

EDITORIALS.

WAGNER'S "RING OF THE NIBELUNGEN."

IN another column will be found a description of the festival [Nibelung Theatre at Baireuth, where Wagner's trilogy of the "Ring of the Nibelungen" has just been performed. Baireuth is a city of Bavaria, fifty miles from Nuremberg, containing about 18,000 inhabitants. It was formerly the seat of a margrave, and since the capital of the circle of Upper Franconia.

A trilogy is a drama in three distinct parts, but related to each other, and forming portions of an historical and poetical story, such as Shakespeare's Henry VI.

Joseph Wagner claims to be a reformer of the lyric drama, and he imagines his peculiar views to be exactly right and those of his opponents correspondingly wrong. The opera of "Tannhauser" is generally held to be the best exemplar of his peculiar views, though he thinks his "Lohengrin" and "Nibelungen" better.

The legend of the "Nibelungen Lied," upon which Wagner has based his trilogy opera, is considered the Iliad of the German fatherland, and the chief event immortalized therein is supposed to be the destruction of Gundricus by the Huns in the year 436.

A correspondent of the New York Herald characterizes Wagner's "Nibelungen" as a grand creation, and, except for the alliterative verse, the greatest version of the Nibelung legend that has yet appeared.

The legend of Nibelungen-Lied, or Nibelungen-Noth, is briefly something like this—Kriemhilda, or Chriemhild, was a Burgundian princess of wonderful beauty and grace, the daughter of King Dankrat and Queen Ute. After his death she was brought up under the protection of her brothers, King Gunther and the younger kings, Gernot and Giselher, in great seclusion at Worms. She dreamed of a favorite falcon torn to pieces by two eagles, and her mother said the falcon was a noble mate for her, whom she would lose but for God's mercy.

A youthful knight, Siegfried, son of the royal Sigmund and Siegrinde, living at Xanthan, on the Rhine, had done some mighty deeds, subjected the Schilbungs and Nibelungs, taken the Tarnkappe and the mantle of invisibility from Alberic, was the recognized ruler of the Nibelungs and their treasure (the Hoard), had slain the dragon and bathed in his blood, so that he was invulnerable except in one place, on his back, where a leaf had lodged during his bath.

Siegfried had heard of the great beauty of Kriemhilda, and, with twelve companions, went to Worms, where he was well received. He performed marvellous feats of skill in war with the Saxons and eventually saw Kriemhilda at a grand tournament, and ultimately secured her to wife, he, on that condition, assisting King Gunther to secure the Princess Brunnhilda, or Brunehild, who was very strong, and was only to be won by her lover surpassing her in athletic feats. In case of failure the man was to be put to death. Assisted by Siegfried, Gunther defeats Brunnhilda, and wins her, and the two marriages take place.

Subsequently dissensions occurred between the two queens, and they quarreled at Worms concerning precedence in rank of their husbands. One Hagan treacherously learned from Kriemhilda the secret of Siegfried's vulnerability and killed him. Hagan also managed to secure the treasure, many wagon loads, which he threw into the Rhine at Lochheim, but could never find again. Afterward Kriemhilda married Etzel (Attila) King of the Huns, in view of revenging Siegfried's death. Treachery, tumult and fighting followed. Kriemhilda secured Hagan, but he would not reveal the whereabouts of the Nibelungen treasure, so she beheaded him, and then Hildebrand slew her.

The noted negress abolitionist, Sojourner Truth, is reported not dead, but alive and well at Battle Creek, Michigan.

A MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR BURSTED.

RESERVOIRS are very desirable things for the retention and accumulation of water, and in this region in many places they would be great conveniences to the cultivator of the soil. But they should be strongly built, kept in thorough repair, and subjected to constant supervision, or they are liable to give way unexpectedly, and do an immense amount of damage. Instances of these grievous accidents are not rare, either in this country or in England and other parts of Europe.

