

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

THE FUTURE OF GRAND OPERA IN NEW YORK.

An Interesting Contribution on the Subject by Maurice Grau—John Hare Speaks of the Differences Between English and American Audiences.

Regarding the future of opera in New York, and the large salaries paid to the principals, Mr. Grau said recently: "New York is too important a musical centre to be deprived of opera even for a season. The public is exacting, perhaps too much so, being absolutely unwilling to put up with any thing but the very best. I don't think, however, that such a company as ours could be duplicated anywhere. The salaries of the leading artists I don't regard as extravagant, as some would have the public believe, in view of what the same artists can earn elsewhere. The salaries of most of them, it is true, have increased since their first visit to America, but in many cases these increases were provided for in contracts which were for terms of years



MAURICE GRAU.

"Mrs. Molba received during the present season fully sixty per cent more salary than during her first year here; Mme. Calve, nearly double what she received during her first season; M. Plancon, double; Signor Ancona, double; Mme. Eames, nearly five times as much as we paid her at first, while Mme. Nordica last season received nearly two and one-half times what we paid her during the season she began with us. MM. de Reszke are an exception to the rule, their fixed salaries and percentages never increasing since their initial engagement; on the contrary, wonderful to relate, a change being made in the percentage in favor of the management.

Mr. John Hare, the English comedian, in a recent interview, said: The English actor finds the American audience unusually quick of response. Its applause of a jest, a merry situation, a clever line, accompanies rather than follows the moving cause; they catch its meaning almost before the line is finished. They anticipate the point rather than wait for it, and they are often ahead of the actor. But it must be humor of action and



JOHN HARE.

speech that they can understand. They do not seem to care for humorous dialogue that they do not thoroughly comprehend. Thus, in "The Hobby Horse" there are passages that evoked roars of laughter in London but were received here in a dead calm of silence that almost took our breath away. If anything is depressing to the comedian it is to rattle off a speech that has never failed to evoke merriment, and when he reaches the climax, to find that he alone is laughing and that a profoundly inquiring look is on the faces of the audience, as though to ask, "Well, what in the world is he laughing at?" That he ever laughs again during the evening is a marvel. One such chilling reception of his possibly best line is enough to take all the spirit out of him, to make him dread the next speech of a similar kind that may be coming his way. "The English Actor on the New York Stage" notices one marked difference between London and New York, I am told, in the manner in which popular disapproval of a play is shown. I have been so kindly treated that I have not had personal experience of a flat out-and-out failure, which is hissed, but I know that in London we sometimes have a most obstreperous element present, who will not only hiss a play roundly, but will make it emphatically understood that they want it stopped, then and there. And, not satisfied with hissing the play, they will even demand the author, and when they get him out, hiss him, too. Here, I am told, the audience show their displeasure in profound silence, or mock laughter; that, instead of hissing a poor play, they will pick up their wraps and leave the theatre. With us they want the play taken off; here they take themselves off, I believe, which is certainly much more dignified and self-respecting, an example of good manners that might well be copied.

ROSE FANON.

BOOKS READ AT SING SING.

"Never Too Late to Mend" is Most Popular Among Convict Readers.

Many records have been made among different people to obtain "the favorite author." None has revealed more astonishing results than a two months' record kept by the librarian of Sing Sing Prison.

The most popular author in Sing Sing year in and year out is Charles Reade, and the most popular book is "Never Too Late to Mend." There are about thirteen hundred convicts in the prison, and in two months 463 of them read this book, which has been responsible for many reforms in prisons. Next on the list comes "Put Yourself in His Place," with 436 readers.

Charles Lever's "Charles O'Malley" comes next in favor, with the same author's "Tom Burke of Our's" following, which is pushed hard by Bulwer Lytton's "Paul Clifford."

Samuel Lover's "Rory O'More" is next. Dumas' "Monte Cristo" is his most popular book. Dickens ranks next with "David Copperfield" in the lead, and "The Tale of the Two Cities," with its wonderful convict pictures, third in favor.

Conan Doyle, with Sherlock Holmes, is the first modern author who is at all in favor. Capt. Kink's "Desertion" comes next. Capt. Marryatt's "Mr. Midshipman Easy" leads the sea tales. Wilkie Collins' "Moonstone" and Black's "Shandon Bells" are next in demand. Then come "Lorna Doone" and "Vanity Fair." The only woman's book that is popular is "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Love stories are not wanted.

