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The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

THE DALLES OREGON VERDI'S GREAT WORK.

"Falstaff" Is Pronounced the Composer's Masterpiece.

One of the "Grand Old Men" of Europe—In His Seventy-Ninth Year Now. But as Bright and Capable as a Young Giant.

Our century has been kind to the veterans in the various walks of life, and poetry, science, politics, art and music each boast their famous devotees who have passed the septuagenarian line. In the realm of music, the great Italian maestro, Giuseppe Verdi, recently, and in his seventy-ninth year, has given to the world an opera whose brilliancy of conception, masterful force, perfect technique and richness of popular sentiment rise above those of his former creations. It takes a place among the grand productions of time. Hindyn won renown for the production of his "Creation" and the "Seasons" when a little past 60, but since then intellectual vigor at this age has ceased to attract wonder. Wagner gave the world his best conception when 68; at 73 Verdi brought out his first tragic opera, and at 79 produces a comic opera which has won universal plaudits.

The striking character of Verdi's "Falstaff" is the originality of both plan and execution. The aged artist, long since a master of the old school of musical expression, and a consistent teacher of its methods, has broken away from its lines, and with all the transcendent style, poetic fire and concentrated vigor of a man in the zenith of strength and activity leads the way into new paths, and raises higher the standard of musical interpretation. At an age when it is presumed a man ceases to develop mentally or to be capable of the assimilation of new ideas and methods, Verdi has shown himself as alert intellectually and as quick to master new principles and popular sentiments as the most brilliant of the younger school, and he is the acknowledged head of the modern Italian school. "Falstaff" is a comedy in the full significance of the term. There are eleven parts in the opera, that of Sir John Falstaff being played at its initial performance in Milan by



Victor Maurel. This character is the central figure of the story and is upon the stage most of the time. The change of style in Verdi's works first was noticeable in "Don Carlos," and continued in "Aida," the "Manzoni Requiem," and "Otello," and finds its culmination in his "Falstaff." Much of the change in the latter production is creditable to Sig. Arrigo Boito, the noted librettist, in whom Verdi found a collaborator worthy his accomplishments, and one whose assistance gave inspiration to his efforts. Boito is thoroughly versed in stagecraft, and his libretto, an adaptation from Shakespeare, is rich in poetic sentiment, dramatic incident and lively action. The work throughout is concise and admirably balanced. In "Otello," the tragic opera, the libretto is occasionally made subordinate to the music, but in "Falstaff" the music is made only to embellish the poetry regardless of its own effect. The orchestration is excellent, the charming smoothness and richness producing a delightful effect.

Musical history gives the first opera heard in Europe as "Daphne," performed in 1594. It was at once pronounced an "unnatural drama," and was the object of much ridicule and criticism from people who maintained it absurd that the actors should sing instead of speaking their lines. At that time it was a bold experiment to attempt to revive in modern Europe the Greek drama, but the "Greeks," as they were called, held their way courageously, and in fifty years the opera was the favorite form of music in all European countries.

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Mr. Billtop's Unhappy Experience.
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—N. Y. Sun.

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Of interest to both Young and Old will be
PROF. R. L. GARNER'S AFRICAN EXPEDITION TO THE GORILLAS.
Arrangements have been made in connection with a leading English review, to publish Prof. Garner's letters descriptive of his present expedition to Africa. Prof. Garner is noted the world over for the curious and interesting investigations he is making in the speech of monkeys. He sailed for Africa last September for the sake of further pursuing his studies in the native habits of the gorilla. The illustrations for these articles will be from photographs taken by Prof. Garner. The magazine also contains most interesting articles under the following comprehensive heads:
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