



AMUSEMENTS

The coming of the Tavary Grand English Opera company to this city, December 8, is awaited with no little interest. Madame Tavary has attained the height of artistic fame, and the success with which she has appeared in the most difficult roles has made her one of the most famous singers of the day. The organization supporting Madame Tavary

is most notable, and besides many of the more prominent singers, includes a brilliant chorus and orchestra. The list of artists in support of Madame Tavary include Emma Mariani, Henrietta Dreyer and Sophie Romani, sopranos; Madame Thea Dorre, mezzo soprano; Helen Von Doenhoff and Dora Scott, contraltos; A. L. Guille, Payne Clarke and William Warren, tenors; Wm. Mertens, F. L. Hill and S. Dudley, baritones; Wm. Hamilton, basso, and Wm. Shuster, basso cantanta the director of the orchestra being Sig Emerico Morreale. These are but a few of the names that go to make up the Tavary Grand English Opera company, and since it is the only one that will be heard here this season, a most brilliant engagement is assured, to be presented at the Lansing next Saturday evening.

* *

Hoyt's "A Bunch of Keys" at the Lansing tonight.

* *

The first act of "The Gilded Fool," to be presented at the Funke, Monday night, opens in the house of Chauncy Short, the "Gilded Fool," impersonated by Mr. Goodwin. Chauncy, who has become suddenly very rich through the death of an uncle, is getting rid of his money as fast as possible. He is in love with Margaret Ruthven, the daughter of a banker and broker, who is repelling his advances on account of the fast life he is leading. This is the condition of affairs when the curtain rises, disclosing Short's bachelor apartments. It is noon and the "gilded fool" has not risen yet, though he is to give a breakfast at one. He appears from his bedroom, showing every evidence of the revelry of the night before, and makes his toilet slowly while the act proceeds. The Rev. Jacob Howell appears to him with a letter from an old friend, Algy Somers. The minister is really a Scotland Yard detective in disguise, who has come to America to hunt down the man who, as the partner of Somers' father, ruined him and fled to New York with his money. Miss Ruthven appears with her father, mother, Jessica Rood, an old maid with reverence to the antique, and Nell Ruthven, a cousin of Margaret. The latter gives Chauncy to understand very plainly that so long as he lives his present life of idleness he cannot hope to win her love. Bynnister Strange, a partner of Ruthven,

whose speculations have placed the firm on the verge of bankruptcy, now appears as the friend of Short, and suggests that he may become a member of the firm of Ruthven, redeem himself in the eyes of Margaret, and eventually win her for his wife. This places the young man on the summit of hope, and the curtain falls on a picture of himself and his guests, seating themselves at the breakfast table. From this point the plot is developed rapidly. Strange has abused his partner's confidence by using securities deposited with the bank, to cover his margins, and there are signs of coming collapse. He must get Short's money to save himself and firm, and without Mr. Ruthven's knowledge, he offers the young man a full partnership. Short gives him checks for all his ready money, and is happy in the knowledge that he is at last "a man of business" and on the high road to success in love. Meanwhile, an examination of the books of the firm has revealed to Ruthven his partner's duplicity. Margaret overhears a conversation between Strange and Short, Short's love for her is to be made the means

of ruining him, and to save him she tells him that he must give up all hope of winning her love, and warns him not to enter the firm with any hope of doing so. In the midst of his astonishment, Jack Duval, the lover of Nell, and confidential clerk of Ruthven, tells him that the firm is bankrupt; he is dazed for a moment, but with a determination to hunt down Strange, he signs his partnership papers, and starts on his career of business, as partner in a bankrupt firm. Then comes the panic. The house of Ruthven & Co. is forced to close, but it turns out that the "Gilded Fool" has not been idle. He has "coppered" the "tip" of Strange, and for every share of the disastrous stock sold by the firm he has bought two, and is decidedly "in it." As a "Co" he is bankrupt; as an individual he has more money than ever. More than this, he has discovered through the detective that Strange is the man who ruined his friend's father and fled to America. A little justice is now dealt out all round. Short allows Strange the money he originally invested, on condition that he repay Algy Somers what he stole from his father, and to this the



"A GILDED FOOL."

humiliated scoundrel agrees. The house of Ruthven & Co. resumes at once, and, of course, "The Gilded Fool" has his reward in the winning of Margaret. A pretty little love story of which Nell and Jack are the subjects, run through the play. Every character is strong and well defined.

* *

"A Summer Blizzard" will be presented at the Lansing, Tuesday, December 4th. An exchange says of the play: "The cast is an exceptionally clever and able one, comprising artists specially selected for the parts assigned to them." Mr. Hagan, the manager, has learned by experience that clever comedians and pretty women are important factors in making the popularity of a production of this character. His principals are all good, and the balance of the company is composed of pretty women and capable performers such as Nellie Rosebud, Beatrice Goldie, Charles Burke, Barney Reynolds, Clayton E. White, Jimmie Carroll, William H. Murphy, Harry Putnam, Leonard Somers, Fred Reynolds, Nichols Sisters, Blanche Nichols, Ida Moreland, and others.