

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

"Little Dorrit" at the Arch.
The novels of Charles Dickens offer many temptations to the playwright: they are full of dramatic situations, and they present an array of strongly-defined characters that afford the actors unusual opportunities to distinguish themselves. A really good dramatization of Dickens, however, is yet to be made. There is such a superabundance of material that the task of making a selection becomes one of extreme difficulty, and the usual result is that a stage version of one of his stories neither gives entire satisfaction as a copy nor as an original work. The old playwrights usually took a slight sketch—as one of the novels of Boccaccio, for instance—and by amplification and addition of new matter produced a symmetrical play, which, by the introduction of original scenes and characters, had large claims to being an entirely independent effort. In our day the novelist takes precedence of the dramatist, and the latter finds that the fact of his scenes, incidents, and characters all being ready prepared for him is a source of perplexity and embarrassment rather than an assistance. Most of the plays adapted from Dickens' novels hold the stage more on account of the strongly individualized characters than for any inherent merit of their own, and they are most of them open to the objection of being unintelligible, so far as plot is concerned, except to those who are familiar with the works from which they are taken.

The dramatization of *Little Dorrit*, by Mrs. E. D. Wallace, which was produced on Friday evening at the Arch Street Theatre, is entitled to rank as one of the best of its class. Mrs. Wallace, with much skill, has seized the strong points of what we have always considered one of Dickens' most powerful stories, and she has arranged them with a good feeling for stage effect. The great fault of the play is that the story is not told in a sufficiently definite manner. It ought, however, to be a comparatively easy matter to remedy this defect without undue amplification. A few words of explanation occasionally, and a heightening of the color of some of the scenes would give a finish and symmetry to the performance that it now lacks. For instance, the scene in the third act, where "Old Dorrit" rehearses his prison speech in the street at Rome, is too disconnected at present, whereas with a little skill it might be made one of the most telling points in the play. The situation is a very fine one, and it ought not to be difficult to give it the necessary body and substance required for genuine dramatic effect. The last act, also, is rather weak, although it has some strong points that need to be brought forward more definitely. The play shows decided ability on the part of the author, and the principal weaknesses are those which would not be very apparent until representation, and which are not irreparable. Its strongest point is the great number of first-rate acting characters that it contains. For the most part these are admirably sustained by the members of the Arch Street Theatre company, and it is seldom that so many really fine personations are seen in one drama. We can particularly commend Mr. Mackay as "Mr. Dorrit," Mr. Craig as "Pancks," Mr. Ralston as "Flintwinch," Mrs. Maeder as "Agness," and Mrs. Stoddard as "Maggie," although Mr. Cathcart as "Arthur Clennam," Mr. Matthews as "Casby," Mr. Hemple as "John Chivery," Miss Firman as "Fanny Dorrit," and Mrs. Drew as "Mrs. Clennam," are also good.

Mrs. Wallace on Friday evening appeared in the domestic capacity of authoress and actress, making her first appearance on any stage in the character of "Little Dorrit." She showed much of the embarrassment natural to the occasion, but she went through the part with intelligence, and at times threw a fervor into her manner that indicated ability that practice and cultivation will develop. The character of "Little Dorrit" is well suited to Mrs. Wallace's face and figure, and it promises to become an interesting personation in her hands. The play is put upon the stage in excellent style, with new and appropriate scenery, and the carnival scene at Rome, which occupies the third act, is very effective.

The City Amusements.

THE ITALIAN OPERA.—The sale of subscription tickets for Mr. Max Maretzek's season of Italian opera, to open next Monday evening at the Academy of Music, commences to-day at Trumpler's. Fourteen performances will be given, and the price of \$15, which is charged for subscription tickets, is certainly exceedingly low considering the attractions offered. Mr. Maretzek will introduce to the Philadelphia public a new singer, Signor Lefranc, who, if report speaks true, is the finest tenor that has ever visited this country. Madame De Brion, another new artist, is also highly spoken of, and is represented as a lyric actress of unusual ability. In addition to them Miss Kellogg will appear in two or three performances, and the troupe will be strengthened by such artists as Signor Ronconi, Signor Massimiliano, Signor G. Reyna, Signor D. Colletti, Signor J. Fossati, Miss Pauline Ciani, Madame Laurey Blah, and Madlle. Catarina Lami. One of the features of the season will be the production of Rossini's *William Tell* in handsome style, with Signor Lefranc as "Arnoldo," and Ferrari's new opera of *Pirote*, in which Miss Kellogg will personate the heroine. The subscription list will be open to-day, to-morrow, and on Wednesday at Trumpler's. The sale of single seats will commence on Thursday.