The latest instance of the kind comes from Montana. Late papers from that Territory contain accounts of the bursting of Chessman's reservoir, at the head of Beaver Creek, near Red Mountain, putting into Ten Mile, whereby great damage was done to ranches and other property. The reservoir covered 150 acres, was 18 feet deep at the breast, and was situated about 18 miles above the Hot Springs Hotel. It was very full of water and some of the timbers were decayed with age. The break occurred at 3 a. m. Aug. 8, and the accumulated water poured down Ten Mile Creek in a fierce torrent, causing great destruction of property.

French Louis and Patrick McGovern, in a log house, five miles below the dam, were swept away, and not seen since. Joseph Flick, William Coyne, and Jos. Wilson, a quarter of a mile lower down, heard the noise, and managed to escape, but their house went. John Merry's house, three miles above Hot Springs, was crushed. Mrs. Merry was instantly killed, and her body was subsequently found in a drift a mile below. Frank Decker, the other occupant at the time, was swept down stream three-quarters of a mile, when he got ashore much bruised. Here Jerry Robinson saw the flood coming, and he ran down the cañon to give the alarm, three miles to Hot Springs Hotel, whence the people escaped. He ran down two miles further, to Kessler's Brewery, which he reached half an hour before the flood. Mr. Kessler's cellars and house were flooded, his stock drowned, his furniture ruined, and his grain soaked. Mrs. Kessler was in a critical condition through fright. The total loss is estimated at \$50,000, of which Mr. Kessler's share is put at \$8,000, Post & Meyers' \$1,000, Mr. Broadwater's \$2,000, Kessler & Warner's brick kiln \$2,000, Goodell's \$1,000, Wasweiler's \$500, Hoyt's mill \$1,000. John Hernan's place was totally destroyed. The bath house was carried away at Hot Springs.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Cincinnati Commercial says, "The new Sultan of Turkey has found good places under the government for all his brothers-in-law, nephews, cousins and personal friends. He must have made a close study of the way it has been done at Washington during the past eight years."

In France there were last year 280,000 marriages and 7,600 separations, about one-half of the latter legal. In America the proportion of separations is said to be much greater, but then this is a "free country," a "land of liberty." What is the use of liberty unless you use it?

H. S. Sireeter, a highly educated physician of Gray, Herkimer Co., N. Y., having become criminally intimate with a number of his patients, young and old, was exposed by a fifteen year old girl, whose mother had sold her to him. The neighbors threatened to hang him, and he fled to Herkimer, putting whip to his horse the entire distance, and expecting to feel the sting of a bullet every step of the way. He then hired another horse and rode to Utica.

A Saratoga girl writes home, "There are plenty of males here—lispings, silly, hair-parted-in-the-middle swells—but O, for the sight of one genuine man!" Well, there are a few genuine men around here, and there are the genuine evidences too.

Twelve hundred Icelanders are on their way, via Quebec, to a settlement in Manitoba.

The Washington Star says, "Our English cousins will begin to think we are sending them odd specimens of diplomats in exchange for their wise and discreet representative at Washington, Sir Edward Thornton. The Schenck scandal has not yet died out, and Mr. Pierrepont has scarcely arrived in England before his indiscreet dinner-table utterances over there are introducing him to the British people in a way most mortifying to our national pride. And now the publication in the New York papers of a batch of letters received by the spiritualistic 'medium,' Flint, now in jail in New York for fraudulent practices, shows Mr. Pierrepont in the light of a correspondent sending a \$2 fee for an inquiry in spirit land as to the English pedigree of the American Pierreponts. Our minister opens his diplomatic career inauspiciously."

Thus saith the Boston Transcript, "While creditors are making wry faces all around, equipages at Rye Beach this year are thought to outshine any former season."

The Washington Star says, "The Attorney General has allowed fees to the counsel in the St. Louis whiskey trials as follows: To Gen. Henderson, \$10,000; to Mr. Brodhead, who succeeded Henderson, \$10,000; and to Lucien Faton, \$5,000. It evidently pays to be government counsel and assistant counsel. It is safe to say that either of these persons would have cheerfully accepted one-fourth of the sums they received, respectively, for performing the same amount and character of services for private parties."

