

B E R L I N

"POIA," AN AUDACIOUS CANARD REFUTED.

(By telephone from our correspondent.)

The *Berliner Tageblatt* and *Lokal-Anzeiger*, yesterday morning published a statement to the effect that "Poia" had been eliminated from the repertoire of the Opera House and would not be given on Wednesday and Friday evenings, as originally billed. There is not one word of truth in this statement. The two papers in question have been obliged to eat their own words, and when asked for an explanation they stated that they had received a telephone message from "some one in the Opera House" announcing the striking-out of the opera.

We would like to call attention to the fact that when "Poia" was accepted by the Berlin Opera in July last the *Lokal-Anzeiger* denied the statement, adding that Mr. Nevin must have got sunstroke to imagine such a thing. When a protest was raised, this enterprising journal admitted that one of its men had been sent to the Opera House, where he had interviewed the porter, who, when asked if he knew anything about the acceptance of "Poia," said he had heard nothing of it. On the strength of this "authoritative information" the denial was published, attributing sunstroke to the composer.

These obvious attempts to disparage and "down" the opera in question (it is even understood that men were in the galleries armed with tin whistles) will, it is to be hoped, have the result of giving the authors a better advertisement than they could possibly have gained by any other means.

Mr. Arthur Nevin's opera, "Poia," was presented at the Royal Opera House on Saturday night before an audience that packed the building. The American Ambassador and Mrs. David J. Hill were present in a box with the Embassy staff and their wives, Consul-General and Mrs. Gaffney, of Dresden, and Miss Kalman, of St. Paul. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt were with the Danish Minister. Count Seebach, of the Dresden Opera, was also present, together with many members of the Anglo-American community in Dresden. Lack of space compels us to defer the publication of a full report of the performance until tomorrow. Although the Berlin critics are almost unanimously hostile to the piece, it is still a fact that after each act the composer, the librettist, and the artists were repeatedly called before the curtain.

It is reported that negotiations with a leading English football league have now been concluded, with the result that on May 4th a well known English team, Southend United, will play a match in Berlin against a local team not yet named, and on Ascension Day will play the Union Club of Berlin. On Whit Monday the Englishmen will meet the Victoria Club at Hamburg. Next Sunday Oxford City will play Southend United on the Schebera ground at Berlin, this being the first time that Berliners will have had an opportunity of watching two English teams confront each other at football.

Professor Percival Lowell (the *Tageblatt* graciously confers the title of "Sir Percival" on him!), of the Flagstaff (Arizona) Observatory, lectured at the Trepow Observatory on Saturday night before a large audience. Immense enthusiasm was evoked by the presentation on the screen of Professor Lowell's wonderful astronomical photographs, of which we have previously given a full description. From the sensation evident among those present it was obvious that no such pictures had previously been seen in Germany. Herr Archenhold, director of the Observatory, introduced the American professor, who received a very hearty greeting.

The long-projected scheme for a new Royal Opera House in Berlin is brought appreciably nearer to the sphere of actual politics by the announcement that negotiations are proceeding for the sale of the present building to the city of Berlin. The stage-buildings were recently declared dangerous and a large sum is demanded in the estimates of the Prussian diet this year for reconstruction. It is hoped that the expenditure on the old building may be saved by an early sale to the city, which, it is understood, will convert the building into a concert-hall and Festival Theatre. The building was originally intended for this purpose and it was never expected to serve as a Royal opera-house.

The death of Mark Twain has brought sorrow to many who knew him in Berlin some ten years ago. Amongst others who will surely have read the notice with regret is that typically Berlin porter of Mark Twain's house, we think in the Ansbacher Strasse, who "agreed with the Kaiser" as to what was Mr. Clemens' best work. Mark Twain used to be out late at night and was not aware that when he had to call up the porter to let him in it was expected that he should tender the man a tip. The porter was indignant at this repeated omission, until one evening, when Mr. Clemens was dining with the Kaiser, the porter discovered who the unconscionable key-forgetter was. When he next let Mr. Clemens in he said: "Now I know who you are, and I have read all your books and the best is so and so." "Ah," said the humorist, "I am glad you think so. That shows the Kaiser's opinion was right."

There are several versions of the story but the above is the now historic Berlin version. A special chapter containing many hitherto unpublished stories of Mark Twain in Berlin will appear in Dr. Dickie's new book on the Kaiser's capital.

