

The Wagner-Conried Quarrel Over "Parsifal" A COLLAPSIBLE TOWER FOR MILITARY PURPO

THE vigorous attempt on the the Holy Grail has told Amfortas that drives him out. In his subsequent wanpart of Frau Cosima Wagner, it will not heal until the spear has been realm

widow of the great composer, Richard Wagner, to prevent the production in the United States of her husband's swan song, his masterpiece, "Parsifal," has, as might have been expected, had the result of directing the eyes of the musical world and of hundreds of thousands who are not musical to the little town of Bajreuth, in Bavaria, the cradle of the Nibelungen Ring and the other famous chefs d'œuvres of the lamented master. Whatever may be the opinion concernng the propriety of transferring "Parsifal" from its old world setting to the eager if less reverent audiences of the new world, the fact remains that Herr Wagner left this great religious opera heritage to the town in which he had made his home for so many of the closing years of his life and by his will decreed that it should never be pro-duced outside of Baircuth. Small wonder therefore that Frau Wagner, re membering her husband's wishes, has fought tooth and nail to prevent the consummation of Herr Heinrich Con ried's desires, angered at the thought that in the bejeweled society audiences the Metropolitan Opera House in New York the religious atmosphere which has prevailed in old Baireuth may be forever lost. On the other hand, one can readily sympathize with the declaration of the manager of the Metropolitan Opera company that owing to the superior facilities for producand the higher grade of singers essociated with him the wonderful symbolic piece will gain rather than se by its introduction to the new world

Those who have had the opportunity of attending the performances of "Par sifal" at the periodical music festivals. Baircuth bear witness that without doubt it is the most impressive opera they have ever heard. The very theme conducive of reverence, and the manner of its production is such as to em-phasize the religious element in its In brief the story of omposition. "Parsifal" is as follows: A body of knights, of whom Amfortas is king, have devoted themselves to the guarding in a Spanish forest of the Holy Grail, the challce from which Christ drank at the last supper and in which his blood was received on Calvary. Amfortas has been wounded by Klingsor, a magician, who, angered at hav ing been refused admission into the in solitude from his earliest youth and ranks of this noble brotherhood, by magic created a great palace and peo-pied it with beautiful women, whose mission it was to seduce Amfortas and tas, who is informed by Gurnemanz, his knights. Amfortas himself was to an aged hermit, that this may be the be beguiled by one Kundry, who was



The Wagner Villa

less fool" who will come to cure the

king. The opera opens with Amfortas being carried in a litter to a lake to have his wound bathed. As he passes through a glade a wild swan, the bird sacred to the grail, falls dying before his litter, shot by Parsifal, the posthumous son of Gamuret and Herzeleid, a lad reared now totally unacquainted with the

derings Parsifal enters Klingsor's where Kundry and a bevy of beautiful damsels try to tempt him to stay. Remembering the king's misery and the Holy Grail, Parsifal resists their allurements, and in anger Klingsor hurls at him the sacred spear, which, however, remains poised in the air. Parsifal seizes it, and castle, magician and maidens vanish. Eventually Amfortas is cured, and Kundry, the Mary Magdalen of the opera, is redeemed.

As will be seen, there is ample opportunity here for magnificent staging, tunity of witnessing the first act. It is said that many of those present

tatorship in the famous theater, which The Germans, be it noted, take opera his Nibelungen trilogy, but on examinawill accommodate about 1,400 people seriously and not, as do the generality tion he found it unsuited for that purand stands on a little hill about a mile, of peoples, merely as a form of enter- pose. Nevertheless the beauty of the to the north of the town itself. It is a lainment. Perhaps it is this more than environs so enchanted him that he de-large red building, not very impressive. anything else that contributes to the termined to make Baireuth the home architecturally, but towering above the veneration with which the Wagnerian of his future music. The theater which trees that surround it. Hither while productions are received. When the he succeeded in establishing owed its the music festival, which lasts from a first note sounds from the hidden or- being largely to the generosity of Ludmonth to six weeks, is in progress a great pilgrimage takes place. Unlike the custom in other theaters, the opera chestra a deep silence falls upon all wig II. of Bavaria, the monarch who present. From the beginning to the end ultimately became insane and committee of such pleces as "Parsifai" there is no ted suicide. The corner stone was laid begins at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and those not in their seats when the curtain rises are given no oppor-

As may be imagined, Baircuth is full of Wagnerian memories, and the old inhabitants tell many interesting stories of the composer, many of which have as their theme his hard struggle for existence, poverty having been the prevailing note in the famous composer's career. He died, it will be re-membered, in Venice in 1883, but he was buried in the town he loved so dearly. in the garden back of the Villa Wahnfried, the house wherein he had spent not a few of his happiest hours. Many visitor to the festivals lays a floral tribute upon his grave.

