

TRAGEDY. MELODRAMA. ROMANCE. FARCE COMEDY.

THE THEATRICAL OUTLOOK FOR 1900

ARTHUR CRISPIN'S VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

BURLESQUE. COMEDY. COMIC OPERA.

THE loungers along the Rialto of this city are just now engaged in the pleasant, if not particularly profitable, occupation of determining how the new year will pan out in the theatrical way. It has been pretty well settled by these seers that the boom which set in some months ago has come to stay and that the season of 1900, spring and autumn, will be notable in the annals of the stage. For once it would seem that the Rialtoites have made a fortunate guess for, while it is manifestly impossible to predict with any degree of confidence what will happen in the show business, there has never been a time during the past decade when the outlook was brighter than at present. Naturally, much will depend upon the class of offerings made by the few men who practically control the best theaters, but it is probable that there will be very few really meritorious entertainments, whether they be under syndicate or independent auspices, that will not meet with a fair measure of success.

whose Juliet is in many respects noteworthy, but while Miss Marlowe undeniably possesses ability of a high order, would be almost absurd to assert that she is transcendent in a wide range of Shakespearean roles.

Among the men there is absolutely no one able to wear the mantle of Edwin Booth with even passable grace. A few years ago Walker Whiteside encouraged the feeling that an excellent tragedian had arisen, but his work later, to my mind, showed great retrogression. To return to the ladies, it is possible that Mrs. Fiske might excel in Shakespeare, but there is nothing to indicate that she has the slightest idea of making the experiment, which, indeed, it would be not foolish from the practical standpoint for her to do.

No unpleasant as it may be to make the admission, it is nevertheless a fact that there is no possibility of a great revival of Shakespeare in the near future.

The drama of romance appears to be in

close to the line of positive, soggy filth they can go without coming into conflict with the police authorities. As a fact, if the guardians of the public morals properly did their duty most of these managers would now be hibernating behind prison bars. They do more harm to the youth of the country than all other forms of so-called entertainment put together. But they are on the down grade, and it is not a wild assumption that within a very few years the burlesque show, as it is at present understood, will have become a thing of the past.

One of the rivals for stage popularity will always be what is known as the "full dress" drama, or more properly speaking, the "comedy of manners." There are more examples of these than of any other sort of plays in the better theaters. They have the advantage of being susceptible of being made strictly up to date, and any noticeable change in the public taste may be easily met and catered to according to the judgment of the exploiters. The trouble just now appears to be that the playwrights and their employers labor under the delusion that the theater going public is simply clamoring for prurience when it is doing nothing of the sort. Suggestion and innuendo which would not be tolerated for a moment in the parlors of a gentleman are as thick as miasma in a swamp, but the persons, especially in the larger cities, who appear to imagine that they are not "in fault" unless they attend these enter-



BASEBALL. GOLF. CYCLING. COLLEGE ATHLETICS.

THE SPORTING OUTLOOK FOR 1900

OPINIONS OF EXPERTS IN DIFFERENT LINES.

BOXING. TENNIS. ROWING.

IN 1900 golf will absorb more attention than ever before. The amateur championship will be played in the metropolitan district, while the open championship will go to a Chicago club.

During 1899 over 500 new golf courses were laid out, and the game is now becoming popular among all classes. Half a dozen of the leading cities have already designed public golf courses, and these are thronged from sunrise to sunset every day of the year.

Hundreds of clubs in 1900 propose taking in more ground and lengthening their links from 5 to 15 holes, in order to keep pace with the growing membership. On Nov. 1, 1900, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, published a new code of rules which then came into force. By section 12 of the bylaws of the United States Golf Association these new rules are now in force in this country, and, although the spirit of the rules remains precisely the same, it would be well for golfers to give the new rendering their careful attention.

Early in 1900 the price of these balls, owing to the great scarcity of gutta percha,

field than for several years past, and there is no doubt that this record will be broken next summer. Some exceptionally large purses were hung up at several meets during the season, and the prospects are that even larger inducements will be offered during the coming year.

The large prizes realized on trotters at some of the recent sales have shown that there will be a tremendous amount of interest in harness racing next spring notwithstanding the introduction of automobiles and the croakings of pessimists.

BEN TAVIS.

Good Times For Oarsmen.

