DRAMATIC SKETCHES .- NO. 4.

The Stage Manager.

"If he come not our play is marred," - Shak, Whenever the public eye has been able to penetrate the gloom of the theatre it has alighted on the stage manager, he being the most important man behind the scenes. As a consequence, it is not so easy to say that about him which shall be entertainng, and at the same time entirely new. It is for this reason that we have heretofore spoken of individuals who might, although beneath the stage manager in importance, outrank him in a scheme like the present. Still, his claims are not to be overlooked. They may be, as "Hamlet" said, "common," but they are also, as the "Queen" remarked to her son on the same occasion, unavoid-

The stage manager is, in effect, a condensation of the whole show. He is naturally the strongest, most practical man in his company, the man readlest in device and expedient. He combines for should combine) latelligence with talent as a disciplinarian. Such parts will lift a man into the stage manager's piace as certainly as similar qualities ensure military promotion :- more surely in fact, inasmuch as these qualities are excessively rare in the theatre. For we are met here by this strange contradiction: that the career offered by the stage is not always such as to attract the kind of talent which is necessary to it. The qualities which make a man a successful stage manager would make him a good army officer, engineer, surveyor, or manager of manufacturing interests. With such chances as these he very seldom woos the muse, and the stage must in most cases, therefore, put up with an inferior administration. But where the right man has been selected, where the stage manager is all he should be, we are within the truth when we say he is an epitome of the entire entertainment. In his brain the whole performance takes shape before the first sign of it is seen upon the boards. He mentally devises the scenes and effects. The costumes, properties, furniture, and appointments of the piece he also determines, with an infinitude of smaller details. Calling then around him his lieutenants-the prempter, the scene-painter, costumer, property-man, etc .- he gives his orders. That is the beginning; but if he is the man we are imagining, he does not rest there. He follows up the matter ruthlessly, calling each official promptly and frequently to account, and having every point of the proposed entertainment, however slight, completely covered. In studying a new piece the actors know only their own parts; the artist knows nothing of any of them; "Props" knows nothing of the scenery; and the wardrobe man (or woman, to speak more nearly by the card) knows nothing of the properties; but the stage manager knows all. He has pored over it whilst his company slept or idled, and he has it thoroughly digested. After the work is cut out, the parties above-named take their simplified share, and with it a great deal of credit that does not belong to them. The phrase, "acting and stage manager" is a fa-

miliar one to persons used-and who has not been used at some period or other of his life?-to the perusal of play-bills. It is often strangely misinterpreted. We can well enough remember when we thought it meant (and our guilelessness has doubtless been shared by many persons) that the fortunate official was not only manager of the stage, but that he had also the inestimable privilege of acting if he so chose. This theory supposed that the altogether too favored individual, being intrenched in such a stronghold, could of course have his pick of the best parts, and the whole arrangement offered a lively picture to the imagination of the partial manner in which the good things of this world are distributed. When it became known that the term only meant that the stage manager had delegated powers to act in place of the proprietor, the result was a rude shattering of a highly-elevated idol. Whatever this phrase may have meant once, it is now little more than a misnomer. Proprietors. as a rule, manage the business affairs of their theatres themselves, and stage managers have nothing to do but to attend to the concerns of the stage. There are still some exceptions to this new ruling, although they are few. The case of the Boston Museum will be recalled by those familiar with theatrical affairs. For many years the name of Mr. R. M. Field, acting and stage manager of this establishment, has been the only one announced on the Museum bills in any managerial capacity whatever. He has had entire control of the business both before and behind the curtain, and there has been but one difference between his position and that of the proprietor, viz., the insignificant consideration of financial return. But, as stated, the case of the Museum is an exception. The phrase is still current, but it generally means nothing. Stage managers are well content that it is so, for the managing of a theatre's money matters is a barren honor.

