ENGLISH OPERA.

The English Composers and Their Works.

In the course of an interesting article on English opera, a writer in the Cincinnati *Gazette* of the first instant gives this list of the most popular lyric works, on the English stage:

"Forty years ago Sir Henry Bishop, the director of Covent Garden and Drury Lane, wrote no opera, properly so-called. In his day the nearest approaches to the opera were plays like—*Guy—Mannering,*—*Rob Roy*—*The Knight of Snowdown*, and *The Miller and his Men*, interspersed with lyric pieces and a chorus. It was not until five years later that Bishop composed studied the peculiarities of foreign music, and founded a national system upon the dual and rhythmical excellences of native melody. A fresh coloring—a new direction and a novel application of scientific principles were associated with natural impulses, and produced English opera. The very first season the Lyceum, built in 1835, expressly to exhibit and foster this new musical energy, was distinguished by the production, of two works of striking merit, the *Nourjahad* of Mr. Edward Loder, and the *Mountain Sylph* of Mr. John Barnett. The next successful piece was Michael Balfe's *Siege of Rochelle*, produced at Drury Lane. This was quickly followed by the *Maid of Artois*, illustrated by the genius of Malibran, in the height of her power, and in quick succession, by the same master, appeared *Joan of Arc*, *Catharine Grey*, *The Enchantress*, *The Daughter of St. Mark*, *The Bondman*, and last and greatest, *The Rohemian Girl*, which immediately scored the public ear, and ran for more than a hundred nights, at Drury Lane. Three of Vincent Wallace, published music was hailed with but little less enthusiasm than the *Rohemian Girl*.

"The next successes were won by Mr. Barnett's *Fawnell Mafariaine's Dre Pre*, Balfe's *Guitar*, or *the Lover in Test* and *Heirique Balfe's Bindaste and Rosalinthe*. The list from 1835 to 1860, inclusive, may, we believe, be completed by the following operas in chronological order: Balfe's *Bohemian Girl*; Macfaren's *Charles I*, Balfe's *Maid of Honor* and *Sicilian Bride* Howard Glover's *Amber Witch*, Howard Glover's *Bertha*, Balfe's *Rose of Castile* Howard Glover's *Roy Blas* Allen Melloh's *Victorina*, Balfe's *Jacob Leader* and *Lovers Triumph*, Balfe's *Puritan's Daughter*, *Stanella* and *Armorer of Nantes*, Howard Glover's *Love Test*, *Opera*, Macfarren's *Robin Hood* Wallace's *Amber Witch* and *Lurline*, Balfe's *Talisman* and a dozen operettas by Mori, George Macfarren, Henry Leslie and Arthur Sullivan.

"Sacred poetical lyric of operas, all composed in thirty-five years, and many of them favorites in England, the Continent of Europe and America, should be sufficient to inspire us with the most confident expectations for the future. Our English language rightly ranks in musical intonations with a facility equal to the German and Italian has been demonstrated by some of the English rendition of masterpieces like *Tretatore*, by Verdi; *Sonnambula*, by Bellini; *Martha*, *Flotow*, and *Lucia* and the Weber's *Oberon*. We do not hazard much when we predict that in many years will be the varied genius of America will build upon the solid foundation of England a school of opera which in process of time may compete, and not, perhaps, without success, for the laurels now yielded only to the great masters of Italy and Germany."

The Metropolitan Art Museum, N. Y.

The Metropolitan Art Museum has effected its organization in a manner that gives promise of the entire success of the praiseworthy enterprise. The following is the list of officers:

President—John Taylor Johnston. *Vice President*—Wm. Cullen Bryant, Andrew H. Green, Wm. H. Riggs, Wm. H. Aspinwall, John A. Dix, Hon. Edwin D. Morgan, Marshall O. Roberts. *Trustees*—Governor of the State of New York, *ex officio*; Mayor of the city of New York, *ex officio*; President of the Department of Public Parks of the City of New York, *ex officio*; President of Public Works of the City of New York, *ex officio*; President of the National Academy of Design, of New York, *ex officio*; President of the New York Chapter of American Institute of Architects, *ex officio*; George Wm. Curtis, Joseph H. Choate, Frederick E. Church, Richard M. Hunt, Wm. T. Blodgett, Rutherford Stuyvesant, Frederick Hamilton, Eastman Johnson, Lucius Tuckerman, George P. Putnam, Christian E. Detmold, William S. Hoppin, John F. Kensett, Howard Potter, Henry Chauncey, Theodore Roosevelt, George F. Comfort, L. M. Barlow, J. Q. A. Ward, Robert Gordon, Robert Hoe, Jr.: *Treasurer*, Samuel G. Ward; *Recording Secretary*, Theodore Weston; *Corresponding Secretary*, Russell Sturgis, Jr.