—New York World.

The Contractor Was Discharged. Franklin W. Smith, a Boston contractor, was tried by court-martial and found guilty of pocketing a thousand or two dollars out of a contract with the Navy department for supplies. The report of the court-martial was sent to President Lincoln for his examination, who returned it with this characteristic endorsement:

"Whereas, Franklin W. Smith had transactions with the United States Navy Department to a million and a quarter of dollars, and had the chance to steal a quarter of a million; and whereas, he was charged with stealing only ten thousand dollars, and from the final revision of the testimony it is only claimed that he stole one hundred dollars, I don't believe he stole anything at all.

Therefore, the records of the court-martial, together with the finding and sentence, are disapproved, declared null and void, and the defendant is fully discharged.

CURRENT HUMOR.

Author: "Here are some thoughts that burn."

Editor: "Well, hold on to them, and I'll see that you both get fired."

Dobson: "Shakespeare never repeated. He was original in everything."

Smiley: "Guess that's so. He didn't even spell his own name twice alike."

"Is that report true about the cashier of the Confidence Bank committing suicide?"

"It is, poor fellow. He was caught when he had embezzled only \$1,200. The disgrace was more than he could bear."—Indianapolis Journal.

Nerve Strain—"It must be a good deal of a strain to run a trolley-car," said the talkative man on the platform.

"You bet it is," said the motorman. "Why, when I go along for two or three weeks without running over anybody I get so nervous I can't eat nor sleep."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Priscilla—Jack is the oddest fellow. He took me driving yesterday, and when we were seven miles from home he said if I wouldn't promise to marry him he'd make me get out and walk back.

Penelope—Did you walk back? Priscilla—No, but the horse did.—Truth.

"When I was your age," said Mr. Gamroxx sternly, "I earned my own living."

His son looked uneasy, but was silent.

"Well, have you nothing to say for yourself in that connection?"

"N—nothing, sir, except that I sympathize with you and congratulate you on the fact that it's all over with."—Washington Star.

"The Green Bag" tells this story of Judge Wilson, of Ohio: "Several lawyers gathered in Judge Wilson's room after adjournment of court, and were discussing the retirement of a member of the bar. Among them was one whose practice is worth \$25,000 a year. He said: 'I have been practicing several years, and am well fixed. I have thought I should like to retire and devote my remaining years to studies I have neglected. 'Study law,' said Judge Wilson."

RIGHT IN IT.



Old Spurrhumper—Speaking of coasting. Well, say!

New Religious Sect.

Strange Tenets of Belief of the Comeouters of South Carolina.

The Comeouters is a new religious sect which is sweeping away old church alignments among the rural devotees of South Carolina. These people have as their champion Rev. John Ellenbag, who moves about from place to place, carrying the people with him by a strange power. In general principles they are baptistic, but hold that a man must be re-baptized every time he commits sin. So many were the family divisions at first attended by efforts of the converted to bring them to the new faith that continual wrangles ensued. It was no new thing to see the whole body of Comeouters baptized anew every day, so much so that Cedar creek was kept muddy.

The Comeouters acknowledge no leader but Christ, no discipline but the Bible, recognizing nothing like a session, presbytery, synod or general assembly, no association or mission boards. They have no church roll, never open or close the doors of the church, have no clerk, depending entirely upon the recording angel to write the names of true believers in the Book of Life and to blot them out if they backslide. They allege that the church is God's, and that none but he can open or close its door, and that none but he can receive and exclude members, and that he alone can enforce the Bible discipline.

The Comeouters believe in man's free agency, and when one professes faith in Christ the preacher baptizes him by immersion. If the convert backslides and is reclaimed, he must be reimmersed. And only such are true members of the church as the Comeouters call themselves. They preach the doctrine of "the new birth," that it occurs among all denominations, but none will remain except such as "fulfill all righteousness" by submitting to immersion and having their feet washed.

