## MEdFord MAILTRIBUNE


 uee year, by mail. SUBECRIPTION RATES:

GRAND OPERA AND OPERETTA.
The fact that grand opera is unpopular among the masses of America and England and in vogue only where
bulwarked by faslion seems to be proof enough that it is foreign to the English speaking branch of the race and that no amount of effort can ever make it acceptable to
the rank and file. For decades efforts have been made to force grand opera on the public, and except in large cities where fashion apes the foreign and where there are considerable numbers of the "musical elect" is not enjoyed
or appreciated.
These facts force the conclusion that dislike of this These facts force the conclusion that dislike of thin
class of music is a racial trait. Americans are fond of musical comedies and public patronage of light operas greatly exceeds that of the grand opera, whil
is apt to be the case among foreign nations.
is apt to be the case among foreign nations.
The English ballads were the foundation of English The English ballads were the foundation of Engist
operas and without doubt are the nusical expression of the English speaking race, a taste by no means to be sueer-
ed at. Walter Eaton in the January Craftsman discusses ed at. Watter Eaton in the Janary Crattsman diselisse
this entertainingly and declares that what is needed is "not a greater education of the people in grand opera, but
a more careful education of the musical elect, so that they a more careful education of the musieal elect, so that the
shall realize the true importance of operetta and musici comedy and its national signififean
at the composer who writes it
the composer who writes it," Mr. Eaton, "lives because it
"Musical comedy," says Mr. responds to insistent demand, but remains a low level be
cause the better class of musicians turn away from it an cause the better class of musicians turn away from it and van's "Patience" would be worth a dozen imitations
"Madam Buterfly" and Tescarts and alomes."
"England and Austria have found their unsical a pression on the sta
ant, and but lately we have heard the old, heady rey
aqain, caught the old wine and sparkle of Viennese Cif.
'The Mery Widow' of Lehar, spd. The Chocolate Sold of Oscar Strauss, now deservedly popular on our America stage, even if its libretto is a travesty of Shaw's Arms an
the Man. These pieces from Vienna, musically based o music to be-they are as national as they are delightful Die Fledermans' of Johann Strauss is as fresh today as will be fifty years hence.
"In England the list of great composers is less tha the lists of other nations. But England has an honorabi nental world in musical knowledge and skill. Johs six-part glee, 'Sumer is a-cumin' in, com English ballads of that day reached a high point of per fection. Some of them have never, for magic of melody, been exceled in any land a any time. We still sing 'Drink to Me Only With Thine ence of the French ballet, in part to Italian musical inflnence, came the English masques. But, as Jonson and Mil ton surpassed the French ballet builders, the English mil sicians went far beyond mere Italian finish and correet ness. The last of the seventeenth century composers and the greatest English composer, periaps, yet born, was Henry Purcell. Though opera, as we understand it, wa
then in its infancy, he developed the ballad and the masque till he wrote operas, such as King Arthur, and 'Dido and Aeneas, which contained passages of great dramatic sin cerity, beanty and power. But with the enghteenth cen tury English music declined. The nation still demanded its native musical expression-nations always will. This
was supplied by piecing together on a thread of spoken plot was supplied by piecing together on a thread of spoken plot,
the popular ballads, as in the cast of 'The Beggar's Opera,

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trions foreigners, Handel, Haydn, Spohr, Mendelssohn ( long the favorite composers of the English) and of the
Itatian opera, which exchisively occupied the attention o
the fashonable classes, and, like the great car of Jugger the fashionable classes, and, like the great car of Jugger
naut, overrode and crushed all efforts made on behalf of mativeomusic."
Mr. Eatou recalls the days of Gilbert und Sullivan op
mettas not so long past. "They were antive and near erettas not so long past. "They were antive and ne
They spoke the people's speech. They were our owx
It seems a asurd to him that they shonld need defense, "
in the eres of a good man peple todat wher in the eyes of a good mamy people today, who push madl
to hear tatian graand opera, operetta does need defense.

 entertaiument, with the accompaniment of musie and
rivthim. demand what we call musieal comedy, that at least one-third of the theatrical prodicts made it New York each season are musieal conedies, however. not prive what a real craving exists for the pleasant min
istrations istrations on mosicic and rhythum, and also what a mighty
influenee the composers and librettists of operettas mighit


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