

Bellefonte, Pa., January 28, 1927.

James McManes, a Philadelphia Character.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

By Rev. L. M. Colfelt D. D. In June, 1875, I was joined in marriage with Rebecca McManes and went on our wedding trip to Long Branch, New York City, the Catskills, Lake George, Mt. Washington and Newport. We returned from our wedding trip to the house of her father on North Franklin Street, the condition of whose consent to our union being that we would make his home ours which we did for several years and later removed to a furnished house at 1322 Pine Street, generously given his daughter. Mr. James McManes was a much misunderstood man and like many a political leader was given a newspaper reputation which was a gross caricature. For this reason I shall try to draw his portrait with a strictly truthful hand, having no earthly reason to panegyrize or gloss. He was a man of middle height, compact of frame and not unhandsome. Always neatly dressed in dark clothes, after the manner of those days, he always wore boots and a high silk hat and might have been taken for an Irish Barrister or Judge. He had a singularly piercing eye that looked through you and a great deal of personal dignity. As far as the East from the West was the popular imagination of his appearance and character from the reality, being a man of remarkably retiring disposition, no "mixer" whatever in the political sense, and characterized by such aloofness that the man must needs have great temerity who would dare to slap him on the shoulder. On one occasion at a dinner at Judge Finletter's, a woman of the company, looking at him with astonishment, said she never imagined that he was the type of man that he actually was. Mr. McManes quickly retorted, "Madam, did you expect that I would have horns?" Living as I did in his home and coming into intimate contact with him through the years, I had unexceptional means of forming a judgment of his personal character. He was absolutely devoid of private vices, smoking but seldom, very abstemious in the use of drink, clean in domestic life verging indeed upon idolatry for his wife and daughter and grandchildren and last but not least, his horse. He had a singular love of all his possessions. He was a stay-at-home, detested travel and made no considerable trips, not even to Ireland. His diversions were few, consisting of an evening in going to the store of Al Roberts, at 7th and Vine, swapping witticisms with a few cronies and an occasional visit to Carncross and Dixie's minstrels, where Irish comedians played their roles and exploded their political squibs. Indeed he was a personal friend of Mr. Carncross, who was a

Of afternoons, he drove through the park, of which he was a Commissioner, in company usually with Albert Roberts, Frederick Wolbert and Judge Kelley, fellow trustees of the Gas Trust. He was extremely simple in his living, contenting himself with a modest house, well furnished and plain, wholesome viands. No man had a greater contempt for parveneusnewly rich men-men in many instances whom he had made rich by helping them to "Row Offices" who passed him by in his unpretentious home and went to live on broad avenues in brownstone mansions and paraded their newly acquired wealth in fine equipages and opera boxes. His wife told me, that in the little twostoried house in Kensington in which he persisted in living for years longer than he was able to afford a better home, he often had \$200,000 cash of his own in the house. Later he lived most of his life in a \$11,000 house at Franklin street, and it was only at the close of life he allowed himself the luxury of a brown stone residence on Spring Garden Street, of moderate proportions and a two horse carriage, always having been contentwith a one horse coupe. His relations with my-self were always considerate and generous and I never had a fault to find with his treatment. Though I had a deadly hatred of the system of bosses in city and State and never avoided an opportunity of testifying against it yet I felt if the people consented to such a system and must needs have it, its evils were reduced to a minimum under the sway of a man of the type of Mr. McManes, who honestly tried to sense public opinion rather than to force it and choose, so far as his power went which was by no means omnipotent, men for office who could be elected and meet the approbation of the average voter. People often forgot that the so called boss is really no Czar at all but his choices are the resultants of all the complicated influences of a corporate, financial, industrial, and "organization" character playing upon him. Too often it is a compromise between ambitions and clashing leaders and it must always be a working mean between the highest and lowest elements. It is not alone the highbrows that must be considered but the lowbrows-the mass of laborers on public work and the whole army of minor officials who attend almost exclusively the primaries and always vote at the pollswhile the highbrows are conspicuous by their total absence at the primaries and their presence at the polls depends upon mood and weather. Such is partially now and in those days was wholly the system in vogue.

man of superior culture and manners.

