

## LONDON STAGE NEWS.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, AUG. 13.—With the possible exception of Theodore Hook, J. L. Toole, the veteran comedian who died this week, must have been about the most persistent and successful practical joker that this country ever produced. It would not be surprising, in fact, if the famous interpreter of "Paul Pry" and "Caleb Plumb" were remembered longer for the fun he made outside the theater than that which he produced in it, and since Toole's death, stories without number have been told about his pranks.

One of the best of these comes from John Stoker, who describes a laughable joke which Toole and his friend, Henry Irving, once played on the salad days before either the comedian or the tragedian had become world-renowned. The scene was an old inn at Waverley, where the two actors had gone to dine one Sunday. "Late in the evening," says Sir Henry's late manager, "having been sitting long after dinner, they sent the waiter for the bill. While he was gone they took the silver of which they had a plentiful supply at Waverley, and with which they had always a liberal amount on the table, and hid it in the garden upon which the room opened. Then they blew out the candles and got under the table. The waiter came back and was thunderstruck to find the room dark and the door open, and to note, by the moonlight there was, that the silver had gone. He rushed away at once, leaving the house by the wild cry of 'Thieves! Thieves!'

The instant he had gone, Irving and Toole emerged from their hiding place, closed the door, brought back the silver, and reit the candles. When presently there came into the room a wild rush of the landlord and his servants and the guests of the house, half-dressed, they found the two men sitting at the table, slipping their wine, and Irving smoking his cigar with his usual placidity. One can see his calm, benign face as he quietly asked the landlord: "Do you always come in like this when gentlemen are dining?"

Toole literally never missed an opportunity to play a joke. Going along Oxford street one day, he noticed a handsome carriage drawn up outside a certain well known establishment. The coachman and footman were on the box, looking stolidly ahead. Mr. Toole shut the door with a bang, took off his hat to some imaginary occupants, and told the coachman to "drive home." The equipage was driven off smartly away, just as its rightful owners came out of the shop, while in a safe coin of vantage, Toole hugely enjoyed his joke.

The actor also enjoyed making himself out a perfect simpleton, and was never happier than when a policeman or some official had informed him playfully, in answer to some ingenious inquiry of his, that he must just have come up from the country. He invented, too, the hoax of the demanding food and drink in business offices, and once he and Lal Brough were going down Fleet street early in the evening when Toole, noticing the great lamps over the Daily Telegraph office, nudged Brough to follow, and entered. He went over to the counter, and, looking on one clerk, said in an offhand way to the clerk, who attended, "Bring me two brandy-and-sodas!" Then he went on talking to his friend. The clerk tried

to explain, but he would not attend to his words; he and Brough were talking with too much animation to attend to anyone. The situation was only relieved when the young clerk brought one of the managers of the department, who at once recognized the two actors and understood the joke.

Another story of Toole has been told the world over, though it is often fathered on local characters. During one holiday season, he and another player, who was quite game for the little, were, as they were in the shabbiest of clothes, the most venerable of headgear, and the most down-at-heel boots they could find. Thus disguised, they went for a walk in the West End, and went up to the entrance of a smart-looking house, then occupied by a portly baronet. Ringing violently at the bell, the door was swung open by a pompous flunkey, who, astonished at the spectacle which met his gaze, angrily demanded what the two respectable-looking characters wanted. Nothing daunted, Toole asked the man if his master was at home. To which he in the silk stockings promptly replied, "No," and told the comedian and his companion to go about the business. With delicious coyness and cheek, Toole said it was a pity the owner was out, for two of his brothers from the workhouse had called to see him.

A still more elaborate hoax was that which he perpetrated at the expense of some Americans who had ventured to speak disrespectfully of the British climate, and who, when they visited the famous actor at his house in St. John's wood, were astonished by the wealth of fruit of all descriptions which appeared to be flourishing with more than tropical luxuriance on the various trees in his garden. Needless to say, the grapes, melons, strawberries, and other produce had all been fastened on by the agency of invisible hands. It is said Mr. Toole's acting was never more exuberantly funny than when he went casually plucking a grape here and a strawberry there, and inviting his astonished visitors to do the like.

