

Office:  
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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## MEDEA AT TERRY'S.

(FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.)

London, December 1.

"Medea always bored me at school"; said my companion. "It bores me now." Well, that is rather an unkind beginning, and on the face of it unfair. This experiment of producing the "Medea" of Euripides in Terry's Theatre is at least plucky, and, as someone said, it is a fine compliment to our culture. A compliment, without a doubt; for last night it was played to an almost empty house. Miss Smilton who has produced this play, and is about to produce the "Electra" of Sophocles, is a Greek lady—not, I believe, professionally attached to the stage—and she is supported by some half dozen Greek ladies and gentlemen, and an English—one might say, a very English—chorus. The pronunciation is not that which is taught at schools and Universities, but that of modern Greece. So that even our remaining shred of Greek helped us not at all. Modern Greek ignores the iambic metre of the ancient drama, and pronounces simply according to accent. How different was this rapid lisping to the thunderous roll of my fifth form master (God rest his soul!) as he hurled the choicest passages of "Prometheus Vinculus" at our heads. "O dios aitheer kai tacheupteroi pnoai—" and the rest of it! "Bless my soul," said an old lady next to me, "they don't even pronounce Zeus right." But a fierce-looking Greek gentleman just behind flashed a look like a dagger into her dear, shrivelled little neck, and then smiled into one end of his moustache like a true descendant of Lucian.

As for the chorus, they really need a little of the chastening influence of the Gaiety or Daly's. Especially noticeable—but it would be invidious to make distinctions. She was very naughty, and wouldn't keep still.

The music, also Greek, was interesting and not ineffective. I have forgotten the composer's name, but it is quite, quite Greek; and, if I remember aright, he has composed the music specially for the occasion.

The house was almost enthusiastic in its applause, and I too, though I had understood so little, was very glad to clap my hands in recognition of the compliment to our culture. *Vanitas vanitatum!*

C. M. K.

## NEWS OF THE WORLD.

LONDON, Saturday.—Parliament was prorogued yesterday. The Speech from the Throne read by the Lord Chancellor at the prorogation contained references to King Manuel of Portugal's visit and declared that Britain's relations with the foreign Powers continue to be of the friendliest description. A tribute is paid to the happy settlement of difficulties in South-West Europe and to the progress achieved by the Constitutional régime in Turkey, to the Hague Peace Conference of 1907, the renewal of many arbitration treaties, the reform of Indian laws and administration, the establishment of South African Union, and the reciprocal advantages accruing to England and her Colonies as a result of the Imperial Defence Conference. The Speech expresses thanks to the House of Commons for its grant of increased expenditure necessitated by Imperial Defence and social reform, and regrets that the financial measures taken have been rendered useless. The Speech closes by recounting new measures added to the Statute Book in the session now closed.

LONDON, Saturday.—The Customs and Inland Revenue authorities announce that payment of taxes and imposts authorised under the suspended Budget is now a voluntary question for the individual; but that those who refrain from paying now must do so if, at a later period, the Budget becomes law. In the event of this not occurring, all payments made up to date will be refunded.

LONDON, Saturday.—In the course of a speech delivered last night before members of the National Liberal Club, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, remarked that the "poor Lords," by throttling the Budget, had shown themselves to be a class who, possessing as they did an abundance of the good things of this world, nevertheless refused to permit a small part of their wealth to serve as a protection against misery to the actual creators of that wealth. The killing of the Budget, however, would prove to be the last act of their unholy wrath. In spite of all the cunning displayed by the Lords, they had been finally mastered by the Government.

LONDON, Saturday.—It is officially announced this morning that Parliament will be dissolved on Jan. 8. The General Election will commence on Jan. 13.

PLYMOUTH, Saturday.—Lord Lansdowne, leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, addressed

a mass meeting here last night. The two points of issue before the country were, he said, as follows: the Budget versus Tariff Reform and single-Chamber government against dual-Chamber government. The House of Lords was not infallible, but the Government was placing obstacles in the way of its reform. The reason for this was obvious: the more authoritative and intelligent the Upper House became, the more powerful would it be. "Our standpoint," he continued, "is more sensible and more constitutional than that of the Government. We contend that the House of Lords is battling for the liberty of the people and for one of its most valued privileges, namely, that the nation has a right to be consulted before a complete alteration in the national legislature is made."

LONDON, Saturday.—Practically the entire country has been visited by a storm of unusual violence, accompanied by phenomenally heavy rainfall. Extensive damage has been caused. Several rivers have overflowed their banks and inundated the adjacent country, while from every port along the coast come stories of shipping casualties.

NEW YORK, Friday.—The most densely populated quarter of Baltimore, Md., was last night razed to the ground by fire. The damage is estimated at 300 million dollars. Up to the present particulars of casualties are unobtainable, but several hundred people are missing and have probably met their death.

MELILLA, Saturday.—The headman of the Beni Sikar tribe, according to an official report, has tendered submission to the Spanish commandant on behalf of the whole tribe.

MEXICO, Saturday.—The Minister for Foreign Affairs states that Mexico does not expect to be drawn into the Nicaragua affair. Mexico regards the action of the United States Government with equanimity, although it has unexpectedly occurred at a moment when Mexico was awaiting an answer from the United States regarding its proposals for the maintenance of peace.

PARIS, Saturday.—According to reports from Toulon, the naval authorities have decided that it would be an impossible task, or at least a very costly one, to raise the battleship Jéna sunk in the recent storm. Steps will accordingly be taken to destroy the wreck by explosives.

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