



During the first half hour that the play of "The First Duchess of Marlborough" was unfolding at the Theater last night, the audience was considerably puzzled, and perhaps disappointed. Mrs. LeMayne had been so widely heralded as a star that people had built up in their minds the idea of some imperious genius after the fashion of Modjeska or Nance O'Neill, and when they beheld a lady somewhat past the bloom of youth, very quiet in her manner of speech, somewhat erratic in her delivery, gorgeously gowned, and with more of character and determination in her face than actual beauty—they were

that he had in Lefebvre in "Madame Sans Gene," and while he is perhaps forced to hold himself in check in order not to draw attention from the star, he still made the character one of force, and a fit companion picture to the gifted and virile duchess, his wife. Mr. Paulding was also admirable in the part of Harley, and Miss O'Brien was thoroughly good as Abigail.

The play was beautifully staged, and gowned and is full of quiet interest of the sort which enchains the interest of an audience, without calling for any great outburst of applause. There is a suggestion of "Diplomacy" in the

as those of Atkins Lawrence, Herbert Lansburgh, and Marion Cullen appear in the list. The advance sale opened this morning.

The Grand will have a busy week commencing on Monday night. "Big Bill" Devere, the actor noted for never making up on the stage and playing his parts just as he appears on the street, comes to us in the new play which has been written for him, "A Common Sinner." He is surrounded with a strong company and will put in the three opening nights at the Grand next week with a Wednesday matinee.

Commencing Thursday evening and running three nights with a matinee, the Grand will present another "thriller" in "The Daughter of the Diamond King," a story laid in the metropolis but woven around the life of the daughter of an African diamond king. A quintette of female sinners will be introduced, and the company is headed by Labelle Laurette.

Director Evan Stephens of the Tabernacle choir is now in San Francisco, where he hopes to be able to close all the arrangements necessary for the spring tour of the choir. He has with him the records of the concert tour made by the choir in San Francisco, Sacramento, and San Jose in the spring of 1896, and as far as possible he will engage the same halls, and arrange for the meals of the singers and excursionists at the same hotels. Whether Los Angeles will be visited or not remains a question.

Mr. Stephens' first choice will be to hand the management of the San Francisco events over to some of the theatrical managers who are regular in the business, but if this cannot be done, he will doubtless look to the Metropolitan music hall, where the choir's concerts were given before. Nordica, Macondo and other singers who cannot obtain dates in the regular theaters will give their concerts in this hall during the winter.

#### THEATER GOSSIP.

Blanche Walsh is touring through the South in "Janice Meredith."

Manager Pyper will have the election returns read between the acts of "Shore Acres" at the Theater on Tuesday next.

Henry Miller has gravitated back to Frohman's management, and they two will present "D'Arcy of the Guards" in New York at the Fifth Avenue Monday night.

The leading lady in "Sporting Life," the English melodrama which comes to the theater next Thursday, is Miss Lamson, a sister of the well known star, Jan O'Neill.

Mary Mannering closed her engagement in "Janice Meredith" at the Colonial theater in Boston, Saturday, Oct. 19th. She is now touring through New England. She will visit Buffalo, where she made her debut as a star last season, Nov. 21st. From Pittsburgh,



EUGENIE BLAIR.

Who will enact "Peg Woffington" and "Camille" at the Theater on Friday and Saturday next.

"Sporting Life" on Thursday, and the well-known actress Eugenie Blair on Friday and Saturday. Miss Blair is the actress who was to have rendered "A Lady of Quality" here last season, but whose arrival was prevented by a railroad accident. It will be remembered that the advance sale was one of the largest in the history of the house and the regret was quite general when it was known that she could not appear.

Klaw and Waller's production of Gen. Lew Wallace's "Ben-Hur" will remain at the Illinois theater in Chicago, but three more weeks, closing its run there Saturday evening, Nov. 16th.



WILLIAM (BIG BILL) DE VERE,  
In "A Common Sinner."

where she opens Nov. 25th for one week, she will proceed directly west, reaching Salt Lake City Dec. 20th.