One of Toole's jokes on Sir Henry Irving was to send him a live kangaroo as a Christmas present during one Yuletide which the famous comedian was spending in Australia. For some time this beast was more of a "white elephant" than a kangaroo to Irving, but finally he gave it to the London zoo, where it was still living, a while ago. The tragedian and the fun-maker were close chums up to the time of the former's death, and as Irving could spend the time, he took himself off to Brighton, where Toole spent the long years of pitiful breakdown that preceded his end.

Toole's life-story, of course, is too well known to need any repetition. Beginning at a wine merchant's clerk, it was his amazing powers of mimicry which finally led him to go on the stage. Encouraged by Charles Dickens, who wrote enthusiastically of his wit, he went on to become a household word. One of his latest, and greatest, successes was in J. M. Barrie's maiden farce, "Walker, London," and he also made a great hit in the same writer's burlesque, "Up-to-Date," which was put on at Toole's theater in 1891, and in which he appeared as Peter and then changed to a clever impersonation of Ibsen himself.

CURTIS BROWN.



Mrs. Allison—000

## WOMAN RESCUER OF DROWNING SAILOR.

This picture is from a photograph of Mrs. W. E. Allison, wife of a New York physician, about whom much is being written following her plunge into Lake Michigan to rescue a sailor who had fallen overboard from a steamer at Milwaukee. A semi-humorous twist has been given to Mrs. Allison's brave deed by a statement made by her husband to the effect that he intended scolding her for her exploit, upon her return to the metropolis.

## UTAH'S COLONY IN BERLIN.

Special Correspondence.

BERLIN, July 31.—With August nearly upon us, Berlin is again taking on the activity of the musical metropolis that she is, as vacation is only of two months duration and will be at an end on Aug. 15.

This date marks the opening of the big Royal opera house for another long season, lasting ten whole months. The news has reached here that Mr. Conried and Mr. Hammerstein are talking of making the New York season 18 instead of 16 weeks as formerly. Berlin is helpless as far as increasing the season is concerned under some good astrologer will step forward and add two or three more cool months to our calendar. With grand opera running every evening from Aug. 15 to June 15, it will be readily seen that about all of the agreeable time available has been utilizing Mr. Conried has been kind to New York and at the same time very unkind to Berlin, by coming over and offering such tempting "bait." He has succeeded in luring the majority of our very best singers over to the western shore. Miss Farrar, the rage of Monte Carlo and a great favorite here, has been captured and will sing only a few times here at the beginning and again at the close of the season. Frau Planchinger, the first class Isoldes and Brunhildes we could boast of, was also tempted by the American dollar. Fraulein Destina has been in London for some time and will also go to New York later in the year. We rejoice over the fact that the Berlin management came back at them to some extent and secured Edith Walker for the season here. Other new arrivals have not been announced yet, and we are hoping that we shall be successful in having secured as many good artists as we are losing.

## AMERICANS IN DEMAND.

All of the student body would rejoice in the arrival of some of our very successful American girls now singing on the Continent. Every opera house of any importance whatever, from Milan to Christiania and Petersburg to Lisbon, can boast of having or having had its American girl as leading soprano. The young ladies have so far hidden their brothers from over the sea, and American male voices are few and far between, while the ladies are in evidence everywhere, and each passing year adds many to the throng. Last season in Berlin we had Farrar, Paris, Bessie Abbott and Mary Garden, Vienna, Carrie Bridwell (though not a soprano, she created a wonderful impression in her beautiful contralto roles), Yvonne de Treville, and Miss Gilbert, were both traveling during the entire season and filled engagements in all the larger cities. The list could be made to cover pages, and these mentioned are only some of the leading ones.

## CONCERTS GALORE.

Besides the lovely grand opera enjoyed all over Europe last season, there was no visible dearth of concerts, and, judging from the number of concert agents and artists were evidently very busy. Berlin can boast of in the neighborhood of 500 concerts; certainly under this heading come good, bad and others. Still the majority were first class, and many were simply wonderful.

GIANT OF THE KEYBOARD. In the piano concerts over entire Europe Godowsky easily carried away the honors, both artistically and financially, playing flawless programs to crowded houses everywhere. If this wonderful, comparatively young, giant of the keyboard, as he is known here, continues to go forward, it is hard to estimate the perfection he will be able to attain. For the past five years he has been doing things which artists at that time (5 years ago) said were impossible, and is still finding new conquests. He has the reputation here of being the most wonderful pianist now before the public. American pianists evidently want some time to hear him as he has already booked 60 European concerts for next season.

