MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

"A New Way to Pay Old Debta" at the Massinger's play of A New Way to Pay Old Debts, which keeps the stage almost solely for the sake of the strongly-drawn character of "Sir Gi'es Overreach," was admirably performed at the Chesnut last evening. It is a sufficient compliment to the company of the theatre to say that the play itself was made exceedingly interesting apart from the powerful personation "Sir Giles Overreach" by Mr. Davenport, and how much a really able actor gains by a thoroughly efficient support was apparent in the profound impression which Mr. Davenport's performance made upon the audience. "Sir Giles Overreach," like "Iago" and "Richard III," is a perfect villain, and so totally deficient is the character in any kindly traits that we can readily believe the story that the dramatist took this method of revenging himself upon one who had injured him. "Sir Glies Overreach" is a hard, grasping usurer, whose ambition is not only to accumulate riches for himself, but to do it by the ruin of his neighbors. He takes a fiendish pleasure In torturing his victims while he is destroying them, and yet he is willing to bestow all

his ill-gotten wealth upon the man who will make his daughter a "right honorable." This is an admirable touch of nature, for "Sir Giles" has no love for his daughter, and if human nature were consistent -which it seldom is-it would seem that the usurer would wish to purchase honors for himself, whereas he is content to femain in his own station and to shine by the reflected light of the noble husband whom he proposes for his daughter. As represented by Mr. Davenportt, "Sir Giles Overreach" is a monomaniac, and when all his deep-laid plans suddenly come to nothing, there is at once a total mental and physical collapse, and he becomes in a moment a furious madman. Mr.

Davenport's acting in the concluding scene of the play last night was as pitiful as it was terrible, and the enthusiastic applause of the audience when the curtain fell was but a poor tribute to what all who saw it were forced to acknowledge was a great work of dramatic art. Mr. Davenport has done nothing better than this during his present season at the Chesnut, and his "Sir Giles Overreach" must take its place beside his "Hamlet" at the head of his extended repertoire as a performance that no actor upon the American stage can equal.

"Wellborn" is a sort of "walking-gentleman" part, and not particularly interesting in itself. Mr. Thorne last evening, however, made it a prominent feature of the performance by the exceedingly artistic manner in which he played it. Mr. Thorne has made a very marked advance in the finer elements of his art since he has been at the Chesnut, and he is fast becoming not merely a forcible but an exceedingly elegant and expressive actor. Mrs. Davenport as "Lady Allworth," Mr. Phillips as "Justice Greedy," Mr. Lennox as "Marrall," and Miss Lily Davenport as "Margaret Overreach," were all excellent, and the play was altogether given in very superior style.

The City Amusements.

AT THE ARCH there will be a matinee to-day. This evening Mr. Stuart Robson will appear in Craig's burlesque of Hamlet, in the farce of Jones' Baby, and in the burlesque of Black-AT THE WALNUT a matinee will be given to-

day. This evening Mr. Edwin Adams will appear in the beautiful drama of Narcisse, the Vagrant. The performance will conclude with the drama of Jessie Brown AT THE CHESNUT the drama of Blanche of Brandymine, the farce of The Dead Shot, and the nautical drama of Black-Eyed Susan will be

given this evening.

Te-morrow Mr. Charles R Thorne, Jr., will have a benefit, when the drama of The Marble Herat and The Day After the Wedding will be represented. Mr. Thorne, during the short time he has been playing in this city, has thoroughly established himself in popular favor, and it will doubless be a pleasure to many ladies and gentlemen to crowd the theatre to-morrow evening on the occasion of his first benefit. Mr. Thorne is an actor of much ability, and he fully deserves the compliment of as large an audience as the theatre will hold.

AT THE MUSEUM, Ninth and Arch streets, dramatic performances will be given this afternoon and evening. AT THE AMERICAN, an entertaining variety performance is announced for this evening.

