### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

The Opera Season. The regular opera season will be commenced on ext Monday evening at the Academy of Music by the pearance of the reorganized Richings combinan in Gounod's Faust. With Mrs. Bernard and adame Parepa-Rosa both in the field as active ompetitors, the English opera promises to assume a minence that it has never held before. If English era is first class there is no reason why it should ot be as highly regarded as any other kind. Some the most popular singers on the Italian stage are her American or British born, and making all due owances for the more finisical sound of the Italian guage, we claim that it does not matter the toss a five cent piece whether the singers roll out icir musical numbers in Itadan, French, German or nglish so long as the music itself is good.

While the English opera managers appear to be naking businesslike efforts to secure the favor of ie public, we have nothing but the most indefinite tmors about what is to be done in the way of Italian, German, or French opera. With one of the argest and most magnificent opera houses in the rid, we have of late years had nothing from those who profess to take the lead in this class of enterents, but occasional brief seasons of a week or two, the Academy for the rest of the time being iven up to balls, lectures, acrobatic performances, and shows of all kinds. Few and far between as the operatic performances have been, they have not always succeeded in attracting crowded houses, although it is safe to say that they have generally en patronized to the full extent their deserts. We have a large and rowing class of educated musicians in this city, and the general musical culture of oncople is as high as in any other place in the country. Concerts of all kinds attract good audiences, and if opera does not always succeed, the fault must rather be with the managers and singers than with the public. In a brief season of a fortnight with a change of bill every evening, it is manifestly impossible to give operatic performances with that perfection that an educated public have a right to expect. The popularity of a single singer is too often relied upon to cover artistic defects of every escription, and, with a few honorable exceptions, there has scarcely been for years an attempt to pu a grand opera upon the stage in reasonably good style. The Academy of Music has a fine stock of scenery, and, with this provided for them, the managers of the various troupes that appear there seem to think that nothing is required of them in the way of appointments and the various details which are required to make an operatic performance a work of art. Besides, we are treated to the same round of pieces season in and season out, until the public get tired of Il Trovatore, Ernani, The Bohonian Girl, and Crown Diamonds. There are a number of superb works that are seldom or never given, or if an attempt is made to produce them, it is done in such a burgling and martistic manner, that the most discriminating opera goers wish that they had been left alone. We cannot understand that there is any good reason for this, or that a continued series of first-class operation entertainments might not be given at the Academy of Music every season, to the profit of the managers and the satisfaction of the public. The burlesque

French operas of Offenbach were produced in style that put to shame the usual manner of rendering the standard works of the great masters of the musical art, and the completeness of opera bouffe performances, at regards scenery, costumes, appointments, chorus, and orchestra, with the fine taste shown in all the details, contributed as much to their success as did the bright, sparkling music of Offenbach; and the same system of management ought to make grand opera one of our regular winter amusements, as much as the dramatic performances at the theatres are. As for opera bourge, we have apparently seen the last of it, for the present at least, and yet it seems a pity that such a pleasant style of entertainment should be ailowed to fall into utter neglect. It is certain that the great mass of the amusement-goers have a fancy for something righter and more exhibitating than the ordinary operatic music, and opera bouffe would seem exactly suited to fill the vacancy that exists. A theatre where pretty musical vaudevilles and comic operas can be given that are too slight for so large a house as the Academy would probably be a recess if it were managed with skill and discretion. The performances of the Galton Troupe suggested the style of entertainment that is desired, and it was hoped that the popularity of Miss Susan Galton would induce her to make the needed improvements in her company, and take possession of this new and promising field. Miss Galton or her managers, however, allowed the opportunity to slip by, but between the opera bouffe and the performances at the Theatre Comique the way was certainly pointed out, and it is to be hoped some one will be shrewd enough to step in and win fame and fortune.

There have been some rumors that the success of opera bouge has induced the organization of a grand opera troupe in Paris which proposes to show us what French singers can do in the higher class of musical compositions. The appearance of such a troupe will be interesting as a novelty, and it ought to have a stimulating effect on the Italians and Germans, exciting them to do better than they have been accustomed to do of late. There does not appear to be anything definite known with regard to the French troupe, however, and its rumored advent on these shores may be without substantial founda-