The duties of the stage manager are numerous and exacting. Not only has he to cast the pieces and keep a strict eye upon rehearsals and performance, but he should be master of every detail either of a personal or impersonal nature. He should know the exact resources of his stage, what stock of all kinds there is on hand, how best to economize old matter, and how to get new the cheapest. He should be a diplomatist in dealing with stars, and as much of a good fellow, as he can without Bacrificing dignity, with his company. The jealousies of the fraternity are proverbial, and it is in the power of a stage manager of even temper and pleasant manners to make the sailing tolerable if not plain. But he must be firm, too. He should adopt 'Richelien's" motto: 'First, all means to conciliate; failing these, all means to crust." The difficulties that a weak, vachilating man would find himself in, in temporizing with first one clique and then another of fretful, dissatisfied actors, would be incredible. In about a week he would be a candidate for the nearest convenient asylum for the insane.

And these multitudinous duties (and we merely hint at them) make but the least part of his work. Everything depends on them, but one large idea covers all. The stage manager is an administrator. The details mentioned serve the entertainment, but what entertainment to give? That is the grave question upon which all successful management depends, and it is the stage manager who must answer it. He must be qualified by tact, experience, and by intuition no less, to give that answer. The right pieces, to the right audiences, at the right time! It is a problem, and the man who solves it must have peculiar gifts.

One of his most important and trying duties is the selection of material for his company. It is scarcely to be believed, but in this choice-where ment should be, if anywhere in the world, the only testpreferment is not seldom a matter of favoritism or personal induence. Numerous people grow gradually to have claims upon the theatre, and if they choose to press them in this shape and are particularly importunate about it, they carry their ends, and foist appointments upon it which, so far from "filling the soul of that waste place with joy," are calculated to have a directly contrary effect. What makes the especial hardness of this matter, as relates to the stage manager, is that these appointments are mostly made over his head, and that he is at the same time held to account for them. He not infrequently is overloaded by such a quantity of dead wood dumped on his stage by the proprietor, or his intimate friends, or by the man whose little bill it isn't convenient to pay, that it is quite impossible for him to do anything for his own credit or for the entertainment of

the community. For engagements that he himself makes, however. he is fairly responsible. We do not now so much refer to leading theatres. Philadelphia or New York stage managers need have no uncertainty ever about their companies. They can have their pick of the best talent, and for them there is no excuse. But they are only specks in the theatrical world. Not to speak of the cities, every town of importance in the land has a theatre, and the equipping of all these establishments with satisfactory material is most difficult. It is, in fact, impossible, and somebody must suffer. In very many cases, when a company has to be organized to meet a sudden emergency. or when breaks have been made by old members leaving, there is no time to choose, even if there was much variety to choose from. Then, for companies

ever so liberal a margin of time, for the best people will not leave the main centres. Further, except in the cases of players of reputation and such are seldom seeking engagements-the stage manager must gauge a man pretty much by his externals. From all these causes it follows that he is often and bitterly deceived. He must, in his lonely lodgings, after the opening night of a season with a Celebrated Challenge Champion Company, often "turn his face unto the wall," commiserating the day in which he was brought into the world, and vowing to have done with play-acting from that time nenceforth. But habit is strong.

The talk of the profession being overstocked is mere fudge. It is overstocked with ignorance and incapacity, fearfully so; but there is a great and increasing want of good actors, and the ineffectual search for them is at present the great bane of the stage-manager's life.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

The City Amusements.

AT THE WALNUT the drama of The Streets of Philadelphia will be performed for the last times this evening, to-morrow afternoon, and to-morrow evening. On Monday Mr. and Mrs. Watkins will com-

mence an engagement. AT THE ARCH Miss Kate Reignolds will have benefit this evening, when she will personate Jenny Milson," "Lady Eversleigh," and 'Jenny Milson," "Lady Eversleign, and 'Mad'lle Brewer," in the drama of Nobody's

Daughter. AT THE CHESNUT the lively new comedy of Saratoga will be repeated this evening.