The first production of the new play "A Gentleman of France," in which Kylie Bellew will star, occurred last Wednesday night in Ottawa, Canada. The leading woman is Eleanor Robson, daughter of Madge Carr Cook, and the second lady's part is performed by Ada Dwyer Russell. The production has excited great interest everywhere in the profession, and the verdict on the opening performance is anxiously awaited.

The Theater will be opened every night next week, commencing Monday with a Democratic meeting, Tuesday and Wednesday "Shore Acres."

The following Monday evening it will begin a three weeks' engagement at the Olympic theater in St. Louis. Brief stays in three other cities will follow before the contemplated return to Boston is made on March 17th, where it will play indefinitely at the Colonial theater. "Ben-Hur" will inaugurate the season of 1902-1903 at the Broadway theater, New York, opening the 5th of next September.

Manager Grau's troubles have begun, says a New York paper. Calve is putting and has refused to sign. Mr. Grau has meekly submitted to her tantrums and has paid a big forfeit to the guarantors of his Nashville season. This confirms the truth of the comments on his inexplicable submission to the caprices of these spoiled children of

fortune. A few years ago he actually had the rooms in a Chicago hotel repapered to gratify Emma Eames, who protested against shrimping pink as conducive to a feeling of melancholy, seriously affecting her singing, and demanded celestial blue, urging that it stimulated her voice and gave wings to inspiration. It is also recorded that he once permitted an audience in Philadelphia it was to be kept waiting for over an hour while stage carpenters were constructing an impromptu dressing-room, because a certain fastidious soprano declined to put on her costume in the room allotted to her. A dozen of similar tales might be told.

One by one the time-honored rules and customs which have governed the Comedie Francaise in Paris since the formulation of the famous edict by Napoleon are being amended or abrogated. The most recent—and most radical—is the abolition of the Reading Committee, consisting of six society ladies, who formed a jury with the power to accept or refuse all works submitted to it by authors. The "Cherubim" incident and the recent row with the author of "Le Roi" caused the change. Hereafter the administrator-general, a government official, will be responsible for the selection of plays.

Another change which is worrying the players of the Comedie Francaise is the withdrawal of the free laundry privilege. For nearly a century the actors of the company have been allowed to send their soiled linen to the theater laundry, which returns it, washed, ironed and mended, free of charge. Hereafter the aristocracy of French mummies will have to pay their own laundry bills.

#### MUSIC NOTES.

A hurried line from Prof. McClellan in New York says that he is being chaperoned by Col. N. W. Clayton and W. C. Spence. They were "doing the town" thoroughly and on the night his letter was written they were to see Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry.

The Grau season in San Francisco begins a week from Monday night. The brogues are calculated to take away one's breath, including as they do "Lohengrin," with Emma Eames and Edouard De Reszke, "Carmen," with Calve; "Traviata," with Semblich, and "Manon," with Sibyl Sanderson.

Luigi Mancinelli is now at his villa at Meina, on Lake Maggiore, at work on "Paolo and Francesca." He hopes to be ready for performance by next season. He has been engaged as conductor of the three months' season at Lisbon, where his "Ero e Leandru" was to be revived during the winter. He will return to this country next year.

Ignace Paderewski is to remain in the country only about two months and will give his recitals only in the East. According to the terms of his contract with Mr. Grau ten performances of "Manon" must be given during the season, although they need not all be given here. This is twice as many as were ever guaranteed to any other composer of a new opera.

The Salt Lake Opera company will lose one of its brightest members within the next three weeks. Miss Alice Kidwell, who was one of the four dancing girls in "The Wedding Day," and who has been with the company in all its recent productions, leaves for Topeka, Kansas, where she will become the bride of Mr. Joseph Augustus. Mr. Augustus has charge of the physical branch of the Y. M. C. A. in that city, a position similar to that which he held here last winter. The best wishes of the host of friends will accompany Miss Kidwell to her new home.

