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THE ADMIRALTY OF THE PACIFIC.

The vast fleet of United States armoured warships representing the Atlantic Squadron has arrived at San Francisco and effected a junction with the vessels already stationed in Pacific waters, the result being a truly imposing display of naval strength. Across the Pacific lies another fleet, not less powerful, which flies the flag of Nippon. The United States and Japan are now playing a waiting game; the prize is the Admiralty of the Pacific Ocean, and all that that phrase implies.

Rarely has the world seen such a rapid shifting of the balance of power as that which has taken place in those waters during the last six years. Formerly Great Britain held undisputed sway in the Far East; her fighting vessels were numerous and formidable. But events occurring nearer at home rendered it advisable to concentrate her entire naval strength in European waters, and she tacitly struck her flag to Russia. With the last echo of Japanese guns at Port Arthur and Tushima vanished the Muscovite's sovereignty in the Far East, and the little Island Kingdom triumphantly assumed her place as mistress of the eastern Pacific, an attitude which she soon rendered obnoxious to the great Republic whose western littoral is washed by the waves of that ocean. Then followed the epoch-making voyage of Admiral Evan's squadron, and all the world was firmly convinced that once the ships reached San Francisco they would remain there indefinitely. But President Roosevelt's expectation that the spectacle of a defenceless Atlantic seaboard would awaken the American nation to the necessity of providing another fleet has not been realised. The Senate has put its veto on the four-battleship programme, so that nothing remained but to recall the Atlantic squadron, thus depriving the Pacific coast of adequate protection. It is not surprising that the people of California are alarmed and indignant; for months they had solaced themselves with the thought that the great fleet steaming towards the Golden Gate represented permanent protection, only to find that it will almost immediately leave for European waters en route to the Atlantic again. A monster petition has been presented to the Navy Department by the inhabitants of California, pleading for defence against possible emergencies, but this can have but little effect.

And yet the danger is by no means a bogey of the imagination. Any one who has followed the tread of events since last December, when the fleet set out from Hampton Roads on its long voyage, cannot fail to have noticed the subtle change that has occurred in the tone of the Japanese Press. Six months ago the militant journals of Tokio did not hesitate to indulge in veiled threats when commenting upon California's exclusion of Japanese immigrants. Now their columns are daily filled with eulogies of the United States, and a welcome is extended to the American squadron with a wealth of flowery Oriental phraseology. Will this tone be maintained when the American battleships have left the Pacific far behind them? We think not.

The last great fight between East and West was in the far East, almost on the shores of the Pacific; the next will be in the Pacific itself. The immigration problem is liable to become acute at any moment, and the Japanese have already shown their tendency to strike swiftly and silently once the necessity for action has become plain. The Panama Canal is not within reasonable distance of completion, and until this waterway is opened the Atlantic coastline of the United States is, to all intents and

purposes, cut off from the Pacific. Several months must elapse before a fleet of warships, steaming at their utmost speed, could make the voyage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and Californians do not care to contemplate what might and would occur during those months if hostilities had broken out with Japan.

Under present political conditions there is nothing to justify the maintenance of a huge United States fleet in the Atlantic Ocean, whereas the dictates of national safety and commonsense demand the presence of such a fleet in the Pacific. The Yellow Peril may appear mythical and imaginary viewed from the European standpoint, but it is very real to dwellers on the Pacific slope. If the U.S. Government persists in its determination to recall the Atlantic fleet it will be committing a grave error and inviting a national catastrophe. But, on the other hand, the squadron's retention in the Pacific must result in the sanctioning of a larger building programme for this year. When deciding between these two alternatives it would be as well for the Government to remember that "the strong man armed keepeth his house, and his goods are in peace."

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At the sitting on Monday the Prime Minister gave notice that an Autumn Session would be unavoidable.

Mr. Nield (*Cons.* Ealing) asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether His Majesty's Government would give an assurance that, in case of the ships which were now being built in England for the Brazilian Government being offered for sale, the sale would not be allowed if the fleet conditions of the Powers would thereby be altered to the prejudice of Great Britain.

Mr. Mc. Kenna replied that it seemed premature to discuss the purchase of these ships before they were offered for sale.

The Bill for founding two new Universities in Ireland passed the second reading by 352 votes to 38.

THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION.

