

**DRAMA.**

**NOVELTY THEATRE.**

FOR *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, as for *East Lynne*, there is always a public; so it is easy enough to understand the welcome given to that favourite revival at the Novelty, where it has been presented this week in very creditable fashion by the spirited management of that snug little theatre. The pathos of the lives of Eva and Uncle Tom, and the thrilling sensation of the escape of Kliza, neither of them needs any fresh description: they are familiar to all, and highly appreciated by a large majority of playgoers. Considering the limited size of the stage at the Novelty, the scenic effects accomplished are really quite remarkable, while the company got together for the rendering of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's famous characters is thoroughly up to its work. Prominent among its members is of course Miss V. St. Lawrence to whose enterprise the revival is due. Miss St. Lawrence, always earnest in whatever she undertakes, makes a capital Eliza Harris, and she has the support of a touching Eva in Miss Ethel Raynor, who quite understands the emotional requirements alike of her part and of her audience. The Uncle Tom of the cast is Mr. Bernard Copping, and it is a good straightforward piece of acting. Indeed the whole representation of the ingenious melodrama of slave-life adds to its robust vigour the invaluable quality of perfect sincerity.

MISS OLGA NETHERSOLE has, if telegraphic report be true, accepted a metropolitan engagement for next July, when she is to be married in London to a Dr. Stewart Oliver.

THERE is said to be some probability that *Pilgrim's Progress* will shortly be resumed, this time at the Opera Comique. It is evident that some one must have a great deal of faith in this production.

A NEW musical farce is, we hear, being written by those very popular collaborators, Messrs. Sims and Shirley.



ACT I.—PATTY ENFORCES RESPECT FOR THE NAME OF NELSON.

her bicycle in most workmanlike fashion for her afternoon's work. What, we wonder, would leading ladies of an older school than Miss Annie Hughes have thought of this unconventional but very healthy and sensible method of reaching the stage door?

Two doctors and a clergyman figure among the *dramatis personæ* of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's new Criterion piece, which is described as "a play of modern life." One of the doctors is, of course, to be impersonated by Mr. Charles Wyndham in the name-part as Dr. Lewin Carey; the parson is the Rev. Peregrine Hinde embodied by Mr. Alfred Bishop. Miss Mary Moore appears as the heroine, Edina Hinde, and Mr. T. B. Thalberg as the younger hero, Walter Amphiel. A very welcome feature of the cast is the appearance in it of Miss Marion Terry, who has been much too long absent from the stage. Miss Terry's rôle, which she is sure to render charming, is that of Lady Valerie Camville. The production is fixed for Thursday next.

THE popular American drama, *The Country Fair*, which was to have been introduced in this country at Nottingham, will now be first seen in London, or, rather, in one of its southern suburbs, as Mr. J. R. Rogers has arranged with Mr. Rider Noble for its production at Brixton on April 12th. The special attraction of this piece is a spectacular one, and consists of the illustration of a horse-race in what is claimed to be a novel and most realistic manner.

M. MAYER has good reason for anticipating a brilliant success for his next series of French plays, which begins at the Adelphi on June 21st. The company coming over in support of Madame Sarah Bernhardt is an exceptionally strong one, and the performances lead off with an exceptionally interesting novelty in the *Lorenzaccio* of Alfred de Musset. This has been a great popular and artistic triumph in Paris, and it should easily fill the Adelphi for a fortnight. The third week will be divided between the much less successful *Spiritisme* of M.



ACT II.—MABEL PLEADS FOR HARRY.

NEXT Saturday, the 27th inst., will see the end of *The Gay Parisienne's* run at the Duke of York's—the first long run yet accomplished at this theatre. As to the net result of this eminently prosperous career, there are, of course, the differences of opinion customary wherever the operations of syndicates are concerned. But it is certain that plenty of money must have been made out of the very popular production; and no one save those personally concerned need care very much into whose pocket the profit has gone. The next piece here is promised shortly before Easter. It will be a musical farce of American origin, called *Lost, Strayed, or Stolen*, with a cast not yet definitely arranged.

*Sweet Nancy* continues to do so well at the Court, both with its evening and its afternoon performances—two of which latter are given every week—that Mr. Chudleigh means to let well alone and hold over his contemplated change of programme. It is, however, very likely that a series of *matinées* here may be devoted in the course of the season to the reappearance of Mrs. John Wood in a new farcical comedy written specially for her by her son-in-law, Mr. Ralph Lumley.



ACT III.—PATIY'S FLIRTATION WITH TRIPP STOPPED.  
"THE MARINERS OF ENGLAND" AT THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

EARLY arrivals, by the way, at the pit door of the Court are interested to see the representative of *Sweet Nancy* ride up on

direction of Mr. F. R. Benson, who will thus be in charge of them for the ninth year in succession.

Sardou and *La Tosca*, while the fourth will be occupied by *L'Etrangère* and the ever favourite *Dame aux Camélias*, the latter dressed in the mode of the period at which it was written.

*Black Ey'd Susan* is not, it seems, to run on at the Adelphi until the commencement of this French season, but it is to be replaced for a month or so, beginning about the middle of May, with *The Secret Service*, an American melodrama by Mr. Gillette dealing with the apparently inexhaustible subject of the Civil War. In this the playwright impersonates his own hero, a Northern officer, who makes love to the daughter of a Confederate General in order that he may gain information of the enemy's plans, and who carries out his unworthy strategy only too thoroughly for his own peace of mind.

SHAKESPEARE'S birthday will as usual be kept with fitting dramatic celebration at Stratford-on-Avon this year. The performances, Shakespearean ones of course, will once more be under the sympathetic and competent