The reports of the several committees appointed to mature a plan for prompt action are eminently practical, and are considered competent knowledge of the workings of similar institutions in European capitals.

The Finance Committee look for the necessary funds to the payments of sums of two hundred, five hundred and one thousand dollars by three classes of associate members respectively.

An indestructible building for the collections of the Museum is a matter of the first importance, and this is distinctly recognized by the committee to whom was referred the question of such edification. This second, there can be little doubt that a loan exhibition could be managed soon to make the Museum abundantly successful in a pecuniary point of view.

Many of the most valuable and interesting objects in the South Kensington Museum are loans, which the liberal owners have permitted to remain in the building for years, under a conviction of their safety, and of the great benefit in the education of the public taste thus accomplished.

The nature and subjectation of the works to be acquired by the Museum, when the building shall have been made ready for the reception, will be determined by the executive committee. The preliminary report is full of good sense, as might have been expected of gentlemen so competent. The committee is composed of—Messrs. Samuel Gray Ward, William F. Blodgett, Frederick E. Church, Joseph H. Choate, Seymour Tilton and Fred. Law Olmsted. They wisely look to quality rather than quantity in their early acquisitions.

Under such excellent auspices it cannot be doubted that the Metropolitan Art Museum will prove an ornament to New York city, and an instrumentality of the highest usefulness to the whole country.

Sinking Islands.

An English paper says:

It appears that we are in a fair way to lose about 7,800 square miles of British territory. The *Indian Daily News* calls attention to a report recently issued on the vegetation of the Andaman Islands, in which Mr. Kurz, the Curator of the Herbarium of the Calcutta Botanical Gardens, gives it as his opinion that these islands are in a sinking state, and must eventually disappear. Mr. Kurz has arrived at this conclusion from having observed, at various points of the islands, a vast extent of decaying vegetation, stumps of trees, &c., covered by or open to the action of the sea. There are upwards of 6,000 convicts on these islands; but there is no occasion for immediate anxiety on their behalf, for, according to Mr. Kurz, the submersion is proceeding only at the rate of one foot in a hundred years, and it will take a thousand years before all the above-ground houses along the beach at Ross Island disappear under water.

LITERARY.

In deference to the great popular demand for the cream of current English literature in monthly installments, which is indicated by the marked success and rapid sales of all the popular editions of the Leonard series, the publishers will hereafter issue it exclusively in monthly numbers. This change is rendered partly by the causes already indicated, but more especially by the facilities gained under the new arrangement, for furnishing copies to Europe after the arrival of the British steamers and three weeks in advance of the regular issues. In consequence of current foreign literature, the choice articles of all the popular English journals and magazines. Each number of the *Monthly Transatlantic* will be handsomely illustrated, and contain one hundred and twenty-eight imperial pages of carefully selected matter. Published by J. R. Hamersly & Co.

On the 15th instant Messrs. Leypoldt & Holt will publish the latest and, as regards greatest work of the German author, Spielhagen, entitled "Hammer and Anvil." This literary world is agreed as to the extraordinary productivity of the author of "Problematic Characters;" his metaphysical insight into character, and his minute tracing of psychological problems, have been surpassed by no writer of the age. In "Hammer and Anvil" a great awaits all readers who can do a good book the justice to give it good study.

The Illustrated London News, for April 30, received from A. Winch, for the Central News Co., No. 505 Chestnut street, has a beautiful supplement printed in colors, consisting of a brilliant picture; on a "The Woodcock's Nest," after a painting by J. Wolf; the other, of a higher order of subject, but equally fine in art treatment, is from a painting by H. Le Jeune, A. R. A., called "Cologne Bell." It is a study of a lovely female in a rustic mother and child.

T. B. Peterson & Brothers, 306 Chestnut street, send us an advance copy of "The Charles Auchester Series," a collection of stories by Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth, and her sister, Mrs. Frances Henshaw Ballou, comprising one length story in chapters and twenty-three fictitious sketches, all of a highly meritorious character. Price, $1 in cloth; or, $1 50 in paper cover.