Judging from the great interest taken in rowing last summer, both by the public and the oarsmen themselves, the coming year should furnish splendid sport for all who are fond of the game. The national regatta on the Charles river at Boston was a huge success, and the fact that the next one will most likely be held on the Speedway course, Harlem river, promises that no less interest will be manifested this season, especially as a national regatta has never yet been held in New York. The intercollegiate regattas on the Hudson and on Long Island Sound were well up to the standard of former years, and there is no doubt that in a very few seasons the Poughkeepsie course will yearly be the scene of a regatta that will eventually become as famous as the one at Henley. The National Association of Amateur Oarsmen intend sending a team to Paris next summer during the exposition to take part in the French regatta, which will probably lead to an annual international race between representatives of this country and those of several European lands. Altogether I think that 1900 will prove a great year for rowing interests.

FRED R. FORTMEYER, Secretary National Association of Amateur Oarsmen.

life by the memorable incident at Trenton in the fall of 1898 appears to be capable of meeting all requirements. True, its rough edges were in evidence during the past season, but the workmen will smooth them down now that the permanent structure is assured beyond all question of doubt. Motor racing will add greatly to the interest another year, for this style of competition necessitates speed, a quality demanded by the sport loving public. A middle distance contest with a dozen starters and a track alive with the flying machines will furnish a spectacle exciting enough to satisfy the most exacting patron. Perfectly banked six and eight lap belts of timber, with racing under electric light, will supply the most acceptable form of cycle sport. It might be mentioned that the N. C. A. will continue to look after the amateur as well as the professional side of cycle racing.

A. G. BATCHELDER, Chairman N. C. A. Board of Control.

Great Revival of Tennis.

Probably no outdoor sport experienced such a wonderful revival of popularity during the past year as was accorded tennis. For several seasons past complaints poured in on all sides of empty courts and an utter lack of enthusiasm except in a few cases, and these principally among the top notchers. During 1899 this was all reversed, and the game not only regained its old time popularity, but gained many new adherents.

"Mac" Whitman, champion for the second successive year, was not only responsible for a great deal of this renewed interest, but he also has almost revolutionized the game by the wonderful new stroke he has introduced.

Next season promises to eclipse last summer in popularity, especially as there will be in all likelihood several European experts over here to try to wrest the championship from our grasp. Some of our best players will also probably try to gain international honors across the Atlantic, both in England and at the Paris fair.

L. E. ETHERINGTON.

Gloomy View of Baseball.

Probably the only sport for which the outlook for the coming season is not of the brightest is the one which above all others we should wish to prosper. It must be acknowledged, however, that the prospects for baseball, the national game, are rather gloomy.

Every one who is interested in baseball knows the reason of the present sad state of affairs. Syndicate ball, rowdiness on the field and the fact that the men in control are not thorough sportsmen, but men who let petty differences and spite prevail over the real interest of the sport, are a few of the reasons. Time was when everybody in a city was a rooter for the local team and made every effort to support the nine. Of late years, however, the monetary side of the game has been much too prominent, players have been allowed to act improperly on the diamond, and in other ways the sport has been slowly killed.

What the coming year has in store for lovers of the game it is hard to say. It looks now as if nothing less than a radical change in the present method of carrying on the sport and the placing of thorough sportsmen in control of the teams could bring about the much desired revival of baseball.

ROBERT LEONARD.

College Athletics.

The year 1899 promises to at least give impetus to many changes in the college world of athletics, which those closely in touch with the growth and development of athletic competition have long foreseen. The period of the champion college man is passing, and in its place there comes a strong feeling that mayhap sufficient glory and more satisfaction are to be obtained by defeating the single rival of your choice than in winning a majority of hard fought competitions from teams, any of which is of a sufficiently high standard to be in the champion class. The time is surely close at hand when on all sides there will come the formation of dual or triple alliances between universities, rivals by sentiment or by geographical situation, for competition in all branches of outdoor and indoor sport. Undoubtedly all universities of standing are today making an earnest and stren-

hour effort to make and prevent the athlete from being other than a high class man in his class, and to encourage the advertising of the university by ready made and brought athletes, and to arrange their curriculum that should exercise and competition be encouraged by the providing of time when such can take place without interference with studies and examination.

The competition of college athletes outside of college games is being frowned upon, and especially is the abuse of transacting business condemned. Internal competition between a few of the leading universities is popular and will be encouraged for what it should represent, is the international champion until it has won the title of champion at home. Looking to the coming century, one can and pastimes, our systematic exercise and hygiene progress, we are giving more than any cycle of years has ever before.

GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY, Ex-Superintendent of A. A.

A Banner Year For Boxing.

Lovers of the scientific art of boxing have seldom had a more favorable outlook than at the present moment. The sympathy of the university in the New York state legislature in passing the no called Horton law has proved a great boon for the business, and its effect on other states is bound to be favorable. There will probably be more big fights during the coming year than ever before. One of the most suspicious features in the "big men" has been the low level of the mainly by Terry McGovern, the wonder of young bantamweight champion, who is shortly to graduate into another class by trying conclusions with Champion George Dixon. In a very few words, I may state that I expect 1900 to be a banner year from the pugilistic standpoint.

