

A PASSION PLAYS END.

THE FAMOUS EXHIBITION GIVEN DECENNIALY AT OBERAMMERGAU.

Prohibited by Government Orders After the Present Season's Close—Avarice Gets the Better of Simplicity and Causes Disaster—Actors and Theatre.

In 1833, because of the plague, eighteen burghers assembling from the village of Oberammergau vowed that once in ten years they would present by living pictures the passion of Jesus Christ; and not only were they all healed which were afflicted, but they begged God to bless these his servants who had thus lovingly exposed the passion of his blessed Christ.



THE OBERAMMERGAU THEATRE.

Thus quaintly runs the old chronicle, telling in brief and barren phrase the story of a deadly epidemic, and the appeal to heaven when all earthly power had failed to stay its ravages. Perhaps the plague had exhausted its powers, or perhaps, to adopt the view of the peasants, the Deity was pleased to avert the death angel's wrath because of humble supplication and trust in supernatural mercy.

Early in the century the tide of tourists set on each summer of the drama's recurrence toward Oberammergau, and in a sense the result has been disastrous. The simple methods and abiding faith of the peasant actors are gone, and with them their hearty hospitality.



JOSEPH MAYER AS CHRIST.

what they were about, for they had grown less simple and more worldly wise. Ten years ago curiosity seekers trooped into the debt laden town and made of the speculation an enormous success. They bought wood carvings, paid handsomely for board and lodging, and disbursed largely for admissions to the theatre.

Naturally, for man is weak, prosperity made the villagers avaricious and turned the Bavarian Arcadia into a mart for money making. In 1888 the principal characters for the production of the summer of 1890 were selected. The era of harmony had gone by and a great quarrel attended the construction of the cast.



THOMAS HENDL AS PILATE.

As stated before, those who enact the chief roles are given their parts two years in advance. This is done that they may have time to grow hair and whiskers appropriate to the characters they are to represent, for anything in the way of wigs or facial make up is not allowed.

Christ (chosen for the third time). Joseph Mayer John... Peter Bendl Peter... Jacob Hett Mary (first time)... Rosa Lang Magdalene... Amalie Deschler

Martha... Helen Lang Joseph of Arimathea (first time) Martin Oppenrieder Franz Steinbacher Nicodemus... the Burgomaster Lang Anas (first time)... Franz Rutz, Sr. Nathaniel (second time)... Sebastian Lang Rabbi Archelaus (first time)... Sebastian Bauer Judas... John Zwilly Pilate (second time)... Thomas Hendl Herod (first time)... John Biemes Prologues... Jacob Rutz

All will dress in symbolical attire. The colors of some of the costumes are: Christ's, crimson and purple; St. John's, green and red; St. Peter's, blue and yellow; Judas', orange and yellow; Mary's, crimson and blue. The play is divided into eighteen parts or acts, all preceded by tableaux from the Old Testament.

The number of persons connected with the production exceeds 800, all of whom are natives of Oberammergau. No outsider is allowed to take part, and married women are also excluded.

Every morning before the curtain goes up the players bend their way to church in a body and receive the sacrament as a preparation to the theatrical labors of the day. It is expected that throughout the summer there will be constantly present in the village 5,000 visitors, and arrangements have been made to feed and lodge that number.

An old saying is to the effect that familiarity breeds contempt. A writer who visited Oberammergau in 1880 brought back proof of the truth of the proverb.

Vicar General Keegan's Death. The Catholic church of New York and of the United States has recently sustained a great loss by the death of the Very Rev. William Keegan, vicar general of the diocese of Brooklyn and pastor of the Church of the Assumption.

He was not only very efficient as a priest and greatly beloved as a man, but was noted for his executive ability, and was always sought when some unusual difficulty presented itself in the organization of a local church or society.

He seemed to be gifted with one of those happily constituted intellects which at first glance perceive the weak points in any organization, and his judgment had so often proved correct that his advice in such cases was accepted as the best possible.

He was born April 22, 1824, in Kings county, Ireland, and went to Brooklyn with his parents in 1842. He soon entered St. John's college, New York, and VICAR GENERAL KEEGAN, was graduated therefrom in 1833.

Does heroism pay? Nearly always in the sense of honor deserved, very often in the sense of honor received, but rarely in the direction of practical recognition. Capt. Abraham Smith, who died recently in a New Orleans hospital, had few friends besides his devoted wife and adopted son.

Fixing Pettitious Values in China. In China an attempt is made to secure steadiness and uniformity in the prices of commodities by the appointment of a class of public arbitrators and appraisers known as "Ching Chi," who declare the just and proper value of all things that come into the markets for sale.

A PRETTY COUNTRY HOUSE.

A Comfortable and Convenient House at Low Cost.