The report of a curious Roosevelt episode has reached Berlin from Budapest. The ex-president had expressed a wish to meet the Hungarian novelist Kalomann Mikszat, author of that curious work "Saint Peter's Umbrella." The conversation was conducted through an interpreter, and the writer began to expound the text of a forthcoming work on the subject of the house of Habsburg. He explained that the Habsburgs had expropriated Hungary and then he commenced a long and vigorous tirade against the Austrian Emperor and the Viennese policy. As Roosevelt heard repeatedly the words "Franz Josef" and "Vienna" he stopped the speaker in the middle of his sentence, had the matter translated to him, and then turned to those present and exclaimed: "Please see that no report of this gets into the Press." Nevertheless, the story has appeared in a Budapest paper.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH CONFERENCE.

(FROM OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

A sign of the times in England may be seen in the title of the principal subject set down for debate at the Anglican Church Conference (Northern Europe) which will be held this year on April 27 and 28 at the British Embassy in Paris, Sir Francis Bertie having issued an invitation to that effect. The subject of discussion is 'disestablishment,' and the possibility at least that the abolition of the veto of the House of Lords will make the Disestablishment of the Anglican Church a matter of urgent debate in the immediate future should lend the subject practical interest. Papers will be read by the Revs. R. S. Kendal and W. Macintosh, whilst the speaker will be the Rev. J. H. Fry, the British chaplain of Berlin. Lady Vincent, by the way, will also read an extremely interesting paper on "Women's Work." That old friend of Conferences, "The need for an up-to-date education of the Clergy," appears again on the agenda, and the Rev. Ackland Troyte will speak on the subject. Bishop Ormsby has promised to read a paper on the Lambeth Encyclical of 1908 regarding the "Corporate Reunion of the Church of Christ," and the devotional service will be taken by one of the most popular of London clergy, the Rev. W. S. Swayne, vicar of St. Peter's-Cranley Gardens, London.

CHURCH SERVICES: BERLIN.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, Monbijou Garten.
Second Entrance: Oranienburger Strasse 76B.
Sundays: 9 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion.
11 a.m. Matins and Sermon (followed by a second Celebration on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday in the month).
6 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.
Fridays: 11 a.m. Litany.
Holy Days: 9 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion.
The Chaplain: Rev. J. H. Fry, M.A.,
Knesbeck Strasse 88, Charlottenburg.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH, Motz Strasse 6.
Nollendorf Platz.
Sundays: 10.15 a.m. Sunday School.
11.30 a.m. Regular Service.
4.30 p.m. Reception and Song Service.
Wednesdays: 4.00 p.m. Mid-week Service.
Daily: 2.00 p.m. Office hour for Church Matron.
3.30 p.m. Office hour for the Pastor.
10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., the Library and Reading Room open.
For these daily hours call at Motz Strasse 6.
Dr. LEMUEL HERBERT MURLIN, Minister in charge.
39, II Bayreuther Strasse, Wittenberg Platz.

NEWS OF THE WORLD. (Continued.)

LONDON, Sunday.—A telegram received here last night stated that Mr. Graham White, who was attempting an aeroplane flight from London to Manchester, was still at Lichfield, where he had been forced to descend by the strong headwinds. Later advices, to hand this afternoon, indicate that as the bad weather continues Mr. White has been forced to abandon a continuation of his wonderful journey.

NICE, Sunday.—Six aviators ascended yesterday for a 24 kilometre flight over the sea, and all succeeded in completing the trip. Latham was first, having completed the distance in 16 min. 46 3-5 sec., then followed Duray, Vanderborn, Effinoff, Chovez, and Rolls. De Ryemsdyck attempted the same flight at a later hour, but his apparatus fell into the sea and had to be salvaged by a torpedo-boat. M. Latham today made two flights across the sea from Nice to Antibes and back. In the course of a third trip the motor stopped running and the apparatus plunged into the water, but neither the aviator nor his machine suffered injury.

PARIS, Monday.—The papers report that Baron de Carters, a Belgian aviator, ascended at Mourmelon le Grand in his two-decker aeroplane yesterday and flew to Chambouf, the distance covered being 205 kilometres. The baron, who was accompanied on his trip by his mechanic, intended to land at Dole, but a motor defect made a landing necessary

from a height of 206 metres. The aviator planed down from this altitude, but, striking the earth forcibly, the machine was badly damaged.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Monday.—The latest bulletin describes the condition of the Sultan as satisfactory. The illness is pursuing a normal course and the Sultan was able to transact State business yesterday.