A newspaper correspondent with Crook's army says, "a great battle or a great race" is the next thing in order of news from that body.

At Deadwood City, Black Hills, the arrival of the tax collector is announced with a flourish of trumpets in the Pioneer, because, if the miners are taxed, it is considered a government acknowledgment that they have a right to be there.

Chicago has gone to cleaning her hospitals, which are said to be so offensive as to "cause the death of a very large per centage of the patients."

Great indignation is said to be felt in Boston over the failure of the Governor of Massachusetts to affix his name to the warrant for the execution of the boy-murderer, Jesse Pomeroy.

OGDEN ELECTION AND WEBER COUNTY FINANCES.

CONSIDERABLE dissatisfaction having arisen in Ogden and other portions of Weber County concerning the Assessor and Collector for that county, resulting in the putting up of a "People's Ticket" and a "Revised Ticket" at the late election in Ogden, R. Ballantyne, Lester J. Herrick, and Gilbert Belknap rise to explain to the tax-payers of Weber County, through the Junction, and "present a few facts for the candid consideration of the public." The selectmen state that the law requires the County Court, at its annual December term, to appoint an assessor and collector, who gives bonds to twice the amount of the taxes to be collected; that he is required to assess property at a "fair cash value," collect the taxes thereon, and pay the amount, less the sum allowed for his services, into the county and territorial treasuries within a specified time; that he is charged the sum total of the taxes to be collected, and required to make it good; that for many years the taxes in the county were not collected, and the scrip consequently was greatly depreciated and improvements retarded; that in 1872 the county deficiency was \$4,880.68; that in 1873, the balance due the county was settled by note, \$3,159.17, besides a large sum due the Territory; that a change was absolutely necessary; that the County Court, consisting of the Prostate Judge and three selectmen, after due deliberation, appointed the present assessor and collector; that, as a result, for the first time, the taxes, county and territorial, in Weber County were collected and paid in according to law, and county scrip rose proportionately; that the same assessor and collector was reappointed, and the taxes were again assessed and col-

lected according to law; that the present assessor was originally instructed to assess property at "a fair cash valuation," that it was deemed necessary to raise former valuations somewhat, much property having appreciated and revenue being needed for the erection of a County Court House; that in June the County Court examines the assessment roll and hears complaints of errors according to law; that no complaints of the kind have ever been made to that court, but that the court, in revising the roll, found it necessary to raise the valuation of several pieces of property which the court thought were assessed too low; that so far as the selectmen are aware, the assessor and collector has assessed and collected the tax according to law, to the satisfaction of those who appointed him; that for these reasons he has been continued in office; and that if proper representations had been made, showing that the people desired a change, the court would not have attempted to force that appointee upon the county, nor does the assessor and collector desire to retain his position against the popular wish.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

"PARIGI," in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, has a letter upon banks generally, and the Bank of France specially, which he claims to be the greatest money power in the world, and that, in respect to credit, conduct, and abundance of cash, it may be said at this moment to be without a rival on the globe. The Bank of France, as at present organized, commenced in 1803, and its charter expires in 1897. It has about sixty-two branches in the provinces. The Government appoints a governor and two deputy governors, all stockholders. The council of the bank numbers twenty members, elected by 200 of the principal shareholders. The capital is \$250,000,000, but its business is enormous. It discounts, receives deposits, and has a monopoly of issuing notes, which are in denominations of from twenty francs and upwards. The correspondent continues thus—

"The confidence of the French, and indeed of all Europe, in the bills of the bank is unbounded, as may be seen from the fact that, notwithstanding the milliards exacted by Germany at the close of the war, the bills were then, and are still, equivalent to gold.

"An annual statement, in detail, of its circulation, assets, liabilities, loans, and all particulars, is made, and what is more, made with the strictest integrity. The yearly dividends are limited to 5 per cent.; all profits over and above that amount being invested in 5 per cent. consolidated stock, to be divided among the shareholders at the expiration of the charter. Its shares are 1,000 francs each, and the quotation at present is nearly 4,000, or four times their original value. It has enjoyed remarkable uniform prosperity.