At present the English singers have the operation field to themselves, and between the two troupes led by such popular artists as Mrs. Bernard and Madame Rosa, there is likely to be a healthy competition that will go far towards making English opera more worthy of public patronage than it has been hitherto. That the rivalry between the two companies is not exclusively artistic emulation is shown by the extremely ill-advised card which Mrs. Ber nard has published. A private note which we have received from her expresses the same idea in a still stronger manner, and it seems that there is tribulation in the Richings camp at the prospect of an intrusion into what the esteemed manageress had probably come to consider her exclusive field of action by right of pre-emption. Mrs. Bernard is certainly entitled to great praise for the energy, ability, and untiring industry she has shown in her endeavors to make English opera popular, and although some of the leading members of herold company are entitled to some credit, she will undoubtedly carry off by right the chief honors. Sho cannot complain that the press of this city at leas has not given her a generous support from the very in eption of her enterprise, appreciating the difficulties she had to contend with, and considerately looking at the merits of her entertainments rather than their defects, under a sincere conviction that she, at all times, and under all circumstances, endeavored to do her best. There is nothing, however, like active competition, and it was decidedly apparent last season that, from some cause of other, the Richings' combination was di teriorating. It appears to have been though much better that a separation should tak-

place, and we consequently find that four of the leading artists of the old Richings troupe have enlisted under the "banner" of Madame Rosa. This is not a matter for regret with the public, as there ! plenty of room for both troupes, if both are good, and a little wholesome rivalry will stimulate to greater exertions. The secession of the old coworkers, however, seems to be a special grievance with Mrs. Bernard, and her indiscreet appeal to the press and public appears to be a side siap at them for deserting her "banner." We have heard several reports of the cause for the disintegration of the original Richings troupe, some of which are sufficiently circumstantial and precise in detail to have at least the appearance of truth. Mrs. Bernard appears to have considered that she hat a monopoly of English opera, and under this belief the management of affairs behind the scenes was not as pleasant to some of the members of the company as it might have been. They according took measures to cut loose from their old connection, and as Madame Rosa was quite willing to organize a troupe, they enlisted in her service. Messrs. Castle and Campbell and the Seguins changed their allegiance because they were dissatisfied, or be-

cause they could make better terms elsewhere, This is something that is done every day in the theatrical world, and the card published by Mrs. Bernard is the first time we have seen a manager make the desertion of artists a matter for public complaint, and we believe that Mrs. Bernard will as heartly regret having published her rather silly note as any of her best friends now do.

With regard to the merits of the rival troupes we are, of course, not now prepared to speak. Madame Rosa has obtained four excellent and popular artists in Mr. Campbell, Mr. Castle, Mr. Seguin, and Mrs. Seguin. In addition to these she has secured Miss Fannie Stockton, a fair contraito singer, who has appeared in this city several times of late years in spectacular pieces, and with whose abilities the public are therefore tolerably well acquainted. Miss Rose Hersee, Miss Andrews, Messrs, Lawrence, Huil, Nordblom, Taker, Kittes, and Howard, about whom we know little or nothing. Madame Parepa-Rosa will, of course, be prima donna, and with her

delicious voice she will be a host in herself, The new Richings combination will introduce to the public several new singers. Miss Blanche Ellerman, who will assist Mrs. Bernard in the leading soprano roles, is a pupil of Ardt, and she comes to us from the London English Opera House with a good reputation for voice and style. Mr. Henry Haigh, the new leading tenor, is also from London. About his abilities we know little or nothing. Mr. Brookbouse Bowier is known here as a tenor singer who has appeared in concert with much success. It remains to be seen how he will answer in the more trying operatic entertainments. Mr. Henry Drayton, the leading baritone, appeared here some ten or twelve years ago with his wife in a series of pleasant parlor operas, and he won a good reputation as an actor and singer of more than usual ability. Mrs. Brookhouse Bowler, the leading contralto, is a stranger, with whose merits we are unacquainted. Miss Anna Mischka, and Messrs, Pierre Bernard, James Arnold, Henry Peakes, and James Peakes, are well known as members of the old troupe. Mr. Warren Wnite, the second basso, performed with the Galtons last season, and he can scarcely be considered a very valuable acquisition. Mr. Behrens will continue at his old post as leaster of the orchestra, and in him Mrs. Bernard will have an invaluable collborer.

These are the rival troupes, and while wishing them both success, we will endeavor to do justice to the demerits and deficiencies of both without favor or impartiality. As far as we know Mrs. Bernard has a good troupe, which it will probably require some little time to get into training, and for all the shortcomings of the commencement of the season due allowance of course will be made. After that the manageress that gives the best performances will be most likely to secure the largest pecuniary reward. The City Amusements.

