

DRESDEN

DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN.

THE STORY.

DAS RHEINGOLD.

The Rhine-maidens, who guard the gleaming Rhine-gold, are swimming about in the river and tossing Alberich the dwarf. The latter sees the gleam of the Rhine-gold, and hearing that anyone who forswears love and forges a Ring out of the gold, will be all-powerful, seizes the gold and disappears. Wotan, chief of the Gods, has employed Fasolt and Fafner, the giants, to build him a castle, Valhalla, promising them, as a reward, Freia, the Goddess of youth. The giants having completed their task demand their reward, but Wotan, who had never meant to keep his word, since it was Freia who, with her golden apples, gave the Gods their eternal youth, summons the fire-God Loge to his aid, and is told of Alberich's theft. The giants agree to accept the Nibelung's hoard, but take away Freia as a hostage. The Gods immediately become old and wrinkled. Loge and Wotan descend to Nibelheim, and, by inducing Alberich to turn into a toad, in order to prove to them the power of the Tarnhelm, a cap which enables the wearer to assume any shape he likes, overpower him, and rob him of his treasure, including the Tarnhelm, and the magic Ring. Alberich curses them, foretelling the approaching doom of the Gods. But Wotan and Loge, undismayed, return to earth with the treasure and the giants bring back Freia; they plant two spears in the ground, and placing Freia between them, declare she must be entirely hidden by the treasure piled up in front of her. To do this it is necessary for both the Tarnhelm and the Ring, which Wotan only yields with great reluctance and after having been warned by Erda, the earth-mother, to be added to the pile. Freia is released, but Alberich's curse begins to work at once. Fafner kills Fasolt to obtain sole possession of the hoard. The Gods joyfully pass over a rainbow bridge to Valhalla, while in the distance are heard the wails of the Rhine-maidens, lamenting the loss of the gold committed to their charge.

DIE WALKÜRE.

Siegfried, one of the Wolsungs, protégés of Wotan, flying from his bitter enemies, enters the hut of Hunding, who is one of his deadliest foes, in a state of exhaustion. Siegfried, Hunding's wife, gives him refreshment. Hunding returns and finding Siegfried, tells him that, though he will not harm him while he is under his roof, he will fight him on the next day. Siegfried, who has fallen in love with Siegfried, gives her husband a sleeping-draught and then, in a passionate interview with Siegfried, discovers that he is her brother, and shows him a sword planted in a tree by Wotan. Siegfried pulls out the sword and they flee. Wotan charges Brünnhilde, his daughter by Erda, the earth-mother, one of the Walkyries, or shield-maidens, who convey the bodies of dead heroes to Valhalla, to assist Siegfried in his fight with Hunding, but Fricka, Wotan's wife and the protectress of marriage-laws, intervenes, and Wotan is forced to countermand his orders to Brünnhilde. Siegfried, still flying from Hunding, is warned of his approaching death by Brünnhilde, but he scoffs at the idea of being taken to Valhalla if Siegfried may not accompany him, and Brünnhilde, admiring his courage, determines to disobey Wotan. She stands by Siegfried in the fight, but Wotan breaks Siegfried's sword, and he is killed by Hunding, who also falls dead before Wotan's glance of wrath. Brünnhilde flies on her horse Grane with Siegfried, and joins her sister Walkyries, imploring them to save Siegfried. They refuse, fearing Wotan's wrath, but Brünnhilde, telling Siegfried she will bear a son, sends her to hide in the forest where Fafner, the giant, in the guise of a dragon, guards the Rhine-gold, after giving her the fragments of Siegfried's sword. Wotan arrives in terrible wrath, and to punish Brünnhilde for her disobedience, deprives her of her immortality, dooming her to a magic sleep and to be the prey of any man who shall awaken her. Deeply moved by the parting with his favorite daughter, he accedes to her last request that none but a hero shall be permitted to awaken her, and summoning Loge, he bids him surround Brünnhilde's rocky couch with a wall of flame.

SIEGFRIED.

Some years have elapsed and Siegfried, the only son of Siegfried, has been brought up in the forest by the dwarf Mime, Alberich's brother. He questions Mime, whom he instinctively hates, about his mother. The former gives him the fragments of Siegfried's sword, and Siegfried, bidding Mime weld them anew, rushes into the woods. Wotan, disguised as the Wanderer, appears and tells Mime that only he who has never known fear can forge the sword. Mime attempts to forge the sword himself but fails and Siegfried forges it himself, while Mime promises to teach him what fear is by taking him to the wood where Fafner is guarding the gold; at the same time Mime prepares a poisonous drink which he purposes to give to Siegfried when once the dragon is killed, that he may himself obtain the Ring. Wotan warns Fafner of Siegfried's approach. Siegfried arrives and kills the dragon, and in doing so gets a drop of its blood on his finger. Tasting it, he understands the language of the wood-bird, which tells him to seek for the Tarnhelm and the Ring, and warns him that Mime is going to try to poison him; Siegfried obtains the Ring and kills Mime. The bird then tells him of the sleeping Brünnhilde and he sets out to find her, preceded by the bird. Wotan in vain seeks counsel of Erda, the earth-mother, how to avert the impending doom of the Gods, and attempting to bar Siegfried's way with his spear, Siegfried shatters it with his sword, and Wotan retires to Valhalla to await the "Twilight of the Gods". Siegfried plunges through the fire and awakens Brünnhilde, who, discovering that he is Siegfried's son, yields herself to him.