Pawnbrokie, for May 21, has a life at the decay of the American ocean carrying trade. It is entitled "Barnacles on our Commerce," and represents an elegant young man wondering at our ships, which rot in dock under a clust of barnacles. The scene of wax and shipping, and Americans Fish flops about in the foreground, or forewater.

Carleton the Publisher had over a million sheets of his popular books destroyed and damaged at the great fire last week in Centre street, N. Y., and has already eleven presses running day and night, to replace his losses.

The Printer's Circular, a perfectly neat bit of typography, is out for May. 915 Minor street.

Royal Eating.

According to Closlas, says *Oliver Optic's Magazine*, the king of Persia supported fifteen thousand persons in their palace at an expense for each meal of more than four hundred thousand dollars, or at the rate of nearly thirty dollars for each person. When we take into account the high value of money in those days, this statement appears incredible. But there is another story that seems to confirm it. When Xerxes entered Greece, a citizen of Thasos gave him a supper which cost precisely the sum he had offered. The king had been eaten at this supper one hundred oxen, four hundred sheep, three hundred goats, three hundred lambs, three hundred gazelles, and an indefinite number of eunuchs. Amazed the Great was more moderate in his style of living. It appears that on a day in the sixty or seventy of the officers of his army, at a cost George III. of England knew how to improve the occasion; and one gentleman, who had partaken of the English king's dinner, complained that it consisted of mutton-chops and pudding.

Donation Parties.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:

The ludicrous difficulties which the English country parson sometimes experienced under the old tithe system must be as nothing compared with what his brother in the States has now to endure from what are called "donation parties." We read in Illinois a congregation lately expressed its satisfaction in the peculiar form of a present of eighty-nine dozen eggs, an amount which even a French cure, well versed in the mysteries of omelettes and *pitrues*, might have dismayed of consuming in the course of an entire Lent. The position of a minister in Maine, who is reported to have received from the same source "thirty-one bushels of potatoes, a beef tongue, seventeen pounds of tea, and a pair of gaiters, must have been embarrassing as that of Sydney Smith's curate, who, after his first sermon, had three olers of marriage—two from the north side and one from the gallery.

PROPOSALS.

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE UNITED STATES ARMY,
PHILADELPHIA, May 7, 1870.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until 12 o'clock M. on TUESDAY, the 7th day of June, 1870, for furnishing the Quartermaster's Department with five thousand (5,000) gross tons (or such less quantity as may be required) best quality of White Ash Anthracite Coal, of such size and in such quantities as may be ordered for a period of one year from the 1st day of May, 1870, with the privilege of increasing the amount to ten thousand (10,000) tons should it be required.

So much of the coal as may be required for use in this city, including the United States Arsenals at Bridesburg and Gray's Ferry Road, to an amount not exceeding twelve hundred (1,200) tons, must be delivered without additional expense to the United States. The balance to be delivered on board of vessels at this port, in good order and condition, free from slate, bone, dust and other impurities.

Proposals must be made out in duplicate on blank forms, which can be obtained at this office, and envelopes endorsed "Proposals for Delivery of Coal."

Each proposal must be accompanied by a written guarantee that in the event of the acceptance of the proposal, the bidder or bidders will enter into a contract for the delivery of the coal.

No proposal will be considered unless made in strict conformity to the above.

Bidders are invited to attend at the opening of proposals.

The Quartermaster's Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Any additional information desired by parties wishing to bid will be furnished upon application to this office.

HENRY C. HODGES,
Brevet Lieut.-Colonel and Quartermaster
U. S. Army.

SEALED PROPOSALS, "ENDORSED Proposals for Lamps," will be received at the Treasurer's office, Camden, until eight o'clock P. M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1870.

FOUR HUNDRED LAMPS.

Fifty LOAN OF $2,000 IN BONDS OF $500 EACH, issued under ordinance of the City Council of the City of Camden, N. J. Said bonds will bear SEVEN PER CENT. SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST, payable in gold, and will be dated JULY 1, 1870.

The whole or any part of said loan may be registered or not, at the option of the holder, on the books of the Treasurer of said city, and will have coupons attached for four years from the date of issue, payable in gold.

FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 1871.