AT THE CHESNUT THEATRE.—The dramatization of Dickens' *Christmas Carol* was great success on Saturday, and it will be repeated this evening and to-morrow, in order to accommodate those who were unable to gain admission. The fairy piece of *Beauty and the Beast* will also be repeated.

On Wednesday will be produced the new play, entitled *Champagne*, or, *Step by Step*, written by Laura Keane and Miss Horton.

AT THE WALNUT THEATRE.—Miss Bateman will appear this evening as "Leah."
The new drama of *Not Guilty* is announced for Monday evening next. This piece is by Watts Phillips, author of *The Dead Heart*, *Lost in London*, and other successful dramas. It was originally produced at the Queen's Theatre, in London, last February, where it made a great hit and ran for four months without interruption. The scenes are laid in England and India, and it is said to be full of fine dramatic effects and stirring incidents. The management of the Walnut Street Theatre have purchased the sole right to produce this piece in America, and they promise that it shall be put upon the stage with every scene new, and with elaborate and appropriate mountings.

AT THE ARCH Mrs. Wallace's drama of *Little Dorrit* will be performed this evening.

AT DUPRE & BENDISCH'S OPERA HOUSE a great holiday bill will be presented this evening, with plenty of attractive features to please old and young.

AT THE ELEVENTH STREET OPERA HOUSE the holiday pantomime of *The Old Man from the Residence of the King* and other amusing performances will be given this evening.

SIGNOR BLIZZ and his son will exhibit some of their most wonderful feats of magic at the Assembly Building this evening.

CITY ITEMS.

YOU CAN BUY BETTER AND CHEAPER CLOTHING OF BENNETT & CO., 121 N. 2ND ST., AT THE NEWLY REBUILT.

No matter what protest may be assigned for sacrificing goods, we will sell lower than the lowest.

NO. 618 MARKET STREET, HALF-WAY BETWEEN FIFTH AND SIXTH.

ONE GOLD AFTER ANOTHER will, with many constitutions, securely establish the seeds of Consumption in the system. Those in need of a remedy will find in JAYNE'S EXPECTORANT one always prompt, thorough, and efficacious. Sold everywhere.

NO PRESENT WOULD BE SO ACCEPTABLE To a wife, daughter, sister, or lady friend, as a GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE.

It will be a cheerful companion in her hours of leisure, and a willing helper in adversity, should it ever come upon her.

THE GREAT PICTORIAL ANNUAL.—Hostetter's United States Almanac for 1870, for distribution, gratis, through out the United States and all civilized countries of the Western Hemisphere, is now ready for distribution, and all who wish to understand the true philosophy of health should read and ponder the valuable suggestions it contains. In addition to an admirable medical treatise on the causes, prevention, and cure of a great variety of diseases, it embraces a large amount of information interesting to the merchant, the mechanic, the miner, the farmer, the planter, and professional man; and the calculations have been made for such meridians and latitudes as are most suitable for a correct and comprehensive NATIONAL CALENDAR.

THE NATURE, uses, and extraordinary sanitary effects of HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS, the staple tonic and alterative of more than half the Christian world, are fully set forth in its pages, which are also interspersed with pictorial illustrations, valuable recipes for the household and farm, humorous anecdotes and other instructive and amusing reading matter, original and selected. Among the Annuals appearing with the opening of the year this is one of the most useful, and may be had for the asking. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Smith, on receipt of a two-cent stamp, will forward a copy by mail to any person who cannot procure one in his neighborhood. The BITTERS are sold in every city, town, and village, and are extensively used throughout the entire civilized world.

FOR A HOLIDAY PRESENT Nothing could be more acceptable to a lady than a GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE. It will lighten the labor and promote the health and happiness of those at home.

GROVER & BAKER'S CELEBRATED SEWING MACHINE ESTABLISHMENT, No. 730 CHESNUT STREET, Below Eighth.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH CASSIMERE PANTS Made to Order, \$12 and \$14.

A similar reduction on all Measured and Ready-made Clothing at

CHARLES STOKES', No. 824 Chesnut street, Under Continental Hotel.