When Handel was a young man he applied for a place as successor of a famous organist. But when he heard that the new organist must marry his predecessor's daughter the rude fellow took to his heels and fled precipitately. Today women are no longer thrown in with an organist, but take it themselves. At any rate, Fraulein Hoiler, the gifted daughter of the late organist of the Wurzburg cathedral, has been appointed in his place by the unanimous vote of the chapter. The time is apparently approaching when the performance of music will be monopolized by women.



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#### OLD SALT LAKERS.



FRANCIS ARMSTRONG.

It hardly seems possible that it is more than two years since the career of Frank Armstrong was cut short by the grim destroyer. It was two years, however, on the 15th of June last, since he passed away. Mr. Armstrong's busy career as one of the leading forces in the community in business and politics, is still so well remembered that it hardly needs recalling. At the time of his death he was chairman of the board of county commissioners of this county, president of the Utah Commercial and Savings bank, president of the Western Loan & Trust company, of the Utah Power company, of the Blackfoot Stock company, vice president of the Taylor-Armstrong company, and a director and one of the chief owners of the Salt Lake City Railroad company. He died one of the wealthiest men of the community.

Mr. Armstrong was born at Plainmiller, Northumberland, England, Oct. 3rd, 1839, his parents being William Armstrong and Mary Kirk. In 1857 his father's family came to Canada and settled near Hamilton. At the age of 19 young Francis made his way to Richmond, Mo., where he remained at work in a saw-mill till the spring of 1861, when he started for Utah. During his residence at Richmond he formed a familiar acquaintance with David Whitmer, one of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon. On his arrival in Utah, Mr. Armstrong began to haul wood from Mill Creek canyon; later he worked in President Young's flour mill; in 1862 he started in the lumber business for Mayor Little. This was the beginning of his fortune, and several years afterwards he bought his employer out and in the course of time made a large amount of money in the lumber and saw-mill business. He died June 15, 1899.

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JAMES A. HERNE.

This is a picture of the famous author of "Shore Acres" and "Sag Harbor," now departed, as he looked at the time of his last visit here. The longest lived of all his plays, "Shore Acres," is to be done at the Theater Tuesday evening next.

at first non-plussed. But as the play developed and the rather talky stretch at the opening was passed, her magnetism, with which she is marvelously endowed, grew upon her audience until she had it almost fascinated, and before the close, in spite of a certain hardness in her voice which is not always agreeable, she was voted what she undoubtedly is, an admirable artist with a thorough knowledge of the smallest detail of her art. She was given several hearty curtain calls after the climaxes which the author has worked up for the Duchess at the expense of the queen, and other historical personages in the play. Anne, though eclipsed by the genius of the duchess, was very well played by Miss Barker. Mr. Russell, who had a handsome reception on his entrance, gave the character of the famous duke with quiet and intense feeling; while the part does not give him the opportunity

episode where the presence of Abigail is detected by the scent of lavender she leaves behind, but on the whole, the author is to be congratulated on having contributed a clever and fascinating story to the literature of our stage. The engagement closes tonight.

Everyone who remembers dear old Herne in "Shore Acres" will be glad to learn that that beautiful play is to visit us again next week; though its author has passed to the great beyond, the play has such a rare charm about it that its revival cannot fail to awaken the warmest interest. It is full of laughter and tears combined, and yet contains a merry strain of comedy that lightens its deeper shadows. Mr. Herne's place in the company will be filled by one of his old understudies, James T. Galloway. There will be a quartet of little children, and we can only hope that they will be as clever as the group which Herne himself brought with him when he produced "Shore Acres" here. That the company is a strong one is evidenced by the fact that such well known names

#### ANNA HELD IN "LITTLE DUCHESS."



Here is Miss Anna Held as she appears in her new play, "The Little Duchess." This is one of her most graceful poses.



IRVING AND TERRY TO TOUR COUNTRY.

Sir Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry are now making a tour of the leading American cities. The reception afforded them by the public wherever they play is almost in the form of an ovation.

