LOCAL AND GENERAL.

International Judicial Commission.

The International Judicial Commission will meet after the 'Xmas holidays at the Ministry of the Interior, under the presidency of Boutros Pasha Ghali, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Cairo Scientific Society.

A meeting of the society will take place at the School of Medicine on Thursday, 13th inst., at 4.30 p.m. The following papers will be read: "River Characteristics as illustrated by the Nile," by Dr. Hume; "Fluctuations in the height of the subsoil water in relation to the Nile Flood," by Mr. A. Lucas.

"The Globe Trotter."

Mr. David Garrick Longworth's organ "The Globe Trotter" has appeared in a considerably enlarged form. From the general appearance of the paper and the large number of advertisements which it contains the "Globe Trotter" is progressing fast, and Mr. Longworth's many friends in Egypt will be pleased to hear of his success.

"The Sphinx."

Our bright little winter contemporary, the 'Sphinx," has made its debut for the season, while entering on its fourteenth year. Last week's issue (the second this season) is if anything an improvement on the first, and both are full of interest to the resident and tourist alike. The journal has the same features as last year—society gossip in Cairo and London, chit-chat interesting personalia, visitors' lists, "Fashions of the Moment," "Finance and Matters Financial," a short story by a well-known author, humorous bit-bits, and well-selected articles, besides a number of illustrations, etc. The addition of a new printing department equipped with the most modern machinery and the latest type has enabled the publishers to bring out a handsome publication, which does credit to all concerned.

British Club.

The smoking concert given at the British Club on Saturday was a great success in every way, and it is to be hoped will prove to be only the first of a series of similar entertainments. Mr. Heaton opened with a pianoforte solo, and ably served as an accompanist throughout. Mr. Purvis was in good form in the two solos he gave, especially in the favourite "Veteran's Song." He also joined Mr. Sarjeant in a fine rendering of a very telling duet, "Watchman, what of the Night?" composed by Mr. Sarjeant's brother. Mr. De Rougement delighted every one with his whistling, which was beautifully true, and also sang a couple of songs. Mr. Pearce Hill, always a favourite, brought his dolls and managed to check their hilarity though not that of the audience. Mr. Dodwell is a master hand at entertaining, and kept all in roars of laughter throughout his sketches and songs. M. D'Ambra gave four selections on the violin with charming effect and exquisite touch. The chair was taken at first by Sir Massie Blomfield, but owing to the serious illness of Lady Blomfield he had to leave at the interval, and Mr. Gould presided for the rest of the evening. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman, and to Mr. Sarjeant for arranging the concert. At the close the prizes won in the billiard handicap were presented by Mr. Gould to the winners, Messrs. Legge, Wood and Sampson.

Spartali & Co.'s Carpets.

We would call the attention of our readers to an advertisement appearing in to-day's issue of Messrs. J. A. Spartali & Co.'s Oriental carpets. This well-known firm, whose head office is at Smyrna, are the largest dealers of hand-made Turkish and Persian carpets in the world, and have been established since 1842. They are manufacturers of all their own goods, having workshops and agencies in all carpet-producing localities of Asia Minor and Persia and employing no less than 10,000 looms and 40,000 weavers; consequently, there being no intermediate profits, the firm is able to offer its goods at prices 25 % to 50 % lower than at the retail shops in Cairo and Alexandria and varying from 13 francs to 150 francs the square metre. Besides a grand selection of modern Oriental carpets of any size and colour Messrs. Spartali are prepared to show a choice collection of fine antique rugs and silk rugs of the very finest quality and at moderate prices. They are likewise prepared to execute orders for clients for carpets of any size and colour desired. We would mention that their goods are most suitable for Christmas and New Year's presents to relatives and friends in Europe and America. The firm warmly invite residents and travellers to favour their branches in Egypt with a call to inspect the stock just arrived from Smyrna and now being exhibited, with the assurance that visitors will not be importuned to purchase goods they may not require.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

On their visit to Egypt this month the Earl and Countess of Halsbury will be accompanied by Mr. and Lady Evelyn Giffard.

