

MUSIC AND DRAMA,

On her arrival back in England Albani is to do a tour of the provinces with a company, which includes Miss Clara Butt, Miss Ada Crossley, Johann Wolfe, Foll, and Edward Lloyd.

The "Australasian" says that the brothers Hulme at the Melbourne Opera House give, under the pretence of clowning, a performance on musical bells hitherto unequalled in Australia.

Violet Elliot, the popular mezzo-soprano, who has just finished a season with Tommy Hudson, is back in Melbourne, and has been singing at concerts, and is to go on at the Opera House.

Lady Halle has retired from the concert platform. Her final appearance took place at St. James's Hall (London) Popular Concerts, on Saturday, 19th February, when her parting solo was Handel's Sonata in D.

Ethel Kendal, daughter of the famous actress, has left her home and gone on the Vaudeville stage. The step was opposed by her parents, but being as wilful as her mother she heeded not parental advice. It is said that she has a fine voice and good stage presence.

A benefit is shortly to be given in Sydney to Lachlan M'Gowen, who has been very dangerously ill. Wilson Barrett and his company, the Cartwright Comedy Company, Bland Holt's combination, and a detachment from the Tivoli are going to help to make the affair a success.

According to Dr. Doran, the Vicomte Clairval de Passy, a French nobleman, fell in love with "Fleury's beautiful sister," and laid aside his nobility to become an actor with her, and as the M. and Mme. Sainville of French dramatic history have gone down to posterity the real Vicomte and Vicomtesse Clairval.

Mark Hambourg, on 22nd February, gave a pianoforte recital in St. James's Hall, London. His manipulation in such selections as the last movement of Beethoven's Sonata in F minor, op. 57; Chopin's Scherzo in B minor; and two of the Etudes of the second set is described in the "Athenaeum" as "brilliant and powerful."

Arthur Roberts has been telling a good story against himself. It appears that one day he had to get up exceptionally early to attend to some important business, and he found himself, on the morning in question, in the streets, fully dressed and conscious of virtue, at half-past 8; but all the pride was taken from him by the local policeman greeting him with a cheery "Good night, Mr. Roberts."

The revolver is the latest addition to the family of orchestral instruments. Souza is responsible for the innovation. His famous band recently played at Manhattan Beach. In the "Chasse du Lion," it is reported that the staccato notes of the revolver obligato formed an effective contrast to the sustained roars (on the bassoon) of the noble beast. It is added that the revolver was played with great

soon) of the noble beast. It is added that the revolver was played with great feeling by a gentleman situated near the bass drum.

Maria Guerrero, who is to play in Paris at Sarah Bernhardt's invitation, is the best known actress in Spain, and was first seen by Bernhardt several years ago in that country. Senora Guerrero will be seen in dramas by Lope de Vega, Moreto, and Echegaray. Her husband, the Marquis de Fontana, performs with her. His first wife was the daughter of Marshal Serrano, at one time dictator of Spain. After her death he became an actor and gained success almost immediately.

In a Good Friday concert in Melbourne, at the Exhibition Building, Elsie Hall and Ernest Toy played, and of the Queenslanders the "Australasian" says:—"Miss Elsie Hall, who perhaps felt a little uncomfortable in so large a hall, was scarcely heard at her best at the pianoforte with Beethoven's 'Moonlight' sonata, but she excelled in her interpretation of 'Lieder ohne Worte'—including the spinning song—by Mendelssohn. The violin playing of Mr. Ernest Toy made a favourable impression."

M. Melba, whose visit to Australia is likely to be indefinitely postponed, has been electrifying American audiences in operatic performances. Her appearance in Verdi's "Aida" at the academy in Philadelphia called forth very eulogistic Press notices. Says the Philadelphia "Bulletin":—"The audience was profoundly affected by her singing, and called her again and again after every act, standing and cheering when the curtain had fallen on the final scene, while the goddess threw kisses to her worshippers."

Some years ago Edward E. Rice was presented to Von Bulow at a club dinner in Boston. It was just about the time that all Europe was talking of Mme. von Bulow's flirtation with Verdi, who had taught the pianist almost all he ever knew about music. "I want you to become acquainted with Mr. Rice," said a friend; "he doesn't know anything about music, but he has composed several operas." "Delighted, I am sure," murmured the great pianist with a sarcastic smile; "he reminds me of a man I know at home; his name is Verdi."

A few weeks ago (says the London correspondent of the "New York Herald") the "Daily Chronicle" published a stirring editorial on the organised effort of scores of disreputable lawyers who exist by bringing suits for libel against reputable newspapers, usually on the slenderest grounds and often in the hope that the cases will be settled out of court. Since then the "Daily News" has been sued by a man for printing a condensed account of the proceedings against him for breach of promise of marriage. Lord Chief Justice Russell scored the present state of things roundly. "Really, really," he said, "the more one sees of these libel actions the more indignant one becomes. I cannot avoid expressing myself in terms of the

more indignant one becomes. I cannot avoid expressing myself in regard to the presentation of these frivolous actions. Counsel insisted on a decision by the jury, whereupon Lord Russell said they would make themselves ridiculous if they found for the plaintiff. Of course justice was done. In commenting on the case the "Daily News" goes on to say that very often these suits are brought by irresponsible persons without the means to pay the costs, and instances a notable one recently where, when the libel suit was against a company promoter, who brought it, he went into immediate bankruptcy. He was worth nothing, not even a character. He sued in the hope that his misdeeds might not be proved and that he might make a little money. I mention all this because, in this respect at least, the Atlantic Ocean does not divide continents. I have some shares, and so on, but I am not a speculator.