Reuter's Bureau learns that the answer of Russia to the Note sent by Sir Edward Grey on the 4th of April has reached the Government. The answer contains a plan for Macedonian reforms based on the fusion of the proposals made on certain points by the British and Russian Governments; it has no final character, and the discussion between the two Governments will continue.

PROBABLE END OF SHIPBUILDING STRIKE.

A London telegram of yesterday states that as a result of the conference between Mr. Winston Churchill, President of the Board of Trade, the dockyard owners and the representatives of the men, an agreement was reached respecting the present lock-out. The proposals will be submitted to the men at the earliest opportunity.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

In a speech at St. Louis, addressed to the Committee of the Society for the National Welfare, President Roosevelt said: "If we dare not return to a state of things in which wrong was tolerated, we must not allow ourselves to be

misled by those who would involve us in a fanciful crusade against all corporations and all kinds of business. It is our duty to protect the true rights of property as well as the true rights of labour."

AMERICAN TRADE IN THE FAR EAST.

The message from President Roosevelt which was read in the House of Representatives on Monday asks for means to enable the United States to take part in an international commission to enquire into and report upon the conditions of trade in the Far East.

THE FUTURE OF THE NEW WORLD.

The foundation stone of the future home of the Bureau of American Republics in Washington was laid by President Roosevelt on Monday in the presence of a brilliant and festive gathering. This Bureau will serve to promote more intimate commercial relations between the United States and its sister American Republics. Mr. Andrew Carnegie has contributed 750,000 dollars towards the 1,000,000 dollars which the building is to cost.

President Roosevelt, in his speech, dwelt first on the high symbolical import of the building as a token of the community of interests between all the nations of the New World. He then thanked Mr. Carnegie, in the name of all concerned, for his generous contribution. By such efforts as found their symbolical expression in the building of this bureau the Western hemisphere had taken a great step forward towards ensuring a lasting peace among the sister Republics of America. He welcomed the representatives of those Republics, who now looked back on an older civilizing development which had followed its own course. "Now," said the President, "we have united for common expansion." The development of North America had, on the whole, gone on faster in the past century than that of South America; but he believed that in the next hundred years no part of the world would show such progress as would Mexico, Central and South America. The President then expressed his thanks for the hospitable reception which had been given in South America and Mexico to the battleship fleet on its voyage to the west coast, and in connection with that topic referred to Secretary of State Root's visit to the Southern Republics and to the cordial welcome accorded by them to a State official whom history would number among the most eminent statesmen of America. Mr. Root, the President concluded, had by his indefatigable labours brought the Republics of the New World nearer together, and united them in a common effort for the material and moral welfare of the dwellers in the Western hemisphere.

CYCLONE IN OKLAHOMA.

A cable from Woodward (Oklahoma) states that a cyclone which raged to the south of Woodward on Sunday evening resulted in the death of several people and serious injuries to many others.

SANGUINARY RIOTS IN ITALY.

In the village of Retegno, not far from Lodi, a sanguinary conflict took place on Monday between the Carabinieri and refractory villagers, in which two of the latter were killed. Fighting between the troops and a number of labourers also occurred in the neighbouring town of Busto Arsizio, where the labourers attempted to frustrate the military in their efforts to arrest a man under police surveillance. The casualties were one killed and two severely wounded.

BERLIN

The New York correspondent of a Berlin contemporary cables an account of an interview which the well-known sculptor Professor Schott, who is reported to have crossed the ocean in order to arrange an exhibition of German sculpture in New York, has had with President Roosevelt on the subject. The correspondent's account of the interview, as he obtained it from Professor Schott, is to the following effect. The President received the Professor in a most friendly way, and spoke German with him; saying that he was glad to hear of the plan, and would give it his personal support. On the Professor's remarking that the Customs duties were a difficulty, as they would amount to a very large sum, the President said he hoped a favourable solution of that question might be reached, that any rate he would do what he could. When taking leave of Professor Schott, President Roosevelt expressed his wishes for the success of the scheme, and requested that he might be kept informed as to its progress. A committee is being formed, and many prominent persons have already consented to serve on it and subscribed to a guarantee fund. Professor Schott has received many letters approving the object from the presidents of art societies, and the attitude of the Press is encouraging. The locality of the exhibition has not yet been decided upon, as there are many factors to be considered.

