

tion on the side of the pupils. The public, too, had reasons to feel thankful for the very excellent programme submitted, which will not be readily forgotten by those present.

## PROGRAMME.

Solo (2 pianos), "Maggie's Secret," Misses Boylan and O'Brien; glee, "Come, my Friends," young ladies of senior class; prologue, delivered by Miss Back.

*Lilia: or, The Test.* A drama in two Acts. *Dramatis personæ*—Madame de St. Elme, a rich widow, Miss E. Holley; Lilia, her adopted daughter, Miss Moir; Margaret, Lilia's mother, Miss O'Brien; Virginia, Delphina and Lucy, young ladies of the village, Miss Moynihan, Miss Howard and Miss Burke; Lisetta and Marietta, little villagers, Miss Webb and Miss K. Conley; Miss Josephine, a friend of Madame de St. Elme, Miss A. Funston; Mrs. Rogers, a housekeeper, Miss Hoban; Annette, a waiting maid, Miss Doherty. Act I.—Solo (2 pianos), "Home, Sweet Home, *Kuhé*, Misses Boylan and O'Brien; song, "Evangeline," the Misses Funston; solo (piano), "The Clyde," Miss Geoghagan. Act II.—Song, "She wore a Wreath of Roses," young ladies of senior class; duet (2 pianos), "The Fairy Queen," Misses Geoghagan, Moynihan, Dickson and O'Brien; solo, vocal, "Shells of the Ocean," Miss Burke.

*Scène Dramatique. Aventures du Voyage du Comte de Rivière.* Le Comte de Rivière, Miss E. Holley; Madame Thomas, maîtresse d'hôtel, Miss Moynihan; Monsieur Hachis, cuisinier, Miss O'Brien.

*The Reverse of the Medal.* A Drama in four Acts. *Dramatis personæ*—Countess de Palpuis, Miss E. Holley; Isabelle, her daughter, Miss Conley; Madame Morville, governess to Isabelle, Miss O'Reilly; Philippa, maid to the Countess, Miss Comer; Ellen, housemaid, Miss Kennedy; Mother Alarum, farmer's wife, Miss E. Harrison; Jane, her little shepherdess, Miss O'Neil. Act I.—Solo (piano), "Thy Voice is Near," Miss Geoghagan; solo (vocal), "The Bridge," Miss O'Neil; duet (piano), "Lucretia Borgia," Misses Geoghagan and O'Brien. Act II.—Duet (vocal), "Come, let us Away to the Fields," Misses Burke and Margaret Funston; solo (piano), "A Military Expedition," Miss Boylan. Act III.—Song (comic), "'Tis better to Laugh than to Cry," Miss O'Brien; solo (2 pianos), "Fairy Whispers," Miss Moynihan and Cronin. Act IV.—Solo (2 pianos) "Victoria," *Kuhé*, Misses Boylan and O'Brien; hymn, "God Bless our Pope," by all the young ladies.

## A RAILROAD ON VESUVIUS.

THE special Rome correspondent of *The Pilot* writes:—At last, after many years' expectation, the traveller in Italy, who feels it a part of his duty to ascend Vesuvius, will find the task one that may be accomplished with comparative ease. A railway is being built which will take him from the foot of the grand cone to within a few yards of the edge of the crater. This edge varies from time to time, according to the activity of eruption in the mountain. Sometimes large portions of it drop into the crater, and at other times it is increased in height by the matter sent out by Vesuvius. It is prudent, therefore, not to have the terminus of the railway too close to this edge.

When this rope-railroad is finished, the excursion from Naples to the summit of the cone, and the return to that city, will occupy only half a day instead of a whole day, as at present. This will include plenty of time for dinner at an excellent restaurant which the railroad company will establish here. The traveller will be free to descend the mountain when he pleases, and sufficient time will be given him to examine its formation and its peculiarities thoroughly. At the edge of the crater he may place himself in the hands of guides for exploration and investigation.

The inauguration of this railroad is expected to take place at the end of November, and henceforward the journey to the summit of this celebrated volcano, which was previously long, expensive, and wearisome, will now become rapid, cheap, and agreeable. From the Observatory, low down on the hill, to the foot of the cone, is about two miles. A good road leads to the latter spot accessible to carriages, or other modes of conveyance. The railroad from here, where a station is in process of construction, leading to the edge of the crater, ascends on an inclined plane for a distance of 975 yards. The civil engineer, guided by the advice of the celebrated Professor Palmieri, who may be called the Old Man of the Mountain, so familiar is he with Vesuvius, has chosen a path which will be comparatively sheltered from the invasion of lava-floods. The vertical elevation is 466 yards above the level of the station, which is itself 866 yards above the level of the sea. The average incline of this Vesuvian railway is 56 per 100; the *maximum* incline being 63 per 100.

The builder of this railroad met with great difficulties, which required considerable ingenuity to overcome. They arose chiefly from the steepness of the ascent, and from the movable character of the soil, formed of *lapille*, or small pumice stones, which yield under the feet like tiny cinders and give way under the slightest pressure. The system chosen, therefore, has been to lay down on the lava beneath a continuous, fixed, and solid planking on which the rails are to be placed. The wheels of the cars are constructed in such a way that they cannot leave the rails, and these cars will be drawn up by two wire ropes worked by an engine at the foot of the cone. The ascent will be made in seven minutes.