They further believe that the day of physical miracles has not passed, that miracles are as frequent and necessary to life and prosperity of the church now as they were in the days of the apostles, and that their wonder and power, as formerly, is according to the faith of the performer and the subject. They sell all their property when they have any and live in common, awaiting the coming of the Lord.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

PENNSYLVANIA NEWS ITEMS.

—While washing dishes at Tower City, Mrs. Edward Figley was totally blinded by a paralytic stroke.

—Court at Pottsville last week, refused seventy-six new applicants for liquor license in Schuylkill County and granted sixty-five.

—Eastern Pennsylvania German Baptists have established a home for their aged and infirm poor near Manheim, and paid for a \$5000 farm therefor.

—Heirs at Plymouth of the late Peter Snyder have sued the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company for \$250,000 on a claim to coal lands which he owned.

—For the alleged theft of jewelry worth \$1700 and \$300 cash from Shippowitz at West Hazleton, last week, Henry Agers has been arrested in New York.

—About 4000 Democratic voters of Northampton County are formally charged by Republicans before the Court as having illegally voted at last fall's election.

—An alleged change of horses, to get one that was't afraid of fire-crackers, or guns on the evening of his wife's murder, is to be used against Kaiser on his trial at Norristown.

—The Senate on Thursday last confirmed these postmasters: Pennsylvania—J. S. Gale, Mulford, Pike County; J. M. White, Evans City, Butler County; and J. G. Cobler, Everett, Bedford County.

—John O. Matthews, founder of the Ancient Order of the Knights of the Mystic Chain, died at Reading last week. Deceased was born in Maryland, and was 79 years of age. He was a conductor on the Reading Railroad for a period of thirty years.

Dr. Thomas L. Johnston, of New Bloomfield, who so cruelly murdered his next door neighbor, Druggist, George S. Henry, last September, and who was convicted of murder in the second degree, was on Thursday last sentenced by Judge Lyons, to twenty years solitary confinement in the Eastern Penitentiary. This is the full extent allowed by law.

There is a Class of People Who are injured by the use of coffee. Recently there has been placed in all the grocery stores a new preparation called GRAIN-O, made of pure grains that takes the place of coffee. The most delicate stomach receives it with out distress, and but few can tell it from coffee. It does not cost over 1/2 as much. Children may drink it with great benefit. 15c. and 25c. packages. Try it. Ask for GRAIN O

Subscribe For THE COLUMBIAN

BASE BALL NOTES.

It has been settled and pitcher Dolan, of the Bostons, is to go to Kansas City.

The management of the Louisville club are trying to secure second baseman Stewart of Indianapolis, and are offering to exchange Johnson, beside giving a cash bonus for him.

Argument on the suit of Amos Rusie will come up in the United States Supreme Court March 1. The New York Club has filed a demurrer. Gus Wehling's career as a manager was short-lived. He has been released by the Fort Wayne team so early in the year. With him goes old Pete Brown- ing.

Harry Honafins, a Lebanon ball player, who became unconscious suddenly Monday evening, died on Tuesday night from brain fever. Honafins was 21 years old.

The Yale base ball candidates were called out this week.

Pitcher Klobedanz is ill with the measles.

Arthur Irwin has purchased the release of Second Baseman McGann, of the Bostons. Irwin says there will be no farmed players on the Toronto team.

Manager Stallings, of the Philadelphia Baseball Club, last week sold Shortstop Hulien and Outfielder Mertes to the Columbus Club for \$2500.

The Lancaster Baseball team management Friday signed Edward Rafferty as a catcher. He played with the Scranton Club early last season, but through being hurt was obliged to stop for the season. President N. E. Young advises the Lancaster Club that George J. White, who played last year with the Philadelphia and Athletic clubs, must play this year with the Lancasters, he having signed an agreement to that effect.

The reported transfer of Amos Rusie to the Philadelphia Club in exchange for Catcher Clements and Pitcher Taylor was denied by President Freedman to day, who said: "I have not seen or heard from John I. Rogers or any one belonging to the Philadelphia Club for a number of weeks. No negotiations have been going on with the Philadelphia or any other club and there won't be any, either. I have repeatedly said that if Rusie played ball it would be with the New York Club, and I intend to back up the remark."

