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BERLIN

The financial and artistic success of the big American Minstrel Show, which is to be given tonight and tomorrow at Krolls, is assured. According to the committee reports, the house was practically sold out on Monday for the first night, and the demand for tickets for the second night is so large that on Thursday the house will be also sold out. The whole American colony is in a state of excitement, and expects to have a great time.

Berlin harbours just now an interesting visitor. Charles Dana Gibson, the famous artist and creator of the so-called "Gibson girl," came over from Paris, where he has his studio, for the sole purpose of seeing the English pictures exhibited in the Academy of Arts. Mr. Gibson is just as enthusiastic about this Exhibition as everybody else.

Ambassador and Mrs. Tower had planned a big ball for court circles, similar to their great costume ball of last year, to be given some time next week. The terrible news from Portugal, however, caused a postponement of the affair, as the Prussian court, by order of the Emperor, will be in mourning for three weeks.

An interesting audience, mostly children, gathered last Sunday for a matinee in the Bechstein Saal. A little miss of eleven years, Wanda Radford, a native of Australia, the country which has already given the world a Melba and a Scharret, gave a performance which delighted and surprised all those present. This child, indeed, deserves the name of *Wunderkind*, as she is a wonder, a phenomenon. She is not only a first-class linguist, as she reproduced scenes in English, German, and French, but has also dramatic and highly humorous talent. Miss Wanda, for instance, recited parts from Shakespeare, Dickens, and others, many humorous scenes with a sense of refined humour which was simply astonishing. She speaks German fluently with a slight accent, and French with a pronunciation that is seldom found in people of English descent.

The many children present applauded so heartily that little Wanda felt compelled to give some encores, and delighted her little friends with some dancing steps, and a cake walk performed in the same admirable way as she had recited. That the ladies kissed and hugged this charming child to their hearts' content was a matter of course. Let us hope that this phenomenon may not be spoiled by over-zealous friends and relatives, but that she may find time to develop into one of the greatest artists the world has ever seen. She has the necessary talent.

PAINTING AND SCULPTURE IN BERLIN. I.
The Königliche Akademie der Künste is exhibiting a collection of paintings so choice and characteristic as will never and nowhere be seen again. Thanks to the initiative of the Emperor, it has been possible to induce the great private owners—chiefly those who live in Germany and in England—to part with their precious treasures for a time. Thus on the Kaiser's birthday, January 27, the Exhibition of Old English Masters in Berlin was opened which, for one month, will make the capital an art city of the first rank. From all parts of the world art-lovers are flocking, to study that which has never been seen before and will never be seen again.
The value of this Exhibition, looked at merely from an outside point of view, is obvious. The great English masters of the XVIII century have hitherto been very imperfectly represented. One had to content oneself with reproductions, often of

(Continued on page 2.)



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THE PORTUGUESE TRAGEDY.
The news of the assassination of King Carlos and his heir has been known for three days, but the details we were able to give yesterday morning must add to the sense of horror and indignation with which the first intimation was received. Such crimes have small justification either of morality or expediency: violence leads to violence, and bloodshed to retribution. Had King Carlos been an utterly unscrupulous tyrant, careless of his people's welfare, constitutionally unfitted to make concessions, anxious only for the aggrandisement of his power, his assassination would still remain a crime of the darkest hue. But the dead monarch was no tyrant. His frank, gay nature, his graceful accomplishments, the simplicity of his life and surroundings, his popularity, his geniality were all opposed to such a judgment. His good-nature and his too ready optimism have been his undoing. Like many rulers of his house, and like many monarchs in other countries and at other times, his good-nature overstepped the bounds of his somewhat limited resources; and if he was not so needy as the German Maximilian, or so pretentious as the English Charles Stuart, or so extravagant as the French Bourbons, he suffered, at all events, from the same disease. He was driven to raise funds by hook or by crook, and he trusted too completely in the ability of the Minister he had made a Dictator to tide over the constitutional difficulties. While the King continued to be popular, his adviser Franco alienated the

(Continued on page 2.)

