

OPERATIC SOCIETY GIVES "TROVATORE"

Spirited Performance by Local Talent of Verdi's Master-piece of Melody

THE CAST
 Leonora..... Paula Brandie Kraft
 Azucena..... Marie Stone Langston
 Raimondo..... Edward A. Davies
 Count di Luna..... Edward A. Davies
 Ferrando..... Edward A. Davies
 An Old Gypsy..... Charles E. Steiman
 Conductor, Wasill Leps

The Philadelphia Operatic Society last evening gave a presentation of Verdi's treasure house of melody, "Il Trovatore," which was full of snap and what is commonly known as "pomp" and had the added incentive to the members of the cast and chorus of being sung to an audience which almost completely filled the house. Few performances of the society have been so liberally patronized and few performances have likewise been given with so much spirit. The members of the cast all did well when the difficulty of the music is considered and the fact taken into consideration that when Verdi wrote this opera vocal gymnastics were taken for granted among Italian opera singers. As Azucena, Marie Stone Langston especially distinguished herself, both vocally and in action, and she was probably the star of a competent cast. Paula Brandie Kraft as Leonora showed that she had certainly had previous operatic experience, although there were certain of the vocal passages in a tremendously difficult part which taxed her tonal volume to the limit. That any soprano not on the operatic stage could do so much with the role, both in voice and in action, is a high tribute to the singers which the Philadelphia Operatic Society can muster. Royal F. MacLelland as Raimondo showed a fine vocal equipment, with a high, clear tenor voice, which at the close of the opera did not show perceptible fatigue although the role is one of the most trying vocally in the operatic repertoire. He was not altogether convincing in action, but on the whole did well dramatically. Paul Engle was moderately good in the role of Count di Luna, the character in the opera which has the greatest variety of

emotional expression, both in singing and in action. It is a part which seldom has a presentation which gives the full possibilities of the role, even in performances by the greatest operatic companies. As is always the case with the performances of the Philadelphia Operatic Society, the relatively minor roles were admirably taken. Virginia Gill as Isabella, Edward A. Davies as Ferrando, Louis Martin as Ruiz and Charles Cox Edelman as An Old Gypsy were fully adequate to the demands of their parts. The stage settings were excellent, and the scene in the chapel of Castellor had the unusual merit of showing in the distance the camp of the hosts of the perfidious Count revealing that that chapel was under siege, a detail not shown in performances of certain famous opera companies in this city. The chorus did well what little work was required of it, and Mr. Leps conducted with a thorough knowledge of the score and the facility of keeping together a cast and chorus which are not accustomed to frequent performances before a capacity audience—an entirely different matter from conducting a professional operatic company.

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PRIEST IS ELEVATED

The Rev. Michael C. Donovan becomes a Monsignor. Cardinal Dougherty invested the Rev. Michael C. Donovan, pastor of the Church of St. Agatha, Thirty-eighth and Spring Garden streets, with the rank of monsignor this morning. At the mass which followed the investiture, the Rev. Dr. Alexander B. McCoy, of the Immaculate Conception Church, Germantown, preached the sermon. Yesterday the cardinal invested the Rev. James E. Nash, pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, Twelfth and Jackson streets, with the rank of monsignor. Tomorrow the cardinal will confer the subdiaconate at the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook. Sunday he will confer the diaconate there.

\$10,000 FIRE IN ATCO

Union Novelty Co. Destroyed; Many Towns Aid in Blaze

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the warehouse of the Union Novelty Co., Atco, N. J., last night, causing a loss of \$10,000. Ironing soap was stored in the place and a spectacular fire resulted. Fire companies from Hammon-ton, Clementon, Laurel Springs, Berlin and Watsontown responded to the appeal for help and had the blaze under control before midnight. The Union Novelty Co. sustained a

TO TALK OF VOLCANOES

Dr. Pillsbury to Give Lecture About Hawaiian Crater

Dr. Henry A. Pillsbury, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, will give an illustrated lecture on "The Hawaiian Islands and the Volcano of Kilauea" at a meeting of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia to be held at 8:15 o'clock this evening at Witherspoon Hall. The volcano is the largest active crater in the world. The annual election of officers will also be held. Henry G. Bryant has been nominated as president; Prof. William E. Lingebach, as first vice president; Benjamin R. Hoffman, as second vice president; Dr. J. E. Burnett Buckenham, as recording secretary; Dr. Paul J. Sartain, as corresponding secretary, and William K. Haupt, as treasurer.

MANTELL AS HAMLET

Robert Mantell repeated his familiar impersonation of Hamlet last evening as the second offering in his fortnight's repertory at the Broad. The star's Dane has much theatrical effectiveness and resonance of elocution in the famous soliloquies. It is an obviously meditative, rather than a subtle Hamlet; but one that is well liked. Genevieve Hamper was again an appealing Ophelia of youthful charm. Guy Lind-

ley was a stalwart Horatio, and Henry Bunker made an effective Polonius.

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