JAMES J. CORBETT, Ex-Champion of the World.

HARVARD'S NEW BOATHOUSE.

Harvard university will next spring possess one of the handsomest boathouses in this country. The university graduates have subscribed almost \$25,000, and the new boathouse is now in course of construction. The building will be attractive in appearance, and it will provide every comfort and facility for oarsmen. The university crews and the Newell Boat Club will use the house. The site of the building is a short distance north of Boylston street bridge, on the Brighton side of the river. The foundations for the new house, which will be the pride of all the crew men, have now been laid for some time, and the framework is also nearing completion.

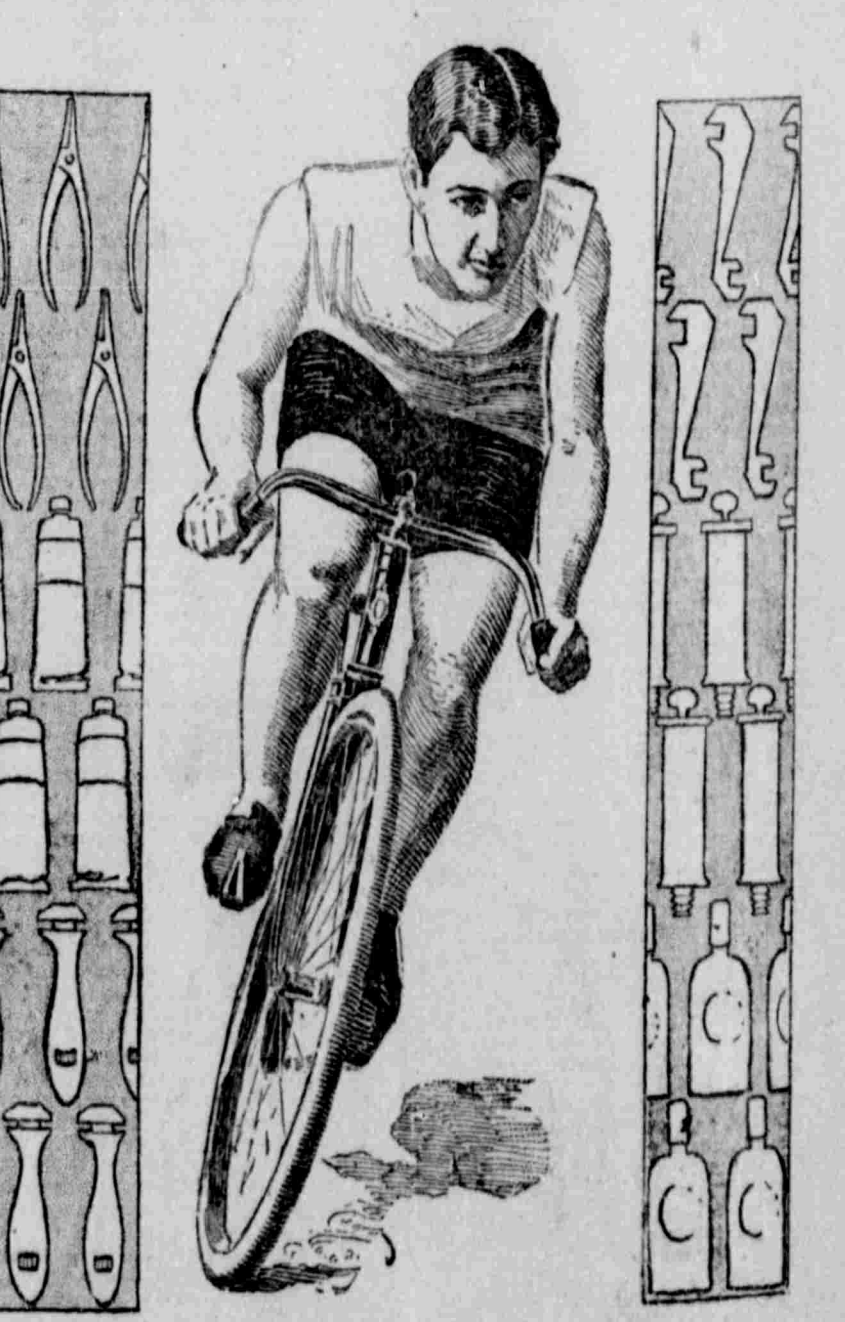
It is expected that the new house will be ready for use not later than March 1. The building is two stories high, with a basement that will be used for storage. The first floor will have three entrances from the water side and seven from the land. The main hall, which is a large one, will be used for the boats and paraphernalia. There will be a workshop and a rowing tank 51 by 58 feet on this floor. In another section of the building is to be another rowing tank. The second story will contain a gymnasium and a room for the rowing machines. There will also be a trophy room, bath, crew room and coach room. On the river side of the house there is to be a wide piazza 55 feet long.

