

THE WEEK IN THE THEATERS

MISS KIDDER IN "THE COUNTRY GIRL" A SUCCESS OF A STOCK COMPANY

There is really very little excuse for such a production as "The Country Girl," which was given by Kathryn Kidder and company at the Marquam last week. The comedy itself is well enough, but it certainly does not call for such a rough and ready, slap-stick interpretation as was given it. Miss Kidder is not at all suited to the part of Peggy, and in fact there is very little to justify so good an actress in putting on such a play in such a way. The production of "Frantic" was far better, but in neither play does Miss Kidder appear to nearly so good advantage as she does in "The School for Scandal" or "Madame Sans Gens."

The Stuart Company, which closed a successful season of eight weeks at the Baker Theater Monday night, has demonstrated that there is room for a good stock company in Portland. The company played to good crowds during the entire engagement, and the farewells they received the night of the farewell performance shows how great was the impression they made. There can now be no doubt about the success of the engagement of the Nellie Stock Company next fall, provided that company is up to the standard set by Mr. Stuart, as it undoubtedly will be.

OPENS THIS AFTERNOON.

Engagement of the Pollard Opera Company at the Baker.
One of the most novel and entertaining performances that have ever been seen in Portland was that of Pollard's Juvenile Opera Company, which some months since played an engagement in this city, and the announcement of the return of this combination will be received with pleasure. They return after having made a successful trip to the East, and there is no question that they will again duplicate their former success in this city. The company opens at Baker's Theater this afternoon in that beautiful light comic opera, "H. M. S. Pinafore." The same clever company of children remains, the same as on their previous visit, and once more the comedy of Willie Pollard, the artistic singing of Alice and Jack Pollard, and the genius of the little tot Daphne Pollard, will be welcomed. The scenery for the production of "Pinafore" will be up to all requirements. All of it was prepared especially for this company while in Chicago, and it is said that the scene is a marvel of stage craft.

The seat sale for the first week of the engagement opened with a rush, and there is no question that record-breaking business will be the rule of this engagement. "Pinafore" will run up to and including Wednesday evening, when it will be followed by "A Gaiety Girl." The usual popular prices of Baker's Theater will prevail.

CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

Commencement Exercises for Education Pupils.
The Marquam Grand was crowded Friday evening, June 6, for the commencement exercises of the Gillespie School of Expression. The artistic effect of the stage settings was greatly enhanced by a profusion of La France roses, the school flower. Rev. John P. Ghormley pronounced an impressive invocation. The two young ladies who received diplomas, Miss Bertha Irene Matlock, of the readers course, and Miss Jessie May Zimmerman, of the teachers' course, were subjects of interest.

Miss Zimmerman is possessed of that magnetic force which is essential for a successful teacher. In her numbers, "The Lily of an Orchard," a pathetic poem; "Morris's Melody," a bit of dialect, and "Gazelle and Swan," a dramatic selection, Miss Zimmerman showed great versatility, her voice responding to the varied emotions called for by these several selections. Miss Matlock's first number, "The Soul of the Violin," was a classical selection full of pathos, requiring in its rendition artistic finish and great voice control, to which demands Miss Matlock was fully equal. In the "Coming Out of Miss Cummings," an action monologue, her natural vivacity and grace of manner captivated the audience. Miss Matlock gives promise of a very successful future as a reader.

The reading of the "Lotus Eaters," by Mrs. Gillespie, illustrated by poems by these young ladies, was one of the most enjoyable numbers given.

One of the features of the musical part of the programme was a piano solo, the "Durand Waltz," played by little Evelyn Hitchcock, who is only 8 years old. Her interpretation and execution were phenomenal.

nominal for a little girl. The other musical numbers, consisting of a cornet solo by Miss Beattie Datesman; vocal solos by Miss Beattie Lytle and Mr. George H. Street, and a selection by the East Side Ladies' Quartet, Miss DeWitt, Miss Klippel, Miss Ladd and Miss Prior, added greatly to the pleasure of the evening.

SHIELDS' CONCERT PARK.

Amusement Resort at Thirteenth and Washington, Opens Saturday.

Edward Shields' new amusement park, located on the vacant block, Thirteenth and Washington streets, is practically completed, and will be opened to the public next Saturday night, June 21. Mr. Shields will offer a strong list of star attractions during the summer, with an entire change of programme each week. For the opening week Helen Lamar will be the topliner in a gorgeous transformation entitled "Her Last Letter." The Eastern vaudeville managers are calling for original novelties, and this new act was especially constructed for exhibition over the Eastern circuits. It is replete with special scenery, transformations and calcium effects.

