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Death of Carl Rosa, the Eminent Musician.

WHY HE BECAME A DIRECTOR.

His Own Story of His Trials and Triumphs in This Role-The Arrival of Wachtel, the Great German Tenor, in America. Other News and Notes of the Stage.

Carl Rosa, the well known musical director and manager, who died recently in Paris, merits the credit of having given a great impetus to English native art, and of having created an appetite for opera in England and America. He was born in Hamburg, of a musical family, and at an early age developed a remarkable ability for the violin. Before he entered his teens he had played in public, and was described in the concert bill as the juvenile Paganini. From that time until 1866 he played in many concerts and

served in various musical organizations as leader and first violinist. The following account of his life, after his debut at the Crystal Palace in 1866, was given by himself in 1885 while in London: "I first became a

CARL ROSA.

manager owing to the inability of our American impresario to fulfill his engagement. It was my own and wife's dream to establish an English opera company in America, and during the first three years our novel experiment was singularly successful. In 1869 we ventured to take our singers to California over the Isthmus of Panama, returning by coach across the continent. We contrived to give thirteen concerts during our tiresome journey, reached Virginia City when the White Pine silver mine excitement was at its height and spent four days with Brigham Young at the Salt Lake. The seasons of 1871 and 1872 were very exciting ones in the States. Nilsson was there with an Italian opera company; there was also a concert combination formed by Santley, Cummings, Mme, Patey and Miss Wynne, and I had organized a very strong company for English opera. Just as the contest was on the point of commencing Wachtel, the great German tener, unexpectedly arrived, and it became a matter of supreme importance to secure his services. I persuaded him to sign an agreement two hours after he landed, and met Mr. Strakosch; Nilsson's agent, coming to see him as I left the room in triumph.

"As Wachtel could neither sing in English or Italian, I found him practically a white elephant, so I formed a German company, which played at the Bowery theatre, while my English troupe was performing at the Academy. A little later I put all my forces together, and organized an Italian opera season with immense success. In 1572 I was offered the post of conductor at the Imperial opera in St. Petersburg, but I preferred to accompany my wife to Cairo. In the course of my eight years' travels I came scathless out of a railway accident and a collision at sea. On returning to England we first tried our fortunes with English opera in the provinces, and, encouraged with the success we met with, finally prepared to produce 'Lohengrin' at Drury Lane. The death of my wife put an end to the project, and it was not till September, 1875, that I opened and with a very satisfactory result concluded a seven weeks' season at the Princess'. This was followed by tours in the provinces and seasons at the Lyceum and Adelphi. In January, 1879, I migrated to Her Majesty's theatre and brought out 'Mignon,' 'Aida' and 'Lohengrin.' Next year I produced 'Tannhauser' on a very extensive scale. I should hardly like to say how much it cost me, but for the four Wagner operas which were played in the same season I engaged 24 leading artists, a chorus of 60 persons, a ballet of 40 dancers, an orchestra of 70 musicians and over 100 supernumeraries. In 1883 'Esmeralda' and 'Colomba' were put successfully on the stage at Drury Lane, and last year they were followed by 'The Canterbury Pilgrims.'

"I can now fairly say that English opera rests at last on a firm basis. It has almost become a national institution, and I have little fear of its future, for it has somehow or other managed to outlive all its competifors. At the present moment I think I am almost the only manager who is playing grand opera without extraneous help-a difficult, if not an impossible, task as far as most European capitals are concerned. I have had the rare satisfaction of seeing two of my English operas produced on the continent, and the names of such English composers as Goring Thomas, Villiers Stanford and Mackenzie are now known from one end of Europe to the other. If I have in any way belped to bring about all this and to secure the permanency of English opera, I am more than satisfied."

Rosina Vokes.

The Vokes family-for it is impossible to write of one of the Vokes, of even Rosina herself, without including her brothers and sisters-are the children of an English theatrical costumer, and all of them were trained for the stage from the days when they were children. Victoria, the tall, queenly one, was the first to make a public debut, which she did successfully, says The Stage, as Amy Robsart. Her brothers and sisters were less ambitious, and began their theatrical careers as members of a traveling pantomime troupe, which played at all the large cities, where they were known and welcomed as the Vokes family. They became such favorites that they decided to start out for themselves in a play entitled "The Belles of the Kitchen."

Rosina was, as curiously enough she still is, the youngest of the "family," and will be remembered as the young woman with the

impetuous Inugh and irrepressible animal spirits, who used to "queer" the balcony scene in "Romeo and Juliet" by punching holes in the face of the moon. The Vokes were

phenomenal favorites in the United 3 4 States, and when Rosina returned water no longer a

ROSINA VOKES,

soubrette but a comedienne, there were some who missed the rest of the happy family and who were disappointed. But the public soon discovered a finer fun and a more delicate humor in the little comedies Miss Vokes produced for them, and the success of the family has followed its starring representative. The plays she gives are bright and clever and the people whom she has brought here to play them are quite as clever as the plays. Miss Vokes is about 30 years old and the

gentleman who usually occupies the right hand box during her performance is her husband, Cecil Clay, formerly a London attorney, and now her manager.

Sydney Pridmore's Latest Trick. Sydney Pridmore is the latest London magician. One of his tricks, performed before the Prince of Wales, is novel in method. He rolled and lit a cigarette, and while he smoked Lord Howe selected one card from a new pack; tore it into eight pieces; kept one piece and handed seven to Mr. Pridmore, who put them in his mouth, puffed out seven jets of smoke and then opened the cigarette. There was the card, intact, except that the piece held by Lord Howe was missing. "The Lord only knows Howe that was done!" exclaimed the prince, and the distinguished party applauded the royal wit. - Spirit of the Times.

STAGE TALK.

