

# H<sup>ch.</sup> W<sup>m.</sup> Bassenge & Co.

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he was alone with the headquarters of General Négrier, whose protection and courtesy was extended to the English correspondents.

In those days private individuals with a turn for diplomacy used at times to make history at an astonishing pace. France had been for some years comfortably established in Cochin China, and the annexation of Annam became the subject of prolonged discussion between France and China. During the negotiations between the French Government, Marquis Tseng in Paris, and Li Hung Chang in Peking, France continued her advance and conquered two places, Sontay and Bacninh. The English Correspondents earned little gratitude from M. Ferry by declaring that the conquest of the latter place consisted of a march into an empty town. The French imagination was, however, inflamed by this success and by the writings of Rivière and others, and a vision of a new India opened out to the Chauvinist—"l'empire Indochinoise," which was to include the southern provinces of China. At this point, however, a convention was made under peculiar circumstances. The Southern Chinese authorities were already in a panic, being in the usual dilemma of Chinese provincial officials—responsible and yet helpless. They had no defences but dare not say so to the Imperial Government, which was already threatening to cut their heads off "pour encourager les autres." A German official in the Customs service (Sir Robert Hart's gift to China) took them under his wing. He made friends with a certain naval officer, Captain Fournier (with whom he had accidentally become acquainted), held conferences with Li Hung Chang, and finally (Fournier being made Plenipotentiary for the purpose) patched up a peace in which the high contracting parties were France and China.

After this the Chinese troops were to be withdrawn, but Li Hung Chang, who had had to meet a storm of anger on account of his action in making peace, dare not ask for the withdrawal of troops from Lang-son. The French therefore advanced, were repulsed, and the Franco-Chinese War was fully launched, though for some time the French preferred to avoid the word "war" and spoke of "reprisals" or "intelligent destruction." Incidentally they sunk the Chinese Fleet in the River Min, and they might have taken Formosa and Port Arthur had not counsels of timorousness prevailed for the time in Paris. We now begin to see the glimmerings of a moral to our story. An absolute settlement of all questions and a commanding position in the Far East were almost within the grasp of the French Fleet, but the Home Government had a tardy attack of nerves, or conscience, or both. Permission to take Port Arthur (which the Commandant himself told the writer could not be defended) was refused to Admiral Courbet because, it was said, it would damage the prestige of "notre ami, Li Hung Chang."

But the fighters on the Chinese side were equally hampered by their Government, and the Empress-Dowager gave orders that the war "must cease at once!" The only person who could get China out of the mess was Sir Robert Hart, and this he accomplished through his London representative, who put the matter through in a few days. While this was happening, however, the incident of Lang-son occurred. There was a general impression at the time among those on the spot that it was caused in the way described in *L'Éclair* and that Négrier was offered up as a scapegoat. The too easy course of previous "victories" had blinded the Home Government to the fact that on occasion the Black Flags who were at Lang-son could fight extremely well. Négrier protested against taking risks, but the Government was anxious to impress the imagination of the public favourably, and the result we have seen already. The news of the reverse and the subsequent panic came when Ferry actually had the protocol in his pocket. To produce it might have saved the situation, but he expected China to follow up her success and repudiate the protocol. He therefore kept the transaction secret, was impeached by Clemenceau

## ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.



This evening, beginning at 7.30, ending 10.30

### FLAUTO SOLO.

Musical Comedy in one Act. Music by E. d'Albert.

Cast:

Prince Eberhard . . . . . Herr Rains.  
Prince Ferdinand, his son . . . . . Herr Rüdiger.  
Maestro Emanuele, an Italian maestro . . . . . Herr Erwin.  
Her. Pepusch, a German Kapellmeister . . . . . Herr Scheidemantel.  
Signora Peppina, a singer . . . . . Frau Wedekind.  
Orderly . . . . . Herr Büssel.

**PLOT.** The story is of the slightest. The Prince, a stern, military misogynist, is devoted to heavy German music, while his son prefers the lighter Italian music and is a performer on the flute. The two music professors are deadly rivals, but Peppina, a Tyrolese singing girl falls in love with Pepusch and determines to aid him against his rival. Pepusch has composed a "Pig-canon" and Emanuele persuades Prince Ferdinand to give an evening Concert in the absence of his father. At this Concert, Pepusch is to be made a laughing stock. The latter, hearing of this, determines to introduce into the "canon" a flute solo composed by his rival Emanuele. Prince Eberhard returns unexpectedly and, hearing from Peppina of the slight intended to be put on his favourite, Pepusch, he determines to be present at the Concert. He accordingly appears and when Pepusch announces that he lacks a flute soloist the Prince forces Ferdinand to play the solo. The result is that everyone is charmed. Ferdinand is reconciled to German music and his father to Italian and all agree with Peppina that both styles have their merits.

