MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Mr. F. F. Mackay as "Falstaff." Mr. Mackay's benefit at the Arch, on Saturday night, was a brilliant success, whether con, sidered from an artistic or a pecuniary point of view. An enthusiastic audience that filled every nook and corner of the auditorium was a proper compliment to one of the most decidedly popu. lar of our actors. Mr. Mackay, for his part, provided such an entertainment as enhanced his reputation as an artist and afforded much gratification to his admirers. The Merry Wives of Windsor, one of Shakespeare's most lively and amusing comedies, was selected for the purpose of allowing the beneficiary to appear as "Sir John Falstaff," by way of experiment. Tradition says that this comedy was written in the short space of twenty days, at the command of Queen Elizabeth, who was desirous of seeing "Falstaff" in love. Shakespeare was only able to give her Majesty a partial gratification, as it was impossible for him to make "fat Jack" in love with anybody but his own dear self. He overcame the difficulties of the situation, how ever, with much ingenuity, and as a sort of compromise with his conscience for even attempting to represent "Falstaff" as a servitor to Cupid, he caused him to make love at the same time to two married women, who have him well punished for his presumption. The Merry Wives of Windsor is almost the only play of Shakespears which is entirely his own invention: it is a genuine comedy, and it is particularly rich in comedy characters. Unlike any of his other works of the same class, it is a picture of English life in the sixteenth century, and the characters are one and all racy sketches from nature, such as no hand but Shakespeare's could draw. Thus we have in the goodly company "Sir John Palstaff" and his ragged followers "Nym," "Pistol," and "Bardolph;" "Page," the even-tempered, goodnatured, and unsuspicious man, "Ford," the icalous man, and their merry wives; "Justice Shallow" and his weak chested cousin "Abraham Slender, Esq.;" "Mine Host of the Garter;" "Dr. Caius," the French physician, and "Sir Hugh Evans," the Welsh parson, a comical pair of antagonists; "Mistress Quickley," and last, but not least, "Sweet Anne Page," whose name "Master Slender" echoes as a refrain through the scenes of the comedy. These characters fit the Arch street company better than those of either of the comedies that have been attempted at that theatre this winter; and the performance on Saturday evening was unusually good, although on exceptional occasions like this it is scarcely to be expected that the actors will be up to the highest mark, and benefit nights are commonly exempted from the ordinary rules of criticism. "Sir John Falstaff" is rather under a cloud in

The Merry Wives of Windsor, and he scarcely shines with the same light that he does in the more congenial scenes of Henry the Fourth. He is the same amusing "mountain of sin," however, and this comedy was probably the most judicious selection for an actor venturing to represent the part for the first time, Mr. Mackay's personation of "Sir John," like all his efforts, gave evidence of careful and intelligent study. His somewhat slight physique would seem to be an objection not easily overcome, but it was, overcome very successfully by an ingenious "make-up," and Mr. Mackay's rendering of the part was so excellent that a deficiency of a few inches in girth or stature could easily be excused. Hackett and John Gilbert are the only two actors now upon the American stage who have achieved reputations as representa-"Falstaff," and Mr. Mackay will compare favorably with either of them. Wherein he falls short is due more to his physical deficiences than to any artistic disqualification. Hackett has made the part a special study, and he plays it according to rule and line. John Gilbert, who is the better artist of the two. gives a freer, less constrained, and more satisfactory personation. Gilbert's "Falstaff" has a wheeziness in his voice, a stagger in his gait, and a shortness of breath which are the very essence of fatness, and which Mr. Mackay somewhat misses. In place of this we have the sort of dry but sprightly humor which is observable in Mr. Mackay's personation of the two Shakespearlan characters that he has lately attempted at the Arch. To define the value of the performance, we may estimate it as a little better than "Sir Toby Belch," and not quite so good as "Dogberry." but taking it for what it was worth, it was such a representation of "Falstail" as few actors now before the public could equal, and Mr. Mackay is entitled to sincere congratulations on his success.

Most of the remaining parts in The Merry Wives of Windsor were very well sustained, and the performance was one of the most enjoyable of the season. This is particularly worthy of note, as the success of the play depended entirely upon the exertions of the actors, who were not aided by any of the handsome scenic accessories which served to make Twelfth Night and Much Ado About Nothing attractive.

Mr. Everly acted the part of "Ford," the ealous husband, admirably. It afforded him some excellent opportunities to exercise his talents, and the performance may be set down as one of the most spirited he has given at this season. Mr. Craig's "Slender" was if anything better than his "Sir Andrew Aguecheck" in Twelfih Night, and Mr. Wallis - than whom there are few more studious and painstaking actors-gave a capital delineation of "Justice Shallow." It is doubtful whether any theatre in the country has two more efficient "old men" than this gentleman and Mr. Mackay, and we would be very much pleased to see Mr. Wallis in some parts of a higher grade than he usually plays, in order that he may show the public what he is capable of. Mr. Barton Hill as "Dr. Caius" and Mr. Meagher as "Sir Hugh, Evans" were very good indeed, and the due! between these ludicrously contrasted personages was managed so as to cause an infinite amount of amusement. Mrs. Thayer played the part of "Mrs. Quickly," which is an assurance that it was well done. Miss Price did very well as 'Mistress Page," and Miss Davenport not quite as well as "Mistress Ford." The other characters were creditably sustained as follows: - "Page," Mr. James: "Host of the Garter," Mr. Hemple; "Bardolph," Mr. Snyder; "Nym," Mr. Creese; "Pistol," Mr. Osborne; "Annie Page," Mrs. Creese.

