

El Capitan

[Comic opera, in three acts; text by Klein. First produced at the Tremont Theatre, Boston, April 13, 1896.]

PERSONAGES.

Medigua, Viceroy of Peru. Cazarro, deposed viceroy. Pozzo, secretary of Medigua. Verrada, in love with Isabel. Scaramba, an insurgent. Estrela, Cazarro's daughter. Marghanza, Medigua's wife. Isabel, her daughter.

[Troops, insurgents, peasants, etc.]

The scene is laid in Peru; time, the eighteenth century.

At the opening of the story Cazarro, viceroy of Peru, has been deposed by the King of Spain, and Medigua has been appointed in his stead. Cazarro incites a revolution, and sends to Spain for El Capitan, a noted soldier, to come to his help. He sails on the same ship with Medigua, in the disguise of a seaman, but is killed in a quarrel on board. Medigua finds out who he was, and when he lands, discovering that his faction is in a hopeless minority, he proclaims himself El Capitan and joins the rebels. To further his scheme he induces his secretary, Pozzo, to represent the Viceroy. Among the other characters are Scaramba, a revolutionist in love with Estrela, daughter of Cazarro; the Princess Marghanza, wife of Medigua; her daughter Isabel; and Count Verrada, who is in love with her. Estrela falls in love with the pseudo El Capitan, which arouses Scaramba's jealousy. Pozzo is thrust into prison, much to the grief of the Princess and of Isabel, who believe him to be Medigua. After the arrival of the Spanish troops, however, Medigua declares himself. The rebellion is squelched, all are pardoned, and everything ends happily.

The principal numbers of the first act are a pretty drinking-song for the chorus; a solo for Medigua, "If you examine Human Kind," followed by a dialogue and leading up to an aria for Estrela, "When we hear the Call for Battle," with chorus in march time; a second march, "In me you see El Capitan," which heralds Medigua's entrance; the chorus, "Lo, the Awful Man approaches"; and the solo and chorus, "Bah, bah," closing the act. The second act opens with a march song, "Ditty of the Drill," which is shortly followed by an effective scene in which a mournful accompaniment representing the grief of Marghanza and Isabel, and a festive accompaniment setting forth the exultation of Estrela and her companions as they bind El Capitan with garlands of roses, are interwoven. As the Princess discovers Medigua in El Capitan, a quarrel duet follows between her and Estrela, leading up to a pompous military finale, as the Spanish troops appear. The leading numbers of the third act are a serenade and duet for Verrada and Isabel; a song by the tipsy Medigua, "The Typical Tune of Zanzibar," which is the most popular number in the opera; and a final march with chorus.