DRESDEN

The I. grand Ski Competition of the Ski-Verband Sachsen. The preparations for the first grand Ski Competition at Altenberg on the 8th and 9th instant are completed. The list of entries shows the importance which is attached to this meeting by votaries of ski sport, including as it does, among the many names, those of well known men. For the principal events nominations have been received even from the Black Forest. Tobogganers are requested to take notice that toboggan races have been arranged for gentlemen, for ladies, and also for bob-sleighs, to take place on the tobogganing course from Raupenest to Altenberg. The list of entries was closed at 10 o'clock last night.

Altenberg is well suited for holding great meetings of this sort because it lies considerably higher than other railway stations in the neighbourhood, and at the same time offers better snow conditions in this hitherto comparatively snow-less winter than other places. Altenberg is easily reached in a few minutes on foot from Geising station, or from Kipsdorf by carriage and a good road in 1½ hours. A number of special trains will be run on the 8th and 9th instant, both over the Hainsberg-Kipsdorf-Altenberg and the Mügeln-Geising lines.

The first test performances with orchestra by pupils of the Royal Conservatorium will take place tomorrow evening at the Palmengarten at 7.30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained on application at the office of the institution, Landhaus Strasse 11, II.

Concerts arranged by the firm of F. Ries are as follows:—

The programme of Dr. Ludwig Wüllner's second and last song recital in the Palmengarten on Monday February 10 is as follows:—Schubert: "Der Wanderer" (Schmidt von Lübeck); "Du liebst mich nicht"; "Gruppe aus dem Tartarus"; "Prometheus"; "Der Wanderer" (F. Schlegel); Der Wanderer an den Mond"; "Der liebliche Stern"; "Alinde"; "Das Lied im Grünen". Löwe: "Archibald Douglas". Weingartner: "Liebe im Schnee". Rubinstein: "Der Asra". Strauss: "Frühlingsfeier"; "Caecilie". Brahms: Aus "Deutsche Volkslieder"; "Sagt mir, o schönste Schäf'rin"; "Es war eine schöne Jüdin"; "In stiller Nacht"; "Wach auf mein Herzensschöne"; "So will ich frisch und fröhlich sein"; "Ich weiss mir'n Maidlein"; "Ach Moder, ich well en Ding han". Accompanist Coenraad v. Bos.

The programme of Hella Rentsch-Sauer's vocal concert which will take place in the Palmengarten on Tuesday February 11 is as follows:—Händel: "O schlaf' sanfter Schlaf". Schubert: "Die Liebe hat gelogen"; "Der Jüngling an der Quelle". Liszt: "Wo weit er?" "Kling' leiser, mein Lied". Strauss: "Sie wissen's nicht"; "Freundliche Vision". v. Struve: "Mitternacht"; "Lied des Harfenmädchens"; "Durch die helle Herbstesluft"; "Wiegenlied"; "Vergissmeinnicht"; "Frühlingssonne". Wolff: "Frühling über's Jahr"; "Das verlassene Mägdelein"; "Die Bekehrte"; "Nixe Binsefuss". Accompanist Erich J. Wolff.

Elena Gerhardt, with the assistance of Professor Nikisch (piano) will give a vocal concert in the Vereinshaus on Wednesday February 12. The programme is as follows:—Brahms' "Über die Heide"; Mädchenlied ("Schwalbe, sag' mir an"); "Nachtigall"; "Nachtwandler"; "Die Sonne scheint nicht mehr"; "Der Schmied." Erich J. Wolff's "Ich bin eine Harfe"; "Fäden"; "Knabe und Veilchen." Weingartner's "Hochsommer." Rubinstein's "Frühlingslied." Tschaiakowsky's "O singe mir, Mutter, die Weise"; "Das war im ersten Lenzestrahle"; "Das Vöglein"; "Im wogenden Tanze"; "Früh-

(Continued on page 2.)

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