Another important feature will be the polypose, which showed the McKinley funeral pictures at the exposition last fall. At this time special interest is centered in the local moving pictures to be presented. Seeing General Sumner and the Decoration-day parades passing in review on a canvas is a decidedly new and unique novelty in Portland. This film will be exhibited the first week, along with a score of other subjects equally as interesting.

Still another big feature will be the powerful harpist, Harry Edwards, in repertory of illustrated songs. This name is a note of plume for an old Portland boy who has never sung in public in this city before.

Mr. Shields will also have several more acts for the opening week. He has a score or more on the list to book from and is waiting to obtain such acts as he thinks will best please the patrons of his park. An orchestra, numbering 10 of the best musicians in the city, has been engaged.

Mr. Shields' past record in Portland as an amusement caterer is well remembered, and his subsequent connection with some of the leading theaters and parks in the East has added to his knowledge of the amusement-seekers' wants, and the fact that he is at the head of the new enterprise guarantees its success. With such strong attractions and general admission only 10 cents, the well-attended enclosure will undoubtedly be packed every night. The big opening is awaited with interest.

Notes of the Stage.

Melbourne MacDowell may possibly play at the Baker Theater before the summer is out.

Primrose & Dockstader's minstrels will open their next annual tour at Manhattan Beach, early in July.

The Weidemann Company is touring Oregon and playing one-night stands in the vicinity of Portland.

Will H. Bray, the famous minister to DuPont in "A Texas Steer," is in San Francisco playing in vaudeville.

James Neill, who is engaging people for the Nellie Stock Company, reports that he has nearly finished this arduous task.

George B. Broadhurst is in San Francisco, where he went to superintend rehearsals of his latest romantic comedy.

The engagement of the Stuart Stock Company, at the Burbank Theater, Los Angeles, will open tonight in "By Right of Sword."

It is reported that Macagnoli is working on a new opera, "Marie Antoinette," that will be produced in Paris and Vienna early next season.

Williams and Walker will appear next season in a new musical comedy, "In Dahomey," by Paul Laurence Dunbar and Will Marion Cook.

Robert Lett, who will be remembered in Portland as a former star of the Grau Opera Company, has joined the "King Dodo" company, at Daly's Theater, New York.

"The Red Knight," which James Neill produced there. Mr. Neill appeared as Robert, Crown Prince of Morante, while Edith Chapman was Cecilia, Queen of Rhodania.

Bertha Creighton, now leading woman at the Grand-Avenue Theater, Philadelphia, will star next season under the management of P. S. Matton, in "A Colonial Girl."

John Daly Murphy, formerly with the Harrington Reynolds Company, has rejoined Ralph Stuart, with whom he came from New York, and will play Bennett in "By Right of Sword."

Webber & Elliott, the Portland musical team, will open at the New Chutes Theater, in San Francisco, June 21. They will go from there to Los Angeles, and will return to Portland September 1.

Chauncey L. Sothorn, who played Little Billie in T. D. Frawley's production of "Trilby," at the Tabor Grand, Denver, has been engaged by Mr. Frawley to play juveniles for the summer and next season.

F. Oppen, the cartoonist, will personally design and supervise, as well as illustrate, all the show printing for his comic creation, "Peck and His Mother-in-Law," to be presented the coming season throughout the country.

The erstwhile second Frawley Company, which played a week in Portland not long ago, is now known as the Harrington Reynolds Company. It is playing to six weeks' engagement in Seattle, and will go from there to Butte and other Montana towns.

Jerome Sykes will be presented in a new vehicle—a musical comedy by Harry B. Smith and George Kertzer—called "The Money Burner." It will be first presented in New Haven about October 1. After a season in the larger cities it will follow "The Country Girl" at Daly's Theater.

GENIUS OF NAPOLEON.

Important Part Played by His Tremendous Energy.

Kansas City Star.

Mr. Thomas Watson's recent "Life of Napoleon," like every contribution to Napoleonic literature, leaves the reader wondering what constituted the Corsican's genius. Was it simply the "infinite capacity for taking pains," an ability for hard work, or was it, as Lord Rosebery suggests, an "indefinable spark"? A consideration of the achievements of Napoleon throws light on the question.