Eugen Bachmann Master of German elocution
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THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

(From our London correspondent.)

Why do we have a Royal Academy? Everybody knows—and everybody says it—that the Academy is the most boring thing in the world. You are constantly being pushed and bullied in your wanderings through those interminable rooms; insufferable creatures with tortoiseshell lorgnettes and pale-blue gowns to set off the golden dye of their hair place themselves between you and the pictures you want to see; and you may be quite sure that if you are looking at the portrait of any titled person, from an Honourable to a Princess of the Blood Royal, shrill voices at your elbow will insist on the perfection of the likeness. There is nothing in all the world quite like an Academy crowd on a sunny morning in May. Riotous school-girls and sallow, soulful maidens from the suburbs; matrons of amazing *embonpoint*, tall widows (I have never seen any of the round and red and jolly ones), ladies from Clapham and Holloway loudly airing their ignorance of painting in the choicest language of Bow Bells, a few hushed provincials, a few unappreciative Americans, who go from one Sargent to the other and nowhere else—these are some of the irritating people who destroy one's intentions of enjoyment. And there is also a man or two for every knot of women: grave old gentlemen who sit down anywhere and look dyspeptic, young men from the clubs who stop occasionally to admire a picture of sporting dogs, unknown artists in knickerbocker suits and tweed caps, school-boys patronizing their mothers, and now and then art-Powers looking miserable enough. Ask anyone who has been to the Academy for the last decade or so, and you will get the same story. The pictures are hung in a ridiculous manner; you get a headache in the second room, and by the time you are through the fourth your head is whizzing round like a windmill and you have become completely apathetic. How is one to look at one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight pictures and drawings, to say nothing of a hundred and ninety-two pieces of sculpture, many of them colossal and most of them bad? Must we go away vowing that art too is a snare and a delusion?

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Art, however, is not altogether a snare and a delusion, nor is true art absent even from the much-abused Academy. There are artists who resolutely refuse to offer pictures at the Academy, and small blame to them: that is not nearly so amazing as the fact that there are good and great artists who, knowing what the Academy is, give to it of their best. But the presence of good pictures does not in any way save the Academy from the charge of overcrowding and arbitrary selection. It is notorious that with the work of the minor artists, the footrule of the picture-hanger is actually the sceptre by which the Hanging Committee's decrees are enforced. Many of the pictures selected remain unhung—not for want of merit but for want of space. This rule, which is the cause of more soreness than the actual rejections, indicates the difficulties under which the Council of the Royal Academy labour. A large exhibition is bad, but a crowded exhibition is a positive abuse. At once to accept and to sky a picture, or to hang it unfeelingly among the wrong neighbours, is like slapping a man's cheek under the pretence of stroking it. Yet the Council cannot help themselves: in spite of the Government, this is a conservative nation, and no sooner has it acquiesced in the existence of an abuse than the abuse becomes an institution. If that is true of politics, of literature, of law, and of society, why should it not also be true of art?

To go into the merits of the various works in detail would be a thankless task. There is nothing more dull than the description of something the reader has not seen. I imagine that to people in Germany a catalogue *orné*, to wit, art criticism as we have it today in all its splendour, is neither more nor less exciting than Homer's catalogue of ships or the Biblical genealogies. One or two of the more important pictures, however, it is not possible to pass over. Probably the picture of the year, by common consent, will be Professor Herkomer's vast portrait-group of the Council of the Royal Academy. It is disfigured by the old fault of muddiness of colour, but as an example of masterly grouping and faithful likenesses it is really a fine piece of work. All the faces are looking out of the picture critically at an unseen painting. Mr. Sargent's portraits are, as always, Mr. Sargent's portraits; they are the pick of the show by an amazingly wide margin, although they are not

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This evening:

Royal Opera House	Mignon	at 7.30
Deutsches Theatre	Die Räuber	" 8
Berliner Theatre	Hopfenraths Erben	" 8
Lessing Theatre	Der Raub der Sabinerinnen	" 8
Kleines Theatre	Zweimal zwei ist fünf	" 8
Residenz Theatre	Der Floh im Ohr	" 8
New Schauspielhaus	Der Dammkopf	" 8
Hebbel Theatre	Frau Warrens Gewerbe	" 8
New Theatre	Ramon der Abenteurer	" 8
Royal Theatre	Ein Erfolg	" 7.30
Deutsches Theatre	(Kammerspiele) Frühlings Erwachen	" 8
Comic Opera	Tosca. Ruth St. Denis	" 8
Lustspielhaus	Sohn Alibi. Der Brandstifter	" 8
Schiller Theatre O.	Stein unter Steinen	" 8
" " Charlottenburg	The Taming of the Shrew	" 8
Lortzing Theatre	Fra Diavola	" 8
Frdr. Wilhelmst. Theatre	Madame Sans Gêne	" 8
Luisen Theatre	Im Hause der Sünde	" 8
Bernhard Rose Theatre	Am Altar	" 8
Urania Theatre	Über den Brenner nach Venedig	" 8

Every evening until further notice.

Walhalla Theatre	Spezialitäten	at 8
Folies Caprice	Die Affenhand. Das ruhige Heim	" 8
Carl Haverland Theatre	Spezialitäten	" 8
Passage Theatre	Spezialitäten	" 8
Casino Theatre	Der Brandstifter	" 8
Wintergarten	Spezialitäten	" 8
Trianon Theatre	Seine erste Frau	" 8
Apollo Theatre	Die süßen Grisetten. Spezialitäten	" 8
Thalia Theatre	Die Brunnen-Nymphe	" 8
Metroplit Theatre	Das muss man seh'n	" 8
New Operetta Theatre	Der Mann mit den drei Frauen	" 8
Theatre des Westens	Ein Walzertraum	" 8
Theatre an der Spree	Der Cowboy	" 8

BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES.

GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND: Ambassador the Rt. Hon. Sir FRANK LASCELLES G. C. B. Embassy, 70 Wilhelm Strasse. Office hours 11-1.—Consul-General Dr. PAUL v. SCHWABACH. Consulate, Behrens Strasse 63. Office hours 10-12 and 4-5.

THE U. S. OF AMERICA: Ambassador, CHARLEMAGNE TOWER, Esq. Embassy, Unter den Linden 68. Reception hours 10-1.—Consul-General: ALEXANDER M. THACKARA, Esq. Consulate, Friedrich Strasse 59/60, Office hours 10-1.

among Mr. Sargent's greatest pieces. Still, by a single touch in the portrait of the Duke of Connaught, where the light catches the ring on the Duke's finger, he proves himself the master. I do not recollect any piece of metal—it is only a scrap of yellow paint barely half an inch wide—so wonderfully put down on canvas. Mr. Luke Fildes shows some admirable portraits and Mr. Cope two dreadfully disappointing ones. Mr. Shannon's portrait of Princess Patricia of Connaught is among the best he has produced recently, and is much admired. The colouring is beautiful but there seems something wrong with the drawing of the figure. Mr. John Collier, as usual, has given us the sensational picture of the year, "Sentence of Death"—a young man, in the room of a great specialist, hearing that he has to die within three months (or it may be six, *qu'importe?*) and looking out of the canvas with a pale face of blank despair. Mr. Bacon again commits the gross error of thinking to make up in mere size for depth and strength: his huge canvas of an equestrian group is almost terrifying. One thinks at once of Whistler who was asked to admire a picture of much size but little merit. "It's great," said the dealer as he showed it him, "a great picture." "Yes," answered Whistler sourly. "Why, it's almost as tall as it is broad."

It would be unnecessarily unkind to finish on such a pessimistic note. Let me again insist that there is much good work at the Academy, as there always is, but that it is spoiled by three things—first, the inclusion of too much, and of too much that is very poor; secondly the bad hanging; which is the best argument against too big a show; and, thirdly and lastly, the *summum malum*—the abominable crush. Two of the evils, at all events, are remediable; as for the third, let us be charitable.

DOCTORS' SUNDAY VISITS.

The Medical Association of Lille and the suburbs have adopted in principle the Sabbath as a day of rest. But in order that the public health shall not suffer from this decision, Sunday visits will be made when necessary, but the fee for the visit will be double that of the weekdays.

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The pro Royal Be (1) Wett Enzio," W pieces fro ture, "Rob (7) Fantas "Der Bett Ruh", Sch (11) Bauer

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DRESDEN

His Royal Highness Prince Johann Georg visited the Art Exhibition on Monday and made further purchases of pictures—a drawing, "Mutter und Kind," by Friedrich Heyser, of Dresden; and a drawing by Walter Leistikoff, of Berlin, "Unter Bäumen."

