

AT THE THEATRES.

Union Square.—Fatherland.

Play in four acts, by Charles A. Gardner and Sidney R. Ellis.

Herman Leopold.....	Chas. A. Gardner
Henry Stanford.....	Henry Lee
Digby Barnes.....	Robert V. Ferguson
Hans Veeder.....	Barney Reynolds
Otto Wolfe.....	W. H. Turner
Rhoda Stanford.....	Emma Vaders
Dorothea.....	Marion May
Charlotte Wagner.....	Ethel Grey
Little Meenie.....	Baby Parker

Fatherland, as it was the only dramatic novelty of the week, attracted a large audience to the Union Square Theatre on Monday night, and the audience, as is usual with Summer gatherings, was less critical than are the assemblages in the season that frequently pass upon theatrical ventures.

Charles A. Gardner is a German comedian who has gained a following on the road, and this is his first pretentious appearance in New York. He is vigorous rather than artistic in his method, and with the average audience wins favor by the same means that attracts the average eye to a picture whose lines are bold and whose coloring is strong.

Mr. Gardner, in his travels abroad, fixed upon the Tyrol as the scene for a picturesque play, and presumably made note of characters for a drama. Sidney R. Ellis, his manager, assisted him in forming this impression, and in adjusting the figures. The result is Fatherland.

The plot concerns the hardy inhabitants of the Tyrol mountains, and from them and the tourists there to be encountered are taken the characters. Mr. Gardner personates a Tyrol guide, who saves the life of an American widow's child, and protects the mother and child from the villainous designs of the widow's brother-in-law. The villain, of course, is frustrated, and it follows that the heroic guide espouses the widow. The play is in four acts, and has been somewhat improved since it was given on Mr. Gardner's tours.

The first act represents a mountain home on a festal day. The second act takes place on All Hallowe'en night, and serves to introduce an old-fashioned German spinning-bee, with a spinning-wheel chorus. The last act, however, represents the most elaborate preparation, as it is a representation of a Sangerfest in Munich.

Mr. Gardner sings pleasingly through the play, and is assisted by an imported Tyrolean quartette and a large chorus recruited from local German societies. One of the scenes is made especially happy by the participation of several infants, too young to perform regularly, but old enough to be cute in the business of blowing soap bubbles. The costuming is in line with the play's atmosphere.

The acting was all that could be expected of the play and a first night. The scenery is by Sydney Chidley. In the first act a valley is shown, with a mountain torrent coming from snow-clad mountains in the distance, and a chalet in the foreground. The interior of the chalet is shown in the second act. The gala scene in the last act has a good setting.

Mr. Gardner and the good people who supported him were received with favor, and the star's songs were frequently encored. The chorus singing was a feature.