A matinee to-morrow. AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC the spectacle of The Black Crook will be performed this evening. The last matinee will be given to-morrow, and to-morrow evening Mr. J. E. McDonough, under whose effective management the spectacle has been presented, will have a benefit.

AT THE MUSEUM, Ninth and Arch streets, the drama of Rip Van Winkle will be performed this evening for the benefit of Mr. Robert Mc-Wade who will assume the title role. A matinee performance will be given to-

AT THE AMERICAN a family performance will be given this evening. The Japanese will appear in addition to other attractions.

A family matinee to-morrow. THE ITALIAN OPERA .- Owing to circumstances which the management was unable to control, the performances of Italian opera announced for next week will not be given, and those who have purchased tickets can obtain their money on application at the music store of F. A. North & Co., No. 1026 Chesnut street.

CITY ITEMS.

MR. THEO. H. BECHER, formerly with John A. Murphey, and lately with E. J. Williams, has within a few days past opened a fine store at No. 1819 Chesnut street, where every variety and kind of housefurnishing goeds can be obtained at the lowest prices and the highest style of excellence in workmanship, durability, and the like. Mr. Becher is now prepared to furnish at the shortest notice such articles as japanned waiters, all sizes, ornamented and plain; ice-cream freezers, of all capacities from a quart to several gallons; table cutlery of steel, plain or silver plated; tin-ware for household use, from the most simple kitchen utensils to the most elaborate; refrigerators for kitchen, cellar, or dining-room; water-coolers for families, hotels, and the like: fron, japanned, and willow ware: birdcages of painted or plain wire; watering-pots for family gardening; brooms, brushes, and buckets for honsehold work: mats for door-steps or entries: step-ladders, having from three to twelve steps; wash-boilers suitable for the largest or smallest of families; cake-boxes, for preserving the freshness and moisture of cakes; tollet sets for bureaus; plated forks and spoons, and many other goods embraced in the line of business. A call in person will convince the most skeptical of the desirableness of making purchases at this establishment. The prices fact can be proven conclusively by a personal examination. The excellence and elegance of the goods are unsurpassed, and the variety and number are un-

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MR. WILLIAM W. CASSIDY, the jeweller at No. 8 South Second street, has one of the largest and most attractive stocks of all kinds of Jewelry and Silverware in the city. He has also on hand a fine assortment of fine American Western Watches. Those who purchase at this store at the present time are certain to get the worth of their money.

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MARRIED.

VOORBEES-McGOWEN. On Wednesday, May 17, in Trinity Church, Southwark, by the Rev. J. Y. Burk, Mr. CHABLES E. VOORBEES to Miss SALLIE E. McClowen, all of this city. WINNER-ATTICK. On the 3d instant, by the Rev. George Bringhurst, BENJAMIN WINNER, to MARY L. ATTICK, both of Philadelphia.

DIED. BOWEN.—On the morning of the 17th of May, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of F. H. and Susan W. Bowen, aged 2 years.

Bowen, aged 2 years,

CUNNINGHAM.—On the 15th instant, Captain John
R. CUNNINGHAM, aged 45 years

The relatives and friends of the family, Ionic
Lodge, No. 94, A. Y. M., Senatus Lodge, No. 76, L.
O. of O. F., Post No. 6, G. A. R., and the orders in
general, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, from his late residence, Walnut street, above
seventh, Camden, N. J., on Sunday, 21st instant, at
2 o'clock. Interment at Newtown Cemetery.

Levil Co. 15th 15th instant, Kylenty N. daugh-

IRWIN.—On the 15th instant, EVERALYN, daughter of Commander John and Oceana B. Irwin, aged 10 years and 9 months. Evans.—On the afternoon of the 17th instant, E112A ALLEN, wife of Samuel R. Evans.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her husband, No. 1017 Green street, on Saturday afternoon, the 20th inst., at 3 o'clock. Saturday afternoon, the 20th inst., at 3 o'clock. SCHAFER .- On the 17th instant, IGNATZ SCHAFER,

in the 76th year of his age.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 966 Alder street, on Sunday afternoon, at 1

TYBOUT .- On the 19th instant, GEORGE MAXWELL Typour, of Newcastle county, Delaware. Notice of funeral to-morrow.