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG.

The Norns are discovered alone weaving the fate of the world. When the cord breaks they fly, as the dawn of another world is upon them. Siegfried, wishing to accomplish great deeds, takes farewell of Brünnhilde, entrusting her with the Ring. In the hall of the Gibichungs on the Rhine, Hagen, son of Alberich, is scheming to regain the Ring. He suggests to his half brother Günther to give Siegfried a draught which will make him forget Brünnhilde (of whose existence Günther is ignorant), and set him free to marry Gutrune, Günther's sister. All turns out as Hagen wishes: Siegfried arrives, drinks the potion and promises to win Brünnhilde for Günther. Waltraute, the Walkyrie, implores Brünnhilde to restore the Ring to the Rhine-maidens, to save Wotan and Valhalla. Brünnhilde refuses and soon after, Siegfried arrives in Günther's shape, snatches the Ring, and after keeping vigil all night with his sword between him and her, leads her away to Günther. Alberich appears to Hagen and urges him to kill Siegfried. Siegfried comes back and is welcomed by all, but Brünnhilde recognises the Ring on his finger, and accuses him of having betrayed his friend Günther by offering her violence. Brünnhilde discloses to Hagen that Siegfried has one vulnerable spot, namely in the back. The Rhine-maidens in vain ask Siegfried for the Ring. When resting from hunting, Hagen brings back Siegfried's memory by another potion. Siegfried tells the story of his life. Hagen kills him. The body is brought to Günther's hall where Hagen quarrels with Günther and kills him. Siegfried's body is placed on a pyre, onto which, when it is lighted, Brünnhilde, after singing a farewell to her dead lover, and proclaiming the end of the old regime and the dawn of a new world ruled by Love, leaps upon the pyre to perish with her dead lover. The Rhine overflows its banks, washes the pyre away and the Rhine-maidens snatch the Ring. Hagen rushes into the Rhine to get the Ring and is drowned. Valhalla is seen enveloped in flames.

We regret to state that Princess Mathilde had a fall from her horse on Wednesday last and sustained a contusion and strain of the muscles of the right side. Her Royal Highness will be obliged in consequence to take a few days' rest.

The complaint is made on all sides that foreigners, and especially Americans and English, must pay more for any given commodity or service than Germans. Our attention has just been called to the demand of a nursery governess who asked just 60 per cent. more of an American family than she had received in her last place in a German household for more exacting service.

Stuttgart lost its once flourishing English-speaking colony by just such dealings.

The Editor of the *Record*:—At least one prominent Prager Strasse shop has not only higher prices for foreigners than for Germans, but even different prices for the same customer, whether German or foreign. The question is asked "What did you pay before?" The difference is often fifty per cent. between the price demanded on one day and that asked on another. The so-called *Fremden-Verein* should investigate.—*Resident*.

A local contemporary calls attention to the remarkable fact that the prices for meat and vegetables in Dresden are higher on Saturday than on other days of the week. In most other cities the dealers in these perishable articles let them go much more cheaply on Saturday than on other days, as they avoid the expense of ice and the risk of loss by decay and diminished freshness.

"The Local Cat." By this expression is not meant a four-footed animal, but a biped of the female sex, inhabiting boarding-houses (miscalled "pensions") and busying herself with spiteful remarks about her fellow-boarders. Such an animal is a most expensive domestic pet, and boarding-house keepers should see to it that they do not lose custom by permitting those "pussies" to domesticate themselves.

"Clean Air." Ed., *Record*:—The only way to get pure air in railway and tram cars, theatres, boarding-houses, etc., is to prove to those having the matter in charge that they lose English and American custom by compelling travellers and others to breathe the air which has been defiled by the gaseous excretae of the human body. That the lungs give off impurities just as do the intestines is not taught in German schools, nor practised by German teachers and physicians. We must hit the pocket-book; the understanding is not to be reached in this matter. *Sufferer*.

A Chemnitz telegram states that on Thursday night at 11.30 o'clock a seventeen-year-old apprentice, named Hans Löwe, born at Klotzsche, entered the residence of Frau Hering, the wife of a local chemist, with nefarious designs. Löwe made his way by the balcony to the lady's sleeping apartment and was ransacking the room when Frau Hering awoke. She was immediately attacked by the young miscreant, who stabbed her no less than twelve times, and her injuries are said to be very dangerous. Löwe has been apprehended.