AT THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING the two-headed

girl may be seen from 2 to 5 and from 7 to 10 AMERICUS, the child violinist who created such a sensation a short time ago at the Academy of Music, will appear in a series of concerts at Concert Hall, commencing Monday

evening next. ROTHERMEL'S PICTURE of "The Battle of Gettysburg" is on exhibition at No. 1003 Chesnut street.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

From the N. Y. Independent. To the Commercial Editor of the Independent:— Having a few thousand dollars that I shall not need Itaving a few thousand dollars that I shall not need in my business, and being naturally desirous of obtaining an investment which will produce the greatest income consistent with entire safety, I am led to ask you the following questions, which I shall be glad to have you answer, either privately or through the columns of the Independent:

1. Do you think that, as a rule, first mortgage railroad bonds are a desirable investment? In what do they differ from a first mortgag to nordinary real.

do they differ from a first mortgag : on ordinary real

2. I notice you recommend Northern Pacific seven-thirties to investors. Why do you regard them as unusually secure?

3. Is the Government pledged to the payment of these Northern Pacific bonds?

4. I notice they are selling at par. Isn't this too high! Cannot good railroad securities be bought

chesper?
5. I hold a few five-twenties; do you believe the Government will soon call for their surrender?
6. What assurance have investors that Northern Pacific seven-thirties will not hereafter depreciate below the price at which they are now sold, compelling those who wish to realize on them to do so at a loss?

To the above the Independent answers: -I. Thus far, the first mortgage bonds of American railways have proved to be among the very safest securities. In proportion to amount, they have probably shown a smaller percentage of loss of interest and principal than any other investment that has been accessible to the people. Such has been the history of railway securities. Of course there have been exceptionally and loss, but tional cases of mismanagement and loss; but far oftener have imperfect titles, lapsed insurance policies, and shrinkages of value rendered real estate mortgages a bad investment.

There is a living principle underlying a railway bond, which applies to very few if any other

securities. This:

1. Usually the solveney of a railroad depends mainly upon its traffic; and, as a rule, that traffic steadily increases as the road grows older and the population along its route becomes richer and denser. In a word, the income of a raliroad (and hence its debt-paying ability) will ordinarily keep pace with the growth of popu-

2. A railroad, once built, rapidly creates a business which is to render it profitable. It develops a carrying trade which did not before exist, and which grows much faster than the tibutary population increases in numbers.

3. A railroad usually has back of it a strong corporation of capitalists and shrewd, energetic business men, whose profits, financial standing, commercial reputation, and efficial positions depend upon the solvency and success of the road with which they are identified. This powerful

combination of private interests constitutes a living power whose efforts tend constantly to increase the profitableness and soundness of the enterprise in whose interest they are enlisted.

4. Finally, after a railroad is built, every dol lar expended in making improvements and ex-tensions, adding new facilities for doing business, and in securing valuable alliances with connecting lines, adds to the security of its first mortgage bonds, by augmenting the productive-ness and value of the property on which those bonds are based. It is in this way that a second mortgage may increase the safety of the first. With mortgages which rest upon improved real estate in our midst the security steadily deteriorates with time, as the improvements become less valuable. Railroads grow better and more prosperous with age, and furnish a constantly increasing security for the debt created in their construction. It is for these reasons that first mortgage bonds are among the very soundest securities that can be had.

II. The Northern Pacific Railroad has a three-

fold solidity, which renders it financially impregnable. 1. It has for its broad and firm foundation a real estate endowment of more than Twenty-two Thousand Acres of fertile Land to each mile of track-or an unencumbered farm 500 acres (in addition to the ordinary and ample security of the road and its traffic) to secure each \$1000 bond bought by the public. 2. It has awaiting it a business which we believe certain to render it self-sustaining from the first, and to give it a large surplus at an early day. 3. It is in the hands of men of known and acknowledged integrity, whose financial standing, whose business sagacity and thorough experience, furnish a complete guarantee that economy, energy, and fidelity will characterize its management.

III. Government does not in form guarantee the payment of Northern Pacific seven-thirties; but it indirectly insures their payment by donating unreservedly to the company sufficient productive lands to pay them twice over. The belt of country in which this superb domain is situated admirably combines the three elements essential to successful farming, viz , a naturally rich soil, a mild climate (the latitude being about two degrees below Paris, and six below

London), and sufficient rainfall. IV. When there is no difference in point of safety, the comparative market value of various securities is mainly determined by their profita-bleness. In this view Northern Pacific gold seven-thirties, selling at par in currency, are by far the cheapest investment of which we have knowledge. Regarded as a source of income, they are cheaper at par than a six per cent. gold bond at 83, and cheaper than a six per cent. currency bond at 74%. In other words, one bundred dollars invested in Northern Pacifics at par will produce a larger income than the same amount invested in a six per cent. gold security at 82.