Captain Hollefen, commandant of the German training-ship Stoech, who was granted an audience by the Khedive at Abdeen Palace on Friday, returned to Alexandria on Saturday from Cairo. The Stoech sails on Saturday next.

The Rev. P. B. N. Norman-Lee, C.F., is expected to arrive by the troopship Braemar Castle on Thursday next, and will forthwith resume his duties as Chaplain to the Forces in Alexandria, which since his departure in July last have been undertaken by the clergy of St. Mark's Church. Canon Ward ceased to be Acting Chaplain to the Forces on December 1.

SERIOUS TRAIN COLLISION.

TWENTY-ONE PASSENGERS INJURED.

The following telegram was received by us on Saturday evening:—

The Railway Administration regrets to report a serious collision which occurred at Mit Assaa this morning and in which one Syrian gentleman received serious injuries and three Europeans and two ladies were slightly injured. All were able to continue their journeys, with the exception of the Syrian gentleman, who was taken to hospital. Fifteen Egyptians also received slight injuries, but were able to continue their journeys.

The collision occurred during a thick fog. An official enquiry is being made as to the exact cause. Traffic was entirely blocked for some hours, but by this afternoon normal working was again restored.

Mit Assaa is on the Tantah to Mansourah line.

BURGLARY IN CAIRO.

MR. GRAHAM'S HOUSE ENTERED.

At 4 o'clock yesterday morning the house of Mr. Graham, Deputy Director General of the Public Health Department, at Ghezireh, was broken into by burglars and a considerable amount of old silver plate removed. The police have the affair in hand and are making investigations which, it is hoped, will lead to the discovery of the criminals.

Burglary on an extensive scale has hitherto been of rare occurrence in Egypt, but now that the large increase of the suburbs at Cairo and Alexandria offers considerable opportunities to individual or to gangs of thieves it behoves householders to be on their guard.

"AT HOME" ON THE NILE.

The Hamburg and Anglo-American Nile Company gave a very pleasant "At Home" on board their dahabeah Nubia yesterday afternoon. This fine boat was moored to the landing-stage close to Kasr-el-Nil, and was in gala attire, palms and flowers being in profusion and every comfort provided for the guests. A sumptuous tea was provided in the dainty saloon, which was set out with little tables, while less innocent drinks were served from the smoking-room on the upper deck. The Nubia is one of the finest of this company's steamers, and her accommodation offers every comfort. The roomy cabins have large and airy windows; and every window is fitted with mosquito blinds, and the cabins all contain ample shelves and chests of drawers and other conveniences not often met with on board any boat. The upper deck is glazed in at the bows so that no untoward breeze may interfere with the comfort of the passengers; and everything has been done to ensure the arrangements being as perfect as possible. A continuous stream of people took advantage of the company's invitation to inspect the vessel; and though some of the guests came expecting an afternoon cruise on the river there were few who were not satisfied with the entertainment offered them.

Y. W. C. A.

The accommodation at Connaught House proving too limited, the annual sale of work given by the Y. W. C. A. will be held, with the kind permission of George Nungovich Bey and Mr. Braun, at the Hotel Continental on December 18.

The Countess of Cromer has kindly consented to open the proceedings at 3.30, being supported by the Very Rev. Dean Butcher, D.D., in the Chair, and the vote of thanks being proposed by Major-General Bullock, C.B. By kind permission of Colonel R. A. Herbert, M.V.O., the band of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoons will play during the afternoon.

The sale of work will continue throughout the same evening, the Hon. L. M. Iddings American Consul General presiding over the opening ceremony at 8.30. The music during the evening will be provided by vocalists and a Toy Symphony, four violins and a 'cello being requisitioned in addition to the usual instruments.

The following is a list of the patronesses and of the stalls over which they will preside:

England (Children's garments).—Mmes. Alban, Bullock, Butcher, Boyd-Carpenter, Cooksor, Hogg, Royle, and Vera Alston.