Two other names are inevitably as-sociated with Baircuth, Franz Liszt and Jean Paul Friedrich Richter Wagner's brother composer, to whom he owed so much in the way of encouragement and financial assistance, is buried in the Baircuth cemetery, not far from the last resting place of the poet Richter, of whom we find pleasing reminiscences everywhere in Baireuth. For nearly a quarter of a century Jean Paul made his home in this quaint, old fashioned town, and opposite the gymnasium stands the monument to him erected in 1841 by King Ludwig L. The sculptor Schwanthaler succeeded in ; wonderful way in incorporating in the figure of Jean Paul the genius of the poet of whom it has been said, "His the mummified cat shown in the Illusdreams were full of springtime and his springtimes full of dreams.

Frau Cosima Wagner, who has con tinued the music festivals inaugurated by her husband, is a daughter of Liszt and was first married to Hans von Bu-low, from whom she secured a divorce Nor was she Wagner's first wife, the composer having been married to an actress, Wilhelmine Planer, from whom he separated after having lived with her for twenty years. Frau Coslma was idolized by Wagner, and that she reciprocated his love is the testimon; of all who knew them in the old days Tall and thin, with an aristocratic bearing, she is withal a keen busines woman and is assured of an ample in ome by the toyalties from her husband's operas. Their son, Siegfried, is a musician of no mean ability. Indeed.

he is acclaimed by many as a musical genius, but there is none rash enough to place him in the same class as his father. He is thirty-four years old, unmarried and noted as a conductor of his

FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

Owing to the nature of the country in which it makes its home the Swiss army experiences a great deal of difficulty in securing satisfactory artillery practice. The trouble has been overcome to a large extent, however, by the



use of high turrets, similar to that shown in the illustration, whereby an observer is enabled to note the accuracy of the artilleryman's aim at a target located amid distant mountains. The towers are strong, but light, and so constructed that they will telescope, thus being moved easily from place to

A MUMMIFIED CAT.

When the British war ship Menelaus was broken up the workmen were amazed to find in the side of the vessel tration. The war ship was built at Plymouth in 1808, and it is supposed



that while she was being built the unlucky feline, pursuing a rat, jumped between the lining and the outside plank-ing and was wedged there. This unique pecimen of mummification is now in the hands of the British customs au-thorities, but will probably pass ere TRUMAN L. ELTON. I long into the custody of some museum.

Scene from Parsital be beguiled by one Kundry, who was "guileless fool" prophesied by the voice. momentarily successful, and it was at Gurnemanz takes Parsifal to the castle and those who have witnessed the opthat time that Klingsor wounded the temple to witness the unveiling of the era in Baireuth say that they have that time that Kingsor wounded the tempe to writes the invening of the era in Barreuth say that they have king and robbed him of the sacred spear Holy Grall. So wonderful and impressive seen such picturesque effects as which, it was said, had pierced Christ's sive is the scene that the youth is awe- those produced under the direction of

side while he was on the cross. The struck into a silence which Gurnemanz Frau Wagner and her son, Siegfried,

Wagner Theatre at Baireuth



Richard

Wagnet

will through the beautiful groves about the opera house. The last act usually begins at a quarter past 8, and the spectators may be in their homes by 10 it in that year he had an idea that o'clock, though the great majority pre- the old opera house then standing father's works, sound refuses to heal, and a voice from mistakes for indifference. In anger he both of whom exercise an absolute dic- fer to linger for supper after the opera, could be utilized for the production of

Wagner's association with the ancient and time honored town of Baireuth dates from 1871. When he first visited







which as it grew from the earth was continually bent by the natives to form the chairlike shape which it has as-



Many remarkable things come out of France, and not the least remarkable is depicted by the accompanying illustration. In accordance with the plans of recently formed "society for lectures and discussions in prisons," the authorities of the prison of Fresnes have fitted up a unique lecture room wherein the involuntary guests of the state listen to some entertaining and, let us hope, instructive addresses on drink and kindred evils. As will be seen, the unhappy auditors are confined in boxlike arrangements with but an opening sufficient for them to peer through and so arranged that no prisoner can catch a glimpse of his fellows. The box on the right with the wired aperture is evidently for the accommodation of some criminal more dangerous than his mates. The the love of the bizarre which is a charprison of Fresnes is famed as being not only the largest in the world, but the most hygienic. It is there that the Humberts are confined.

ITEMS FROM EVERYWHERE.

In England the mortality rate from | four feet high, and there are worked

Venice has a German school, which,

however, has more Italian than German

Mancer has risen from 3.8 per 19,000 in into it over 25,000 cigarettes.



the result of the planting of seeds in the Enthusiastic horticulturists declare that this is one of the most remarkable vegetable freaks in existence It certainly bears mute testimony to acteristic of the people of Korea as well as of those of Japan and China.



That civilization has a great deal yet to do in China is made manifest by the accompanying illustration, wherein a party of Hongkong Chinese are to be seen engaged in trying to frighten away the devil which they hold responsible for the existence of the plague in their city. Hundreds of Chinese form in procession and make the night bideous with an incessant din produced by yells, gongs, bells, firecrackers, cymbals and all manner of odd looking reed Even the better classes-men of business whose families have for over half a century come into constant contact with the civilization and religion of the west-take part in these processions. Small wonder is it in view of such conditions that our missionaries find their task in the distant inland cities almost beyond execution.

