## News of the Green Room and Foyer.

Some of the More Important Doings of These, Our Actors.

the present season. The drawbacks relate chiefly to defects in the cast, which had been changed for the worse since its earlier local appearance. Then, too, the audience itself seemed tinged with the temperature prevalent outside, only warming up to the merits of the play after several tuneful lyrics had escaped its appreciation, "Doreas" is described on the bills as an operatic comedy; and it is concerning its suggestions of a changing public taste rather than with the presentation of "Dorcas" itself that we now wish to deal. The signs, in our opinion, are surely multiplying that the slushy farce and the bawling melo-drama have both had their day. American audiences are beginning to exhibit a progressive impatience for something newer cleaner and better. They perhaps are not quite yet ready to be preached to. Henry Arthur Jones fashion, or to be bored, after the manner of Henrik Ibsen and James A. Herne, But they are moving on-and up. A steadily increasing number of them are learning to discriminate between the grotesque ness of the grimacing acrobat come dian with his padded make-up fortifications against physical mishaps and the genuine humor of the artist comedian who plays upon the chords of human sentiment rather than upon plano keyboards and trap doors. And as this discrimination grows and widens, there will arise an epidemic of dissatisfaction with the fun-making equipment of players like Steve Brodie and "Grimesy" Mackie; and a demand for a purer expression of the player's part and mission.

While it is probably true that in thes matters the shrewdest observers ar often deceived, we hazard the gues that in the cordial reception recently accorded in this former citadel of the melo-drama to such sweet and dainty little pastorals as "L'Ami Fritz," and in that given also, in less degree. 'Dorcas"-albeit the latter play is b all odds the coarser, more farcical and more risque-one can gain an idea o two as to what the new appetite wil welcome. The melo-drama, in som form, is bound to survive, because it i securely founded on the eternal verisecurely founded on the eternal ties of human nature. Thus, also, of opera, in at least its simpler phases, profit this winter than ever before; Richard Mansfield stands at the top of the to combine the strong points in the two classes of entertainment, and go forth unto the people with a double magnet with which to attract their favor? "Dorcas" shows us how almost a farce can be daintily softened and supplemented by the addition of a half-score of fetching songs. "Friend despite its uncouth name, proved to us that no stronger appeal can be made to the healthy instincts of a miscellaneous audience than by the picturing before them, in exquisite- Nethersole, Alexander Saivini, Robert ly true art, the quaint charms of bucolic life, with its music, its rebucolic life, with its music, its remances, its openness, its clear sky and its fine, tonic air. Somehow, even after worth, while Sothern, Jefferson, Sol Russell and Goodwin, all of whom are dipthe interval of almost a year, we can- ping into legitimate comedy this season not yet feel sufficiently grateful to the | might also express an opinion that would

Those who, on Wednesday, witnessed | unknown German genius-for he was at the Academy the return perform- a German, was he not?-who gave this ance of "Dorcas," by the Pauline Hall restful picture of tranquil, honest company, enjoyed what, in spite of home life to us; gave it with no thought some minor drawbacks, was one of the of spicing its pure charm with filth or most pleasurable dramatic events of defilement; gave it serene in his confidence in the better motives of human character. If when the inane farce, the stupid problem play, the aenemic drawing-room exhibit and the robustious heroic masquerade shall have managed to pall upon the jaded nerves of the coming man, the amusement purveyor of the future shall avail himself of a grade of commodity similar to this German one, with its sweet songs and touching loves and sorrows, who can doubt that it will sell; sell with that happy avidity which betokens something unexpectedly novel and

> Discussing the trite but ever intersting question of the future of the legitimate," the Chicago Herald very aptly says:

The passing of McCullough, Booth, Barrett and others of honorable fame, coupled with memories of Edwin Forrest, Charlotte Cushman, the elder Booth and their fellows of an older generation, has created a sense of bereavement which in turn is responsible for the impression that the day of the legitimate drama is at an end. But the recognized artist who comes with an ample production of an imof absolute authority he will command attention. A vast body of former play-goers, who have been partially weaned from their old-time adherence to the stage by an excessive diet of folly and farce-comedy frivolity, may be won again by a return to legitimate methods. It is not the disposition but the opportunity that has been lacking and is lacking today. Managers have devoted themselves to panying opportunity for greater profit. Happily, the end of this dishwater regime is at hand. None of the important the-aters find it possible to lure patrons with the cheap ban of farce comedy, and there s a reaction also against an excessive upply of imported comedy. Organizaons accustomed to peddle drivel from ne end of the land to the other find themlves in the jaws of bankruptcy and rail fate without ceasing. But there is litie complaint from legitimate undertak-ngs put on foot with skill and liberality. Ada Rehan, in a round of standard conr-

ladder, amply satisfied with his success Otis Skinner at one bound becomes a recognized and prosperous star; Julia Marlowe finds increasing appreciation of the legitimate everywhere; Fanny Dav-enport demonstrates the demand of the hour for dramatic solids by her most extravagant but enormously profitable production of "Gismonda;" Mrs. Kendal finds no lack of appreciation for her sumptuous revival of "Lady Clancarty," while Kathryn Kidder's splendid production of "Sans Gene" is quite in line with the other sterling successes of the season. Olga

encourage those who pray for the decad-ence of drivel. by Jury," which is to inaugurate the one-ence of drivel.

"Whatever may be the objections to novel-reading and to attendance upon theatrical performances, the novel and the drama are probably permanent forces in civilization and must," in the opinion of the Chautauquan, "be so regarded. In some form or other ficion has always been attractive to the human imagination and has never failed to influence it. A story of trag-edy or comedy, an epic or a lyric of life, appeals to an elemental taste which neither ignorance nor culture can obliterate. There is doubtless a principle at the bottom of this general truth which demands universal recognition and respect and the sooner we meet the conditions of it with liberal intelligence the better off we shall be. Viewed broadly the drama is but a novel arranged and fitted for realistic, personal presentation on the stage; it is a romance or society story to be set forth in imitation of life in the concrete by persons representing the imaginary actors instead of being read and so realized in the abstract. Thus regarded the play romance exemplified by application to life, a novel of manners and morals made real by actual exhibition. It would seem that whatever harm or good can come of indulging in a taste for fiction must be referred to the nature of the particular case in hand and not to any sweeeping objection or favorable accounting applicable to fiction in

Score another for stage realism. One of the features of William Haworth's new play, "On the Mississippi," is a scene representing a Mississippi river steamboat gambling house in full blast Colonel George H. Devol impersonates the manager, and the beauty of this, portant play may easily determine that from the standpoint of modern realism, the fire is still alight upon the altar of the is that Colonel Devol has had forty legitimate. If he is able to speak in tones years' experience in the gambling busiyears' experience in the gambling business. He was king-bee of the bambling fraternity in New Orleans when the city was captured by the Federal forces under Butler and Farragut, and even now takes malicious pleasure in telling over the silver-spoon story on General Butler in revenge for a loss of \$50,000 inflicted on him when the general captured all his race-horses at the attenuated comedies and silly farces on the specious plea that these nervoless compositions were demanded by the pub-In the hands of so eminent an artist ilc, whereas it would appear that they were preferred by the managers solely on the score of cheapness and the accomfavor which will tend to elevate the favor which will tend to elevate the drama with a wild, weird whoop.

Just before Beerbohm Tree left London, at a farewell function in which his temporary disappearance from Albion was toasted by prominent personages of the metropolis, that eminent actor perpetrated a clever epigram at Oscar Wilde's expense. Wilde's new play was to succeed the Trees at the Haymarket. Alluding thereto, Mr. Tree ventured to hope that "The Ideal Husband" "would be found a fit companion to 'A Woman of No Importance.'

FOOTLIGHT FLASHES:

Rose Coghlan has a new play. Lydia Yeamans-Titus may star in comic

Andrew Mack is to star in "Myles Sol Smith Russell will play "Bob Acres"

next season. Adele Ritchie will star in a new com! opera next season.