It is evident that mere capacity for work does not make a man a genius. A dunce may show amazing industry. The genius must have good natural facilities; he must be able to grasp relations quickly and see things in their right proportion. That much may be taken for granted. In the case of Napoleon good intelligence was combined with enormous energy and power of endurance. He could go for days without sleep. In his early Italian campaigns he sometimes spent a week in the saddle, with only brief intervals of rest. In Russia he frequently rode 20 miles in a day, reconnoitering. When the crisis was over



SCENE FROM HELEN LAMAR'S "HER LAST LETTER," AT SHIELDS PARK.

he would sleep for 36 hours at a stretch. His endurance was heightened by the fact that he could get a nap under the most trying circumstances, even on the battlefield. He laid down the rule that he was to be awakened only to hear bad news. Good news, he said, could wait. It was his marvelous endurance that enabled him to supervise all the details of his early campaigns. The night before Jena he had ordered some cannon to be

lain, he showed the same demoniacal energy which he possessed almost to the end. From the surrounding cities he requisitioned material. Cannon he secured from the army of Italy, and from Mantua. Horses and workmen he found in various towns. He set the artisans to building fascines, gabions and hurdles. He equipped an arsenal in a ravine and set up a munitions shop. He took steps to re-establish the Dardennes gun foundry. As

the theory is derived by pure mathematics. It may be demonstrated that were stars to be scattered throughout space for an indefinite distance, every part of the heavens would be lit up at night with the light of the noonday sun. The fact that the sky is a blue-black would seem to prove the finiteness of the universe.

BOUNDS OF THE UNIVERSE.

Shaped Like a Grindstone and We Are Near the Center.

Kansas City Star.

The progress in every department of science is so continuous that the average man has no time to keep pace with it. The alumnus who left college 10 years ago may be pretty well assured that his knowledge of electricity, of chemistry, of physiology, of astronomy, is already out of date. His only way of keeping informed is to read occasional magazine articles in which the specialist gives the results of the latest investigation. An essay by Professor Simon Newcomb in the current issue of the International Monthly Magazine is such an article. It presents the theory of the stellar universe which he regards as most probable, in view of the latest discoveries in astronomy.

Do the stars extend indefinitely on through space, or is there a limit to the stellar universe? Are they scattered haphazard or grouped after a definite plan? If the universe is finite, how far from its bounds is the earth? These are some of the questions which Professor Newcomb considers in the light of the most recent investigations of astronomers and geologists.

The professor believes it to be fairly well established now that the stellar universe does not extend indefinitely into space. The stars visible through a powerful telescope he thinks are grouped in the shape of a grindstone with the earth near the center of the system. A few scattered bodies probably are beyond the mass of stars, he says, and there may be other systems far beyond the one to which the earth belongs. The reason for the grindstone theory is found in the fact that the thickness of stars increases toward the Milky way from every direction. In May or June this hazy band may be seen skirting the horizon as a sort of belt. This may be allowed to represent the circumference of the grindstone which is laid flat. Overhead, about the axis of such a grindstone, are the few stars. The number increases fairly uniformly toward the horizon. It is evident that this would be the phenomenon seen by an observer near the center of a system of stars grouped in the grindstone formation. There would be comparatively few bodies between him and the flat surface, while there would be many between his station and the circumference.

An indirect argument for the support of

Mr. Watson remarks, "All possible precautions were taken, all possible preparations made, every energy bent to bring to bear those means necessary to the end. Nothing was left to chance, good luck, providence or inspiration. Cold calculation governed all, tireless labor provided all, colossal driving force moved all." This comment suggests the other characteristic beside capacity for work, upon which Napoleon's military genius rested—good sense. When he began his military career the science of war in Europe was in a rut. Generals fought according to well-established rules. It was not good form to attack too early in the morning. There was practically no scouting, and officers did not think it worth while to familiarize themselves with the formation of the enemy. After having fought a respectable number of hours it was customary to stop. Forced marches were thought little of. Cannon were regarded as largely ornamental. They were set out in a conspicuous spot and allowed to blaze away in the general direction of the enemy. They did little but make a noise.

Napoleon was an original observer. He noticed that artillery might be turned to some account if the guns were put within range of the enemy and aimed carefully. This observation he put into effect at Toulon and Lodi, to the great discomfort of his antagonists. That it had occurred to nobody else is not surprising. European military men are only now learning that infantry need to be sharpshooters.