Scotland (Woollen goods).—Lady Rogers, Lady Blanche Smith, Lady Willcocks, Mmes Graham, Milton, and Mackenzie.

Ireland (Linen goods).—Mmes Johnson Pasha, P. H. Rowlatt, and Trevithick.

America (Cakes and sweets).—Mmes Iddings, Crookshank, Foot, Stout, and Tuck.

Continent.—Lady Victoria Machell, Miss Farnell.

Any contributions of needlework, cakes, sweets, flowers, etc, will be very gratefully received at Connaught House; and we trust that our readers will take this opportunity of showing their sympathy and appreciation of this most deserving association.

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The S.S Sailor Prince, with passengers and general cargo, left Malta on the 8th inst., and is due to arrive at Alexandria on the 12th.

The Ellerman liner City of Khios arrived in Liverpool on Saturday morning.

The S.S. Bulgarian (Wascott Line) left Malta on the 8th inst., and is due here on Wednesday next with general cargo from London and Malta.

SUEZ CANAL BLOCKED.

CLAN LINER ASHORE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Suez, Monday.

The S.S. Clan Macdonald is ashore in the Canal at km. 146 station, and is blocking the passage of the Indian mailboat Mooltan, which has already been delayed 15 hours.

Suez, Later.

The Clan Macdonald has been refloated, but cannot move owing to a chain in her propeller.

THE S.S. NEGHILLEH.

RETURNS TO SUEZ UNDAMAGED.

Suez, Saturday.

The S.S. Caliouhieh returned to Suez this forenoon from Gemsah, and reports having successfully pulled the S.S. Neghilleh off the reefs. The vessel is apparently undamaged, and will very likely return to Suez to-morrow.

Suez, Sunday.

The Khedivial steamer Neghilleh, which was ashore at Gemsah, returned to Suez at 7.30 this morning and has been drydocked.

REAL ESTATE AT ALEXANDRIA.

A Cairo correspondent writes:—

Five months ago La Société d'Entreprises Immobilières et de Travaux, Cairo, made arrangements to take over 10% (30,000 pics) of the land owned by La Société Civile des Terrains Cléopâtre of Alexandria.

This land has a superficial area of about 300,000 pics, and is situated at Ibrahimieh (Alexandria) on the sea front. They bought the land in June last from Messrs. Stagni and Zervudachi for P.T. 101 per pic.

The Municipality has now decided to extend the Alexandria promenade quay as far as Sidi Gaber, which work will necessitate cutting through the whole length of the Cléopâtre possessions. The necessary funds for carrying out this work have already been voted by the Municipality. One can see at a glance that the value of this property has already been considerably enhanced, and it is estimated that there will be no difficulty in obtaining P.T. 200 to P.T. 250 per pic for this land. At the present moment there are firm offers on hand for certain parcels at P.T. 160 per pic, which represents a net profit of P.T. 59 per pic on purchase price.

If the Société d'Entreprises Immobilières et de Travaux were to realize to-day their portion of the property, the sale would net them a clear £18 000, and this on an expenditure of £7,500 made last June. As, no doubt the property will be disposed of at a more advantageous figure, a considerably larger profit will result therefrom.

ZIZINIA THEATRE.

"FRANCILLON."

"Autres temps, autres mœurs"; old de Riverolles' tale of the Middle Ages seems now hardly more antiquated than Dumas' 20-year-old play itself. By so much have we progressed or—become blasé. And, paradorically, "plus ça change plus c'est la même chose;" there is the usual triangle, this time an isosceles one, its sides composed of suspicions of husband and wife garried 'à outrance' on a very weak basis of infidelity, and the denouement no less laborious than the Pons Asinorum. We hardly care to think how a Dumas of to-day would fare with a piece whose meagre plot and interminable dialogues are equalled only by its want of plausibility and action. The constant repetition of the main theme by nearly every character soon becomes tedious. There is here and there a redeeming epigram, but on the whole the play offers little opportunity, nor did we think that, when produced on Saturday, that little was pushed to its uttermost possibility. Even Mlle Marthe Brandes in the title rôle did not mark her début in Alexandria with anything beyond an averagely good performance. For this no doubt a severe cold, from which she was suffering, was in a measure responsible. And then the part is wordy and inflated and hence deprives its interpreter of a good deal of the effect to be gained by appeals to the imagination. It may well be that a stage idea of the 'femme du monde' is to keep the emotions genteelly in check; still there was surely room for rather more colour and "abandon" in "Francillon" than Mlle Brandès imparted.