Mr. McManes was a past master in working this system and gradually got control of almost every department of the city, building up a vast personal following. He did not believe in buying men, the purchase of a voter converting him into an enemy with a standing grudge against the briber for the forfeiture of his selfrespect. He said the man that con-

tion in the gas works, water works, police, fire and park departments, school teachers' certificates, appointments in the Post office, Custom House, infinitum. There were some of these appointments and slowly through the years by keeping them in places he won the deathless loyalty of such numbers that no weapon formed against him prospered and in the deadly wars that broke out amongst the bosses, all efforts to down him failed and "the old Irishman generally wiped up the floor wid 'em." His almost romantic and phenomenal success did not altogether arise from building up a personal following but from an almost uncanny prescience in sensing the trend of public opinion and the demands of the party organization and thus picking out the winner. Time and again he went to State conventions assembled to choose Supreme Judges and Governors and though controlling but a fragment of delegates, almost invariably threw enhancing his reputation and gaining friends. He always did his utmost to further the choice of fit candidates but sometimes was overborne by other leaders and the rank and file as was the case in the choice of John Bardsley for City Treasurer, whom he strenuously opposed to no purpose. He dared to be undone politically at the National Convention in Chicago, running counter to the wishes of Cameron and Quay and by joining his 30 delegates to a like number of delegates controlled by Judge Robertson, of New York, defeated the nomination of General Grant for a third term. This temerity in these two instances

though meeting the approbation of many, cost him dear. Bardsley's hostility was not only inspired by the knowledge that Mr. McManes had opposed him but by the fact that Mr. Bardsley was heavily in arrears for had great influence with the Collector not only to delay but cancel the payment. I saw the letter preferring the request. Mr. McManes refused. When Cameron and Quay came back from Chicago, their colors drooping, they swore vengeance and set to work in earnest to bring about his downfall. They employed "Burnt Faced" Brewster to conceive and set on foot the legal machinery and together they induced John Bardsley to introduce a resolution in Common Council to investigate the Gas Trust. Mr. Brewster received his compensation in the appointment of his brother as Attorney General of Pennsylvania and later along until finally quashed without gained most of his power which, having grown weary, he exercised per-haps in a modified form until the Bullit Bill Charter was enacted and the

Gas Trust abolished.

While on the subject I must record my conviction from personal knowledge that James McManes never made an illicit dollar out of politics though hate in calling him "the Gas Trust theif." If they who dubbed him such were half as scrupulous as he in money matters they must have been paragons of honest acquisition. "Honest" John Bardsley was one of the number and he was jailed for malfea-sance in office. The Hunter brothers and son-in-law, Field, were particularly virulent. Oe of the former forged notes for \$500,000 and fled to South America and the latter committed suicide. If a man is known by the enemies he makes Mr. James McManes was highly honored. The basis of his considerable fortune was the office of Prothonotary, to which he was elected in early life, the fees of which during his incumbency amounted to \$20,000 per year. This capital he employed successfully in building and selling rows of small houses. His surplus capital was used in discounting city warrants during that period in which the city was always millions behind in the payment of its vouchers. I have seen lists of vouchers in his home running into hundreds of thousands. Later with his surpassing means of advanced information of the securities markets derived from the financial powers that made markets, he was phenomenally successful. Know beforehand combinations of railroads surely predestined to take place, bonds and stocks of underlying branches that were to be taken over and guaranteed by parent systems and made giltedged. he invested in heavily, always buying outright and never on marginal speculation and thus made fabulous profits. This to my certain knowledge is a true history of his success in the realm of finance. Such a man with the touch of Midas did not need to soil his hands with dishonest gains. His ruling passion was to be a Warwick-the Kingmaker. To wield power was his obsession, money making but his diversion. Contrary to the general opinion, though a Director of the Peoples Bank and afterwards its President, James McManes was never an ally of William H. Kemble and neither trained with

him politically nor financially. balance at the bank during Kemble's administration was negligible and Kemble was always in close partnership with Senator Quay in the manipulation of the State Treasury and in aiding Quay's ambition to gain as complete ascendancy over the city as he wielded over the State govern-ment. First, Bob Mackey, Mr. Quay's lieutenant was imported into Philadelphia to compass McManes' downfall, then the Recorder's Bill was passed and David H. Lane filled the office until Mr. Quay took it over in person. sented to be bought had to be bought With its patronage in the shape of into the rear car, there is a man in over again. He consolidated his hundreds of thousands of dollars dis-