DRY FEET.—The most effectual way of guarding one's health is to keep the feet dry, and that can only be done by the use of India Rubber Overshoes, and as the inclement season is upon us, we would advise our readers to buy none but the best quality, which can only be had at GOODYEAR'S Headquarters, No. 308 Chesnut street, south side, Philadelphia.

HOW TO BE HAPPY.

If your lady friend has not already a GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE, you are a happy man; for you will have it in your power to present her with something that she will afterwards declare she would not do without for ten times its cost.

HARLEIGH HARLEIGH HARLEIGH.—PURE HARD LEHIGH COAL, LORREY, SHAMOKIN, AND WHITE ASH SOFTLY KILL COAL. OFFICE, SIXTH AND SPRING GARDEN STREETS. DEPOT, NINTH STREET (No. 907), BELOW GIRARD AVENUE.

WILLIAM W. ALTER.

AN ACCEPTABLE HOLIDAY PRESENT. No home can be said to be truly happy where the gentle hum of a GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE is not sometimes heard. It robs labor of weariness, changes toil into pleasure, and in the infinite variety of its uses affords constant delight.

JEWELRY.—Mr. William W. Cassidy, No. 12 S. Second street, has the largest and most attractive assortment of fine Jewelry and Silverware in the city. Purchasers can rely upon obtaining a real, pure article, furnished at a price which cannot be equalled. He also has a large stock of American Western Watches in all varieties and at all prices. A visit to his store is sure to result in pleasure and profit.

A BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY PRESENT.

A GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE will prove a source of perpetual pleasure and profit. Simple, durable, and noiseless, it will not be "more trouble than its worth," as some of the complicated machines sold proved to be.

As a HOLIDAY GIFT nothing could be more appropriate than a Singer Family Sewing Machine. To be had upon easy terms at No. 1108 Chesnut street.

FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS, SINGER'S FAMILY SEWING MACHINES, TEN DOLLARS CASH. Balance in monthly instalments. O. F. DAVIS, No. 810 Chesnut street.

RUBBER OVERSHOES and BOOTS for Men, Women, and Children, can be had at retail at the very lowest prices. Goodyear's manufacture, old stand, No. 308 Chesnut street, lower side.

A DESIRABLE HOLIDAY PRESENT.

A GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE will always be a source of delight to a lady. It is so simple that a child can operate it, and it performs the various descriptions of sewing in the most perfect manner, besides doing the most elegant and durable embroidery.

No. 704, 704, 704, is the place to buy Sewing Machines. The Parham is sold on terms to suit all, and every machine warranted. Salesrooms, No. 704 Chesnut street.

GROVER & BAKER'S ELASTIC SEWING MACHINES, also their Superior Sewing Machines, may be obtained during the Holidays on very easy terms. Salesrooms, No. 730 Chesnut street.

EARTH CLOSET COMPANY'S patent dry earth commodes and privy-fixtures, at A. H. Franciscus & Co., No. 613 Market street.

GROVER & BAKER'S Highest Premium Sewing Machines No. 730 Chesnut street.

PLEASE READ

WANAMAKER & BROWN'S

ADVERTISEMENT.

MARRIED.

CROMPTON-SMITH.—On the morning of the 25th instant, at the Twelfth Street M. E. Parsonage, No. 907 N. Eleventh street, by Rev. J. E. Smith, BENJAMIN CROMPTON and Miss MARTHA E. SMITH, all of this city.

MCGINLEY-HESS.—At the residence of the bride's sister, on the morning of the 25th instant, by Rev. J. E. Smith, CORNELIUS MCGINLEY and Miss ANNIE M. HESS, all of this city.

DIED.

DEMING.—On Friday, December 24, of typhoid congestion of the brain, SIDNEY DEMING, aged 38 years. His friends and relatives, Frankford Lodge, No. 224 A. Y. M., Keystone H. R. Chapter, No. 175, and St. John's Community, No. 4, E. T., are invited to attend his funeral, from his late residence, No. 237 2d. V. street, on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

GOODWIN.—On the 24th instant, CHARLES P., son of Charles F. and Mary L. Goodwin, aged 23 months and 10 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, from the residence of his parents, No. 420 Franklin street, on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

LARNED.—On Sunday morning, the 25th instant, WILLIAM LARNED, son of William Henry and Matilda O. Larned, in the 15th year of his age.