This is, undoubtedly, the most economical arrangement of rooms that can be devised for a small dwelling. It is so planned that the entrance hall, parlor, dining room and kitchen are grouped in such a manner that one chimney is sufficient for the whole house.



FRONT ELEVATION.

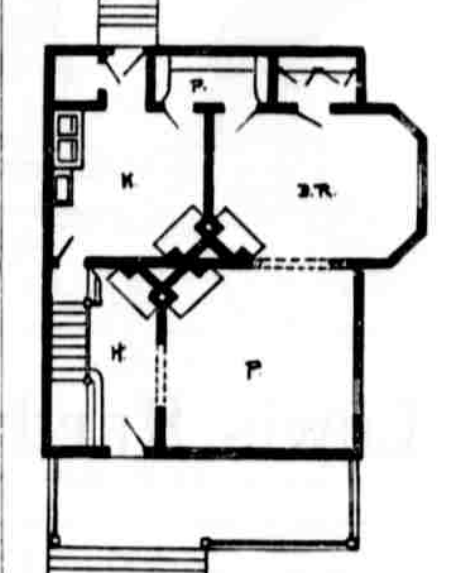
The kitchen is at the rear of the house adjoining the dining room. The passage from the kitchen to the dining room is through the pantry, which is placed in the extension at the rear of both, with suitable china closet and storeroom conveniently placed.

In the second story are three good sized chambers, with closets for each, a bath room and one small bedroom, which can be used as a dressing room for the front chamber if desired.



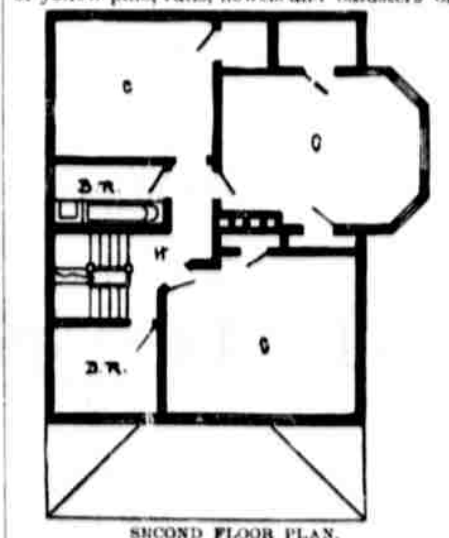
SIDE ELEVATION.

bed slate hearth for kitchen; glazed tile hearth for hall, parlor and dining room; tile facings for grates in parlor and dining room. The side walls and ceilings throughout are hard finished on one coat of brown mortar and seasoned lath, with neat center pieces in the ceilings of main rooms.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

Attic floor of spruce. Second story floor of white pine. First floor of yellow pine. All 1 1/2 inches thick, tongued and grooved and blind milled. Veranda floor 1 1/2 inches thick.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

oak, filled and varnished with three coats, rubbed smooth. Mantels to correspond with finish of rooms.

ODDS AND ENDS.

The colony of Victoria, Australia, with 1,110,000 inhabitants, is said to muster 150 religious sects.

There has been little progress in cooking utensils in 2,000 years. Implements like those still in use are to be found in Pompeian ruins.

A cat in Santa Cruz, Cal., has become so expert in climbing up the door and raising the latch to get in that the carrying of a big rat does not now interfere with her performing the feat.

At the sale of the Marquis collection, at the Hotel Drouot, Paris, \$9,500 was paid for a superbly decorated Louis XVI clock, and a Louis XIV chandelier fetched \$4,000.

A fox driven by the hounds in a recent hunt upon the estate of Lord Granville, at Walmer castle, bolted right before Lord Granville's eyes through the hall of the castle into the drawing room, with the hounds in full cry after him.

A curious fact is that of the seventeen clerks in the senate of the new state of Washington a majority (nine) are women, and there is but one who carries "Mrs." before her name.

In the recent sale of old books and manuscripts in New York a letter written by Christopher Columbus sold for \$2,000.

The rates of transporting heavy freight, merchandise and the like have changed. Less than a half century ago the railroads of Great Britain made a very careful estimate, and it cost just a penny a ton per mile for carrying coal.

A gentleman at Poona, India, recently received a letter that had been posted at a station twenty miles away two years and four months before, accompanied by the explanation from the postal authorities that the delay was owing to the fact that it "had been posted by the wrong train."

The present standing army of Great Britain may be said to date from the reign of King Charles II, although some few of the oldest regiments claim, and with justice, to date back to the previous century.

No place in the country carries a finer or larger line of American and imported cheese than O. J. King, 1137 O street. The stock comprises the following goods: Roquefort, Sapsago, Old English Dairy, Pine-Apple, Edam, Swiss, both imported and domestic, Fromage de Brie, Fromage de Camembert, Chautauqua county (N. Y.) Full Cream cheese and others.

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