At the Abou the Lydia Thompson troupe will appear this evening in the burlesque of Sinbad the sailor, previous to which will be given the farce of WALNUT Mr. and Mrs. Watkins will appear this evening in the patriotic drama of The Pioneer Patriot. The performance will commence with the come of driviet to the Mill.

On Monday evening next Mrs. D. P. Bowers will appear in a new drama entitled Margaerite, the Wanderer.

### CUSTOMS.

A Nice Arrangement Between United States and New York City Weighers Unearthed-An

Easy Way to Make Money. From the N. Y. Herald of yesterday morning. It would seem that there is to be no end to the discoveries that are being daily made by the Col-lector and his chief representative as to the prevalence of frauds in certain departments of Custom House. No person who knows anything at all about the subject can be ignorant of the fact that in the various departments of the Custom House there are many "opportunities"—as the dishonest men call loose ways of doing business-for peculators to profit by, and that it requires the utmost and untiring vigilance of the proper authorities to keep the public crib intact. Although every now and then the clerks and others are stirred up by a "revelation" that Mr. So-and-So has been found wanting as an honest mau-to put it mildly-the great majority of them being, of course, honest, are never aware of how extensive are the plans and ingenious their unlawful ends. In almost every fraud that has been detected so far this feature of a decided planning has been prominent, and in the latest one that has been brought to light the underground workings of the persons most unfavorably concerned give ample proof that it requires after all, a certain amount of brains of a certain kind to be an efficient-or, to speak more pointedly, an inefficient Custom House cierk.

A few days ago the "latest fraud" above men-

tioned was discovered, and although the authorities have not as yet taken action in the matter t is safe to say that, in a week or so, after they have accumulated the necessary evidence to make a grand disclosure, there will be a terrible shaking of dry bones in the Custom House. The persons who are most implicated in the fraud are certain United States weighers, and the manner of their connection with it is given as follows:-They are paid a regular salary by the General Government to do their work well, and are allowed the expenses they hear in em-ploying the necessary number of laborers to aid them in their work. After they have weighed, for instance, a cargo of tea, say of 20,000 chests, the merchant to whom the cargo is consigned employs a city weigher to weigh the chests, or packages, as they are called. Of course the merchant pays the city weigher for his work, and out of his pay the weigher most pay whatever help he may require. The object of the consignee in employing the city weigher is obviously to ascertain whether the United States weigher has weighed his cargo correctly and make sure of its exact bulk. But it has been discovered-and here the fraud comes in-that the city weigher, instead of doing his work after eing employed, goes to the United States veigher who has weighed the cargo he (the city weigher) is paid to weigh, and for a certified heck for a good amount obtains the United States weigher's figures. These he, of course, ands to the merchant, and the latter, finding hat they correspond exactly with the figures of he United States weigher he has already been urnished with, comes to the conclusion that all right and that such correctness denotes wouderful exactness in his duties on the part of the city weigher. It is said that a very large umber of United States and city weighers are implicated in this kind of nefarious business, and that the Collector is determined to bring bem up with a sharp turn. Indeed, it is underthat the men, laborers, who depend a great deal upon the work that is furnished them y the city weigher when weighing a cargo, and consequently thrown out of employment when the city weigher buys the figures of the United States weigher instead of weighing the cargo himself and making out his own figures, have laid their grievances before the Collector. They have besides furnished him with some very spiey facts concerning the mutual agreements that exist between the two classes of weighers, which will no doubt give Mr. Grinnell an insight into a certain department of the Custom House that he and but few outside the ring have ever been given before. It s alleged that many of the United States weighers have obtained as much as \$200 and 5500 at one time in exchange for their figures. there will certainly be a stir among the weighers soon. The honest men, hovever, have nothing to fear, but the gullty every-

... There really is nothing new under the sun. The paddle-wheel for boats is seen on the Assyrian slabs, and in more than one old European fresco. The bicycle seems to have been known in China more than two centuries ago, and the velocipede was probably seen even before that in Europe. Among the ancient painted glass in and about the once noble church at Stoke Pogis may be seen the representation of a young fellow who is astride the mute but active horse: he is working his way along with the air of a rider who has introduced a novelty, and is being looked at by admiring spectators. It is one of the most curious illustrations of ancient times in the painted glass windows of this interesting church.

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NORGROSS CULP.—August 19, by Rev. W. C. Best, Mr. BENJAMIN O. NORGROSS, of Patraburg, to Miss ALAWILDA CULP, of New Jersey. WAYNE MCUANN. August 1, 1869, by Rev. Thomas V. Simpers, Mr. HENRY H. WAYNE to Miss HANNAT W. Simpers, Mr. HENRY | McCANN, both of this city

BDHKIRD.

