

SARA'S LATEST ROLE.

Bernhardt to Appear as Joan of Arc in a New Melodrama to be Realized.

PLEASE THE MOTHERS OF FRANCE.

The Great Emotional Actress' Ambition to be Realized.

HER CONCEPTION OF THE CHARACTER.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

PARIS, December 14.—Manager Du Quesnel is going to produce a melodrama by Jules Barbier, and with some of grand old Gounod's music in it, very soon at the Porte Saint Martin Theater, and then Joan of Arc will appear under the features of Sarah Bernhardt.

A capricious character, quite an insignificant incident in its way, was the means of bringing about this important event, and it is sufficiently curious to merit being narrated.

Some time ago a journalist received a letter from a society lady in which she said: "You, who know Mme. Bernhardt, could you not tell that great artist that there are many women and young girls who would like to applaud her, but that the class of people she plays forbid their going to the theater to witness her triumphs? It is fatal. One time she plays a vicious queen, at another takes the role of some outcast, again, is seen interpreting the part of a great lady of suspicious morality. Why does she not play the part of Joan of Arc? Many mothers would go and applaud her, and that too with all their heart."

The journalist sent this letter to Sarah, and, naturally, she was touched by the request made to her thus indirectly. "Why, for ten years I have fondled the plan of playing Joan of Arc for ten years I have wanted to carry it out, and it was time I was doing so, for I shall soon be too old. Just think, I am already a grandmother."

So Sarah and Du Quesnel put their heads together, and then a project was formed in spite of its great simplicity, permits of a display of music en scene quite out of the common, was put in rehearsal for the Christmas season. The plot has been changed, and it is now designated "Joan of Arc, three parts are called the Mission, the Triumph and the Death. In the first the action takes place at Domremy, where Joan has the vision; the second at Orleans, and then at Rheims, with the coronation of Charles VII. as King; the third is Rouen, where she was the prison and the stake.

The illustrious musician who is writing the melodies for "Joan of Arc" is the same whom all the world knows as the composer of "Faust," and who, only a few evenings back, made a grand success with his "Mireille." He and M. Du Quesnel, with the musical director of the Porte Saint Martin Theater, are very busy now on the details. Yesterday the manager showed the matter to the models of the costumes, which are at the Cathedral at Rheims, one of Lavastre's masterpieces. The first entrance is intended for the setting, and the succeeding wings are reserved to the choir-stair, high altar and side chapels that are preserved in the depths, extending unaided distances, and lit up by revolving stained-glass windows.

"It is not superb, my friends!" exclaimed Gounod, quite transported. "And turning round toward M. Du Quesnel, he complimented him in enthusiastic terms.

AN IMPRESSIVE SCENE.

Then Du Quesnel read the fourth scene to him, and afterward they decided on where the music was to come in. In this fourth scene, the curtain rises on a chœur which precedes the triumphal march, a "Veni Creator" written as a plain chant. Gounod touched a chord on the small piano that forms a part of his office furniture, and with his lovely voice, sang this chant. With head thrown back, and eyes uplifted toward the open grates, he evoked in those present the memory of the music of the Middle Ages, and as he chanted, a mystic warmth passed in his persuasive and touching voice.

"Yes, it should be plain chanting, nothing but fundamental notes, and sung simply by 40 voices repeating each other, it will have a grand effect in the midst of the magnificent scenery that you are preparing. After the march, he continued, "the Archbishop proceeds to consecrate the King, Charles VII. buckles on his breastplate and puts his foot in the stirrups; Joan of Arc comes forward and recites five stanzas; and, in a low voice, she will place the coronation crown on his head, and then the accompaniment to Sara's delivery."

After the first stroke, where Joan is only thinking of triumph, the grave voice of the Archbishop is heard, who chants: "Gloria in excelsis," and "Gloria in excelsis" resounded in a distant murmur the assistants, among which were the choir boys on one side, bishops in their pews, crossed and mixed—on the other, priests and peers of the kingdom. At the second stroke, Joan suddenly becomes fearful; no longer hears voices from heaven. "Deo gratias," repeats the Archbishop, and "Deo gratias" is taken up by the faithful in muted voices, which die away in the depths of the arches. Joan goes back in her mind to her cottage at Domremy, dreams of happy days, regrets the lilies in her little garden, and the birds that used to come and sing at her window—this during the third stroke. In the fourth, she asks God for power and time to finish her work by a vision, and she sees a horrible stake which is to burn her body alive, serving as a spectacle to the battling Judases and the revengeful Pilates that dared not defend her. After these strokes the music ceases, and Joan walks on the stage, and the Archbishop places the royal crown on the head of Charles VII. She prostrates herself before him and then the points in a loud voice exclaims: "Vivat rex in eternum!" "Vive rex!" thrice reply the multitude, and the choir sings a carol that Gounod is now finishing.

WHILE DU QUESNEL WAS READING THIS SCENE, the illustrious master listened religiously.

