

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

SOULIE MUSICAL.

Last evening we had the pleasure of enjoying a musical performance which has rarely, if ever, been surpassed in this city. It was given by the pupils and teachers of Mrs. A. E. Simpson's musical school, No. 11 North Twenty-first street.

The audience was comparatively small, but the interest manifested generally exceeded that of any assembly of similar gathering, and during the exercises Colonel John S. Cummings submitted a series of resolutions thanking Mrs. Simpson and her pupils for the agreeable entertainment, and recommending her school to the public, which were unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

The pupils acquitted themselves admirably. They sang and played delightfully and correctly, and, taken altogether, we have never observed so good a time among performers as was displayed last evening. Mrs. H. M. Hastings, the leading soprano in Philadelphia, and a pupil of Mrs. Simpson, executed all her pieces with characteristic proficiency, as did also Miss Eliza W. Poole, while the Misses Beckie and Fina Hood, Jennie Lizzie and Anna Leaning, Beckie Hemphill, Gracie Watt, Jennie Martin, Mary and Annie Amble, Sallie Pencoast, Mary Cummings, and Mary Duff distinguished clearly the system of teaching adopted in this excellent school.

The City Announcements.

AT THE CHESSUT Mrs. Scott-Siddons will have a benefit this evening, when she will appear as "Portia" in The Merchant of Venice, supported by Mr. E. L. Davenport as "Shylock," and as "Belshazzar" in the play of "Belshazzar." This is a fine bill, and we hope Mrs. Siddons will have a crowded house.

A matinee will be given to-morrow, when Romeo and Juliet will be represented.

AT THE WALTERS Mr. Edwin Booth will take a farewell benefit this evening, when he will personate the dolorous hero of Kotzebue's play of The Stranger, and as "Don Cesar de Bazan."

Henriette will be performed at a matinee to-morrow, and to-morrow evening Mr. Booth will conclude his engagement by appearing as "Pescara" in Shields' play of The Apostate, and as "Don Cesar de Bazan."

On Monday there will be a Christmas matinee, when Boccaccio's new romantic drama of The Begonia will be produced in handsome style as a holiday piece.

AT THE ARCH the drama of Across the Continent will be represented this evening for the farewell benefit of Mr. Oliver Douc Byron.

On Monday afternoon and evening Robertson's popular comedy of Our's will be performed.

AT THE NEW AMERICAN THEATRE a performance for families will be given this evening, to be conducted on the same principle as the Saturday matinee. No refreshments will be allowed in the theatre, and the ladies are notified that the entire performance will be arranged to entertain a family audience.

AT MRS. WARNER'S CIRCUS, Tenth and Callowhill streets, a first-rate equestrian performance will be given this evening, for the benefit of the Macc, at the champion athlete.

A matinee to-morrow.

AT THE ARCH STREET OPERA HOUSE the new Christmas pantomime and other attractions will be offered this evening.

AT THE AMERICAN OPERA, Tenth and Arch streets, the special play of Faust Christa will be performed this evening, and also a matinee to-morrow.

Stignon Blitz and his son will exhibit a number of wonderful feats of magic at the Assembly Buildings this evening. A matinee to-morrow.

AT DUPREZ & BENEDETTO'S OPERA HOUSE the temperance drama of Ten Nights in a Barroom and the farce of The Rough Diamond will be performed this evening.

On Monday afternoon and evening FAIR, now open at Horticultural Hall, a vocal and instrumental concert is given every evening.

THE GERMANIA ORCHESTRA will repeat the best-known programme of last week at the matinee to be given to-morrow at Musical Fund Hall.

SAM SHARPLEY'S SILVER SHOW will open on Monday at Concert Hall with a great number of novel attractions.

NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs.

—Yesterday afternoon the committee appointed by the Board of Public Education to confer with the members of the Legislature on the subject of revising the system of public education in Philadelphia held an adjourned meeting Sixth and Arch streets, Mr. E. W. Edwards, Armstrong presiding, Samuel P. Thompson, George McGowan, John Dumbell, George Quigley, and Adam Albright, members of the Legislature, were present. It was stated that a bill would be prepared, and, after being submitted to the board, would be forwarded to the Legislature.

—A meeting of the contributors to the Kensington Soup Society was held last evening at the new soup house, on Crease street, above R. The new house, which has been erected during the summer, is a handsome three-story brick, and with the lot and all the fixtures and machinery complete, cost about \$12,000, of which all has been paid except \$1423.25, while there is \$1890.36 cash available to be applied to its payments.