Setting aside M. Arnaud, the present troupe is certainly better than Mme Hading's company, in that they show confidence and pull well together. On Saturday no one player stood out from amongst the others, so it would be invidious to draw distinctions.

This evening, "L'Espionne" will be given.

MAPLE & Co., Ltd.

(LONDON & PARIS.)

UPHOLSTERERS TO H.M. KING EDWARD VII

Beg to announce that their representative, Mr. T. OLIVER, is now staying at the New Khedivial Hotel, Alexandria, where he will remain till December 24th, and where he will be pleased to make appointments and to give his advice on all matters concerning Furniture and Decoration.

Mr. OLIVER will be in Cairo at Shepheard's Hotel, from December 25th, till the end of January.

200 25-12-5

KISWET EL MAHMAL.

CEREMONY AT THE CITADEL.

Topped by the mosque and its minarets, the Citadel stands clear against the sky: the blood-red standard scarce flutters in the morning breeze, and the ramparts are fringed with an ever-growing line of figures, clad in every shade of colour but mostly capped with crimson tarboosh. The crowd in the place below grows denser every moment as the morning mists roll away and carriage after carriage flits its way into the enclosure. For civilized and Europeanized as is our Cairo, this great festival, centred round the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca, is still one of the great events of the calendar and is eagerly awaited by both Mohamedan and Christian. The night before its departure the heavily embroidered panels and the sacred Mahmal were "en evidence" under cover, and great was the crowd that circled round it and joined the audience in the adjoining tent where Dervishes chanted their endless verses, and devotees persisted in their devotions till the onlookers grew weary of the drowsy monotony and strange barbaric musical intervals.

But the morning ceremony held under the blue canopy of heaven and with accompaniment of military display appeals more to the ordinary observer and holds attention from first to last. The native crowd, so tall of colour and movement, the mounted police reducing chaos into semblance of order, the stretch of sand-covered road winding round the Citadel and up the slope beyond, the wide parade ground lined with rigid troops, and the constant stream of carriages and people, keep eyes and senses always on the alert. High officials, gorgeous in their gold-laced uniforms, with brightly-coloured orders and glittering decorations, whirl by; and also many native notabilities in wonderful eastern garb and flowing garments of various hues with embroideries of gold about their necks and encircling their turbans. Some drive in state behind proudly stepping horses; others arrive in humble arabehs, the effect made grotesque at times by the figure of a ragged urchin taking a free ride behind. Closed broughams flash by containing visions of veiled ladies of state, and the latest arrivals from England in the latest thing in motor cars presses largely to the fore.

But all are ready in their places, and all the soldiers spick and span and well to attention before the clatter of the Lancer escort proclaims the arrival of H.H. the Khedive and his entourage in the highly swung barouche with syces and outriders. The strains of the National Anthem, Royal salutes, and shouts from the male population greet his arrival, while the curious twittering cries from the native women add an element most curious and unusual to the sound.