The Grand Art Exhibition Dresden, 1908. The inner court of the "Sächsisches Haus," which was designed by Professor W. Kreis, has been appropriately ornamented by Herr v. Uslar, Director of the city gardens. In the middle is a valuable fountain from Zittau. The rest of the park has been laid out in the usual careful manner by the city garden department. The "Vergnügungspark" is specially attractive. Plant-lovers will find this year in the Exhibition park a number of valuable ornamental and fruit trees, as well as rare conifers and roses, as it was found possible to retain for the purposes of this Exhibition plants which were brought here for the last horticultural exhibition. Owing to these plants having wintered on the spot, they have rooted well and are making a good show.

The programme of the orchestral concert at the Royal Belvedere this evening will be as follows:—
 (1) Wettin March, Trenkler. (2) Overture, "König Enzo," Wagner. (3) Minuet, Paderewski. (4) Two pieces from Rubinstein's "Bal costumé." (5) Overture, "Robespierre," Litloff. (6) Minnelied, Becker. (7) Fantasia, "Il Trovatore," Verdi. (8) Overture, "Der Bettelstudent," Millöcker. (9) Du bist die Ruh', Schubert. (10) Waltz, Minnesänger, Fetras. (11) Bauernmarsch, Fall.

Hearing for the first time the other day that the river Elbe had a total length of 725 miles, one of our American friends was slightly incredulous; he had been under the impression that the famous river was merely one among the many minor water-courses which traverse the plains of Europe, and possessed no remarkable features either in regard to length or importance, save, of course, its relation to the mighty seaport of Hamburg. But, as a matter of fact, the Elbe must be considered as one of the most important in Europe. In length or width it cannot, of course, compare with the vast waterways of Russia; neither can the Elbe rival the Rhine in the picturesqueness of the scenery it travels through, nor in the glamour which its romantic and legendary associations exercise over the imagination. But it possesses much to charm the eye in the deep glens of the Riesengebirge, amid which its sources spring, and in the bizarre rock-carving of the Saxon Switzerland. And it has been indirectly or directly associated with many stirring events in the history of the German peoples. In its lower course, whatever is worthy of record clusters round the historical vicissitudes of Hamburg—its early prominence as a missionary centre (Ansgar) and as a bulwark against Slav and marauding Northman, its commercial prosperity as a leading member of the Hanseatic League, and its sufferings during the Napoleonic wars, especially at the hands of the ruthless Davout.

The bridge over the river at Dessau recalls the hot assaults of that ill-favoured *condottiere* Ernst von Mansfeld in April 1626, and his repulse by the crafty generalship of Wallenstein. But three years later this imperious leader was checked by the heroic resistance of the "maiden" fortress of Magdeburg; though two years later still she lost her reputation, and suffered unspeakable horrors at the hands of Tilly's lawless and unlicensed *soldatesca*. Mühlberg, just outside the Saxon frontier, is the place where Charles V. asserted his Imperial authority over the Protestant Elector of Saxony, John Frederick, the Magnanimous or Unfortunate, in 1547. Dresden, Aussig and Leitmeritz are all reminiscent of the fierce battles of the Hussite wars, and the last-named of the Thirty Years' War. But the chief historical associations of the upper (i. e., the Saxon and Bohemian) Elbe are those which belong to the Seven Years' War and the struggle of the great Frederick of Prussia against the power of Austria and her allies. At Pirna and Lillenstein in 1756, he caught the entire Saxon army in his fowler's net, after driving back at Lobositz the Austrian forces which were hastening to their assistance; but only nine months later he lost his reputation for invincibility by his crushing defeat at Kolin, where the great highway from Vienna to Dresden crosses the Elbe. Not

many miles distant, higher up the stream, another decisive battle was fought between the same national antagonists, but with a contrary result, on the memorable 3rd of July, 1866. Königstein, towering 797 feet above the Elbe, is noted as the spot where in times of war Saxony has more than once stored her national purse for security.

The river, too, furnishes a veritable paradise for the angler. It is well stocked with fish, both salt-water and fresh-water species being found in its waters, and several varieties of fresh-water fish in its tributaries. The chief species are sturgeon, shad, salmon, lampreys, eels, pike, and whiting.