W. H. Crane has accepted the scenario of a new play submitted to him by Frank-

Dorothy Morton will be the prima donn of the Summer Opera company at Atlanta, Ga., next summer. Louis Harrison has signed with Ru-

Neil Burgess says that he has been away from the stage so long that he does not believe he could play the old maid in "The County Fair" again to the satisfaction of an audience. "I could no more get my voice to that part than I could fly," he says.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell, the most-talked of actress in London, has two children born before she went on the stage, and a husband who hunts lions in Africa. On her first appearance in London her skirt dropped off and she had nerve enough to stoop and pin it on without leaving the

Mollere's "Amphitryon" is about to be produced at the Paris Renaissance theater, with Coquelin as Socie, his ron, Jean Coquelin, as his double, Mercure, and Sarah Bernhardt as Alcmenc. The play, like "The Comedy of Errors," turns chiefly on the resemblance between the

With three remarkably prosperous "In Old Kentuck" companies playing to the capacity of theaters nearly everywhere, three other companies doing a steadily profitable business and three popular the-aters, it is generally conceded that Man-ager Jacob Litt will this season make a is the novel reduced to example, as we larger amount of money than any other might say, and set before us in flesh and one American manager. Mr. Litt is the blood. It is a poem materialized, a youngest producing manager in this coun-

> The largest stand of posters ever made for a theatrical attraction in this co has just been completed for "The War of Wealth," C. T. Dazey's new American play which Manager Jacob Litt will produce at the Chestnut Street opera house, Philadelphia, Feb. 25. The stand is being made by the Strobridge company, is nine sheets long and four sheets high, making thirty-six in all. Primrose & West and Kiralfy had used the largest stands of posters up to this time, which were composed of thirty-two sheets.

### IN LOCAL THEATERS.

Tonight there will be something unusually good at the Academy of Music,
"A Baggage Check." The play is a satire on the steam laundry business and the second act shows the interior of a laundry with several pretty girls and all the machinery, etc., used in an up-to-date laundry. Mark Sullivan appears as comedian. Miss Sylvester Cornish, late prima donna contralto with Seabrooke and De Wolf Hopper Madge Yorke of the original "Hoss and Hoss" company, and Leola Belle are principals, who are seconded in their entertaining by ten others, all of whom can sing, dance and look pretty.

Joseph Arthur's stirring drama, "The Still Alarm," now under Davis and Keogh's management, is announced for Tuesday evening at the Academy of Music in this city, and the interest already manifested indicates that the event will be one of unusual importance in theatricals. The piece is of the few sensational products of the playwright which can be said to possess genuine merit and to have be a standard attraction. It tells the story of a brave young fireman's life and its many thrilling episodes. Several startlingly realistic effects are shown, including a real fire engine in operation and the entire workings of the firemen from the moment the alarm strikes to the extinguishing of the flames. This is the annual benefit of Crystal Hose company.

At Davis' theater next Monday, Tues day and Wednesday afternoon and evening the successful melo-drama, "Kentuck," will be produced. "Ken-tuck" is an elaborate and sumptuous scenic production and presents stage effects more ingenious and striking than any American play ever produced. It portrays with rare skill the grace and charm of Kentucky life, and places vividly before the spectator real flesh and blood figures of the research time. lolph Aronson to play the Judge in "Trial | and blood figures of the present time.

# Gathered in the World of Melody.

Interesting Notes About Musicians At Home and Abroad.

doubt the "Blauvelt" of the contraltos of the bow, the most complicated rhythof New York, and was booked to sing mical figures being tossed off with an at Mr. Carter's recital next Monday case that is fascinating. His tone has evening, has kindly consented to a also that rare quality of never seeming postponement of the date. Miss Blood-small, even in passages of exquisite good is a handsome woman of 24, and delicacy, or when the solo instrument the Musical News says of her appear- enters after the crash of the entire ance at Mrs. Scott's musical tea re- orchestra, as, for example, in the last cently: "Miss Bloodgood sang the movement of the Saint-Saens concerto, plaintive Ein Ton, by Peter Carnelius, where the violin, repeating a phrase in an artistic and sympathetic fashion, after the full weight of strings and and for an encore Nevin's 'Oh, That We wood and brass, seemed to dominate Two Were Maying.' Her rendering of the entire orchestral mass. The violin this sentimental ballad made one forget its triteness in the delightful emotions her voice produced, and her line and is yet graceful to the verge 'Gibson' figure and presence added of coquetry. He possesses marvelously much to the favorable impression her the secret of the bel canto, for even in voice created. There were 450 of the passages of mere bravura, or to exleading musicians and society people of hibit the instrument he sings, an almost this city present." Mr. Carter will imperceptible lengthening of some essoon announce the date of the concert sential note making the melodic phrase at which Miss Bloodgood will appear, and a packed house is assured.