Due notice will be given of the funeral.

LEATHERMAN.—On the 24th instant, Mrs. ANN O., wife of John Leatherman.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her grandson, Daniel H. Lutz, No. 426 Reed street, on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

MULLIN.—On December 25, Mrs. SARAH MULLIN, in the 50th year of her age.

DRY GOODS.

TO IMPORTERS,

MANUFACTURERS,

AND ALL

Owners of Dry Goods

WHO NEED MONEY.

Strawbridge & Clothier

Are prepared to buy any description of desirable

DRY GOODS

In large or small lots

FOR CASH DOWN.

Any parties who own

DRY GOODS,

And need money, are invited to call on us.

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER,

NORTHWEST CORNER

EIGHTH and MARKET Sts.,

12 30 mtwtfth PHILADELPHIA.

GREAT CRASH

IN DRY GOODS.

EVERYTHING DOWN—HIGH PRICES OVER FOR THE SEASON.

GRAND CLOSING SALE

OF RICKEY, SHARP & CO.'S

IMMENSE STOCK

OF DRY GOODS

At Retail.

Unprecedented Bargains

IN SILKS,

VELVETS,

DRESS GOODS, and

MISCELLANEOUS

DRY GOODS.

THIS STOCK IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND

VARIED EVER OFFERED AT RETAIL

IN THIS CITY,

AND CONTAINS MORE NOVELTIES AND STAPLES OF RECENT IMPORTATION THAN

CAN BE FOUND ELSEWHERE.

ONE PRICE AND NO DEVIATION.

RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

No. 727 CHESNUT STREET,

1 12 tfr PHILADELPHIA.

McVAUGH & DUNGAN,

No. 114 S. ELEVENTH Street,

Have this week opened a fine assortment of SEASONABLE GOODS for Presents for the approaching Holidays.

LINEN HDKFS.

A full line for Ladies, Gents and Children, from the lowest to the finest grades.

EMBROIDERIES,

In French work and Hamburg, choice styles.

LINEN SETS,

From the plainest style to the finest imported.

TIDIES,

In great variety and entirely new designs.

LACES.

Points, Points d'Appique, Valenciennes, Thread and Guipure, in new patterns.

COLLARS AND CUFFS,

FRENCH BREAKFAST CAPS, And a great variety of (11 29 mtwfr)

FANCY ARTICLES.

ZEPHYRS and GERMANTOWN WOOLS, Stocking Yarns of all kinds; Tidy, Crochet, and Mending Cotton, wholeness and retail, at Factory, No. 108 LOMBARD Street, 12 29

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

WANAMAKER.

A FEW DAYS

REMAIN OF THE GREAT SALE.

We have much still to sell, and

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE

For any house to get the prices down as low as we are now selling,

And the reason for it is quickly understood by those who see what an

Immense Stock we have.

The prices are all put down so that we guarantee them fully **TEN PER CENT. LOWER** than anywhere else, or we will take goods back and return money when shown otherwise. It will be remembered that our style, make, and finish are **FAR BETTER** than ordinary **READY-MADE CLOTHING**.

Our large facilities always enable us to

Sell Cheaper than other Houses,

And now, under these circumstances, it can be readily seen that this is THE opportunity to lay in a full supply.

We have still a very large stock (at least \$250,000 worth of goods), and freshly supplied every day by new lots, as we are making up the piece goods we had on hand. We continue to allow those whom it suits best to make selections and pay in instalments until all is paid up.

Store open from 7 A. M. to 9 P. M.

SATURDAY NIGHTS LATER.

WANAMAKER & BROWN,

The Largest Clothing House,

S. E. Corner of SIXTH and MARKET Streets.

DRY GOODS.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Sheppard, Van Harlingen & Arrison,

No. 1008 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Respectfully announce to their friends and the public generally, that for THIRTY DAYS they will offer their ENTIRE STOCK OF CHOICE AND FINE GOODS at such a reduction as will insure a QUICK SALE.

SPECIAL ATTENTION is invited to the following lines of goods, among which are our NEW IMPORTATIONS, MANY NOVELTIES, and some of the finest qualities made, being expressly imported for the

Holidays.

DOUBLE DAMASK TABLE CLOTHS, IN ALL SIZES.

DOUBLE DAMASK TABLE NAPKINS, IN ALL SIZES.