

# EVENTS IN THE METROPOLIS

## THE FRENCH OPERA COMPANY.

DISSATISFIED SINGERS PREVENT A PERFORMANCE LAST EVENING.

A goodly number of people assembled in the Academy of Music last evening, expecting to hear a performance of Verdi's "Aïda" by the de Beauplan Company. After considerable delay an apologetic gentleman announced that, owing to an unfortunate combination of circumstances over which no one had any control, the opera would not be performed, and such members of the audience as had invested any money in tickets were reimbursed at the box office. This operation was, however, of brief duration, though every one was repaid. The audience quickly dispersed, and the question among a throng of persons on Fourteenth-street was, "What is the trouble?" At the stage entrance it was freely stated that the orchestra and chorus refused to give their services till their arrears of salary were paid, and would not receive the promises of the manager in lieu of pay. A representative of THE TIMES succeeded in finding M. de Beauplan at his hotel, and learned from him that the failure to give the opera was due to the defection of Mlle. Delprato, M. Utto, and M. Jourdan. He said that these three principal artists, to whom he was indebted for a month's salary, had violated their contracts with him, and having refused to sing were liable in damages, which he intended to collect. Neither of the three had appeared at the theatre, and it was impossible to substitute another opera at such short notice. M. de Beauplan further stated that he had spent his present supply of cash in paying the orchestra and chorus and subalterns, their needs being more pressing than those of the leading members of the company, and that he thought it was no hardship for his principal artists to wait till the response was received to his telegram to Paris for money to satisfy their demands. He further stated that notwithstanding this unfortunate contretemps, he did not anticipate a failure to carry out his engagements for the season, that he was expecting a remittance from Paris in time to satisfy his rebellious artists, and to give the performances announced for the afternoon and evening.

Mr. Ferry, the Treasurer, said the house was one of the largest he had seen this season. Not only were the boxes and dress circle well filled, but "there was at least \$100 in the family circle." The orchestra was, he said, in its place, and most of the members of the company were dressed in readiness for their parts, when Messrs. Utto and Jourdan sent word that they would not appear. In other words, they "struck" for their salaries. M. de Beauplan attempted to reason with them, but they would listen to no argument which was not accompanied by money. Finally, M. de Beauplan told them he would pay them their salaries, but they then said: "Oh, we are sick, and do not want to play to-night." It was then past 8 o'clock, and the opera should have been begun at 7:30. There was therefore no alternative but to send the audience home and put out the lights. Mr. Armand, at the request of M. de Beauplan, then stepped to the footlights and informed the audience that owing to the sudden illness of two of the members of the company the opera could not be presented, and that they might exchange their checks for money at the box-office or retain them and they would be recognized at either performance to-day. As many of the persons in the gallery had been admitted on "bill board" passes a good deal of money was unavoidably paid out to persons who were not entitled to it.

M. Tagliapietra said that the company had been playing to bad business for some time previous to its arrival in this City. In New-Orleans the theatre was crowded every night and everybody was happy. The salaries of the members of the company were regularly paid, and M. de Beauplan entertained them with a ball and supper before their departure. After the company left Cincinnati the audiences were not so large and business was poor. Even in Brooklyn the company did not receive the support which it expected, and the salaries began to run behind. There are 154 persons on the salary-list he said, and it was no easy matter to find ready money for them promptly. Most of the members, however, had undoubted confidence in the honor of M. de Beauplan, and they trusted to his promises to make good all deficiencies in their salaries from the receipts in this City.

A gentleman connected with the company said to a TIMES reporter that there was absolutely no truth whatever in the stories current reflecting upon the financial status of the company. "The truth and the whole truth is that these two pesky Frenchmen—Jourdan and Utto—are cranky and have taken this opportunity to display consequential airs. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon they sent a note to de Beauplan complaining of indisposition, stating that they feared they would be unable to appear at the Academy in the evening. De Beauplan answered the note in person, and they promised him to be in readiness to take their parts. Nothing further was heard from them till 8 o'clock, when the house was rapidly filling up. They then sent a cool announcement to the effect that they did not feel well and could not appear. Nothing was even intimated as to unpaid salaries."

"But is it not true that the salaries of the singers are in arrears?" asked the reporter. "Yes, something is due."

"How much?"

"Well, that would be difficult to state," was the reply, which M. de Beauplan, standing near, interrupted by saying that \$1,000 was due to M. Utto and \$1,000 to M. Jourdan.

"Les Huguenots" is advertised for the matinee to-day and "L'Africaine" for the evening.