The guards in the city today are furnished by the Infantry Regiment No. 177. The band plays about 12.30 p.m. in the Schloss Platz.

If a young English gentleman,

studying either here or in Freiberg, who is an expert Tennis player, should be willing to spend the vacation months (July-August) at the home of an estate owner in the province of Posen, he is requested to send his name and address to **S. v. G., Anglo-American Club, Dresden-A., Mosezinsky Strasse 1. I.**

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DRESDEN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

Royal Opera House.
 Tonight, beginning at 7.30, ending 10.15
Les Dragons de Villars.
 Comic opera in three acts. Music by Aimé Maillart.

Cast:

Thibaut, a rich farmer	Herr Erl.
Georgette, his wife	Fräul. v. Chavanne.
Belamy, Sergeant of Dragoons	Herr Kiess.
Sylvain, Thibaut's servant	Herr Grosch.
Rosa Friquet, a poor peasant girl	Fräul. Seebe.
A preacher	Herr Wachter.
A Lieutenant of Dragoons	Herr Gedlich.
A Dragoon	Herr Markgraf.
Peasants	(Herr Wolf. Herr Ernst.

PLOT. The peasant women are collecting fruits when Thibaut bids them hide as the dreaded dragoons of Villars on their way to search for Huguenots, are approaching the village. Belamy, the sergeant of Dragoons, goes to sleep in Thibaut's house. Thibaut sends Sylvain, his servant, for losing his meals, but they are brought back by Rosa Friquet who is aware that Sylvain is in the habit of secretly taking food to the Huguenots. Rosa discloses to Belamy Georgette's hiding place; he is delighted with her, but she tells him that the Hermit of St. Gratien, although dead for 20 years, rings a bell to betray every case of conjugal infidelity. The soldiers find the other women and decide to stay in the village. In Act II we find Rosa and Sylvain near the hermitage and the former promises to aid the Huguenots to escape by a path worn by her goats. Belamy arrives with Georgette but when he kisses her Rosa rings the hermit's bell. Belamy goes back to the village but returns again only to find no hermit but to see all the Huguenots being led to safety by Sylvain, who promises to marry Rosa. Thibaut believing the bell had rung for Rosa, tells Sylvain she has betrayed the Huguenots. At first he meets here coldly but she proves to him that the fugitives have crossed the frontier, and though Belamy, in a rage, condemns Sylvain to be shot, Rosa threatens to reveal the sergeant's neglect of duty and he reverses the order and all ends happily.

Thursday night	Il Demonio	at 7.30
Friday night	Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg	" 6
Saturday night	Frühlingsnacht.—Zierpuppen— Bokoko	" 7.30
Sunday night	Die Afrikanerin	" 7
Monday night	Aida	" 7.30

Royal Theatre Neustadt.

Tonight	Kintko. Teraktoja	at 7.30
Thursday night	Die Verschönerung des Fiesko zu Genus	" 6.30
Friday night	Zweimal zwei ist fünf	" 7.30
Saturday night	Kriemhilds Raube	" 7.30
Sunday night	Flachsmann als Erziehler	" 7.30
Monday night	Vom anderen Ufer	" 7.30

Residenz Theatre.

Tonight	Die Puppe	at 7.30
Thursday night	Die Geisra	" 7.30
Friday night	Die Puppe	" 7.30
Saturday night	Die Geisra	" 7.30

Central Theatre.

Tonight	Panne	at 7.30
Thursday night	Panne	" 7.30
Friday night	Panne	" 7.30
Saturday night	Panne	" 7.30

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A GLOBE-TROTTER'S PILGRIMAGE.

By H. F. L.

XII.