At the Grand Art Exhibition today and tomorrow the band of the XII Infantry regiment No. 177, under the direction of Kgl. Musikdirektor Röpenack, will provide the concert music. Tomorrow evening, weather permitting, there will be an illumination of the park and grounds, including the garden of the Saxon House. The next special arrangement will be the *Mostfest* (new wine fête), which is fixed for the 17th and 18th instant.

The programme of the music to be performed at the Vespers service in the Kreuzkirche at 2 o'clock this afternoon, will be as follows:—

- (1) J. S. Bach: prelude in G for organ (Peters, vol. II).
- (2) Händel: "Wie hoch und hehr ist, Gott, dein Haus," six-part chorus with organ accompaniment.
- (3) Mendelssohn: "Höre, Israel," Aria for soprano voice with organ accompaniment, from the oratorio "Elias."
- (4) G. Tartini: Andante from the 2nd Violin Sonata, with organ accompaniment.
- (5) Karl Piutti: "Empor die Herzen," sacred song

for soprano voice with organ accompaniment, op. 28 No. 2. (6) Karl Piutti: "Jauchzet dem Herrn, alle Welt," the 100th Psalm for choir and solo voices, op. 30 No. 2.

The Church Choir, conducted by Herr Otto Richter, Kantor and Kgl. Musikdirektor, will be assisted by: Fräulein Lorle Birn, soprano; Fräulein Gertrud, Matthaes, violin; Herr Max Birn, organist of the Sophienkirche.

The programme of the orchestral concert at the Royal Belvedere this evening will be as follows:— (1) "Fuge," Bach. (2) Overture "Romeo and Juliet," Gounod. (3) "Ave verum corpus," Mozart. (4) "Divertissement hongroise," Schubert. (5) Slavischer March, Tschaiakowsky. (6) Vorspiel zu "Hänsel und Gretel," Humperdinck. (7) "Einzug der Götter in Walhall" a. "Das Rheingold," Wagner. (8) Ouverture "Si j'étais roi," Adam. (9) "An der schönen blauen Donau," Walzer, Strauss. (10) "Solweygs," Lied, Grieg. (11) Florentiner-Marsch, Flückel.

CHURCH SERVICES: DRESDEN.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH, Wiener Strasse.
Sunday, September 13th. 13th Sunday after Trinity. 8.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon. 6.0 p.m. Evensong and Litany. Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M.A., B. O. L.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, Reichs Platz 5,
at the head of Reichs Strasse.
Sunday, September 13th. Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Morning Service and Sermon 11.0 a.m. Afternoon Service and address 5.30 p.m.
The Rev. J. F. Butterworth, M.A., Rector.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (Presbyterian), Bernhard Strasse 2,
at the corner of Bismarck and Winkelmann Strasse
Divine Service Sunday morning at 11, and evening at 6 o'clock. Communion on the first Sunday of the month.
Rev. T. H. Wright, Minister.

Swedish Gymnastics for ladies, young girls and children in the large, airy original Swedish Hall of the Institut Kox, Linden Gasse 3.

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DRESDEN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

Royal Opera House.

Tonight, beginning at 7.30, ending after 9.45

Das Rheingold.

Prologue to the Trilogy: "Der Ring des Nibelungen." By Richard Wagner.

Cast:

Wotan, Donner,	} Gods	Herr Perron.
Froh,		Herr Büssel.
Loge,	} Nibelungs	Herr Soot.
Alberich,		Herr Burrian.
Mime,	} Giants	Herr Plaschke.
Fasolt,		Herr Rüdiger.
Fafner,	} Goddesses	Herr Puttitz.
Fricka,		Herr Rains.
Freia,	} Rhine-maidens	Fräul. v. Chavanno.
Erda,		Fräul. Seebe.
Woglinde,	} Rhine-maidens	Frau Bender-Schäfer.
Wellgunde,		Fräul. v. d. Osten.
Flosshilde,		Fräul. Eibenschütz.

Sunday night . . . Il Trovatore . . . at 7.30
Monday night . . . Carmen . . . " 7

Royal Theatre Neustadt.

Tonight . . . Die Nibelungen . . . at 7
Sunday night . . . Kriemhilda Raue . . . " 7
Monday night . . . Der Schwabenstreich . . . " 7.30

Residens Theatre.

Tonight . . . Ein Walzertraum . . . at 7.30
Sunday afternoon . . . Die lustige Witwe . . . " 3.30
Monday night . . . Ein Walzertraum . . . " 7.30

Victoria Salon . . . Variety Performance . . . at 8
Central Theatre . . . Variety Performance . . . " 8

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