In the meanwhile the Kiswet el-Mahmal has been borne into the centre of the ground: the gorgeous tent-like creation has been already lifted into position upon the honoured camel, all richly caparisoned and almost covered with its saddle cloth and headpiece of gold and crimson. The Mahmal itself is so overladen with heavy gold and silver bullion that scarce any of its crimson ground is visible. High silver ornaments are at its angles, its silver spex gleams from under a falling fringe of black. Swaying to the movement of the camel it scintillates and blazons in the sunshine and moves slowly across the ground past the Khedive, and starts the first stage of its long and weary journey followed by the plaintive music of flute and native drum. Stretched on long domed frames of wood, and looking for all the world like enormous ambulance litters, follow the various portions of the sacred carpet. They are carried on the stalwart shoulders of duffel clad gaffirs; and while some are covered all with black, others display their glittering inscriptions from the Koran upon a ground of black or green. After them stream the various regiments: first the Lancers with their band playing, somewhat inappropriately, very English music, then the guns of the field battery and the mule battery, and after them detachments of the Egyptian line.

After the long stream has passed away out of sight and the final salute is over, the Khedive drives off in his state carriage across the ground, and the great function is over. Within half an hour the crowd has drifted back to its highways and byeways, and the Citadel is once more left to keep military watch and ward over the town at its feet.

NILE TOURISTS.

List of passengers by the P. S. Prince Abbas, which left Shellal yesterday:—Miss C.A. O'dinp, Miss C.M. Sullivar, Miss Mannering, Miss A. and Miss D. Mannering, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Repton, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rossel, Miss M.K. McCallum, Baronne and Freule Van Heemstra, Miss A.J. Lowson, Miss Edith Latham, Miss Cora Streets, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. McClymont, Mr. H.S. Collins, Mrs. D. Edgar Jones, Mr. Dawson.

Passenger list of S.S. Puritan which left Kasr el-Nil on Friday: — Dr. K. Coutts, Jasref Bey Sabib, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Moore, Aly Pasha Sabet, Mr and Mrs. J. Frankenthal, Miss P. Moore, Général and Mme. Vallin, Mr. D. E. Payle.

Notice for Tourists.

MOERIS HOTEL AND GRAND HOTEL KAROUN on the Lake, Fayoum.

Comfortable Hotels Patronised by Princess of Battenberg, Prince of Sweden, etc.

For particulars apply: A. TASCO, *Proprietor.*

19906—31-3-907

ALEXANDRIA FIRE BRIGADE.

SATURDAY'S DISPLAY.

As a demonstration of technical ingenuity, combined with simplicity of manœuvre, the display of the Alexandria Fire Brigade, held on Saturday afternoon, at Moharem Bey, under the direction of Miralai Hopkinson, deserved the highest praise. But more than this. The feature that stood forth most conspicuously, at that exhibition, was neither the excellency of the equipment, nor the superior make of the machinery; it was rather, if the writer's allegory may be permitted, the high standard of efficiency of the "human machine"—efficient in every detail of the manifold duties involved in the fireman's risky work. The raw, untutored, undisciplined Arab or Fellah has been taken in hand, and by the devotion of British and European instructors, formed into a handy, able-bodied man. The engine may be perfect, but it is after all the man behind it that tells.

The brigade whom Superintendent Waller marshalled on Saturday before his Excellency the Governor and a goodly gathering of local potabilities—official and civilian—were as fine a body of men as one could wish to see; splendid physique, and for all their swarthy faces, very imposing in their dazzling brass helmets. There were a promptitude to obey and enthusiasm in action which augur well, and it was also not a little gratifying to note the keen delight shown by the native population, a huge concourse of whom covered the steep slope of Kom-el Dik; they were especially jubilant over the operations for rescuing one of their own kith and kin, who, his bare and puny legs swinging in the wind, was let down from the top storey window.