Bids will be received for the entire or any share of said bonds, but any proposal must state whether to be registered or not.

SAMUEL BRIDGE,
GEORGE W. TUCKER,
CHARLES CALDWELL,
Finance Committee.

CAMDEN, April 23, 1870. m,w,f,t

CITY ORDINANCES.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE construction of certain Sewers.

SECTION 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, That the Department of Highways be and is hereby authorized to construct the following sewers, viz.: On Tioga street, from east curb line of Fifth street to Sixteenth street, of the diameter of three feet; In Thirty-seventh street, from Market to Powelton avenue; and also in Lancaster avenue, from Powelton avenue to Park or Thirty-seventh street, of the diameter of three feet, and in Ridge avenue, between Twenty-second street and the north line of Columbia avenue, of the diameter of three feet, to be built of brick, circular in shape, and in accordance with specifications prepared by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor.

SECTION 2. The Chief Commissioner of Highways shall advertise according to law, announcing that bids will be received for the above designated sewers, and he shall allot them to the lowest and best bidders, and it shall be a condition of said contract that the contractor shall accept the sums assessed upon the property adjacent to the sewers, and shall pay from the property owners respectively for the construction of branch sewers, approved April 2, 1869.

LOUIS WAGNER,
President of Common Council.
ATTEST—JOHN ECKSTEIN,
Clerk of Common Council.
SAMUEL W. CATTELL,
President of Select Council.

Approved this eleventh day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy (A. D. 1870).

DANIEL M. FOX,
Mayor of Philadelphia.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE the construction of a certain sewer.

SECTION 1. The Select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia do ordain, That the Department of Highways be and is hereby authorized to construct the following sewer, viz.: On Berks street, from Reed street to Eighteenth street, eastward to Eighteenth street, with an inside diameter of four feet six inches; thence northward along Eighteenth street to the first and second lines of Reed, an inside diameter of five feet. Said sewer to be built of brick, circular in shape, and in accordance with specifications prepared by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor.

SEC. 2. The Chief Commissioner of Highways shall advertise according to law, announcing that bids will be received for the above sewer, and he shall allot it to the lowest and best bidder; and it shall be a condition of said contract that the contractor shall accept the sums assessed upon the property adjacent to the sewer, in manner and form authorized by ordinance entitled "An ordinance regulating the assessment upon property for the construction of branch culverts or drains," approved May 12, 1865, and supplement thereto, approved February 16, 1869; any excess over the above said assessment to be charged to the property lying on the line of said sewer, in manner and form authorized by ordinance entitled "An ordinance regulating the assessment upon property for the construction of branch culverts or drains," approved May 12, 1865, and supplement thereto, approved February 16, 1869; any excess over the above said assessment to be charged to the property owners respectively for the construction of branch sewers, approved April 2, 1869.

LOUIS WAGNER,
President of Common Council.
ATTEST—JOHN ECKSTEIN,
Clerk of Common Council.
SAMUEL W. CATTELL,
President of Select Council.

Approved this twelfth day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy (A. D. 1870).

DANIEL M. FOX,
Mayor of Philadelphia.

RESOLUTION TO PLACE CERTAIN Sewers under the City Plan.

Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Department of Surveys be and is hereby directed to place the following sewers in the city the following streets, viz.:—Patton street, from Grape street to Reed street, and the distance of one hundred and seventeen feet east of Thirteenth street, and the depth thereto with a width of thirty feet; Mount Holly street, from Ridge avenue to Mary street, at the distance of one hundred and sixteen feet west of Seventeenth street, and the depth thereto with a width of thirty feet; Bancroft street, from Reed street to Dickinson street, at the distance of one hundred and five feet west of Sixteenth street, and parallel therewith to a depth of one hundred feet; Reed street, from Twenty-second to Twenty-third street, at the distance of one hundred and thirty feet south of Washington street, and parallel therewith to a depth of one hundred; And that Ashmead street, between Wakefield street and Chelten avenue, Germantown Railroad, as now laid out upon Plan No. 176 of the City Plan, be and the same is hereby ordered to be made thirty-five feet wide, the increase of one foot to be made upon the southern side thereof.

LOUIS WAGNER,
President of Common Council.
ATTEST—JOHN ECKSTEIN,
Clerk of Common Council.
SAMUEL W. CATTELL,
President of Select Council.

Approved this twelfth day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy (A. D. 1870).

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