## PREMIER CONCERTS.

The orchestral concerts of Miesch and Weingartner were up to their usual standard of excellence. The Miesch concerts are considered to be the premier concerts of Europe, while the Weingartner series can boast of one of the leading, if not the leading conductor in the world. Herr Weingartner has twice resigned and has been twice denied, and we are hoping that if a lawsuit ensues during the summer relative to his remaining again this winter, that Weingartner will lose his case, and in so doing please a vast majority of the musical loving public here. The opera house management claim that his contract with them is, and will remain in force until it expires, which is some time yet.

At any rate, the outlook for the coming season is exceptionally bright.

## NEW CONCERT HALLS.

Three new concert halls will be added during the coming season. One built by our own Alleana company of New York, one by the Blumstein Piano company and one by the Scharwenka Conservatory. These, with the dozen or so already here, will give ample space for all audiences.

## ABOUT UTAH COLONY.

Our little colony, which only a short

time ago numbered 20, is now somewhat scattered. Col. and Mrs. W. W. Clawson, with two children, are in Switzerland for the summer; Mrs. W. W. Ritter, daughters Maud and Mrs. Tracy Y. Cannon, with Mr. Cannon, are at present completing an Italian, Switzerland, Austria, German, Holland and Belgium trip. Mr. Andelin and Miss Sylvia Clark have been touring Denmark, Norway and Sweden with President Heber J. Grant and associates, and helping them in their work by singing in concerts and assisting in the services. The Misses Desse and Grace Grant are at present visiting in England, where they went after a short journey through central Germany. Miss Agnes Sloan, Miss Lila Jost and Miss Sybilla Clayton will soon take their vacations, while their respective teachers are out of the city. Miss Clayton will probably make an extensive automobile tour lasting two months, and will cover most of Germany and Switzerland. The young lady has worked diligently since arriving, and is in need of a good rest. She will probably return early in October and begin a long winter's work. Miss Clayton is prepared to present to make a debut here, but will probably wait until the following season. She is undoubtedly one of the star students in all Berlin at present.

Tracy Y. Cannon, as was stated, is on a well earned vacation. He has worked very diligently and needed a good rest. He has made exceptional progress in both piano and harmony and both of his teachers speak of him in glowing terms. He will be one of the big ones when he returns home, which will not be for some time, however.

Miss Agnes Sloan has mystified the crowd with the way she set at her work with a will and not a word said by herself, until now she has come before us and plays beautifully. Her progress has been wonderful and her teacher has great hopes of her.

## FLATTERING OFFERS.

Miss Clark and Mr. Andelin were both stars before coming here and have continued to improve steadily. Miss Clark has taken up some difficult roles and mastered them while Mr. Andelin has been engaged in adding a few more tones to his upper register. Both have received tempting offers from two different sources, but decided to study on until they were entirely satisfied with themselves.

Miss Grace Grant has been deeply engaged under the clever assistant of Godowsky, known as Mr. Maurice Aronson. Mr. Aronson has been associated with the great master for the past 15 years, and has charge of Mr. Godowsky's star pupils while the latter is out of the city. He speaks very highly of Miss Grant and is anxious to have the young lady continue, as, he says, she can become a very accomplished musician if she has the desire.

## PLAYED LISZT'S PIANO.

An incident occurred some days since that speaks very well of the playing of Miss Grant. A party of students were visiting the former home of Liszt, the pianist, propounding the greatest of the ages. During the conversation the Frau (as we called her) asked Miss Grant to play something on Liszt's piano, the piano he last taught on. The lady responded by playing Liszt's beautiful "Romance in fine fashion, and while so doing the Frau remarked that it was very beautiful and that she had heard Liszt's pupils play the same selection on the same piano many times. All the party felt quite proud of the distinction granted our sister student.

## LISZT HOUSE.

This same Liszt house, as it is known, is one of the most interesting spots to be found for an interested music student. Here one can see the original manuscripts of some of Liszt's greatest works, including the great E flat major Concerto, the A minor Concerto, the famous Second Rhapsody, Toccata and scores of letters, gifts, relics of olden musical times, etc. Most interesting and pleasant day can always be spent there. The house-keeper now in attendance was keeper for Liszt himself for more than 30 years and takes an exceptional pride in pointing out the various articles worthy of special attention. Her eyes sparkle with undeniable pride as she enthusiastically calls one's attention to a photograph presented to her by Liszt himself in remembrance of her long and faithful service. All in the party felt well repaid for the visit and an entire newspaper page could be exhausted in describing such a visit.