Mr. Thomas C. Scott, the well-known agricultural authority, writes to the *Times* as follows:—"The government and trade estimates show that the surplus wheat in America, Russia and in the East is 505,000 quarters less than the aggregate deficiency of the various countries, and a rise in the price of breadstuffs is therefore anticipated. In the Kieff districts of Russia, which are generally fertile the price of wheat and rye per pound (about thirty pounds weight), which was 80 and 50 copecks respectively in 1878, is now 125 and 75 copecks respectively."

## THE DEATH IN A MATTERHORN HUT.

THE *Times* Geneva Correspondent writes under date September 21:—"On August 21 you printed a letter of mine under the heading 'Alpine Accidents,' in which mention was made of the death of the guide Brantschen in a hut on the Matterhorn, and in *The Times* of the 23rd a fuller account and a different version of the same occurrence were given in a communication from an 'English Alpine Clubman,' purporting to be based on the testimony of an eye-witness. This account, it will be remembered, was to the effect that on August 12th two members of the Swiss Alpine Club left Breuil with two guides and a porter to sleep in the hut on the Matterhorn, with the intention of crossing the mountain and descending to Zermatt the next day. On the way up one of the guides, Brantschen, felt sick, and though he managed to reach the hut, he became so much worse during the night that in the morning it was quite impossible for him to move. But, so runs the account, the Swiss Clubmen had resolved not to be balked of their expedition, and, notwithstanding the pitiful entreaties of the poor guide, who felt his end approaching, they left him to his fate, and when next day two guides, who had been sent from Zermatt, arrived at the hut, they found their former comrade 'stretched across the floor, his hands clinched as if in a wild effort to reach the door and admit the air, stone dead.' This story, reflecting, as it did, so severely on the humanity of two members of the Swiss Alpine Club, whose names, though not mentioned, were perfectly well known, naturally attracted the attention of that body, and the committee of the Basle section of the club, to which the two gentlemen in question belong, were requested to call upon them for an explanation of the conduct imputed to them and prepare a report on the matter. This report, which has just been published, substantially confirms the version of the occurrence given in my letter of August 21 and differs very materially from that of your correspondent, an 'English Alpine Clubman.' Brantschen, it seems, suffered from a serious internal complaint of which the Swiss Alpine Clubmen, one of whom is Professor Schiess, when they engaged him, knew nothing whatever. When the party arrived on the summit of the Matterhorn the poor fellow became alarmingly ill, but he succeeded with the help of the others in reaching the hut, and next morning he appeared and declared himself much better. At the same time he did not feel that he was sufficiently recovered to undertake the descent to Zermatt. The others left him in fair spirits, amply supplied with food and quite contented with their assurance that they would send help from Zermatt as soon as they arrived there. He made no request that any one should stay with him, and the only man that he would have cared to detain, the second guide, his friend and neighbour, could not be spared, for without his aid the two Clubmen might not have succeeded in reaching Zermatt at all. The mountain was descended with all speed, and not a moment was lost in despatching the two guides, who were, however, unfortunately too late to be of any use. But the ghastly picture of Brantschen struggling to reach the door and perishing miserably in the vain attempt to get a breath of fresh air has no foundation in fact. Brantschen, as appears from the medical report, was affected with heart disease, the cause of his death being paralysis of that organ and of the lungs. It may have occurred shortly after his companion and the tourists left the hut, and in any case must have been equally sudden and painless. It would, therefore, appear that Herr Schiess and his friend have nothing to reproach themselves with, and it is difficult to see how, in the circumstances, they could have acted otherwise than they did. The event, nevertheless, teaches an important lesson, and future Alpine climbers would do well before attempting any important ascent to make special inquiries as to the physical condition of all their companions, for a guide with chronic heart disease may not only die as poor Brantschen died, but might easily, by succumbing to his malady at a critical moment, endanger the lives of an entire party."

The municipal council of Berlin recommends the universal adoption of cremation.

There seem to be two currents at work in the German political world—the social current, which is friendly to Russia, and under the influence of which the aged Kaiser visits the Czar; and the political current, which many believe Bismark to have originated, and which points to the existence of an hostility too deep and bitter to be checked by Royal interviews.

The *Bulgarische Correspondenz* gives some interesting statistics as to the progress of the Bulgarian newspaper Press since the enfranchisement of the principality. The *Derzhavi Vjestnik*, an exclusively Government paper, appears once a week at Sofia. The *Vitosha*, so called from the name of the mountain which looks down on the city of Sofia, and which is frequently alluded to in the popular songs of Bulgaria, is a bi-weekly, Conservative in tendency, and has a circulation of about 2,000 copies. The *Islokupna Belgariya* (*United Bulgaria*), edited by Peter Slaveikov, a poet and the Nestor of Bulgarian journalists, is the organ of the so-called National party, and numbers 1,600 subscribers. The *Bolgarin* published at Rustchuk, is the most widely circulated of Bulgarian newspapers, and represents the Opposition party. The *Narod* appears twice a week at Sistova. The *Maritza*, also bi-weekly, is published at Philippopolis and is noted for its energetic propaganda of the national idea—the union, namely, of North and South Bulgaria; it has a circulation of 2,500, and is edited by Danof, a veteran champion of Bulgarian liberty. *Bolgarskoe Znamya* is published at Slivno, the *Narodni Glas* at Philippopolis, and the *Slanyanin* at Rustchuk. The *Nakovalnya*, published at Sofia, is edited by Dr. Bogorof, one of the most learned of Bulgarians, and has for its leading object the purification of the Bulgarian language from Turkish, Greek, and other foreign elements, and even from provincialism. Lastly, the *Bulgarische Correspondenz*, published in the German language by the Croat journalist, M. Lukshich, is designed to keep foreigners acquainted with the affairs of the new principality.—*Academy*.