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## BILL NYE'S NEW OPBRETTA.

I have just returned, says Bill Nye, in the New York World, from
a private rehearasal of a new opera private e ehearasal of a new oper-
ettra of which $I$ am the author, and etta of which I am the author, and
hasten to write a fair, honest critihasten to write a fair, honest criti-
cism of it for the press. In this cism of it for the press. In this
criticism I shall try to be perfectly frank to mention any defects and yet I shall try to avoid hurting the the operetta with a merciless hand, and yet I do not wish to give my self needless pain.
The operetta itself is called "The Singed Cat," because it is really
much better than it seems to be The music was composed partly by myself and partly by a count who
plays upon the ferry-boats in sum plays upon the ferry-boats in sum-
mer and has his winter to himself. He does not wish to have his name used. because, as he syys, he is
afraid that "forecign powers will get to again." He says it is very disa
and greeable to be a count and live on
a long, slim pedigree and what the neighbors bring in from time to time.
The orchestra opens the perform ance with a selection from the
"Flying Dutchman." Dificult as it may appear, the orchestra makts a good selection from this gentle man, and it is played well after
evert thing is ready. It takes some every thing is ready. It takes some
little time for an orchestra to ge ready, however. The man whe bites off the first jjint of the clarionet breathes a few liquid notes,
the first violin sounds " A " and the gentelman with the bassoon look up into its dark recesses to see if any cayenne or kittens have been
deposited there since he played last. The superintendent of the large violin stands it upon end aod chalks his bow and the leader whis. pers in a low voice to the man who
salivates the cornet The sare salivates the cornet. The snare-
drum soloist gets his assortment of drums into a semi-circle. hangs his triangle where he can get at it,
runs his eye over the xylophone, sleigh-bells, bird-call, picket-fencs, bones, castanet, cymbals, Swiss beells, and Ioriussimo. The leader writes his autograph in the atmotphere with his stick and the band
goes into committee of the whole then follows Some of cultpiece then follows. Some of the audwish it had been so difficult that the orchestra could not have play. ed it curtin now rises, and a primary school of over eight hundred pupisis is sean passing in review
across the stage, singing a song of forty-nine verses, meantime going through a system of calis henics. "The Singed might stands with yy sthao will do most any prima sals for this chorus. Get these children scecured in advance, and all their parents will cone to see
how the childrea look on the stage. Ithought of this miyself a beaudiloprano now comes wonders where Felix is. She de. cides to sing a smail song while waiting for him. The song is an It begins low and fluttering, ilike the cry of a wounded clay pigeion,
and gradually soars upyard, like
some artistic gargling which sug.
g-sts a warble in the upper regis. ter.
As she gets more confidence in because Felix did not get there at me be said he would she starts on he second added line below, and hat starts the gathers in her new ress and makes the man in the breatest atimude, she attains her fidaler becomes so excited that he
fite plays mostly on the bridge of his
instrument or the coatsleeve of the man who sits next to him.
The prima donna of 'The Singed Cat" has a pleasant voice, full of
timbre and fine allegro movement, bordering on the andante. Mr Riley, who has heard her, says that
when sho pulls out the last joint on when shr pulls out the last joint on
her cresecendo and opens her upper register her mouth looks not un.
like a slab in the dark. She sings with the whole arm movement, and
her action is good as she goes by the jodges' stand. She has a selec.
tion in the second act called. "Back to Our Mountains,", in which she
startes off with a ritard, io which she emits a ch-st note which tests tickled to get back to the moun. taios, such as they are, and is pleas. ed with the altitude. She has as. sisted in "The Dammation of Faust,"
but otheraise her conduct his seen good. She is a widow, her hus.
band being tecent band being deceased. He was
listening to the song of a buzz-saw near Stillwater, Minn, in '75, and he got the iden that the saw hat
something confidential to communieate and dcsired to take him apart for that purpose. Anyway,
he was in that condition when they he was in that condition when they
found him. For that reason her music is frequently tearful and
often solfeggo in spots. Her reperoften solieggo in spots Her reper-
toire is very large and has a lid on it. The only cr ticism that I feel
warranted in making. and I hate to worranud in making. and thate to
do that, is that she has silghtily rup. tured her vo'ce by trying several years ago to sing a duet with her.
self, and thus draw two salaries
When the arplluuse has died away Felix comes in with a baritone
voice and diminished triad. He voice and diminished triad. He thinks of the first verse while
piccolo makes a few desultory piccolo makes a few desultory re-
marks and then heexplains how he couldn't get there when he agreed
con to, because the jury disagreed, or lowe an imaginary clam we swalshell on it, and begins in a low passe roundelay which developes
into a duodecimo run. He is ac companied by a running mate, consisting of a flute with a larger red
mustaclie over the main eatrance. Scene second representa a mid. night fire in a young ladies' semi. nary, in which 332 young women
are notioed uttering a number of are noticed uttering a number of
shrill appeals for help by the ligbt of the fire fiend. The music here
is an adaption of "Sonnam is an adaption of "Sonnambula Sat."
anica," or the "Devils Dream."
Quick fiddling by the bet Quick fiddling by the head violin-
ist, partly over the bridge of his instrumen: and partly across the bridge of the second fiddler's nose, precedes a general panic
part of the bassoon, sance

## sigit. A defint no s. fat cornet indoried

y ihe bass sub
moan fron, the moan fron. the
hundred and fifty members, banded together for the purpose of resa ing beautiful but frightened gi from burning seminaries at a mo ment's notice. Each fireman wears
a lawn-tenis shirt with full a lawn.tenis shirt with full-dreas pumps. He carries a Babcock fit extinguisber bound in Russia leath
er and a small hand-bag containi a package of visitung cards. Whe a fire breakes out in a young ladies
seminary seminary at night he dresses him
self and goes to it. He finds the self and goes to it. He finds the
janitor and sends up bis card to one of the students asking if h
may have the pleasure of may have the pleasure of rescuing
her from the fire fiend. If he
comes well recommended the janitor to show him up. She
then festoons herself over Sis shulder in her simple white gown with Valenciennes lace around the
throat, and her warm tears of gratitude trickle down and tickel the conveys her into the adjoining
county, where her pare ats live farm.
Tbis
ta, making it spectacular aneret respectable. He must indead be a stinets of our lost and undordone race who will not pay to see a
chorus of beaut ful girls rescued
from a burning semit chorus of beaut ful girls rescued
from a burning seminary at night.
How much more lifeike is How much more lifelike is it than
a mi itia company of beautiful wo-
men who come on the tage with as brief address a- parliamentary 'ules
vill alow, and after making a fey erse r.markes with both feet go
away.
Tht Singed Cat" introduces a
primary school, eeminary, an entron primary school, veminary, an entre
nous Babcock fire company, and barrel of rain wat-r, It oontain
everything ennob ing, with the e

## I-P - E <br> fiea $\mathrm{s}^{\prime}$, ulmh $\overline{\mathrm{uls}} \mathrm{r}$, blhe lri

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