"The wealth that the bank contains is enormous. It has in its vaults, at present, in cash and securities, what is equivalent in our money to seven hundred and fifty millions of dollars, and in the bank cellars private deposits of bonds, plate, ingots and jewels, what is worth perhaps two hundred millions more—nearly one thousand millions of dollars.

"What a magnificent concern to rob or pillage! Is it not in hourly danger? It would be in the United States; it is not in the country, where the police are so skillful and vigilant, and where crime seldom escapes. The bank, too, is admirably protected. It has any quantity of bars, bolts, iron doors, and the burglar who could get into it must be superhumanly expert. Besides the greatest native scoundrels are not without a certain love of France, they reverence in a degree the mammoth financial institution in the Rue de la Villiere.

"To-day France is as rich and prosperous as any land in the old world, and far more affluent and immeasurably better credit than the model Republic of the West.

"We could learn some invaluable lessons from France, but we will not. Frenchmen do not often steal from their country when in public office and places of trust. Americans, to put it mildly, have a strange way of confounding the

property of the nation with their own, and with us, alas! a bank of France is simply impossible."

THE INDIAN WAR.

DURING the week past, the most startling rumor concerning the Indian war has been that of a severe engagement between Terry's forces and Sitting Bull's Indians. The reports have come in various shapes, but to the effect that the Indians were badly whipped, with severe loss on both sides.

There does not seem much room for probability of the truth of the

story. The Indians let Terry and Crook sit still in camp, ever since the Custer and Reno fighting, and recruit their commands. If the Indians had been anxious for a fight in force, they would have attacked one or other body of the troops, as the Indian camp must have been within two or three days forced march of the troops much of the time. If the troops do not know of the whereabouts of the main body of the Indians, there is reason to believe that the Indians have known the location of the main bodies of the troops all the time.

As the Indians did not make any attack in force, that is ground for thinking that they did not want a fight of that kind. If they did, they could have had it, and they must have known very well where to find it at any time since the Custer slaughter.

A late report, that may be considered trustworthy, is in our dispatches to-day; to the effect that on the 10th inst. Terry and Crook formed a junction, and the combined forces were following a large Indian trail toward the Powder River. Scouts from Terry's column, two days out, arrived at Fort Buford on Monday the 14th, which would make the latest from Terry the 12th, two days after his junction with Crook, and one week from to-day (19th). Terry's intention is reported to have been to follow the trail and force a fight if possible. But if these reports are true, then there is no truth in the recent reports of a great battle, particularly disastrous to the Indians.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, the situation appears to be that there has been no battle or engagement of importance since the Custer and Reno fight; that the Indians do not desire, but are seeking to avoid, a great or general engagement; that the troops do desire and are endeavoring to bring on a heavy and decisive battle; that if such a collision is effected, the advantage is likely to be with the troops; that rather than risk such a conflict the Indians will break up into divers small bands and scatter over the country; that in such case the troops will be almost certain to come across some of these bands, but that if they do the conflict will be slight, in the nature of a running and skirmish fight, and the result comparatively insignificant and indecisive; that if a great battle is effected, it will be by surprise or accident.

It may also be stated that it appears that the Indians are not anxious for a continuance of the war, but that the Government is sending all available troops to the support of Terry and Crook, and is evidently determined to push hostilities as energetically as possible until it shall be considered desirable for the troops to retire into winter quarters. It is very unlikely that the war will end this year, if it has to be fought out to the bitter end.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

As Congress has adjourned, there will be little more to be said about its proceedings by the press for four months. The space it has been occupying daily during the past portion of the present year will be at liberty for something else. The topics of importance left before the country are not very numerous. The hot weather is passing away, but the very cold won't be here yet. The Centennial may resuscitate a little as the cooler weather comes on. There is no particular fuss being raised about Utah just now. The harvest and the grasshopper may take a little attention. The Servia-Turkish war also, but the news therefrom does not enlist a