—The closing exercises of the eighteenth annual commencement of the Institute for the Colored Youth were held last night, in National Hall, on Market street, below Thirteenth.

—Mozart Lodge, No. 486, A. T. M., was the scene of very interesting and inspiring Masonic ceremonies yesterday afternoon, consisting of the installation of the newly elected officers of the Lodge, viz:—W. M., John Ritter; S. W., S. Wagner Young; and J. W., F. F. Mackey.

—The first quarterly meeting of the Philadelphia Presbyterian Alliance was held last evening in the church, Sixth street, above Green. Rev. Dr. Musgrave presided on the occasion, and Rev. Dr. Nevin, D. D., acted as Secretary.

—There is heavy floating ice in the Mississippi river near St. Louis.

—It is thought by the parties who have the matter in charge that neither of the broken Atlantic cables can be repaired until next June.

—The Railroad Managers' Convention, after a short session at Erie, has concluded to establish a new freight tariff, which is to go into effect on Monday next.

—In the United States Senate yesterday noon Hon. D. P. Jewett, of Missouri, was qualified as a member of that body, in the place of Hon. Mr. Drake, who recently resigned.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

LAST NIGHT'S DESPATCHES.

IMPORTANT WAR NEWS—RUSSIAN VICTORY AT VIOUX—THE CONDITION OF PARIS, ETC., ETC.

LONDON, Dec. 21, 10 P. M.—Prince Frederick Charles is marching rapidly westward from Blois. It is rumored that a conference is to be held between Cardinal Schwartzberg and the Austrian and Hungarian plenipotentiaries which is likely to lead to united action against Papal pretensions to infallibility.

LONDON, Dec. 22, 3 A. M.—It is said that the King of Prussia has telegraphed to Prince Henry, lieutenant of the King of Holland, in the name of Luxembourg, that an explanation is expected at Versailles, justifying the action of the Luxembourg government. He hopes that no future complications will arise.

The Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies has adopted an address, proclaiming the attachment of the inhabitants to the ruling dynasty and institutions, and their devotion in defence of the Grand Duke.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—[Special to New York World.]—General Ducrot left Paris by balloon on December 15, to take command of one army corps outside of the city. A large number of cartridges laden with Russian shells, destined for the bombardment of Paris, are daily forwarded from Magdeburg.

Russia continues her war preparations on an immense scale.

BOULOGNE, Dec. 22.

Advice from Havre report that the Prussians

under Masterfield are retreating. At the last accounts they were marching toward Amiens. Several engagements have occurred with their rear guards, and the French were successful.

General Garibaldi, having been offered a sword of honor, refuses to accept it until the end of the war.

The journals of this city state that Prussia is using explosive bullets.

BOULOGNE, Dec. 21.—It is officially announced that a number of Prussian soldiers have been killed, and has already left Boulogne for that purpose.

The prefect of the Rhone announces that four Prussian soldiers, and three national guards of Lyons were shot yesterday by a band of wretches, after a mere vengeance of trial, and adds that the assassin were ironical and cruel.

Several vessels have arrived at French ports with arms. It is reported that the Prussians expected to receive provisions from Lyons, but that the close watch by the French cruisers has prevented the success of the plan.

Numbers of troops, well armed and equipped, have been sent to Lyons for the purpose of attacking the city of Lyons, and the Prussians have requested the suppression of reactionary newspapers, the government has replied that it prefers to treat them with silent contempt.

Prussian officers show the Prussians grossly insulted Bishop Dupanloup, and also treated the inhabitants generally unkindly. It is also stated that the Prussian soldiers are committing some of their short occupations of Blois, but committed no excesses.

LYONS, Dec. 21, evening.—There was a severe engagement near Tours yesterday; 6000 French fought against 10,000 Prussians, with 21 cannon, for seven hours. The French finally retreated.

At the same time a Prussian corps, under the command of the Mayor went to the headquarters of the Prussian general and surrendered to them, and followed on to the headquarters of the Prussian general and surrendered to them.

Mr. Hahn, from the Committee on Police, offered a resolution authorizing certain transfers of appropriation for the paving of Main and Ferns streets, in the Twenty-third ward, with rubble pavement. Agreed to.