Another source of Napoleon's success was his accurate knowledge of the topography of the country. He knew the location of every ravine and hillock, and he could conduct an army through a difficult region with a speed that amazed his enemies. Furthermore, Napoleon was not handicapped by tradition. The battle of Marengo was won after it had been lost simply by his refusal to stop fighting, when the Austrian General had decided the French were beaten and had retired from the field. When the Russians were retreating over the frozen lakes from Austerlitz, Napoleon ordered his gunners to elevate their pieces. The cannon shot, falling on the ice, broke it up and 200 Russians were drowned.

A Hungarian officer, taken prisoner at Lodi, unconsciously revealed the secret of Napoleon's genius when he said: "You French have a young General who knows nothing about the rules of war. Today he is on your front, tomorrow in the rear. Now he is on your left and then on your right. One does not know where to place oneself. Such a violation of the rules is intolerable." The fact was that Napoleon simply applied common sense to the conduct of campaigns. He knew his ground, he knew where the enemy was weakest and attacked there. His movements were speedy and sure. He was quick to see an opportunity and energetic to use it. It was not until he was worn out and broken that he fought his Waterloo "gentleman's" battle. After the fighting preliminary to that battle, gentlemen, the Napoleon of the Italian campaign no longer lives. Had he been the vigorous Napoleon of Marengo the outcome might have been different.

Professor Sloane ventures the opinion that Napoleon's natural gifts in a slugsman man would have appeared mediocre, but under his fiery energy they became transcendent. This was the opinion of Napoleon himself. It is quite possible to account for his genius without resorting to the "indefinable-spark" theory of Lord Rosebery.

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this theory is derived by pure mathematics. It may be demonstrated that were stars to be scattered throughout space for an indefinite distance, every part of the heavens would be lit up at night with the light of the noonday sun. The fact that the sky is a blue-black would seem to prove the finiteness of the universe.

It is evident that the correctness of the grindstone hypothesis must depend on several assumptions. One is that the light of all the stars reaches the earth. That is not intercepted by screens of dark star dust. Another assumption is that the stars are distributed fairly uniformly throughout space. Professor T. J. See, in an essay in the Atlantic Monthly last year, expressed the opinion that the presence of masses of star dust in space makes it impossible to tell anything about the extent of the stellar system. Professor Newcomb does not believe this objection valid. Were the star dust to interfere seriously in the passage of light, he points out that it would pretty well cut off from our vision the more distant stars and would make their apparent thickness in every direction about the same. He concludes, too, that observation justifies the belief that the distribution of stars is nearly uniform within a radius of from 300 to 400 light-years from the earth, a "light-year" being the distance that light at the speed of 186,000 miles a second, would travel in a year.

Were the universe of infinite extent, as has been claimed, the heavens would be lit up at night with the light of the sun. It has been found by observation that the light actually appearing in the sky is only one 50-millionth of that intensity. Professor Newcomb calculates that about this much light would be received on the earth if the extreme bounds of the stellar system lay between 10,000 and 20,000 light-years distant. While he admits that "eminent authorities" differ with him, he believes the weight of evidence favors his view.

The earth, then, in the opinion of this astronomer, lies near the center of a system of millions of stars, grouped in a grindstone formation, with its circumference from 10,000 to 20,000 light-years distant.

Declined With Thanks.

Chicago Tribune.
Chicago will not object to St. Louis having the Democratic and Republican conventions in 1904. The officials of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition think that the two big party gatherings will serve to increase the attendance at their fair.

by the presence in St. Louis of the delegates themselves, and by the advertisement which they will give it, on returning to their constituents. No doubt the delegates will be willing to combine business with pleasure. It will be possible for them for the price of one ticket to perform their duty to the party and to enjoy the advantages of the exposition. The seriously inclined will be pleased with the opportunity to study, and the frivolous, if any such are elected, will seek the Midway as a relief from the monotony of the long, hot sessions. Chicago no longer proclaims itself a "convention city." The time has passed when it looks forward with pleasure to the filling of its streets and the crowding of its hotels with convention crowds. St. Louis is likely to have a building boom such as preceded the World's Fair in 1893, and, in spite of the exposition visitors, will probably have more room for the delegates than in 1893, when there was some difficulty in finding accommodations for the colored members of the convention.

It is estimated by the French postoffice that 95,000 letters were stolen from pillar boxes last year, and now boxes with steel teeth, to prevent extraction of letters, are being considered.

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