## MISS CONROY AT HOME.

Miss Celeste Conroy of Ogden, a sister of Mayor Conroy, the only Utah student studying with Godowsky, has left us to enter professional musical life at home. Miss Conroy has spent two years here with Godowsky-Aronson forces and has succeeded in mastering a vast amount of first class music. One of her latest achievements is the beautiful Grieg A Minor Concerto, which she does in beautiful style. She carries with her the best wishes of her two famous teachers and of the Utah colony and a host of other friends. Miss Conroy worked very hard and deserves everything she succeeded in accomplishing, which is a great deal. She took a thorough course with Mr. Aronson and later an artist's course with Mr. Godowsky, which should prepare her for a successful career.

## MORE HONOR FOR OGDEN.

Miss Jost, also of Ogden, is the stu-

dent who has remained here much longer than any student yet, so far as Utah is concerned. She is now well into her fifth year here and has hopes of still remaining longer. Miss Jost is an artist of whom we are all justly proud. She has long been honored by being an assistant to her teacher and she has some very successful scholars numbered among her own pupils.

This young lady is today a great coloratura and, as her teacher says, "her work is like genuine pearls and cannot be beaten." If Miss Jost decides to locate in Utah, the state could feel very proud of her, as she could easily locate herself in Berlin or any great center and success would continue in the future as it has in the past. The teaching she does here is not confined to local students alone, as she has a number of pupils coming from America and who have come to Berlin to spend their time working hard. The very fact of her being able to secure these students in this great center is a compliment to her work. She may decide to visit Utah in the fall, and in case she does something more will be said of her.

## SPENCER CLAWSON, JR., BUSY.

With all of the excitement of the coming and going, last month brought Spencer Clawson, Jr., to our city for a few hours. Mr. Clawson is out on vacation and at the same time giving his valuable services to the Church authorities here by appearing in their several conferences. He appeared with other local talent recently at Zurich, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Christiania, and a number of other localities, and more recently at Bradford, England. The writer had the pleasure of hearing him at the latter place, and among others is glad to hail a real artist from Utah. Mr. Clawson is truly a very artistic performer and has had some remarkably fine criticisms, all stamping him as first class, while on this trip. He returns to Vienna soon and will again take up work with that dean of piano teachers, Leschetzky. We all wish him much success in his work.

THOMAS E. GILES.

## Average Length of Sentences.

"The English sentence grows shorter and shorter," said an essayist. "Spencer, Sir Thomas More, Lyly and Sydney used sentences of the average length of 15 words. Nowadays the sentences of the average journalist are only 15 words long."

Bacon introduced the short sentence. At a time when everybody else was using 50 words, he took to 22. Praise be to Bacon.

Macaulay used a very short sentence. Its average length was 23 words. Dickens' average was 25. Thackeray's was 21.

Matthew Arnold's sentences are long, but beautifully balanced. They are 35-ers. Henry James' are longer, and though intricate, graceful and well worth puzzling out, for in each of them a wonderful meaning is concealed. They are 39-ers.

Kipling's sentences are 21-ers. Geo. Moore's are 24-ers. H. G. Wells' are 25-ers. Upton Sinclair's are 22-ers.

## Why He Did Not Resign.

Sir William Wightman held office in the old court of Queen's Bench far beyond the prescribed time, and at last, on the eve of the "long vacation," he took a sort of farewell of his brother judges. However, when "the morrow of All Souls" came around he turned up smiling at Westminster Hall. "Why, Brother Wightman," said Sir Alexander Cockburn, "you told us that you intended to send in your resignation to the lord chancellor before the end of August." "So I did," said Sir William, "but when I went home and told my wife she said: 'Why, William, what on earth do you think that we can do with you missing about the house all day?' So you see, I was obliged to come down to court again."—Dundee Advertiser.

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In the construction of the road,



YOUNG PORTER.

Utah's Most Youthful Railroad Magazine, Photographed for the Saturday "News" by Bevel & Burlison.

which is probably not more than 500 feet in length, the young man encountered some formidable engineering difficulties; but these were mastered and the track, which is of the gauge suited for the operation of ordinary mine cars, is laid on a trestle for the entire distance. The engine is an exact model of the big engines used by the Rio Grande and it bears the figures 599.

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