J. K. Emmett, Jr., is considered a crack sportsman.

W. J. Florence and Joseph Murphy are included in the list of the best anglers in the country.

It is said that Miss Emma Abbot likes no title so well as that of "Honest Little Em." Lady De Gray is to enter the ranks of amateur actresses during the coming season as

Mrs. Pinchbeck in Robertson's "Home."

charity. Mr. Barnes, of New York, will go on tour next season.

The performance is to be given in aid of a

Herr Gericke, leader of the Boston Symphony orchestra, will make a short tour of the principal cities of the west with his band of sixty-five musicians, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Henschel as vocalists.

Booth and Barrett play in Louisville next season under a guarantee of \$20,000 for a week's performance. a

GEORGE Y. GYLBERT.

He Is One of the Fastest Men Now in America.

George Y. Gylbert, of the New York Athletic club, might very properly be spoken of as a fast young man. In fact, he could be referred to with perfect accuracy as one of the most rapid chaps in the country. If you don't believe it, study the following record of his achievements and be convinced.

Mr. Gylbert has been prominently before the public as a runner for about five years, his first noteworthy success being in connection with the games of the Englewood Athletic club, when he finished second in the half mile run at scratch and in the 230 yards run. A few months later he won the mile run at the same club's games from the 15 yards mark, in 4m. 521, s. On Oct. 4, at the games of the New York Athletic club, he won the mile run handicap from the 40 yards mark, in 4m. S7 2-5s.

Early in 1885 he made a five mile record of 21m. 22s., and followed it by running a mile on Staten Island from the fifty yard mark in 4m, 39 2-5s. It was on June 3 that he distinguished himself and placed his name on the record books as a champion of America. The National Amateur Athletic association



meeting. Gylbert started in the mile event and ran a game, plucky race, coming home an easy winner in 4m. 44 1-5s., beating F. Dolan and others. Not long afterward he gave E. C. Carter, a famous English runner, twenty-five yards start and was beaten by a vard the stranger

held its annual

championship

GEORGE Y. GYLBERT. finishing in 4m. 351 s. He ran many more races during the year with varying success, generally making very good time.

His first victory in 1886 was a mile run in New York, which he made in 4m. 361 as. Later in the season he won a quarter male obstacle race in 2m. 24%s. At the games of the Twenty-third regiment he ran a mile on a board floor in 4m 51 s., a truly remarkable performance,

At Paterson, N. J., on June 10, 1887, he won a 5 mile run from scrate i in 30m. 16s. The same month he ran a great half mile race, winning from the 40 yards mark in Im. 50s. Aug. 16, at Caledonian park, Jersey City, he won the scratch half mile run in 2m. Ss., and got third place in the 3 mile run. Sept. I be won the mile run at the Caledonian games; time, 4m, 45s. At the Staten Island Athletic club's games, Sept. 5, he won the mile run in 4m, 29 2-5s, from the 40 yards handicap.

At the championship meeting the same year he ran second to E C Carter in the one mile run, his time being 4m 35 1-5s. In October he visited Wilmington, Del., and at the games of the Warren Athletic club wen the mile run from the scratten, in 4m. 36s, Oct. 15 he was beaten a foot for the handsome French cup put up for a supetition for members of the New York athletic club. (M. Smith won, time being 4m wis.

The national cross country championship was held on election day same year, and Gyltert ran one of the best rans of his life across country, finishing second to E. C. Carter. Gylbert's time was Som Was. About this time he became a member of the Seventh regiment and competed at their games, Dec. 3. The events were all scratch, and he distinguished himself by finishing first in the 440 yards run, time 52 2-5s.; 1.000 yards run, time Sm. 40s.; mile run, time 4m. 54s. Beside the victories above mentioned he entered in many minor events, never once fail-

ing to make good time. His first appearance in 1888 was at the games of the Twelfth Regiment Athletic association, finishing third from scratch in a mile, in 4m, 42s. This is the fastest time ever made on a board floor. At the spring games of the Seventh regiment he finished first in a 1,000 yards run, making a best on record, andalso won the mile run in 4m. 51s., making another regimental record. He was a member of the Suburban Harriers that won the team championship, Gylbert being the third man home. His time was 45m. 19s. In the race for the Kilpatrick cup he finished third, beating E. C. Carter some 18 seconds.

At the Staten Island games he made a magnificent performance by winning the mile run from scratch in 4m. 31 1-5s., which stands today as fastest time ever made by an American, L. E. Myers barred. At the games of the New York Athletic club, at the Polo grounds, he ran E. C. Carter a hard race in the mile and was only boaten a footin 4m. 372-5s. He competed in the Canadian championship meeting and finished third to Conneff and Gibbs.

Gylbert has won eighty-six prizes since he ran his first public race, and his prespects for good work this season seem to be better than ever.

A Winning Three-Year-Old.

Donavan, the Duke of Portland's 3-year-old, has won the sum of £28,000, and not counting the Two Thousand Guineas, has engagements amounting to \$25,000 before the next Derby, for which he is the favorite.

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frew, 5:10 p.m.; Pembroke, 7:58 p.m. No. 1 Mixed leaves Kingston 7:30 a.m.; arrives at Sharbot Lake 10:00 a.m., and Renfrew 2:45 No. 5 Mixed leaves Kingston at 4.15 p.m.

arrives, at Sharbot Lake at 7:10 p.m., Thurs No. 7 Express leaves Kingston at 11:45 p.m., connecting with C.P.R. Night Express Train at Sharbot Lake for all points ast and west. Arrives Ottawa, 5:25 a.m.; Montreal, 8:00 a.m.; Quebec, 2:30 p.m.; Toronto, 7:28 a.m. The only through train service to the North-West and British Columbia, with only one change of cars.

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For rates and general information apply to Agent Grand Trunk Railway, corner Johnson

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