Also, a resolution authorizing the opening of Cambria street. Agreed to.

Also, a resolution authorizing the paving of Lehigh avenue from Frankford avenue to Broad street.

Also, ordinance to pave Berks street from Seventh to Tenth street. Agreed to.

Also, an ordinance authorizing the duties of the highway supervisors. Passed.

Mr. Hahn, from the Committee on Police, offered a resolution authorizing certain transfers of appropriation for the paving of Main and Ferns streets, in the Twenty-third ward, with rubble pavement. Agreed to.

Mr. Willis, from the Survey Committee, reported an ordinance authorizing the construction of a sewer on Front street, north of Columbia avenue. Passed.

Also, a resolution to discharge the committee from the consideration of a petition to reduce the width of Sycamore street.

Mr. Hanna offered the following supplement to the ordinance creating a paid Fire Department:

That the members of the fire department shall be elected in the following manner: Each member of the Select Council shall vote for two persons, and the three persons who shall receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected; each member of the Common Council shall vote for three persons, and the four persons who shall receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected; each member of the Board of Fire Commissioners shall vote for four persons, and the five persons who shall receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Mr. Hamilton moved to lay the bill on the table. Lost.

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The chamber refused to suspend the rules in order to read the bill a third time and pass it, by a vote of yeas 21, nays 16—less than two-thirds required by law. So the bill went over to next Tuesday.

Several Select Council bills were then considered.

The ordinances making appropriations to pay damages for the opening of Sloan street and to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund were passed, and no quorum being present the Chamber stood adjourned.

THE COUNCILS.

Both branches of the legislative department held their regular sessions yesterday afternoon.

Selection Branch.—President Cattell in the chair. Mr. Shoemaker, from the Law Committee, reported a resolution relative to fixing the tax rate for 1871.

Mr. Hodgdon, chairman of the Committee on Water, reported an ordinance to lay water pipe on Jefferson and other streets. Passed.

Also, a resolution requesting the City Solicitor to make monthly returns of the amounts collected for iron pipes laid in the various streets of the city. Adopted.

Also, a favorable report on the ordinance increasing the salaries of the officers in the Water Department.

On motion of Mr. Barlow, the ordinance for increasing the salaries of the Chief of Police, the Chief of the Register of the Water Department, and the Chief Clerk of the Treasury Department, was taken up.

Mr. Burnell offered an amendment, "and the salary of the Register of the Water Department, \$1500." Not agreed to.

The ordinance then passed.

Mr. King submitted an ordinance appropriating \$2000 for the erection of a third story to the west wing of the State House for court purposes. Referred.

Also, a bill from the Common Council, to organize and manage a House of Correction, was taken up.

Several amendments of minor importance were made.

Bill from Common Council were considered. One to make an appropriation of \$2,000 to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park, concurred in.

Appropriating \$200 to the Department of City Ice Boat for expenses of 1871. Concurred in.

Notifying the Connecting Railroad Companies of the option of the Board of Public Works for their being required to erect a bridge. Concurred in.

Authorizing a temporary loan of \$600,000 to meet the current demands on the City Treasurer. Concurred in.

Appropriating \$4500 to pay counsel fees in suits for the collection of taxes. Concurred in.

Also, an ordinance for the purpose of extending and Protection of the City. Referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. McCall, McIlvaine and Shoemaker.

Also, an ordinance authorizing the inspectors of the county prison for 1871. Concurred in.

Appropriating \$239,340 to the Board of Health for 1871. Concurred in.

Approving the sureties of Robert H. Beatty, Receiver of Taxes. Concurred in.

Appropriating \$13,000 to the Receiver of Taxes for 1871. Concurred in.

Appropriating \$35,350 to the Department of Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph for 1871. Concurred in.

Appropriating \$294,801 to the Department of City Commissioners for 1871.

This ordinance was amended so as to appropriate the money for the Home for the Aged and Widows' Asylum \$500 each. It was then passed.

The special order at five o'clock was the consideration of the report of the Board of Public Works for the \$100,000 for the erection of the public buildings.

Mr. Shoemaker, from the Committee on Law, presented a lengthy document, arguing that there are grave doubts as to the legality of levying such a tax. Many parts of the act authorizing the tax were held to be unconstitutional. The question was referred to the Supreme Court. The Committee suggested that a new bill be framed providing for the erection of a fund for the proposed buildings.

expenses of extinguishing fires in this city, left on the table at the last meeting, was taken up and passed.