power by attaching thousands to him tributed amongst the newspapers for by personal service, accounting no the publication of mercantile lists, it ticket as candidate for Supreme Judge pains too great to obtain a job for a was hoped the press of the city might by the railroad interests contrary to day laborer on public works, a position in the gas works, water works, downfall of the "City Boss." The first his counsel with no man he swung his show-down was in the Convention that nominated Judge Fell for the Supreme Court, in whose success Governor Hartranft was deeply interested. Mr. McManes took no chances but presided over the Convention in person and came forth not only a winner in securing the nomination of Judge Fell over Judge Thayer but enhanced his prestige. The deadly battle between the State machine headed by Quay and Kemble and the City machine continued with varying fortunes until Mackey died, owing the Peoples Bank \$90,000 and the Recorder's Bill was repealed through Mr. McManes efforts, reducing Quay to political bankruptcy which lasted till Quay came on his knees to Mr. McManes to assist him in securing the nomination for State Treasurer and a truce was patched up which led to Quay's rehabilitation. It was dur-ing this period that the Peoples Bank, is known to but few, was shaken to its foundations and in imminent danthem to the successful candidate thus ger of collapse through over extension loans to politicians and to the United States Hotel at Atlantic City. On the day in question Mr. McManes warned me to draw any money out I might have on deposit in the Peoples Bank. Later he said Mr. Kemble had informed him "The Peoples Bank would be compelled to close its doors the next morning." Though a director, he was quite oblivious of its condition. He said "If this bank closes down not one of us will be able to lift our heads in Philadelphia! How much money will be necessary to avoid the disaster?"
Kemble answered, "Three hundred thousand dollars before the opening tomorrow morning!" Mr. McManes and Ex-Sheriff William Elliot took their private securities to their banks of deposit as collateral and each furnished \$150,000 which relieved the situation. This was the basis for the statement of Mr. McManes made to taxation upon some rows of houses he owned and knowing that Mr. McManes associates, Elkins and Widener, never took him into a financial deal of any of Delinquent Taxes, having had him appointed, wrote a letter asking him they were in a hole. Mr. Widener was his bitter political enemy and engineered the revolt against him by Councils under the Presidency of Joseph Caven. He could not lend his powerful aid in making him Mayor to succeed Stokley, who was finishing his second term. Mr. McManes told Mr. Widener that while he had no personal objection to him that the demand for Stokley for a third term was overwhelming because of the masterly manner in which he had handled the riot in Philadelphia. I was a witness to the interview. From that day Mr. Widener was implacable and had much to do with organizing the Gas Trust of himself as Attorney General of the United States. The brilliancy of his official career at Washington was somewhat marred by the limp manner in which the case known as the himself and at that time the Treas-"Star Route Fraud" was conducted, urership netted its occupant about half Mr. Bardsley's compensation was in a million during a single term. Mr. the satisfaction of his private ven- McManes was not in sympathy with geance. The equity suit against the Mr. Kemble's pardon which was forced Gas Trust dragged its weary length by the powerful influence of the Pennsylvania Railroad in whose interest as finding any proof that Mr. McManes lobbyist at Harrisburg he had incurred was worthy of political death. He rehis sentence. He regarded it as an outrage upon justice calculated to bring all law into disrepute. To me he particularly deplored that a man of the high type of Attorney General Palmer should be practically forced to join in voting for the pardon and thus destroy his political future.

As to the final collapse of the Peoples Bank, Judge James Gay Gorhis enemies satisfied their impotent don knows more than any living man of the true inwardness of that event and of the sacrifice which Mr. James McManes made of a half million of his private means that no depositor might suffer loss. It is my conviction that the Loper hue and cry was but a false scent and pure camouflage. So far as my knowledge goes while Mr. Mc-Manes was at home with a disease from which he never recovered, the bank's money with the consent of the young cashier was used by a pool in a gigantic speculation in the securities of a company whose shares would be profoundly affected by senatorial action of which, inside information was to be supplied by a member of the group. But in spite of the action of the Senate the hoped for debacle of the shares did not materialize. The Wall Street foxes were too sagacious for the Philadelphia hares. One man to my knowledge lost \$125,000. Another, nearly if not quite a million and what the manipulator of the bank's funds lost will never be known. An inkling may be gained from the fact that the cashier said before self-destruction The moment I permitted the half milion gilt-edged collateral to go out of my hands I was undone." Poor fellow! More sinned against than sinning! The innocent, ignorant tool of men who were past masters in the arts of chicanery and financial juggling.