This performance of The Merry Wives of Windsor was so good, and the characters so well suited to the Arch street company, that one or two repetitions at least ought to be given efore the end of the season,

Whe City Amusements. AT THE ARCH Much Ado About Nothing will be performed this evening, to-morrow, and on Thursday for the last times. On Wednesday Miss Fanny Davenport will have a benefit,

when her father, Mr. E. 1. Davenport, will appear as "Rover" in the c. 'medy of Wild Oats. On Friday Mrs. Creese will h. ave a benefit; and on Saturday Mr. Hempie will p. 'esent his claims to the favorable consideration on 'the public. On Monday next the new come. 'y of Women Rule, by a member of the Philade. 'phila Bar, will be performed for the first time.

Robertson's new comedies of School and Home are announced as in preparation.

At the Walnut Charles Reade's dram. 'of Fout Play will be reproduced this evening, with all the original scenery and effects.

The London burlesque combination, consisting of Mr. Felix Rogers, Miss Lizzle Willimoreand Miss Jennie Willmore, will shortly appear.

At the Chesnut the burlesque of The Field of the Coth of Gold will commence its second week this evening. A number of new features will be introduced, and the performance made more entertaining than ever.

more entertaining than ever.

AT THE THEATRE COMIQUE the Japanese troupe have been re-engaged for this week. The house was crowded at each performance since the Japanese appeared at this establishment, and as this is announced as "most positively" their last week, those who have not seen them should make the most of the remaining opportunities. ing opportunities.
AT THE AMERICAN a number of talented

AT THE AMERICAN a number of talented performers will appear this evening.

ITALIAN OPERA.—The Max Maretzek Italian Opera Company, with Miss Clara Louise Kellogg as prima donna, will commence a season at the Academy of Music on Wednesday, March 31. The subscription list will be opened on Thursday next.

JOHANNA AND WILLIE HESS, the juvenile performers, will give a grand concert at Musical Fund Hall on Wednesday evening, assisted by Madame Henrietta Behrens, Mr. Rudolph Hennig, and Mr. Julius Hess. An attractive programme will be presented.

The Germania Orchestra will give a public rehearsal at Horticultural Hall on Wednesday af ernoon.

day af ernoon.

JOHN B. GOUGH, Esq., will deliver his lecture on "Circumstances" at the Academy of Music this evening, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. This is one or the 'most popular and entertaining of Mr. Gough's lectures, and the house will doubtless be crowded. doubtless be crowded.

CITY ITEMS.

EPRING OVERCOATS .- A fine assortment, unequalled by any in Philadelphia, in style, make, and fit, at prices ranging from \$6 upwards. Oall and examine.

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THE TRYING SEASON .- The searching winds, the cold, drizzling rains, the heavy fogs, and occasional warm and moist days of March, lender it, upon the whole, the most unhealthy month of the year. Its depressing influences are especially unfavorable to invalids and thousands of persons with feeble constitutions, who have borne the winter bravely, break down in the first month of spring. The variations of temperature and cold east winds are a serious trial to the dyspeptic and billious, whose symptoms they invariably aggravate. Intermittent fever is also rife wherever there is evolvable poison in the water or the soil. To enable the system to combat these evils, there is nothing like a good vegetable tonic, and among this class of medicines HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BIT-TERS stand supreme. Medical men prescribe it is preference to any of the topic preparations of the pharmacopoeia. They are aware that the ordinary tinctures and extracts are all based upon cheap alcohol, which is surcharged with an acrid essential oil, and absolutely poisonous. They know, on the other hand, that the rectified essence of the finest rye grown in this country is the sole spirituous ingredient of HOSTETTER'S BITTERS, and that the vegetable medicinal elements of which it is composed are of rare efficacy. Hence it has the confidence of physicians. and finds its way into hospitals where no other proprietary medicine is sanctioned.

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MARRIED.

OAT-STRODE.—On the 18th instant, by the Rev. William E. Moore, at the residence of the bride's parents, D. REAUMONT OAT, of Philadelphia, to MARY E. STRODE, daughter of Francis Strode, Esq., of Westlown township, Chester county, Pa.

COPE—Suddenly, on the morning of the 20th instant, HRMAN COPE, in the 80th year of his age.
The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral from his late residence, No. 1867 Vine street, on Wednesday morning, the 24th instant, at 10 o'clock.

DUROSS,—On the Brant, at 10 o'clock.

DUROSS.—On the morning of the 20th instant, CORMELIUS DUROSS, in the 20th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited
to attend the funeral, from his late residence, N. E.,
corner of Fifth and Vinestreets, on Wednesday morning at 83% o'clock.

EVANS.—On the morning of the 22d instant, at
Moorestown, N. J. ALICE, relict of Joseph Evans,
1.7 the 85th year of her age.

Yue notice of the funeral will be given.

KEEHMLE.—On Sunday, the list instant, MARY ANN, wife of William C. Keehmie.

Her male relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from her late residence, No. 1315 Arch street, on Wednesday, the 2th instant, at 10 o'clock A. M. Interment at North Laurel Hill. McCANN .- On the 21st Instant, JOHN McCANN, McCANN.—On the 21st instant, JOHN McCANN, aged 75 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the faneral, from his late residence, No. 329 Garden street, below Callowhill, on Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock,

MEARS.—On the 20th Instant, MARY W. MEARS, wife of Captain Jonathan W. Mears, Sr., aged 80 years. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from the residence of her husband, No. 842 S. Front street, on Tuesday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Interment at Ebenezer Vault.

WHITALL,-On the 1sth instant, RICHARD Whitali.
Funeral services at his late residence, No. 2014 Race street, on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Burial on Tuesday morning, at Middletown, Delaware county, **

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