

## BELGIAN RULERS ENJOY SOCIETY'S SMART BENEFIT

**Impressive Testimonial Reflects  
Greatest Credit; Opera Stars  
at Their Best**

By ANGELA.

**I**T is doubtful if the Metropolitan Opera House has ever been the scene of so brilliant and impressive an affair as the testimonial given on Saturday evening for the King and Queen of Belgium.

Although arranged hurriedly nothing was lacking, either in the quality of the performance or, the appointments, to make it one of the outstanding events of the royal visit.

Strains of "La Brabconne," the Belgian national anthem, announced the arrival of the royal pair at the opera house. From the moment of their entry to the improvised royal box in the centre of the house, until the curtain fell on the last number it was one long ovation.

Society, which had arranged the performance, was there in great numbers. The famous "diamond horseshoe" never was more glittering, nor has it ever held so many decorations at one time as adorned the distinguished diplomats, army officers, statesmen and war workers who filled the loges and surrounded the royal guests.

Otto H. Kahn, who escorted the royal party to the opera house and who as treasurer of the fund for Queen Elizabeth's Brussels hospital helped to plan the testimonial, was wearing no less than three decorations—the French Legion of Honor, the Order of the Italian Crown and the Spanish Medal of Carlos the Second.

There was a hush as the royal pair reached their places, then a great demonstration, with three cheers for the King and Queen, then time for just a glimpse of the tall soldierly figure of the King and his consort, tiny in comparison, as she stood beside him; then the lights were dimmed and we were gazing upon the twilight scene of "Forza del Destino" and listening to Ponselle's faultless notes.

The programme was happily chosen. The operatic act was followed by Miss Mabel Garrison, who sang a group of English and

French songs, and the ever-popular "Dixie."

Rachmaninoff was heard in the imperishable music of Chopin, including a famous nocturne; Heifetz, genius among violinists, played selections from French, Russian and Italian composers, and then came the colorful coronation scene from "Boris Godounoff," so appropriate to the occasion, and the finale, with the "Brabaconne," brilliantly sung by Leon Rothier, and "The Star-Spangled Banner," by Margaret Romaine, with the Belgian flag and the Stars and Stripes carried by each singer.

At the end of the performance the King and Queen arose and bowed. The audience applauded and then from the Queen there flashed a smile that was mirrored and multiplied on the faces of those upturned to her.

She wore a robe of iridescent pearls and satin, with a small band of diamonds about her dark hair and over her gown a long blue cloak.

It was the first time that New York had seen the Queen in evening attire, and in spite of her small stature and slenderness, she was regal and stately in it.

Seated at the right of the royal box, which was flower-decked and hung with the folds of the Belgian flag, were the new Ambassador from Belgium to the United States, Baron de Cartier de Marchienne, and his wife, who was the former Mrs. Hamilton Wilks Cary of New York. She wore her tiara, a rope of pearls and many other jewels, and her gown was of soft white satin embellished with rare old laces.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt was in white tulle and satin, with a shoulder cape of tailless ermine, a chain of diamonds about her throat and a small corsage ornament of the same stones. In her party were Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., also in white satin, and the latter's lovely young debutante daughter, Muriel, in a pale pink tulle.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney sat in a box near the royal pair and was in turquoise blue with an overdress of glittering silver and blue sequins. Her daughter Flora was in white, with a silver snood wound about her dark hair and no ornaments.

Mrs. Edward N. Breitung looked regal and lovely in a gown of soft flesh colored panne velvet and satin, with her pearls and an opera cloak of seal with bands of tailless ermine.

Mrs. Arthur Iselin wore her tiara of diamonds.

Miss Maud Kahn was one of the loveliest

of the young women and was in simple white tulle without any jewels.

The decorations of the auditorium were unusually attractive. Ropes of autumn leaves were festooned about the boxes with clusters of pale yellow chrysanthemums, and the Belgian colors were prominently displayed at the right of the proscenium arch with the shield in the centre.

The proceeds of the affair are expected to reach fully \$40,000 and will be turned over to Queen Elizabeth for the institute of medical research which is to be founded in Brussels.

Saturday afternoon the Queen was the guest of honor at a reception, musicale and tea by Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt at her residence, 640 Fifth avenue.

## MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

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### AN UNUSUAL OMELET.

I was coming home from the country. Besides the best wishes bestowed upon me, I was given a box of fresh eggs to take back. In the train, interested in my book, I did not notice that the corner of the box had given way. The eggs dropped to the floor one by one. Suddenly I heard a commotion and some one asked, "Where is the hen?" I don't have to say any more.

MISS R. C.

### A HAT'S A HAT.

I had just rushed into the box at the theatre to take my seat, as the performance had already started. After looking around I finally found my seat and as I sat down a young man occupying the seat next to me said, "Will you please get up, miss?" As I had already missed part of the first act, I sent him a cold look which he returned, but still he insisted upon my getting up. Hearing the people back of me laugh, I finally got up and imagine my embarrassment upon finding I had been sitting on the young man's hat. I excused myself, but can assure you I did not enjoy the rest of the show.

I. M.