"Yes, yes, I see plainly what music is wanted. It is necessary in this case that music should be the most simple. 'Ecco anella Domini,' as the angelic salutation says. These strokes must be repeated by Sara Bernhardt in a kind of singing accompanied, as she has done, by a small orchestra, and the melody not before Joan but behind her." The master remained absorbed in thought a few moments, and it was the musical director who reminded him of the realities of this world.

BERNHARDT AND BUFFALO BILL.

As most people know, I am personally acquainted with the golden voiced Sarah, having had the pleasure of traveling with her and Mr. Albert Barré, during her first voyage in America. The last time, but one that I called on Mrs. Bernhardt I took Buffalo Bill with me to her dressing room and presented him in due form to the distinguished artist. She was enchanted with some of her friends who were present. Mlle. Alberta, the painter, etc., did all they could to make me feel that they were glad to see him in my dressing room. It was after that visit that Bernhardt gave her opinion about Joan of Arc.

"For a long time," said she, "I have been enamored of the character. After having read Mireille, Henri Martin and Larmetie, I searched for everything that had been written about her for the stage. Pierre Dumas' tragedy, Soumet's trilogy, Schiller's superb drama, and Davigny's play which was acted at the Theater Francaise some 50 years ago. I finally selected Jules Barbier's work, as it was the only one that shows her to be under all her aspects. For my part, I regret the absence of that marvelous scene where the singer accompanied by the orchestra keeps her all attention and ravishing smiles, doctors of divinity who met together with

HOW TO BE A FAILURE.

A Little Humorous Wisdom Dished Up Exclusively for

THE BENEFIT OF YOUNG AUTHORS.

Recipes for the Manufacture of Unread Poets and Novelists.

HOW TO ACHIEVE PECUNIARY FAILURE.

Superintendent Porter Tells Private Dalsell Just How It May be Taken in Detail—An Landscaper's Ap-propriation as Yet.

Special attention to this important CALDWELL, O., December 28.—Private Dalsell has just received from Robert P. Porter, Superintendent of the Eleventh Corps, the following letter, telling how it is proposed to find out all about the old soldiers next June:

Private Dalsell, Caldwell, Noble Co., Ohio: DALSELL:—Your suggestions as to the points which should be covered by a special census of surviving soldiers and sailors, have been received, and I have to thank you for them. The war, so far as provision has been made for the special work, permits the securing of the name, rank, company, regiment and length of service, and this data can be secured, on a special service in the hands of the census enumerators.

To ascertain correctly the other points mentioned, you will require a personal visit to each soldier in your hands. This requires as well a good deal more time than is now allowed for by the gathering by the census enumerators of the statistics authorized and required under the law. As you probably know, it is only rarely that the census enumerator would see a surviving soldier or sailor in person, the information to be secured being furnished by the family of the soldier or sailor, or by some member of his household. I presume, also, that you are aware that the census enumerators in cities of 10,000 inhabitants, according to the census of 1880, and one death in all other enumerated districts. This matter of obtaining a detailed statement as to the whereabouts of each soldier and sailor, with General Alger and other interested, and the means whereby this could be carried out, and not conflict with or jeopardize the success of the census as a whole, has been suggested by this office. This plan, in my opinion, is the best, and it is proposed in June next, to leave with each survivor or widow an inquiry card containing the various points covered by this special data needed, and with the necessary instructions printed on the card, to be filled in at the convenience of the person, and returned in an envelope supplied for the purpose, to the census enumerator.

In case of all those persons who, after a certain time, did not make such return, special inquiries could be provided, and the information from them, and thus make the record as complete as possible. To do this, of course, would require an additional sum of money, but what has been already appropriated for the purpose, and the additional money secured, do not see why this could not be carried out successfully, and to the great benefit of all persons interested in this matter. Very respectfully, ROBERT P. PORTER, Superintendent of Census.

THE FIRST SEE EYER SAW. A Cuban Girl's Great Amusement on Behalf of her Holding Ice-cream. Youth's Companion. A Cuban girl who had never seen ice-cream spent a winter in a Northern city for the study of music. She woke one Christmas morning and was astonished at seeing for the first time in her life the long, pendant fringes hanging from the ceiling.

"Oh, what a beautiful Christmas custom!" she exclaimed, as she came hurrying downstairs. "The candleabra look lovely hanging from the roof all ready for the illumination!"

McGillivray's Pills cure bilious and nervous ailments. Prams Soap secures a beautiful complexion. B. & B. Bargains Cassual. See column 2d, this paper, and come to these stores—Monday morning. We'll save you a good many dollars. ROGGS & BUEL.

At Hansh's Jewelry Store you can buy fine diamond jewelry and gold watches 20 per cent less than elsewhere. This is quite a saving, at Hansh's, No. 205 Fifth ave. FINE French and Scotch dressings—a great variety of patterns to select from—prices reduced. HUGGS & HAZEL. McGillivray's Christmas Dinner Was composed chiefly of Marvin's new and famous McGillivray cakes, just out. Get a pound from your grocer. Striped Treasures. The largest stock at popular prices. FROELICH'S, 434 W. 4th street. THOSE who use Frauenheim & Vilsack's celebrated ale and porter pronounce it excellent in flavor and very beneficial in its effect. Keep it by all first-class dealers.