Composer: E. d'Albert, born 1864.

### HÄNSEL UND GRETEL.

Fairy Play in three Acts. Music by E. Humperdinck.

Cast:

Peter, a broombinder . . . . . Herr Plaschke.  
Gertrude, his wife . . . . . Fräul. Schäfer.  
Hänsel, } their children . . . . . (Fräul. v. d. Osten.  
Gretel, } } Frau Nast.  
The nibbling witch . . . . . Herr Ert.  
The little Sand-man }  
The little Dew-man } . . . . . Fräul. Keldorfer.

**PLOT.** Hänsel and Gretel are playing in the kitchen when their mother comes in, and, in trying to hit them, knocks over a pot of milk, the only thing they had in the house. She sends the two children out to pick strawberries. The father comes home laden with provisions, and is frightened to hear that the children have been sent into the forest where a witch is; and he and his wife rush off to find them. Meanwhile the children have been playing in the wood till it grows too dark to find their way home. The dustman throws dust in their eyes, and fourteen guardian angels stand round them while they sleep. The children find the witch's house, which is made of sweets; they begin to nibble at it, but the witch catches them and putting Hänsel into a cage to fatten, busies herself with the oven. Gretel releases Hänsel and they push the old woman into the fire, a long row of children are seen covered with sugar, which drops off them as the witch burns. As all the children are romping, the father and mother enter and are overjoyed at finding Hänsel and Gretel



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safe. The witch is drawn out of the oven baked into a large honey-cake.

Composer: Humperdinck, born 1854.  
(See the Standard-Operaglass by Charles Annesley; for sale at Carl Tittmann's bookshop, Prager Strasse 19, price 3,40 Mk.)

Tomorrow, Thursday, at 7 p.m.

### TANNHÄUSER.

### OPERA HOUSE.

Friday: Zar und Zimmermann. 7.30 p.m.  
Saturday: Flauto solo.—Der Bajazzo. 7.30 p.m.  
Sunday 19th: Die Zauberflöte. 7 p.m.  
Monday: Der Evangelimann. 7.30 p.m.

## ROYAL THEATRE NEUSTADT.

Closed for the vacation. Reopens September 2.

## RESIDENZ THEATRE.

Gesamtgastspiel  
unter Leitung von Direktor Halm:

This evening, at 7.30 p.m.

### ÜBER DEN WASSERN.

Drama in drei Aufzügen von Georg Engel.

Cast:

Pastor Holm, Geistlicher in Steinloch auf dem Darst . . . . . Hans Stock.  
Siewert, abgesetzter Pastor in Steinloch . . . . . Arthur Retzbach.  
Stine Kos, Magd aus dem Dorf . . . . . Gertrud Arnold.  
Der alte Rutschow, } Verwalter } Richard Sternburg.  
Küster, } des }  
Die alte Mamsell } Pastorhauses } Clara Berger.  
Westphal }

Tomorrow, Thursday, at 7.30 p.m.

### UNSERE KÄTE.

in an historic speech, resigned, and was known for ever after as "le Tonkinois." But, if he could not believe his good luck in getting out of the war, the Empress-Dowager was equally timid. She had not the slightest desire to go back on the treaty, and its consummation and ratification were placed to the credit of Ferry's successors.

And the moral of this story, raked up from the ashes of the past by the event of Tuesday last, is that wars directed by Parliaments, or even by non-military statesmen, are not likely to be an unqualified success.

Archibald R. Colquhoun,  
in the *Morning Post*.

## LOCAL.

### THE THIRD GERMAN INDUSTRIAL ART EXHIBITION, DRESDEN.

Herr Alfred Sittard's Fifteenth Organ Concert in the Exhibition will be given this evening at 6 o'clock. An interesting novelty in the programme will be Max Reger's Variations on the Choral "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott"—one of the most impressive creations of that composer. The great C-minor Fugue and Prelude of J. S. Bach, and the Liszt Variations, form a frame work to the Reger composition. Admission 1 mark.

The guards in the city today are furnished by the Jäger Battalion No. 13. The band plays about 12.15 p.m. at the Schloss Platz.

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate easterly winds and mostly bright weather. Thunder in places. Temperature not much altered.