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TRUSTEES. Hon. Alex. G. Cattell, Alexander Whilldin, George Nugent, Hon. James Pollock, J. Edgar Thomson, Albert C. Roberts, Philip B. Mingle, Isaac Hazlehurst, James L. Claghorn, Henry K. Bennett, L. M. Whilldin, George W. Hill,

John Wanamaker. GEORGE W. HILL. VICE-PRESIDENT, GEORGE NUGENT. JOHN G. SIMS.

JOHN S. WILSON.

SPECIAL NOTICES. For additional Special Notices see Inside Pages,

SECRETARY AND TREASURER,

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY.—THE AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION will celebrate its Forty-Seventh Anniversary at the ACADEMY OF MUSIC, on the evening of TUBSDAY, May 30.

Addresses will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Armitage, of New York, Rev. Dr. Harper, tormerly of Indianapolis, and Rev. Dr. Newton, of this city.

Singing by a choir of four hundred young ladies, under the direction of Professor John Bower.

Tickets, with secured seats. Twenty-five Cents FORTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY .- THE Tickets, with secured seats, Twenty-five Cents each, may be procured at the Society's house, No. 1122 CHESNUT Street. 5 18 11t

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.—CORN EX-CHANGE NATIONAL BANK,
PHILADELPHIA, May 18, 1871.

As our bank building is about to be remodelled,
so as to provide greater facilities and security in the
transaction of business, we have taken the banking
room in the Chamber of Commerce Building,
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5 18 6t H. P. SCHETKY, Cashier.

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FINANCIAL.

7-30 GOLD LOAN

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Rapid Progress of the Work The building of the Northern Pacific Railroad (begun July last) is being pushed forward with great energy from both extremities of the line. Several

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track, or 500 Acres for each \$1000 Bond. They are exempt from United States Tax; Principal and Inexempt from United States Tax; Principal and Interest are payable in Gold; Denominations:—Coupons, \$100 to \$10:00; Registered, \$100 to \$10,000.

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cities of Europe.

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN. THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR

Notice is kereby given to all persons in-terested that the Honorable the Judges of our said Court have appointed MONDAY, the fifth (5th) day of June, A. O. 1871, at 10 o'clock A. M., for hearing applications for the fol-lewing CHARTERS OF INCORPORATION, and unless exceptions be filed thereto the same will be

allowed, viz.:—

1. The Fairmount Microscopical Society.

2. Penn Treaty Building and Loan Association.

mendments.
3. Nineteenth Ward Building Association.

tion. Amendments.

3. Nineteenth Ward Building Association.
4. Oakdale Building and Loan Association.
5. The Undine Barge Club of Philadelphia.
6 Paragon Building and Loan Association.
7. The Southwark Building Association I≢o. 2.
8. Our Building Association.
9. The Rector Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of the Church of the Good Shepherd, of the city of Philadelphia. Philadelphia.
10. The American Artisans' Museum College, cf the city of Philadelphia, 11. Chelten Hills Mutual Improvement Associa-

ments

13. The Sarsfield Male Beneficial Society of Phila-13. The Sarsheid Male Benedicial Society of Phila-delphia.

14. The Powelton Building Association.

15 The Independent German Evangelical Lu-theran Congregation of St. Paul's.

16. The Mount Saint Virgent Murial Beneficial Society of Germantown, Philadelphia county.

17. The South Broad Street Building and Loan Association of Philadelphia.

18. Purity Lodge, No. 1, Brothers, and Sisters of

12. The Union Benevolent Association. Amend-

Honor and Friendship.

