. Recently they gave an entertainment at the Lyceum Theater that was well attended. The money thus obtained will be used in fitting up a club-room, where, according to Dunlop's Stage News, they may indulge in pink teas and discuss the characters of their sister members.

European Musical Items.

Translated from the Gazzetta Musicale of Milan.

A new string quartet by Bazzini has had its first reading at the Conservatory at Milan, and was pronounced a perfect composition.

Marie Van Zandt proved a great success in "Lakme" at the Imperial Theater in Moscow.

"Tutti in Maschera," by Pedrotti, has been enthusiastically received in Rome.

"The Lovers of Ternel," a new opera by I. Berton, was successfully given in Prague lately.

The tenors Masini and Cardinali have been engaged for the italian opera in Barcelona.

"Idomenes," by Mozart, will be revived in Dresden.

Ponchielli's "Promessi Sposi" was recently given at Cremona with splendid result.

"L'Oncle Celestin," a new operetta by Audran, lately given at the Menus Plaisirs in Paris, proved successful.

The choir of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, under the direction of Cav. Mustafa, will go to Orvieto to execute Mascagni's new mass, written expressly for the Duomo.

A symphony in four parts, by F. Glino, a young student of the Conservatory of Venice, has obtained a genuine success.

Countess Victoria Domenici recently appeared in concert in Brussels. The press is unanimous in praising her beautiful voice and artistic method.

Princess Strozzi, with other ladies of high position in Florence, recently arranged a charity concert, in which the Duchess of Massari took active part, singing in a most beautiful manner.

A young woman committed suicide recently at the Grand Theater in Moscow by throwing herself from the highest row of boxes into the pit, eighty feet. She was instantly killed. The performance was stopped, as a panic occurred. Jealousy was the cause of the suicide. She had just seen her lover with another woman.

At the concert given in honor of Tartini in Milan Marco Anzoletti, one of the best violinists in Italy at present, read a very interesting paper and played four difficult sonatas by the honored composer.

Adelina Patti sang the "Last Rose of Summer" and "Home, Sweet Home," in English at her concert in Dresden. She also sang Schubert's "Serenade" and Gounod's "Ave Maria," with violin obligato by Geraldine Morgan, a young American, who has been studying in that city for several years.

CLERK BROAD'S TRIAL.

Commissioner Schmitt's Denial of a Charge of Prejudice.

At the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners yesterday it was decided to inform the Auditor that the Fire Department would require $536,800 for its maintenance during the coming fiscal year. This estimate is made up as follows: Salaries $376,800, running expenses $100,000, material $60,000.

Andrew Jackson Clunie appeared as the attorney for Charles P. Broad, clerk of the Corporation Yard, who is charged with neglect of duty. One week's continuance was asked but denied.

The attorney had many objections to enter. First, he objected to the charges because they had not been signed by Chief Scannell. Then he filed a protest against Maurice Schmitt sitting as a Commissioner during the trial on the ground that he is prejudiced. An affidavit sworn to by Broad set forth that Schmitt was maliciously biased and had already made up his mind; that Schmitt had stated it would make no difference what testimony is introduced; that Broad was to be "broken," and that his successor had been selected.

Schmitt declared that he was not prejudiced in the case, but Clunie continued that it was not proper for Schmitt to sit in the board during the trial, whereupon the latter exclaimed, "You can't put me out."

Commissioner Ames poured oil on the troubled waters. "I've heard some rumors," said he, "that the Broad case had been 'fixed' and his successor named. I have investigated and discovered that the rumor has no foundation. The case has not been fixed and Broad's successor has not been named. There is some mistake about the matter. I am satisfied that no combination to oust Broad exists."

Chairman Newman aroused Schmitt's ire by declaring: "If an affidavit was filed stating that I was prejudiced I would not sit during the trial."

"I am not prejudiced!" shouted Schmitt, and with this the trial proceeded.

Acting Chief Engineer Sullivan testified that he suspended Broad on the morning of March 18th for being fifteen minutes late. He had frequently reprimanded Broad for being late, as it was necessary for the clerk to be on duty at 8 o'clock to take charge of the floor.

Cross-examined by the attorney, Sullivan denied that there had been trouble at the yard over harness purchased from Hart, a brother-in-law of Schmitt.

Clunie said he proposed to show that the charges against Broad were the result of spite work, but he did not show that such was the case.

Sullivan went on to state that he had been very lenient with Broad and had excused him from duty several times. On one occasion Broad went off for a day and a half in order to visit Chris Buckley's ranch.

Half a dozen men employed at the corporation yard were called as witnesses for the defense, but their testimony had no special bearing on the case, and the further hearing was then continued until Saturday.

PERJURY SOMEWHERE.

Lively Contradictions in a Case of Robbery.

William Daly and Jerry Barry were examined yesterday on a charge of having robbed Cornelius Kelly, who lives on Fifteenth avenue, of a watch and chain. There was a lively triangular swearing match between members of the Kelly family.

Mrs. Kelly testified that she took the timepiece from her husband on Sunday morning and that the defendants were innocent.

Kelly and his son Tom swore positively that Mrs. Kelly was in bed drunk and asleep at the hour she said took the watch.

Mrs. Kelly again took the stand and said that Kelly had hired his eldest son to whip her and that she was in bed suffering from the beating and not drunk at all.

Kelly was positive that Daly and Barry had robbed him. They were equally positive that they had not. Judge Werley took the case under advisement.

A Welcome Decrease.

Only 112 deaths were recorded in this city for the week, a falling off of 30 as compared with the corresponding week for the previous year. The number of infants was 21, and over 50 years of age, 14. There were 7 casualties, and 19 deaths in public institutions. The more fatal diseases were: Apoplexy 3, alcoholism 2, bronchitis 2, cancer 3, croup 2, convulsions infantile 6, diphtheria 4, diabetis 2, enteritis 2, typhoid fever 4, heart disease 10, inanition 5, consumption 12, pneumonia 23.

'Twas Whisky, Not Poison.

A longshoreman, who gave his name as J. J. Johnson, was treated at the Receiving Hospital at an early hour yesterday morning for an overdose of bad water-front whisky. Thinking that he had been poisoned, he told a rambling story about two men having made an attempt to shanghai him, declaring that he had become sleepy and sick after drinking with them.

Fire on Clara Street.

An alarm was turned in at 12:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon for a fire in the frame building at 217 Clara street, occupied as a tailor-shop by Nathan Kamla. The building was destroyed, and the adjoining structure occupied by M. Hughes was also damaged. The loss amounted to $1500, and the cause was the explosion of a gasoline stove.

Rather a Late Discovery.

Marchier Perrier, a Frenchman, who has resided in this city for thirty years was discovered by the health authorities yesterday to be a leper and was sent to the Pesthouse. He is nearly 70 years old and had come down to begging for a livelihood.

Deutsches Altenheim.

A picnic will be held to-day in Fruitvale, Alameda County, to enable the members of German Old People's Home Association and their friends to acquaint themselves with the location of the property on which the home will be erected.

ACORNS.

Original contributions and solutions are requested from all the readers. Contributions must be written in ink, on one side of the paper, and separate from communications. The name and address must accompany them as a guarantee of good faith. Address Puzzle Editor DAILY MORNING CALL, 509 Clay street, San Francisco, Cal.

Petals.

157. Quadragesima.
158. STAPES / TABARI / ABATIS / PATENS / SISSOO
159. WASHINGTON / ADAMS / JEFFERSON / MONROE / MADISON / JAC