Mr. Bardeley, from the Finance Committee, reported an ordinance making an appropriation of \$61,832.50, to pay for the lighting of the city during 1871.

Also, an ordinance making an appropriation of \$4500 to pay certain counsel fees was agreed to.

Also, an ordinance appropriating \$250,000 for the Department of Highways for 1871. Postponed.

Also, resolutions approving the sureties of James Bain, City Commissioner elect; Robert H. Beatty, Receiver of Taxes; and John Dumbell, City Assessor. All concurred in.

Also, an ordinance making an appropriation of \$714.13, to pay for record books, stationery, &c., in the county offices. Agreed to.

Also, an ordinance making an appropriation of \$1000 to pay public committing magistrates for 1870. Agreed to.

Also, an ordinance making an appropriation of \$2500 to pay certain counsel fees was agreed to.

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warning and have the child watched in the future. I would not have harmed it for the world; and yet locomotive engines are, as a general thing, blamed for killing every third child under ten years of age, or carelessly, when such is not the case.

I have said what I have written not through any animosity toward the engineer, or toward the railway, but because I believe that the child who is killed over the little though serious accident we now have to deplore, is not better cared for than we should be.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

Wm. EMERSON, JR.  
—Winning Commercial, 27th inst.

TERREBLE ACCIDENT.

Having Underneath a Train of Cars in Full Motion.

Captain McArthur, of Kingston, Canada, had a fearful adventure on the Grand Trunk last week.

He was in the car when the train started, and he got up near his seat and walked out to the platform when the train was near Lancaster, to find out how near he was to the station. He overbalanced himself and fell, but managed to save his life by catching himself in the coupling, and there he hung by his arms in a position which would have proved fatal.

Through his great strength, being of strong muscular power, he held himself up while the train travelled four miles, undergoing the greatest misadventure well known in our country.

One discovered his danger, as it was night and very dark. When his strength was exhausted, and he was unable to hold himself up, he jumped into the car.

Also, a resolution authorizing the duties of the highway supervisors. Passed.

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MARINE TELEGRAPH.

For additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES..... 7:22 MOON SETS..... 6:3  
SUN SETS..... 4:57 HIGH WATER..... 2:31

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

GEORGE L. BULLY,  
President, and J. J. VICKERS,  
J. PRICE WITHERILL,

COMMISSIONERS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS, FOR AMERICA.

Merrimack..... Rio Janeiro, New York..... Dec. 25  
C. of Paris..... Liverpool, New York..... Dec. 21  
C. of London..... Liverpool, New York..... Dec. 24  
C. of England..... New York, New York..... Dec. 21  
C. of Cork..... New York, Liverpool, V. H. Dec. 27  
Baltimore..... Hamburg, New York..... Dec. 7  
The Queen..... Liverpool, New York..... Dec. 19  
C. of Montreal..... New York, New York..... Dec. 10  
C. of Montreal..... New York, New York..... Dec. 19  
Lafayette..... Havre, New York..... Dec. 10

La Fayette..... New York, Havre..... Dec. 21  
Europa..... New York, Glasgow..... Dec. 21  
C. of London..... New York, Liverpool..... Dec. 24  
C. of England..... New York, Liverpool..... Dec. 21  
C. of Cork..... New York, Liverpool, V. H. Dec. 27  
Nevada..... New York, Liverpool..... Dec. 28  
Typhoon..... New York, Glasgow..... Dec. 21  
Caledonia..... New York, Glasgow..... Dec. 21  
C. of Brooklyn..... New York, Liverpool..... Dec. 31  
Colorado..... New York, Liverpool..... Jan. 4  
C. of Brooklyn..... New York, Liverpool..... Jan. 4

COASTWISE, DOMESTIC, ETC.

Cortes..... New York, New Orleans..... Dec. 24  
C. of Philadelphia..... New York, Savannah..... Dec. 23  
Hibernia..... Philadelphia, Savannah..... Dec. 23  
Rattlesnake..... Philadelphia, Wilmington, N.C. Dec. 23  
Cuba..... Philadelphia, Wilmington, N.C. Dec. 23  
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Mails are forwarded by every steamer in the regular lines. The steamer for or from Liverpool call at Southampton, London, and the Continent call at Southampton.

CLEARED YESTERDAY.