No one who has ever read it will forget Kipling's weird description of Calcutta, "the City of Dreadful Night," and we, worn out with the struggles against the heat up-country, had of necessity to spend a few days of weltering horror in the Indian metropolis, days that we are not likely to forget. For somehow or other, this year, something had gone wrong with the weather. Abnormal warmth had set in a full month before its time, and even the early morning air, as we drove to the miserable hotel which serves as a foil to the Taj Mahal Hotel of Calcutta's rival city, Bombay, seemed far less fresh than usual, and to give promise of a stifling day. Nor were our forebodings unjustified, for, long ere noon, the thermometer was 105 Fahrenheit, and occasional gusts of wind only served to raise clouds of choking, blinding dust, which found its way everywhere. In vain did those P. W. D. officials whose duties chained them to their Calcutta desks instead of permitting them to join the migratory swarm Simla-wards, assure us that this state of things was quite abnormal so early in the year; the unpleasant fact remained that in the present year of grace early April saw Calcutta impossible, and enabled the mere T. G. to grasp the truth, viz. that all the glamour of the East cannot atone for the discomforts suffered by the white man whose lot in life is cast on the plains of India.

Despite gossamer apparel, despite electric fans, life remained one dreary round of perspiration until five o'clock at length came round and, together with most of the white population, we were able to make our way to the hospitable shade of the Tallie Gung chit some four miles outside the city, where the usual games of the Englishman, among them the "royal and ancient game," are in full swing, till the close of the brief twilight puts all too soon a period to them.

Calcutta is notorious as the head centre of that movement which gives rise in our home journals to columns headed the "Unrest in India," but, truth to tell, we saw nothing of it. The fact remains, however, that in a certain quarter of Calcutta where are the schools and Universities an Englishman, if alone, is liable to be insulted by the "babu" youth. The war cry of the movement, "India for the Indians," should really run "India for the Eurasians," for it is the half castes who are raising all the pother,—not the "pukka" nation; and at the moment of writing, business men in India and Burma are suffering enormous inconvenience from a strike of telegraph operators, all of whom are Eurasians and who, with a curious inconsistency, are vastly indignant at a proposed change in the work schedule which will actually shorten the hours of employment without curtailing payment. But in such matters they are more conservative than the most bigoted of Tories.

Even the Hoogli, that comparatively narrow and superlatively muddy river, was preferable to the stifling, smell-laden city of Calcutta, somewhat grandiosely dubbed the "City of Palaces," and it was with no little relief that we found ourselves one sultry morning steaming down stream en route for Burma, the land of pagodas, "pongyes," as the Buddhist priests are called, and pariah dogs. But alas! climatic conditions were still inexorable and prevented the arousal of any wild enthusiasm over picturesque Rangoon. And, yet, nowhere in the East is the whole *mise en scène* of a city more pleasing to the eye than in Burma. The Burmen themselves, so aptly named the Italians of the East, are radically different from their Indian neighbours. The omnipresent solemnity of the Hindoo native has vanished, the Burman is always happy and smiling and, more welcome change still, their custom does not decree the immurement of their women-folk; so that the Rangoon streets are full of quaintly pretty little Burmese girls, contentedly sucking at their "whacking, white cheroots." It is perhaps somewhat difficult at first for the uninitiated to differentiate the sexes, for the male Burmese invariably wears a rose-coloured skirt and a bright pink silk wrap round his head, apparel which Westerners do not associate with the sterner sex. To the casual observer, this semi-effeminate costume seems to be consonant with the Burmese character, and certain it is that the women in Burma seem to do as much manual labour, if not more, than the men.

Rangoon is distinguished for its pagodas, its vile hotels, and the infinitely viler public conveyances. These latter, as compared with which an antique London "growler" is as an up-to-date motor-car, are like old, very old, double sedan chairs on wheels. They are drawn by tiny Pequ ponies, and they rattle and swing and wheeze and bump, and form by far and away the most outrageously uncomfortable vehicles of man. An attempt was made some time ago to introduce rickshas, but the difficulty of providing coolies for them foredoomed the experiment to failure. The Burman is far too lazy to undertake so fatiguing a means of gaining a livelihood, and the obvious alternative, the employment of Chinese coolies, is negatived by the fact

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YESTERDAY'S REPORTS.

"Goeben," from Bremen for Japan, left Antwerp May 11th.
"Derfflinger," from Bremen for New York, passed Lizard
May 11th.
"Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," from New York for Bremen,
left Cherbourg May 11th.
"Königin Luise," from Genoa for New York, arrived
Gibraltar May 11th.

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THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: Ammon Str. 2, p.
American Consul-General: T. ST. JOHN GAFFNEY, Esq.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate southerly winds, variable skies with
rain at times and tendency to thunder-storms, tem-
perature not much altered.

that the Chinese in Rangoon are all, or for the most part, well-to-do, industrious tradesmen, who object to their countrymen occupying the necessarily servile posts of ricksha coolies; consequently, visitors to Rangoon and residents there have, willy-nilly, to put up with those infernal torture machines, the local "gharries."