Mr. McManes abhorred political corruption and fraud and everything calculated to pervert the ballot box from being a true organ of the expression of public opinion. He stigmatized to me the fact that Joseph Caven, candidate for Mayor, had been 'counted out' in the Mayor's office where the ballot boxes were opened and the votes canvassed on the night of the election. We are far from representing that he was a political saint. He dearly loved a political fight and in that epoch of warring leaders every particle of political power he possessed was won at the sword's point. But he believed in fighting fairly and in a slugging match any man who struck him below the belt could not hope to escape his vengeance to the limit of his power and syord's point. But he believed in the heat of political battle indulged in anemadversions upon his personal character. As long as he lived he did all in his power to thwart the ambition of these men and in most in stances was only too successful. William Henry Rawle for some such reason awakened the profound personal resentment of Mr. McManes. On going on one occasion with him to Atlantic City he saw Mr. Rawle sitting in the car we were about to enter. He drew back as if stung and said "Let us go

whole political following against the entire State ticket and accomplished its defeat by the election of Governor Pattison and Judge Trunkey. It was not from any hostility to Mr. James A. Beaver but the determination to eliminate Mr. Rawle. He was more secret than secrecy itself and fired soundless bullets. In the course of events, Mr. McManes was elected Director of the Pennsylvania Railroad by Councils which by reason of the city owning a block of that company's stock entitled Councils to the privilege of choosing two directors. This awakened the fears of Mayor Stokley and his political associates that Mr. McManes was about to annex the influence of that powerful corporation to his already overswollen political fortunes and they introduced and passed a resolution by Councils of sale of the city block of shares to the Pennsylvania railroad, abolishing the city directors. The move was unsuccessful as Mr. Mc-Manes was thereafter chosen Director by the body of Pennsylvania railroad stockholders. None the less, he regarded it as malevolent and insulting to himself. He told me if he found Stokley was implicated he would adventure all his political fortunes to defeat him for re-election. I know not whether he secured the convincing evidence but have no doubt personally that the defeat of Mr. Stokley and the election of Mr. Fox for Mayor

grew out of this incident. Mrs. McManes was one of those gentle beings whose mission in the home is to be felt rather than heard. Unselfish to a degree she lost her life to find it in that of her husband. She was his other worldly and spiritual self. Penetrating as sunlight and as noiseless, she had a boundless influence upon his moods, soothing the nervous agitations and high tempers induced by the fierce conflicts in which he was engaged. She was the power behind the throne and it is questionable whether women in sacrificing this mighty indirect influence for direct participation in political life are not yielding up the substance to grasp at the illusive shadow.

A Regular Butcher

One day little Betty heard her motner giving a detailed account of a recent tonsil operation to an afternoon caller.

"Yes, I had a perfectly dreadful time. My doctor was a regular butcher," said Mrs. B-

To her surprise, a few days later she overheard the following conversation between her small daughter and a little neighbor girl:

"Some day I am going to have my tonsils taken out." "Are you going to the hospital like

my sister did?" "No," replied Betty, "I am just going down to the butcher shop where mother had hers cut out."-Indianapolis News.

Insects on Increase

For a century and more scientists have been listing and classifying insects found in the various countries, hoping they might have, some time, a complete list of the insect family, but the task seems to have no end, new species being found in all lands, so many, in fact, that more than 6,000 are being listed, each year, says Nature Magazine.

The scientists tend strongly to the belief that new species are being provided by some means, for each year discoveries are made of which no scientist in the past ever heard and man must admit in the bug listing business he is a long way behind.

European Air Lines

There are 42 commercial air lines operating daily to all parts of central and eastern Europe, including Moscow. Seventeen lines radiate from Berlin. There are many small companies, all now consolidated with the Deutsche Lufthansa. There are 120 commercial planes and 160 pilots. One hundred and ten planes are constantly in working order. In 1925 the German commercial air service carried approximately 133,639 passengers and 6,600 tons of freight. In 1925 the commercial service in passengers and freight carried and miles traveled tripled its volume of business over the preceding year.

Chinese Official Journal

The Tsen-Tse-Kwan-Pao of Peking, China, recently celebrated its thousandth birthday anniversary, and is said to be the oldest newspaper in the world. A recent article says that "every issue of this newspaper has been carefully preserved and filed in the official archives of the palace at Peking. The penalty for making a misstatement in this newspaper has been decapitation, and it is said that more than a few of its editors have suffered this fate in the past. Since the revolution the paper has changed its title to Tsen-Fou-Koun-Pao, which means "Official Government Journal."