The display commenced with inspection parade of brigade and equipment, consisting of three fire engines, one automobile; a manual engine; pompier ladder; long ladder; and hose reel. To avoid tediousness, we will confine ourselves to a generalisation of the several items of the programme. The drilling was perfect, and the record of time in which the work was carried out, remarkable. For instance the manual engine was got into action, pump pipe, and all, by one man within 1.41 minutes. The pompier ladder, whose uses were next demonstrated, is, we believe, a French invention; the hooks at the end of the short ladders employed in climbing from storey to storey reminded one of the fore-feet of that interesting invertebrate, the Walking Stick insect. Reaching the top of one ladder, the fireman secured himself by a catch to the sill, while he fixed on the ladder he carried to the upper floor; the rungs were attached to a centre—piece like fish-bones to the spine, and the saw—like appearance made one shudder. The rope used in the escape is of coreless multiple strand called "Simonis," of London make, very light and thin, but of immense strength. We had also a practical demonstration of the water-curtain, which so ingeniously protects the fireman by a circular spray at right angles to the jet. The chemical cylinder, containing carbonic acid gas, that rapidly extinguished a fierce fire, and the smoke helmet, were also interesting. The long ladder is eighty feet in length. At full span, it looks top heavy, but except for an initial list, the carriage on which it stands scarcely creaked, no matter what way the ladder was turned. It is of German manufacture, built by Honig of Cologne, and not the latest thing in ladders, for by the newest invention the fireman is winched up by a motor engine. But for Alexandria, which at present is free of sky scraping architecture, the German apparatus will suffice. The motor fire engine was, as with the others, constructed by the well known firm of Merryweather of London; it was converted to automobility recently by an expert sent from London. Under 120 pounds pressure, or 12 H.P., it can run 16½ miles an hour.

A word for the horses of the other engines. They are nearly all South of England breed; they are thoroughly trained and powerful drays, which, for all the sandy soil, drew up instantaneously, even at full gallop. The "house on fire" scene was the grande finale, most realistic with just a suspicion of smoke—the spectators won'd have been delighted with a good old blaze, but proximity to the station buildings forbade; or perhaps the house was too wet.

After the gallop past the parade reformed, and his Excellency the Governor congratulated Superintendent Waller and his men on their admirable performance.

UNITED EGYPTIAN LANDS, LTD.

The public appear to be under some misapprehension as to the length of time during which their money will be locked up after having sent in their applications for shares for the United Egyptian Lands, Limited. The allotment will take place in Egypt so far as one third of the capital is concerned. The allotment letters and cheques will be sent out to applicants certainly not later than the end of the present week.

The United Egyptian Lands, Limited, has secured an option, in addition to the 55,000 metres referred to in the prospectus, on land on Rodah Island. This brings up the total to over 270,000 square metres and works out at under £2.10s. per metre, including all charges.

The land is excellently situated with a frontage on the Nile. The Garden City plots are fetching from £6 to £14 per metre and the land immediately opposite at Ghizeh from £4 to £6, so the option obtained by the United Lands must be considered exceptionally favourable.

KHEDIVIAL OPERA HOUSE.

"FAUST."

(FROM OUR THEATRICAL CORRESPONDENT.)

"Faust" opened well enough. We had three new people. M. Maas as Mephistopheles, Mlle Baron as Marguerite, and M. Méxy as Valentine. If the whole performance had not tailed off so wretchedly we should have appreciated them. Mlle Baron can act; and it is the greatest possible relief to see a Marguerite who has any notion of acting. The "Thule" song was perhaps her best achievement. The tremolo—which she uses far too much—came in as a "roucoulement"—a real spinning-wheel song, crooned to herself. The Jewel song would have been even better, but she spoilt it by a "show" high note at the end which dramatised her soliloquy out of its proper form. Her acting was especially good in the church scene with Mephistopheles: many slight touches, her concentration on the mass-book from which her thoughts were so far absent, her painful progress across the stage kneeling—these and much else proved her merit. But her voice seems tired, and now and again she uses that tremolo to avoid an awkward semitone or accidental. M. Maas was not bad, but seemed to have had quite enough of the play long before the end. M. Méxy has little enough to do, but his voice is good, with plenty of strength and far more "colour" than those of the others. M. Fontaine, I was told, had been suffering from dengue. He must have had it from the beginning of the season then; he showed the same tendency to force his notes, especially in the lower register, as he did in "Manon" and "Romeo and Juliette." It is a pity, as his higher, more emotional notes are the "real thing." But why does he make up so badly! He always appears grotesque with that absurd beard and moustache arrangement. In "Manon," after the first two acts he was well made up, and naturally; and it made all the difference in the world. Siebel (Mlle Ewri) and Marthe (Mlle Burizy) were fair. The chorus and orchestra were very bad: the former were stiff, and at best noisy, and in the soldiers' chorus they looked like a lot of gaffirs on parade. The latter, as I have already said, seems to be always asleep and first. The conductor has no sort of entrain. He gets through it all anyhow and never makes a point of any sort. No wonder the operas go badly!