V. We regard it as highly probable that a large proportion of the present holders of Gov-ernment bonds will be compelled to give them up within a comparatively short time, and accept therefor cash payment or a new five per cent bond. Everything now indicates that the Gov-ernment will scon be able to fund the bulk of its five twenties at a lower rate of interest. Hence, we have uniformly advised our subscribers to convert their Government bonds into some firstclass railroad security, having equal safety and greater permanence and productiveness.

Of course, all securities, even those of the United States, are liable to occasional slight fluctuations in current price—the result of out-side circumstances, and not of any change in real value. But the same causes which now render Northern Pacific seven-thirties an exceptionally strong and desirable security will natu rally sustain them in the market so that those who wish to convert their bonds into cash can do so at any time without loss. Indeed, with their superabundant security, their high rate of interest, and the provision that they will always be received at ten per cent. premium in payment for the company's lands, 7 3-10 per cent. Northern Pacific Bonds are far more likely to go above par in price than to fall below.

CITY ITEMS.

HEALTH AND LONG LIFE .- Among the many preparations that have been recommended for this purpose, none, it is believed, has proved as efficacious as Plantation Bitters. This wonderful vegetable tonic appears to contain all the elements necessary to keep up the staminal strength of the system, and to protect it from the damaging effects of vicissitudes of temperature and other unhealthy influences to which we are all more or less exposed. The extraordinary invigorating and regulating properties of the preparation adapt it especially to the condition of the old and feeble, whose lamp of life is burning low, and requires a nutritious stimu'ant to sustain it.

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BATCHELOR.—On Sunday, 19th instant, after a lingering lilness, William Batchelor, in the 32d year of his age. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the resi-dence of his mother, No. 387 North Third street, on Thursday, 23d instant, at 2 o'clock. To proceed to Mechanics' Cemetery.

GARRED.—On the morning of the 21st instant, JOSHUA GARRED, in the 68th year of his age. The relatives and friends are respectfully invited of attend his funeral, from his late residence, Levering, ton avenue, Roxborough, on Friday, 24th instant, at 2% o'clock. Interment at St. Timothy's Church, Roxborough.

RITTENHOUSE .- On the 19th instant, ELLIE, youngest daughter of William and Catharine Rittenhouse, in the 6th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from her father's residence, No. 2215 Germantewn avenue, above Susquehanna avenue. Funeral on Thursday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, without further notice. To proceed to the Glenwood Cemetery.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see Incide Pages, H. M. DALY'S WHISKY WAREROOMS,

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sess valuable medical properties. For palmonary diseases it is doubtful whether any remedy has as yet been discovered equal to it. It seems to change and renew the very structure on which it acts, and to infuse into the system an indescribable power equal to the natural power before disease had even taken hold of the body, so as to make, as it were, an entirely new tissue, and to give a newness of life and energy which one who has been sick a long time knows the value of ut cannot fully describe. The great objection, however, to all tar preparations has been their unpleasant taste, and consequent liability to sickness and nauseate the stomach. We have before us, however, a preparation of the kind referred to, which obviates all these objections, and is as agreeable to the palate as it is valuable in the cure of disease. We mean "Dr. Wishart's Pine Tree Tar Cordial," a real, genuine, bona fide medicinal cordial, distilled from the pine tree by a process known only to the Doctor himself, the sale and popularity of which are only equalled by the amount of suffering it has relieved, and the number of diseases it is so well calculated to effectually cure. In the Pine Tree Tar Cordial the invalid may be sure he has a remedy of very extraordinary power for throat and lung affections, and when taken in conjunction with the "Great American Dyspepsia Pills," an infallible cure for dyspepsia, liver complaint, sick headache, and the many ailments arising from a disordered state of the liver and digestive organs.

In our sphere as publishers we feel some degree of cautiousness in what we recommend to our readers, but when we know of anything of value to the public we shall not hesitate to make it known through our columns. We advise those of our readers who are suffering from dyspepsia, etc., to give Dr. Wishart's

celebrated remedies a trial. A medical expert, holding honorable coile giate diplomas, devotes his entire time to the examination of patients at the office parlors. Associated with him are three consulting physicians of acknowledged eminence, whose services are given to the public free of charge.

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