NEW YORK, Sunday.—The failure of Messrs. Knight, Yancey, and Company has caused a great sensation here, and the newspapers are full of details of the affair. The Memphis correspondent of the *New York American* telegraphs an interview with Mr. Yancey, who says that 26 firms have been seriously involved in the failure. The exposure, he declares, must inevitably result in completely revolutionising the present methods of the Southern cotton industry. According to dispatches from Decatur, most of the spurious bills are held abroad, and it is stated that one Russian firm stands to lose some \$750,000. Foreigners will undoubtedly be the heaviest losers by the failure. The latest estimates place the losses to Europeans at \$4,000,000, and to New York firms at about \$1,000,000.

NEW YORK, Saturday.—Judge Foster has sentenced Wolter to electrocution, the execution to take place on Wednesday. The jury deliberated for two hours, during which time the prisoner was sound asleep in his cell, in the Tombs Prison. He had to be awakened in order that he might be taken back to the Court-room, where he heard the verdict without any display of emotion. No members of Ruth Wheeler's or Wolter's family were present. Counsel for the prisoner formally moved that the verdict be set aside, but the Judge overruled the motion. Wolter declined to talk to the reporters, saying, "I am tired, and desire to get a little good sleep first." It is stated that the speed with which the prisoner was arrested, brought to trial, and sentenced, is a record for the State of New York.

VENICE, Saturday.—The ninth International Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture was opened here today, in the presence of the Duke of the Abruzzi, representing the King, the Prince of Udine, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Instruction, Sir Rennell Rodd, the British Ambassador in Rome, Sir George Frampton, R.A., representing the Royal Academy, Mr. Grosvenor Thomas, and Mr. Konody, members of the British Committee, and a large number of other distinguished personages. After addresses by Signor Credaro, Minister of Public Instruction, and Signor Grimani, the Mayor of Venice, the Princes, with the rest of the company, made a tour of the Exhibition, including the Lavery Room and the British Pavilion. The excellent quality of the work of the British artists on view excited general admiration. At the British Pavilion the Duke of the Abruzzi was received by Sir Rennell Rodd. His Royal Highness shook hands with the British artists who were presented to him by the Ambassador, and then continued the inspection in their company. The British section includes 53 works by Lavery.

According to a London report, the young Indian law student, Vinayak Savarkar, was again brought up at Bow-street last Saturday on the charge of sedition and abetment to murder in India. Mr. A. H. Bodkin explained to the magistrate that the proceedings against the prisoner, who was arrested on his arrival at Victoria from Paris, were taken by the Indian Government. Counsel then proceeded to quote from the documents received from India, remarking that in cases where any difficulty might arise expert evidence would be given to the magistrate to show the seditious import. Five charges were set out in the warrant granted by the magistrate in India. The first was waging or attempting to wage war against the King; the second conspiring to deprive the King of his sovereignty; the third the collection of men, arms, and ammunition for those purposes; the fourth speaking or writing words creating disaffection against the King's Government; and the fifth incitement to murder. It was also alleged against Savarkar that he was one of the founders of a secret society opposed to the Government.

Counsel then proceeded to quote from papers before him, and referred to the murder of Mr. Jackson at Nasik in December, 1909. He had before him a number of speeches made by accused in Nasik during five months in 1906, and also papers referring to the secret society formed there by prisoner and his brother. After Mr. Jackson's murder 47 persons were arrested, mostly Brahmans. Accused himself was a Brahmin. The speeches made by defendant had such effect that they were greeted with loud cries of "Bande Mataram" ("Hail! Motherland!") by the crowds which listened to them. The significance of that cry was fully understood in India. Mr. Bodkin quoted a flowery passage from one of the speeches made by the accused, the meaning of which in English, he said, was that the proposed revolution was a revolution of young men. Greyheads were too old and of no use. At this stage the hearing was adjourned until Saturday next.

LONDON, Sunday.—At the Crystal Palace yesterday Newcastle United and the Barnsley F.C., of the Southern League, played the Cup-Tie match, the game ending in a draw of one goal each. A decisive match will therefore be played next Saturday at Everton, Liverpool.