Nell Burgess says that the use only of his 15 patented devices were bought for the chariot race in "Ben-Hur" and that he has not parted with the ownership. He further holds that it was an error to say that they had been developed or improved for utilization in General Wallace's drama.

THE RETIREMENT OF EDDIE McDUFFIE.

The retirement of Eddie McDuffie from the racing game robs the cycle track of one of the best middle distance riders that ever pedaled a wheel. Now that he has decided to drop out, there is only one man left of that old company of speed merchants which included Zimmerman, Sanger, Windle, Van Sicken, W. F. Murphy, C. M. Murphy, Wheeler, Bald and others. Of this famous old guard the only one left on the track is George Barker, the old Pittsburg rider, and he seems to be riding just as well as he did in the old days with Bill and Wheeler used to fight with him for second honors to Zimmerman, Windle and Tyler.

McDuffie first became an important factor in the racing business nine years ago. He was formerly a bricklayer at Malden, Mass. In 1897 McDuffie



became famous by going through the season without a defeat, beating every man of note except Linton, who refused to meet him. For a long time McDuffie was the only American good enough to give Jimmy Michael a good race.

During the past season McDuffie has paid more attention to record breaking than to racing, though he has met "Major" Taylor and a few others. He hopes to wind up his racing career with the mile record to his credit, and went to Chicago with that object in view. "Major" Taylor and the weather were too much for him, however, and he quit Garfield park without a short distance record to his name.

doing much better than they have ever done before.

The only method by which a line may be drawn upon the outlook is through comparison. Many an attraction came in last season for no other reason than that it was backed by inadequate capital and when a very small deficit was hand every week there was no alternative but to give up. In most cases those same productions, playing the same houses this season, would be showing a small profit, if the average proportion of increase in receipts were maintained with reference to them.

If, however, it is desired to find out the real condition of the country from a theatrical standpoint, the people to talk to are the small managers, the men who run attractions at a total weekly expense of from \$500 to \$1,000. These fellows get to the pulse of the real people. They have no exceptionally strong attractions and they cannot, as a rule, afford to expend money in alluring and deceptive paper by means of which it is sometimes possible to carry a bad one-night-stand show indefinitely. They must be able to deliver the goods they pretend to carry, and to their credit be it said that they usually do this to a greater extent than their more pretentious rivals. If the people have the coin to expend upon theatrical entertainments, these men generally make money, and if they have not the funds they handle usually come in "for reorganization" which, it may be said in passing, rarely occurs.

The fact, therefore, that these small managers are in high feather over their takings during the present season and the outlook for the remainder of this and the beginning of the next theatrical year would seem to indicate that there is a temporary boom, or else that the people of the country at large are inclined to patronize the road attractions more liberally than heretofore. At any rate the prospects for good business are exceedingly bright.

The form of entertainment which is likely to be most popular during the next twelve months has given rise to no end of discussion. The admirers of Shakespeare declare with emphasis that there is a revival of tragedy and the classical drama which will carry everything before it. There would be enough in this statement to entitle it to respectful consideration were it not for the fact that Shakespeare, in its broad sense, is possible only when there is at hand an actor whose interpretation of the lines of the immortal bard will rise above without an exception. That we now have no such player even the most optimistic will admit. What is even worse, there does not appear to be among the younger players any one who has the ability to warrant the hope which he or she will fill the niche which has so long been without an occupant. It is true we have Julia Marlowe,

ON ONE SIDE.

These weary, road stained players, who have had a awful season, Are once again buoyed up with hope; and here behold the reason: They hasten toward the glad new year with genuine celerity, For on the "1900" road they spy the word "Prosperity."

These just now, though it must be admitted that it is not in such high favor as it was a few months ago. The cause for this is not far to seek. The fact that a few original plays of real merit and some dramatizations of popular novels had been very successful was sufficient to lead loose upon a long suffering public a veritable flood of so called "romantic" plays. Most of these were romantic in the sense that nothing like them had ever been heard of in the world of play writing. Naturally they failed, as they deserved to fail, but the romantic drama was nevertheless given a black eye from which it will not soon recover, despite the virility of this form of entertainment, which is as wholesome as it is impossible and as enjoyable as it is exciting. The romantic drama will not be the leader in 1900 either.