Put the parcel outside the window for Pickford's van to call for, and mayhap, as once occurred in Mr. Lang's experience, it will be stolen by a tramp, when you will not only have the satisfaction of failing, but the intense pleasure of imagining the thief curiously opening what he conceived to be at least a suit of clothes, and perhaps something still more valuable, and finding only a heap of paper. A less satisfactory way of achieving the same end is to write the address so carelessly that the parcel is never delivered. When it is done, write to a friend who has a distant acquaintance with some man of letters to use his influence for it. Probably the co-beneficiary will scribble something in this style: "Dear Smith—That pretentious idiot Jones asks me to write you about some drivelling romance he has written. I am doing so to please him, but of course, I will be the last man to interfere with the performance of your duty." This does the trick.

If the best horses refuse to accept, don't for a moment imagine that this is the end of the whole affair. Publish boldly at your own expense; it is as well to get your own in that way as in any other, or induce some semi-bankrupt fourth rate publisher to take it up. The greater rubbish it is the more insistent on its appearance.

HOW TO MAKE A BARGAIN. In spite of all your precautions the novel after all may turn out to be marketable, but in that case you can still manage to be a winner by making a bad bargain with the publisher. Should he wish to purchase it, sell the copyright for a small sum in cash. It may be that he will draw a thousand a year for it while you have only a single hundred, or if it is on the half profit system let him insert a clause making the halving begin after he has had 50 per cent of the profit. Nothing is easier than to neutralize the uncalculated advantages of having unwittingly been guilty of a clever novel. There would be many more failures but for the fact that publishers, to do things justly, when they make a great hit, are in the habit of presenting checks to the uncommercial authors.

If you happen to have the slightest and most casual acquaintance with a great critic

PAT MEN BASILY SWINDLED.

Quack Doctors Make Money by Selling Them All Sorts of Nostrums.

"Pat men," said a well-known physician yesterday, "are the most gullible creatures of earth. No end of patent medicine charlatans have made big fortunes purely by the manner in which they have preyed upon the prejudices of men who convey superstitious faith around with them, and there would seem to be absolutely no nostrum too nonsensical or absurd for a fat man to reject. The most tyrannical masters relating to hygiene know perfectly well that the only reasonable way for a man of abundant flesh to reduce himself by exercise. Then, as he grows thinner, his muscles harden and he increases in strength, but inordinate fat predisposes a man to inertia and inactivity, and so fat men try to reduce themselves by medicines and medical remedies of various sorts. They succeed in wrecking their digestive powers, and that is about all. Most of them are big and strong enough to protect themselves in a physical sense, but they are veritable children when they come in contact with quack doctors."

THE CENSUS OF SOLDIERS.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, DEC. 30. THEATRE Under the direction of R. M. GULICK & CO. MATINEES NEW YEAR'S DAY and SATURDAY. "The Eagle can well afford to let the little Sparrow chatter."

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January 6, BRONSON HOWARD'S "SHENANDOAH." GRAND OPERA HOUSE. MR. E. D. WILT, Lessee and Manager. REGULAR PRICES, 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00. FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEK, Matinee New Year's Day and Saturday. GRAND HOLIDAY ATTRACTION. The Funniest Comedy of the Season.

HOYT'S A HOLE IN THE GROUND! "A Satire on the Railroads." Great Cast! New Scenery! Popular Music! Company of Comedians and Pretty Girls. Week of January 6—Primrose and West's Gigantic Minstrels.

HARRY WILLIAMS' ACADEMY. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL. MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 30. Matinee, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. HARRY KERNELL'S NEW COMPANY. Grand Holiday Matinee NEW YEAR'S DAY AT 2 NIGHT PRICES OF ADMISSION.

HARRIS' THEATER. WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, DEC. 30. Every Afternoon and Evening. N. S. WOOD IN HIS LATEST SUCCESS. OUT IN THE STREETS. If you happen to have the slightest and most casual acquaintance with a great critic

THE BIG HOLIDAY TRADE ENJOYED BY KEECH'S REGULAR PRICES, 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00. FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEK, Matinee New Year's Day and Saturday. GRAND HOLIDAY ATTRACTION. The Funniest Comedy of the Season. HOYT'S A HOLE IN THE GROUND! "A Satire on the Railroads." Great Cast! New Scenery! Popular Music! Company of Comedians and Pretty Girls. Week of January 6—Primrose and West's Gigantic Minstrels.

KEECH'S IN THE FURNITURE LINE PARTICULARLY KEECH'S MAMMOTH CARPET ROOM. Among the hundreds upon hundreds of big rolls of rich Brussels, Tapestries, Velvets, Moquettes or Ingrains shown here you will in vain seek for a shoddy quality or a fading color. Just a few more words and we are done. These words will concern Keech's Cloak and Clothing rooms. They get contain a beautiful variety of Ladies' Newmarkets and Flush garments, Men's Suits and Overcoats, and, owing to the lateness of the season, you may look for BIG REDUCTIONS ALL ALONG THE LINE. KEECH'S Cash and Credit House, 923 and 925 Penn avenue, Near Ninth Street. Open Saturday Nights till 10 o'clock.