Eradicate Deadly Weed

Recently 17 boys of a county home were severely poisoned as a result of sating leaves, roots and flowers of the water hemlock, reports Hygeia Maga-

This plant grows in swamp land, along irrigating ditches and in meadows, and is known as cowbane, snakeweed, wild carrot, wild parsnip and death of man. The boys found it growing in a swamp near the playground. Since it has little if any usefulness and is poisonous to men and animals, farmers and others in tharge of open lands should do everything possible to eradicate it.

Flying-Machine Idea Older Than Balloon

Contrary to popular belief, the principle of the flying machine was Introduced long before the balloon came into notice. But the lighter-thun-air carriers were for a long period considered the only possible method of air travel, and for that reason have become the symbol of pioneer aeronau-

Without even considering Ovid's mythological tale of the mechanical flying bird, Aulus Gellius, in his "Attic Nights" writes of a wooden dove invented by the Greek mathematician, Archytas of Tarentus, in the year 400 B. C. The same Archytas is said also to have invented a navigable

There is then a long gap in "aeronautics" until the Fifteenth century. when Leonardo Da Vinci, famous as the painter of "Mona Lisa," is reputed to have in about the year 1480 outlined the plan of a flying machine. Nothing has ever been found of the

Two hundred years later one Borelli presented a pair of mechanical wings to a wondering public, while in the same period Besnier, a French locksmith, built a pair of oscillating wings with which he is reputed to have traveled short distances.

Perhaps the most definite and practical plan for an airplane left to posterity, prior to the modern conceptions of Maxim, Langley, the Wrights and others, is that conceived by Swedenborg, the extraordinary universal genius of the Eighteenth century. His carefully worked out draft was planned about 1720 and is now in the archives of the government of Sweden. Swedenborg also left plans, or working drafts, of a submarine, airgun, universal musical instrument, a mechanical carriage, etc.

Bedtime Story

Once there was a statesman who decided that a new era had come. 'Illiteracy has vanished from the and," he said. "The people are now enlightened. Bunkum is as obsolete as the 30-cent dinner. Henceforth I shall tell them only the truth."

So, when he came up for re-election ne made no extravagant promises. He told them that business was bad and he didn't know how to make it any better.

He told them that he had voted for laws that he now believed were rotten. He told them that taxes would have to be raised and that no millenium was

But he added that he would do ali that a normally intelligent person

could do to improve conditions. Ais opponent got the biggest plu rality in history.—Kansas City Star.

Another U. S. A.

speaking of United South Africa, 1 addressed a letter once to Richmond, Va., U. S. A. The letter, with a Richmond, Natal, postmark, was returned indorsed: "Address unknown." On complaining to the post office I was indignantly informed that U.S.A. stood for United South Africa, and that the United States of North America should be U. S. O. N. A. American friends, please accept this, the only imitation. Of course, it may be perfectly all right when mail sorters get to know it, but I am afraid if I mailed a letter to Savannah, Georgia, U. S. O. N. A., it would be put in the bag for Asia Minor, or wherever the original Georgia may be.-From Spedding's "Reminiscences."

Overalls for Evening Wear Wearing overalls to an evening

party is regarded as good form in the gold-mining districts of Alaska, according to Edward McKelvey, former Wisconsin resident, who knew Jack London and Rex Beach in the early days of the Klondike fields, says the Milwaukee Journal.

McKelvey, who recently spent three days with relatives at Prairie du Chien, Wis., was a partner with Rex Beach in a wood-cutting contract. The noted author, McKelvey says, spent eleven years in the Far North laying the foundation for most of his stories and nearly all of his characters were persons Mr. Beach had known, with only a change of name.

Graduated as Dog Nurses

It is the established custom about the country homes in Great Britain to keep a number of dogs, some as house pets, some for hunting, others for no special purpose save to gratify the Englishman's love for dogs. Hence there is a continual demand for veterinary service for the dogs. Recently the animal hospital at Totterridge graduated a class of young women who had completed the training for dog nurses, their plan being to locate in the wealthy country sections and sell their services to dog owners whose pets might be in need of medical attention, and they expect to make delivered by distinguished scholars a fortune in their profession.—Ohio State Journal.