Mrs. David Spruks gave a charming "musical lunch" to a number of friends last Wednesday, which proved to be an event of the season. Alfred Wooler delighted those present with several ballads; Miss Masson, of Baltimore, enthused her hearers with her flute-like voice, while the hostess sang several selections with much spirit. John Watkins, George Noyes-Rockwell, and George Bonaparte Carter gave appropriate selections.

George Bonaparte Carter says "that blindness is more common in Scranton than in Denver. In Denver 'silver' is a silver offering at a recital the number of pennies and nickels in the plate denote how little consideration the silver question is being given by attendants."

Horace M. Eckman, planist at the Scranton School of Music, has been en-gaged as organist and musical director at the Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal church, Wilkes-Barre,

Musical teas are all the rage in Gotham at present. Society leaders in Scranton who claim to be up to date will do well to note this fact.

The "Old Folk's concert" to be given at the Elm Park Methodist Episcopal church Washington's birthday will be an attractive event.

The Wilkes-Barre Oratorio society will hold a musical festival at the Ninth Regiment armory in June next.

Miss Florence Richmond will give a musical evening at her home on Madison avenue next Monday.

"Saul of Tarsus" will be given by the Sacred Music society on April 26.

Miss Katherine Bloodgood, who is no | left hand is equalled by his command stand out as clear as though played upon another instrument. superb staccato, particularly in the down bow, and his intonation is almost

SHARPS AND FLATS:

The Marquis of Lorne has completed two operas which, it is said, will be produced in London.

The "Isle of Champagne" is to be sung in England by a company which will in-clude Comedian Lonnen and Letty Lind. Talk about art! Jose Lederer, the well known tenor, has left the stage and opened a cigar store in Frankfort-on-the Main.

The Musical Courier states that Calve has been engaged by Colonel Mapleson for easily detected, while in Scranton, after next winter's season and it is even rumored that she may visit the United

States. The new Conservatory of Moscow is nearly finished. Its construction will cost about \$3,000,000. The vestibule will contain the statues of Rubinstein and

Tschaikowsky. Marion Manola has completely recov ered from her recent illness, and she and her husband have reorganized the Manola-Mason company, which will begin a tour in "L'Ami Fritz."

Mme. Marchesi, in whom thousands of Americans have implicit faith, says that a more accomplished concert singer than Mrs. Wyman she has not turned out in the whole of her career.

Richard Strauss' opera, "Guntram," has been accepted for performance by the Munich Royal opera house, and will be brought out there under the composer's direction about April 20.

Now prepare for choir changes, as whispers are telling some cold facts. Choir singers are glad that Mrs. Baldwin has departed.

Plunket Greene, the celebrated Irish basso, will return to this country about the middle of February. Mr. Greene is a very remarkable singer and he has legions of admirers wherever he has sung. Mr. Damrosch has had ill-luck with his

chorus master and his stage manager for his forthcoming season of German opera. Sigmund Kaschosky, the former, suc-cumbed to mental trouble, and Adolph Bauman, who was from the Royal opera at Prague, was lost in the ill-fated Elbe. The love of Berlioz's life was an Irisi

woman, an actress, homely as could be but with such a power of delineation if Shakespearean roles that his heart wa-completely taken. They were finally married. His "Symphonie Fantastique" wa and truly phenomenal agility of his devoted to Irish subjects or suggestion.

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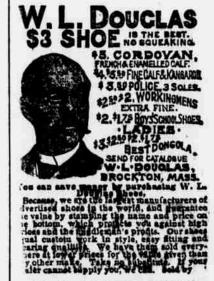
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