A CHARMING EUROPEAN PRIN-CESS.

There are few more popular princess-

es in the old world than the charming

Bohemian Princess Pauline Metternich,

portrait of whom is herewith repro-

duced. She lives with her parents at

It is not generally known that "hoboes" consider Pennsylvania the most friendly state of the Union, and particularly that section of Pennsylvania which embraces the lower end of Berks county. This part of the state is settled largely by German-Americans, with whom hospitality is the general rule. Of the many who give food and lodging to passing "Weary Willies" none is better known to the tramp fraternity than is Jacob Hiestand, one of the prosperous farmers of the county. It is estimated that Mr. Hiestand's barn, a picture of which is herewith shown, has sheltered no less than 20,000 tramps. The lodging quarters are on the first floor, and here any tramp is welcome to spend the night, provided he will yield any matches or firearms which he may be carrying and which are returned to him ere he takes his departure in the morning.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SPHINX.

Residents in the vicinity of Ightham. village in Kent, England, have been uzzled by the appearance on the face of a large rock of a sphinx, which, as the illustration shows, is not a bad imi-



ation of the famed sphinx of ancient Egypt. The identity of the sculptor who xecuted this remarkable piece of carving has not as yet been established, although more than a year has passed since the rock was completed. The gigantle proportions of the new sphinx are shown by the diminutive appearance of the man in the foreground of the picture.

share in the New River company was originally paid up. These shares return a yearly dividend of over \$2,650 on each.

The largest single order ever given for watches was received by an Ameri-can manufacturer from a London firm, the former agreeing to deliver to his customer 2,000,000 timeplaces within

A MAMMOTH CRANE.

The revolution during recent years in the construction and armament of war ships has necessitated a corresponding change in the equipment of the yards wherein these monsters of the deep are constructed and repaired. For on



thing, big cranes have had to be put it place to lift the heavy guns called for by war ship specifications. The crane shown in the illustration stands in a naval dock yard, of which it is a striking feature. It is said to be capable of ifting a weight of fifty tons, and it certainly looks it.

An enterprising Cardiff firm has con-

Bructed a cigarette model of the new children.

1864 to 8.4.

MAKING A NEWSPAPER IN JAPAN.

月前 前 1月 京東

Those acquainted with the progressive methods of little Japan will no find anything out of the way in the accompanying illustration, although they may be disposed to smile at the exaggerated imitation visible in this oriental newspaper office. The Japanese never do things by halves, as is apparent in the costume of the leading editorial writer, who has just entered the sanctum with the ubiquitous eigarette in his mouth. The heavily clothed gentleman in the background is presumably a subscriber who has come to enter a protest against some item of news displeasing to him. The editor in chief is to be seen talking animatedly to the foreman of the composing room, who is garbed in attire more picturesque than utilitarian. Ali in all, this Japanese editorial room is an eloquent witness to the advance of western civilization,

the beautiful castle of Konigswart, in the neighborhood of Marienbad. Now in her twenty-fourth year, the princess is a skilled linguist, an adept sportswoman with gun and rod and a violinist of no mean repute. Her parents are Prince Paul Metternich, grandson of the famous statesman of the Vienna congress, and the Countess Milanie

PRINCESS PAULINE METTERNICH.

Herewith is reproduced the latest portralt of King Christian of Denmark. who has been dubbed the "father-in-law of Europe" owing to the fact that his children have married into reigning families of several of the great powers. One of his daughters is Queen Alexandra of England, who does not let a year pass without paying a visit to her royal sire. The photograph from which the illustration was made was taken at Vienna while King Christian was paying Zichy of the noted family of that name. I a visit to his son-in-law, the Duke of Cumberland.

KING CHRISTIAN OF DENMARK

THE FATHER-IN-LAW OF EUROPE.

tion than it lost through emigration. mouth similar to metal. An examinaloss of nearly a million.

many to be his masterpiece, was de- tive grammar. stroyed in a fire.

some years ago excited the curiosity of 36,788

artificial tecth.

Richard Bonington's "Grand Canal at Venice," which was considered by that England is suffering from defee-

The total number of medical practi-The mummy of one of the Thothmes tioners in Great Britain and Ireland is

nodel is nine feet long and more than ther, mother and some children and is the government annually thousands of inhabitants (94,125 more) by immigra- antiquarians by an appearance in the Only \$15 of each fifty dollar founders' I twelve months.

giving out gold at the rate of \$75,000 per dollars. The chronometers are the most

Germany's colonies are five times as are to be found on board every war big as herself, those of France eighteen ship of the United States. These timetimes and Britain's ninety-seven times pieces cost \$400 each. bigger than herself. The profit on a cocoanut tree is a dol-Scattered throughout the various

lar a year. own hall and has induced the mayor to nake an official inspection of it. The gold mine is worked by a family of fa-of clocks and chronometers, which cost Washington departments are hundreds In the five years from 1895 to 1900 Germany for the first time gained more

expensive clocks in existence, and they In the period 1880-85 there had been a tion showed that the king had a set of