English Name Hurt Singer

Beatrice Sherrard, a soprano who made her debut last year at the Municipal opera house of Rio de Janeiro in "Aida," said that her English name was such a hindrance in Italy when she went there to study that she was forced to adopt a Latin substitute. "I succeeded in obtaining a hearing before the Italian impresarios only by assuming the name of Beatrice Ghe-I was introduced, exclaiming 'What, you are English' They have no talent!" Miss Sherrard's mother was was born in Brazil.

Almost Impossible to Fool Master of Magic

A student of the history of magic, he had collected a large library of the literature of magic, containing many rare volumes, and few persons were more familiar with magicians of the past and their feats than was Houdini, writes William Johnston in the New York Times.

Yet he was always eager to hear about new stunts. The surest way toget an audience with him was to tell him you had a new trick. He immediately wanted to see it and learn how it was done.

One night when he was at the New York Hippodrome, just about ten minutes before it was time for him toappear in his act, word was brought to him that a young man with a new trick wanted to see him. Houdini bounded out of his dressing room to

"What have you got?" he asked

meet his visitor.

"I can stop the beating of my pulse at will."

"Let's see you do it," demanded the magician. The young man extended his arm.

Houdini felt his wrist. His pulse was beating normally. "Now watch," said the visitor.

Houdini felt the pulse again. No movement of the pulse could be de-

"Do it again," said Houdini. The young man complied, beginning to feel triumphant that the trick was

baffling the great master. He never had seen the trick before, but his logical mind reasoned that the easiest way to stop the pulse beats would be to apply pressure to the artery. He suspected that the effect was produced by a pad under the arm, and sure enough it was.

As Others See Us

An aspiring candidate, with a keen sense of humor, relates an unique slant that he got on his own rather dubious position before the recent election. Several weeks before November 2 he approached a man in his district in order to see what his chances might be with one who was known to vote a split ticket.

"Did you know that I was running for councilman, Sam?" the politician. asked optimistically.

"Yes, I knew that you were running," reluctantly replied the nonpartisan voter.

"How did you know that I was run-

ning?" "Well, George told me."

"What did he say about my running when he told you?" the candidate hopefully questioned.

"Well," more reluctantly, replied the voter, "he didn't say anythinghe just laughed."

Nervy "Borrower"

The cheekiest person I know is a girl who came over to our house one Friday and begged my mother to lend her a new old-rose dress of minewhich I had worn once; her reasonshe was going to be a bridesmaid the next day (Saturday) and didn't havea dress to wear nor money to buy a

Mother refused at first, for we never were in the habit of lending clothes toanyone, but after seeing the girl in tears and listening to her hard-luck story, mother consented, making herpromise to bring back the dress the

next day. She took the dress and then asked mother for some carfare. Having 30cents in change, she gave it to the girl. Time has passed, but we never did see the dress, the 30 cents nor the girl .- R. R., in Chicago Tribune.

Ancient Paper Sarcastic

In a recent cleaning of the cellar of the University of Pennsylvania library an old southern newspaper was discovered printed on the back of a piece of wallpaper.

The newspaper, called the Daily Citizen, was published in Vicksburg, Miss., July 2, 1863, by J. M. Swords. Following is a quotation from the pa-

"We are indebted to Major Gillespiefor a steak of Confederate beef, alias meat. We have tried it and can assure our friends that if it is rendered necessary they need have no scruples at eating the meat. It is sweet, savory and tender, and so long as we have a mule left we are satisfied our soldiers will be content with it."

Institute's Good Work

The Institute of Politics is a movement inaugurated by the trustees of Williams college in September, 1919, and consists of annual sessions at which are discussed foreign affairs so as to promote a more sympathetic understanding of the problems and policies of other nations. This is done by offering courses of public lectures and statesmen from foreign countries and by setting up round table and open conferences presided over by recognized authorities.

Real Stage Tragedy

While the audience laughed and applauded, thinking it a superb piece of acting, an actress taking the principal part in a musical comedy at a Roman theater died on the stage during the performance. At the end of the second act she stumbled, then clutched at the neck of one of the actors. Both rardi," she said. "They scoffed when fell heavily to the floor. The curtain fell amid deafening applause and laughter, and nobody realized what had happened until the manager an-Brazilian, her father English. She nounced the death of the actress through heart failure.