19. The Commonwealth Building and Loan Asseciation of the City of Philadelphia. 20. Teutonia Building Association. 21. The Goethe Loan and Building Association. 22. Olney Building and Loan Association.
23. The Bethany Baptist Church of Fox Chase, in
the Twenty-third ward of the city of Philadelphia. 94. The Samuel Miller Savings and Building Asso-

25, The Seamen's Beneficial Society of Philadelphia.

26. The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen
of the Church of Saint Timothy.

27. The Congregation Adath Israel. 28. The German Union Building Association. 29. The Frankford Avenue Methodist Episcopal

Church of the City of Philadelphia. n. Henry Grattan Beneficial Society of Phila phila.
31. The Eagle Building and Loan Association of Philadelphia, No. 3.
32. The Penn Sewing School of Philadelphia.
33. The Logan Square Building and Loan Associa-The Logan Square Building and Loan Associa-

34 The Sepviva Building Association of Philadelphia.

35. The German Evangelical Reformed Emanuel's Church, at Bridesburg, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ed. Anthracite Loan Company. Amendment, 87. The Old Oaks Cemetery Company of Philadelphia. Amendments.
38. The National Savings Loan and Building Association of the City of Philadelphia. Amendnienis. 39. West Girard Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. Church,
40. 7 he Leverington Savings Fund and Loan Asso-ciation of Roxborough. Amendment,
41. The Franklin Savings Fund and Loan Associa-tion of Roxborough. Amendment.
42. The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen.

of the Church of the Mediator, Philadelphia, Amendments.
43, The Ninth Presbyterian Church in Philadelohls. Amendment. 44. The Port Richmond Building and Loan Association.
45. The Board of Trustees of the St. John's Reformed Church of West Philadelphia. Amend-

ments.

46. The Journalists' Fund of Philadelphia.

47. The Ring Association.

48. The State Building Association.

49. The Columbia Beneficial Society of Philadel-50. The Twenty-seventh Ward Land Association.
51. Kensington Building Association No. 3.
519 RICHARD DONAGAN, Prothonotary.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that "THE PARHAM SEWING MACHINE COMPANY" have filed an application for change of name to the "KEYSTONE SEWING MACHINE COMPANY," and that the Honorable the Judges of our said Court have appointed MONDAY, the 5th day of June, A. D. 1871, at 10 o'clock A. M., for hearing the said application, and unless exceptions be filed thereto the same will be allowed.

RICHARD DONAGAN,

5 19

Prothonotary.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.*

Notice is hereby given to all persons incefeet that "The Germantown and Chesnut Hill Cemetery Company" have filed an application for change of same to "The Lvy Hill Cemetery Company," and that the Honorable, the Judges of our said Court have appointed MONDAY, the 5th day of June, A. D., 1871, at 10 o'clock A. M., for hearing the said application, and unless exceptions be filed thereto the same will be allowed.

RICHARD DONAGAN,

Frothonstary.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Notice is hereby given to all persons inteapplication for change of name to the "City Club," and that the Honoracle the Judges of our said Court have appointed MONDAY, the 5th day of June, A. D. 1871, at 16 o'clock A. M., for hearing the said application, and unless exceptions be filed thereto the same will be allowed.

RICHARD DONAGAN,

BEAUTIFUL SPOT IS A

WENONAH.

Its Hotel, its lakes, the fish pond, the old mill, the old railroad bridge, the handsome drives and avenues, the park, and many other points of interest, are in themselves sufficient attractions, while the NATU RAL ADVANTAGES of the tract, such as excellent. water, rolling country, high and healthy location, facilities for drainage, and EASY ACCESS TO THE CITY, render WENONAH the most desirable place for building Country Residences, within the vicinity of Philadelphia situated on the West Jersey Railroad, 11 miles from Camden, reasked in FORTY-FIVE MINUTES from your place of business. The Hotel will be completed and opened about the 18th of June. Visit the place and judge it upon its merits. Tickets and information furnished by

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