Coming to farce and skipping for the moment the society drama, we find that this form of amusement is as elastic as an actor's contract. When one form of farce fails to please, another is immediately substituted. Time was, and not so long ago either, when Hoyt farces were the only ones which could be counted on with any degree of certainty to yield satisfactory box office returns. Naturally there were a host of imitators, until now the bogus has so replaced the genuine article that it would be exceedingly doubtful whether a genuine Hoyt play written in that prolific author's best style would meet with more than a moderate degree of success if presented tomorrow. But farce of the kind which is always popular, although by reason of its very elasticity it cannot really be considered seriously as a distinctive class of entertainment.

The burlesque shows, so called, have been having a hard time of it, and the knowledge of this condition will greatly please all persons who have the welfare of the American stage at heart. Most of these shows are run by men whose sole object in life appears to be to show how

PROSPERITY 1900

THE OTHER SIDE.

These joyous, well groomed players, who have wooed the goddess fickle, Regard with equanimity Time's coming with his sickle; A glance ahead confirms them in their strange, newborn temerity, For on the "1900" road they spy the word "Prosperity."

will very materially advance, and any golf clubs who can lay in a heavy stock of the standard makes at an average price of even \$5.00 per dozen will find that they have saved at least 15 to 25 per cent on their purchase before the coming season is well under way.

To sum up, there are now nearly 1,200 golf courses in existence in the United States alone, and these are used by about 25,000 players. The value of property in land and clubhouses devoted to the game is over \$60,000,000, and the players spend each year over \$20,000,000 in pursuit of the sport. Golf finds remunerative employment for nearly 55,000 men and boys in the United States and is fast becoming the national sport of the country.

JOSHUA NEWMAN, Editor of The Official Golf Guide.

Horse Racing Will Boom.

According to prominent horsemen, there never was a time when the outlook for racing among the thoroughbreds was more promising than it now is. Reports from all over the country show that everybody is looking forward with a good deal of impatience to the opening of the season next spring, as the general consensus of opinion seems to be that the campaign will be a record breaker. So confident are many well known horsemen that the prospects are of the best that several large stables will send representatives to follow the circuits in England, besides sending entries to all the prominent meets in this country. The great success of the small band of American jockeys who have ridden in England during the past season will probably attract others to try their fortunes on British tracks, and as a matter of fact several well known jockeys have already announced their intention to go over as soon as their contracts here have expired.

The prospects among the harness horses are no less bright. Last season saw a good many more stables in the

ing Life" those amiable gentlemen have made it possible for me to add six beautiful scrapbooks to my collection, and I am too modest to tell you how many delightful things about me are nestled between those 12 ornamental covers."

In Germany all members of the stage society who give their autographs to applicants exact a contribution to the society's pension fund. Ellen Terry

asks a shilling for her signature and applies the revenue to the support of a bed in a London hospital. Richard Mansfield, though he refuses his signature, is himself a collector of letters and manuscripts and has a passion for securing fugitive documents and scraps of notable writing.

"Send Her Victorious" is the latest British melodrama founded on the Transvaal war. The spectacular cli-

max of the piece is an attack by the Boers on an armored train. The same incident is used in "Sons of the Empire," which deals also with the Transvaal war.

Harry W. Fero, who is with "The Gunner's Mate" company as bugler, has received his Dewey medal, the gift of congress to Dewey sailors, of which he is very proud. Young Fero was on board the Boston in the battle of Ma-

nila Bay. His discharge papers gave him an excellent rating for the five years he served in the navy.

There is being projected a spectacular production of "Demona and Pythias" next season, with Louis James as Damon and Charles B. Hanford as Pythias.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell intends soon to produce a play by Turgenieff, called "A Summer Day," which has never

been published or acted. The English translation has been done by Miss Milman, daughter of Lieutenant General Milman.

R. E. Johnston, the former musical manager, is going to bring out Miss Mary Sanders as a dramatic star.

Sir Hamlyn Irving was born in 1838. He made his first professional stage appearance in a small part in "Richelieu" in 1856.

NOTES OF THE AMUSEMENT WORLD.

"The Christian," when tried in London, proved a flat failure.

Fanny Rice has decided to call her new play "A Wonderful Woman."

The ever busy theatrical gossip has obtained it that when Julia Marlowe obtains her divorce she will wed her manager, C. B. Dillingham.

W. J. Fielding has purchased the rights to "Siberia." He is arranging to give the play a special production next fall.

Elita Proctor Otis is not entirely in sympathy with her distinguished kinsman in command of operations in the Philippines. "I don't believe in the censorship of the press," says the queenly Elita. "Since I first appeared in 'Sport-