

AMUSEMENTS.

The principal event of the Fabbri opera season since the opening night, and the one which attracted the most attention and the largest audience, was the production of "Faust" on Monday evening, with Miss Ivy Wandesforde as Marguerite. The young lady having appeared here several years since with Camilla Urso in concert, there was naturally great curiosity to note her proficiency in the more ambitious line of grand opera. The test, on the whole, was not entirely satisfactory. She carefully dressed and thoroughly looked the part, and her ease and grace of manner is more than pleasing when contrasted with the spasmodic contortions and awkward over-acting of the leading lady singers of last week; but her voice, though clear and pure in tone, is lacking in volume, and the orchestra should not have been allowed to drown its sweetness. In the last act, however, she seemed to have reserved all her power for one grand effort, and fairly redeemed herself, though it was tiresome waiting through four acts for the climax. Mr. Lafontaine sang in his usual guttural and rasping twang the important part of Mephistopheles. Mr. Muller appeared as Valentin, and though having but little to do, would have been sadly missed. Hugh Talbo was cast for the title role, but was suffering from the severe effects of an excess of beer imbibed the previous evening, and Sig. Montegriffo sang the part, without previous apology or announcement by the management regarding the change, and numerous persons in the audience were under the impression that they were listening to Mr. Talbo. These unexpected changes seem to be characteristic of this company and the manager, or managers. First, we were to have English opera, and they gave us Italian instead; and since then we have had a sort of mongrel mixture of English, German and Italian, while other little peculiarities similar to that of the change of tenors have been noticeable all through the season. The public is always good-natured, even under such circumstances, for a time; but it will eventually lose confidence in the manager and tire of this uncertain policy, and will then at some unexpected time revenge itself for his vacillating course by allowing him to play to empty benches when he least expects it. And when confidence is once lost, it is seldom regained. A great improvement was shown Monday evening in general details. The chorus was much better than last week, the conductor kept quiet most of the time, and the prompter's voice was seldom heard, showing the effects of needed and careful rehearsing. "Faust" was repeated on Tuesday. "Martha" was given last evening, and very poorly. Need of rehearsal was painfully apparent. There were numerous delays and incessant promptings. Miss Wandesforde rendered Lady Harriet passably well, and Miss D'Arona vainly tried to give Nancy life and spirit. Mr. Talbo, who sang Lionel, has a passably good tenor voice, of fair strength and volume, but is not equal to expectations. He aroused enthusiasm but once during the evening. The drinking song by Mr. Muller, at the beginning of the third act, was well given and heartily encored. Taken as a whole, the evening was exceedingly tiresome, the dullness being only relieved by a laughable accident. In the third act, Mr. Muller stumbled over the roots of a mammoth oak, upsetting the monarch of the forest, and fell flat of his back.

Wm. E. Sheridan is playing "King Lear" at the Baldwin this week.

The latest minstrel song is "The Patch Upon My Angel Brother's Pants."

The Emelle Melville Opera Company is said to have made a hit in Chicago.

Alice Gates opens at the California Theater on the 9th proximo with a comic opera company.

J. H. Haverly has leased the California Theater for a term of three years, commencing January 1, 1882.

James O. Barrows has left Bishop's "Widow Bedott" party, and is now with Gardner's "Legion of Honor" company.

Alice Dunning Lingard and company opened in Astoria on Tuesday evening, and will give a season at New Market Theater at the close of the present operative engagement.

The following is from the New York Courier's dramatic "obituary" notices: "The Fabbri English Opera Company perished recently in San Francisco, unwept and uncared for."

Wm. E. Sheridan denies the reflections upon the people and the theaters of the Northwest, which were published and attributed to him by the San Francisco Chronicle after his return from Portland. He also says he intends visiting this region again this winter.

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