DERR. On August 29, 1800, after a linger ug illness MARY A. DEBE, relict of the late John Derr. in the 7ctn HARY A. DERRE, related that are respectfully invited to the relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from the residence of her son-in-law, Thomas Snyder, No. 228 N. Twenty third street, on Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. To proceed to the Odd

GUNMING.—On the 28th instant. at Woodstown, Ne Jersey, JOSEPHINE A. P. GUNNING, wite of Dr. J. I Gunning, of New York, and daughter of Captain A. Holmes.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the First Baptist Church, N.W. corner of Broad and Arch streets, on Wednesday morning, September I, at 9 o'clock. Interment at Woodlands.

HANLEY.—On the 28th instant, JOHN HANLEY, in

the 56th year of his age.

The relatives and friends, also the members of the Orient Lodge, A. Y. M., are respectfully invited to attend the fureral, from his late residence, No. 125; A. Teuth street, on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. To proceed to Mount Peace Cemetery.

RICE.—On the 29th instant, MICHAEL RICE, aged 48 The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 138 Upland, Belaware county, on Wednesday, September 1, at 2 o'clock. To proceed to St. Michael's Church, Chester.

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For circulars apply to Rev. T. W. CATTELL,

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The fall session begins September 7.
Reference—Rt. Rev. J. Williams, D. D.
Hamden, July 15, 1889.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE.

Owing to the work of remodelling the main building, he opening of the Fall Term is deferred to THURSDAY, September 16, 1869. Examination for admission on the preceding day at 8 o'clock A. M.

Classical Course, Technical Courses in Civil Engineer ng, Chemistry, and Mining and Metallurgy, and a Post Graduate Course. Requirements for admission may be known by addressing President CATTELL. 8282w

MISS CLEVELAND DESIRES TO ANnounce that she will open on MONDAY, September 20th, a School for the education of a limited number of Young Lackes.

The plan of instruction will be similar to that so long pursued by her father, the late Prof. C. D. Cloveland, and will embrace the usual English branches, together with the Latin, French, and German languages. The Department of English Literature, Rhetoric, and Elecution will be auder the charge of Prof. S. M. GLEVE-LAND.

Application may be made at No. 243 S. EICHTH Street between the hours of 9 and 2. 824 St.

\*\*WEST PENN SQUARE ACADEMY,"
S. W. corner of MARKET Street and WEST PENN SOUARE T. BRANTLY LANGTON having leased the upper part of the Third National Bank Building, will reopen has School on MONDAY, tember 12. The facilities of this building for school purposes will be apparent upon inspection. The Gymnasium will be under the immediat ervisi of Dr. Jansen, and is being abundantly supplied with apparatus for the practice

deither light or heavy gymnastics.
The course of instruction embraces all that is needed o fit boys for College, Polytechnic Schools, or Commercia. Circulars containing full information respecting Primary Department, College Classes, the study of Vocal Music, Art, etc., may be obtained by addressing the Principal as above. The rooms will be open for inspection after August 21.

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At Pottatown, Montgomery County, Pa.
The First Term of the "treteenth Aumual Session will commonce on WEDNESS! AY, the 8th day of September next. Papils received at any time, For Circulars address REV, GEORGE F, MILLER, A. M.
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REFERENCES:

REV. DRS.—Meigs. Schreiffer. Mann, Krauth, Seiss, Muhienberg. Stover, Hutter, Stork, Conrad, Bomberger, Wylie, Sterret, Murphy, Cruikshanks, etc.

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Finely-ventilated class-rooms, with ceilings thirty feet in
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height, giving each pupil more than double the usual breathing space.

Wide, massive stairways, rendering accidents in assembling and dismissing almost impossible.

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A mode of teaching and discipline calculated to make school attractive, instead of burdenseme, to the pupil—an indispensable requisite for complete success.

Applications received at the Academy from 10 A. M. to b.P. M., daily, on and after August 33.

Catalogues containing full particulars and the names of many of our leading citizens, patrons of the institution, may be obtained at Mr. W. F. Warburton's, No. 430 Chesnut street, or by addressing the Principal, as above H. Y. LAUDERBACH,

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By order of the Trustons,

GEORGE W. HUNTER, Treasurer. The Session will open on MONDAY, September 8. Applications for admission may be made during the preceding week, between 10 and 12 o'clock in the morning.

JAMES W. ROBINS,
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