The famous Escalais appears at length in "William Tell" to-morrow (Saturday) night; so we shall see the company in its more serious aspect. Let us hope for a vivid and striking contrast to the first few efforts. It is, I think, no use people talking (as I have heard and read lately) about the small Opera House, the difficulties, etc., etc. I can't see any sort of excuse for the shortcomings. We need not expect Caruso and Melba, but surely the receipts and whatever help the company get should ensure at least a really good second-class troupe. Really, when one is driven to indulgence in comparison with the Abbas and *ci-devant* Verdi Theatres, with any stage where any singing can be heard, one resents hearing the Opera House spoken of as the chief Khedivial Theatre, etc., etc. No one likes having dust thrown in his eyes!

"GUILLAUME TELL."

"Guillaume Tell" was a startling and welcome change. M. Escalais, Méxy, Maas, and Mlle Devilloy are, all four, of a different class to any we have yet heard: they are grand opera, and very good grand opera at that. M. Escalais has a great resonant voice: his high notes are those of a clarion shaking and echoing through the house; his diction and declamation are those of a great singer. Of course his acting and, in a sense, some of his singing are entirely stereotyped and traditional: he is, except for those high notes, a type and not an individual. He sang rather flat now and again in the lower and middle registers and was inclined to skirt round the note; and in those same registers was a suspicion of wear and tear and effort. His finest singing was in the duet with Mathilde, the "J'expire" and the trio, and the two songs in the last act, "Mes amis" and "Asile inviolé." M. Maas was more at home than as Mephisto, he's, and the depth and "roundness" of his voice had full scope. M. Méxy, though, was the triumph of the evening. His voice, a great baritone, had every shade of strength and colour and drama: and his acting was equally fine and not nearly so strained as that of the rest. Mlle Devilloy had not half enough to do, from our point of view. She is, I really think, the most perfect of the sopranos. She has far more tone than Mlle Baron, and though she has hardly the training of Mlle Charpentier, her voice is infinitely sweeter: never a disagreeable or harsh note, or a shadow of fatigue or thinness, and her notes were sweetness itself.

Those phases of the opera I have mentioned, —and I add Méxy's singing and acting before "Gessler"—were as near perfection as could be. As for the rest, the orchestra did the overture well, and kept to a fairly good standard most of the time; but in the trio—William, Arnold and Guillaume Tell—it was again shaky and inaccurate. The players do not respond enough. Mlle Karl acted well all through, but her singing lacks certainty: she never seems sure of herself or her voice. M. Durand (Mathilde) like Henry VIII, is a most tyrannical "get-up," and sang well enough. The others one may as well pass over. The chorus must have a special condemnation. The breakdown in the 3rd act, the general tunelessness and carelessness seem to show an entire lack of drilling or training. I admit most of them seemed to know it, and to be sorry for what was probably not their fault; but one or two of the worst offenders (I think they were in last year's chorus) seemed hopeless; satisfied with themselves and stared and sang into vacancy with the most deplorable aplomb. Of ballets, I am no judge: opinions seemed to differ; but certainly I am thankful in that the vision of fleshly poetry of motion caused one worthy at least behind me to stop making horrible noises with programme, feet, throat, and other accessories that were not meant by the Creator as annoyances to one's fellow-creatures! At one moment I would have given much for a powerful and wide-spreading narcotic for use in the stalls.