My Neighbor Told Me

About Hood's Sarsaparilla and advised me to try it—This is the kind of advertising which gives Hood's Sarsaparilla the largest sales in the world. Friend tells friend that Hood's Sarsaparilla cures; that it gives strength, health, vitality and vigor, and neighborhoods use it as a family medicine.

Hood's Pills act easily and promptly on the liver and bowels. Cure sick headache.

KENTUCKY ROMANCE.

Divorced Husband, Returning After Many Years, Weds His Original Choice.

A romantic wedding took place in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, near the Kentucky and Virginia line, the other night.

In 1865 Joe Black, a young man of local prominence, was married, and, his marriage not being a happy one, in 1887 he was divorced. Black went to Texas, and a few months later his grass widow married Thomas Stanhope. Three years ago Stanhope died.

Black prospered in Texas and remained single and in his old age returned a few months ago to the scenes of his childhood. It was here that he met Lillian Stanhope, living on a small farm on Rockhouse branch.

Lillian was his sweetheart in his boyhood and was his divorced wife. Amid these scenes the old love was rekindled; each forgave and forgot, and they finally decided to marry again. Black is 77 and Lillian Stanhope 79.

They have begun life over again and will live on the farm close to the scene of early days. Black will remove the old buildings and put things in order with modern improvements as his means will allow.—Philadelphia Press.

His Winning Campaign Fatal.

John Lynch Heard of His Election and Soon Expired.

After hearing the returns to the effect that he had been elected to the Centralia School Board, John Lynch, a well-known Democratic politician, sank rapidly, and died early Thursday morning of last week, from pneumonia, contracted during his canvass for votes.

PILL-DOSED—With nauseous, big purgers, prejudices people against pills generally. Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills are revolutionizing the pill demand—They're so pleasant and easy to take—The doses are small and so is the price—10 cents for 40 doses. Biliousness, Sick Headache, Constipation dispelled. Work like a charm. Sold by C. A. Klein.

REASONS FOR USING Walter Baker & Co.'s Breakfast Cocoa. 1. Because it is absolutely pure. 2. Because it is not made by the so-called Dutch Process in which chemicals are used. 3. Because beans of the finest quality are used. 4. Because it is made by a method which preserves unimpaired the exquisite natural flavor and odor of the beans. 5. Because it is the most economical, costing less than one cent a cup. Be sure that you get the genuine article made by WALTER BAKER & CO. Ltd., Dorchester, Mass. Established 1780.

ALEXANDER BROTHERS & CO. DEALERS IN Cigars, Tobacco, Candies, Fruits and Nuts. Henry Maillard's Fine Candies. Fresh Every Week. PENNY GOODS A SPECIALTY. F. F. Adams & Co's Fine Cut Chewing Tobacco. Henry Clay, Londres, Normal, Indian Princess, Samson, Silver Ash Bloomsburg Pa.

Prices Low and Good Work. For the finest and best stoves, tinware, roofing, spouting and general job work, go to W. W. Watts, on Iron street. Buildings heated by steam, hot air or hot water in a satisfactory manner. Sanitary Plumbing a specialty. I have the exclusive control of the Thatcher steam, hot water and hot air heaters for this territory, which is acknowledged to be the best heater on the market. All work guaranteed. W. W. WATTS, IRON STREET, Bloomsburg, Pa.

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IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF CARPET, MATTING, or OIL CLOTH, YOU WILL FIND A NICE LINE AT W. H. BROWER'S 2nd Door above Court House. A large lot of Window Curtains in stock.

"Where dirt gathers, waste rules." Great saving results from the use of SAPOLIO ASK FOR THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND Burn Crown Acme OIL. GIVES THE BEST LIGHT IN THE WORLD AND ABSOLUTELY SAFE. FOR SALE BY THE ATLANTIC REFINING CO.

STRAY PARAGRAPHS. High strung—telegraph wires. Easter lilies are on the sprout. The croaking of the toads will soon be heard. All ministers say that fast men are slow in getting tied. A diner out—the man who matches and gets stuck for the bill. Held for court—the fellow who is arrested for breach of promise. Greece is evidently of the opinion that Turkey is not the only pebble on the beach. Do You Dance To-Night? Shake into your Shoes Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder that makes tight new shoes easy. Cures Corns, Chubbains and Sweating Feet. At drug-gists and Shoe Stores 25c. Sample FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.