To visit the East without seeing Rangoon is to miss the sight of one of the most remarkable buildings, or rather group of buildings, in the world. Nowhere else, perhaps, does Buddhism flourish quite so vigorously as in Burma. Practically every young Burman dons for a time the saffron robes of the priesthood, and one can understand how this vocation appeals to the constitutionally lazy Burman, inasmuch as the sole duty of the priests consists apparently in going round each morning with a begging-bowl to collect food for the day, and even the poorest of the population never fail to contribute their quota to the bowl. Sleeping places are provided for the priests in large monasteries, and board and lodging thus secured, the day is free for that protracted "slacking" so congenial to the Burmese disposition. Even his religious exercises have their accompaniment of conviviality, for the main pagoda is usually the common meeting place of both sexes.

To the ultra-pious Burmese layman, Paradise is assured if he build a pagoda. No obligation is laid upon his descendants to keep such pagodas in repair, and the country is accordingly full of half-ruined pagodas. But to a few of these erections special sanctity attaches, and it is incumbent upon the population at large to see that such are kept in due repair. Chief of these is the famous Schwe' Dagon (pronounced Schway Dagown) Pagoda of Rangoon.

At the summit of the only considerable hill in the city stands a stone platform of very large area, and upon this platform rests the giant pagoda with its rings of countless lesser pagodas. At the foot of the hill, flanked by two enormous "leogryphs," fabulous monsters known surely to no other mythology, is the entrance hall, from which two long flights of steps, worn slippery by the tread of thousands of pilgrim feet, lead to the platform above. The whole ascent is flanked on either side by booths, where comestibles, candles, joss-sticks, Burma gongs, flowers, &c. are sold, all the stalls being presided over by comely Burmese maidens. The main pagoda is a vast structure of stone thickly overlaid with gold leaf. Its base an irregular octagon, it becomes a tapering, cylindrical pyramid, while at its summit the *Lit*, or inverted tumbler-shaped cupola, is hung with bells, all golden, and encrusted with jewels of enormous value. Round the base of the pagoda run two rings of small pagodas, each containing one or more figures of the sitting Buddha in brass, stone or marble, often inlaid with coloured stones. At the outer edge of a walk some 60ft. broad are countless other pagodas, many of considerable size, and all made of teak carved as only the Burmese can carve and richly gilded or ornamented with a mosaic of wondrous coloured glass. Each of these again contains several Buddhas, one of marble gilt being recumbent and some 40ft. long. All day and every day the pagoda platform is visited by hundreds of pious worshippers, who flop down before their own particular favourite image of Buddha and pour out fervent prayers, burn candles or offer flowers. In fact, the whole place is throbbing with vivid, picturesque life, and will always remain one of the most absorbingly interesting sights in the East. The time to see the pagoda at its best is when a festival is going on. Then from the countryside come myriads of pilgrims, to whom the residents offer boundless hospitality, and the boom of the silvery-toned gongs sounds far into the night until, from sheer fatigue, all are quiet and make their rude beds on the very flags of the pagoda platform where, save for the occasional bay of a pariah dog, there is deep silence for a few short hours, till the morning sun once more wakes the marvellous shrine to busy, teeming life.

Rangoon, as already stated, should be missed by no Eastward bound traveller, but there are difficulties in the way of leaving it, of which more anon. (To be continued.)

THE HOPE DIAMOND.

The report that the "Hope" diamond, which was formerly among the Crown jewels of France, has been brought from America and purchased in Paris for £80,000, draws attention to the fact that the gem, like many other famous jewels, is reputed to bring bad luck to its possessor. Stolen during the reign of Louis XVI, it was sold in England to a banker named Hope, who died soon afterwards. The gem came into the possession in turn of several members of the Hope family. One day a daughter of a descendant of Hope gave the diamond to a sea captain to sell in America. The captain was killed during the voyage by the fall of a mast. The first mate, however, took possession of it, and succeeded in selling it in America without any further mishap. The stone is now to find a place among the jewels of an Eastern potentate, and it remains to be seen whether ill-luck will follow it to the end.