

Gossip of Plays and Players

EDITED BY ARTHUR A. GREENE.

NOW that it is definitely decided that the Shuberts are to enter this field, the low moan of the grindstone may be heard, sharpening the broadsword and battleaxe for the merry war that is about to come.

Things will be happening right merrily in the near future, when the "Regulators," under the field marshalship of John Cort and Calvin Heilig, with William T. Pangle and George L. Baker as field and staff, and the "Insurgents," commanded by that doughty Cromwell of Northwestern theatricals, "Dad" Russell, with corps commanders not yet identified, go into action with banners flying.

In a few weeks there will be two theaters playing the high-class attractions in opposition, and the competition between the two is bound to be keen almost to the point of open hostility. There is a decidedly bitter feeling between the Klaw & Erlanger and the Shubert forces, which is growing more intense every day.

Meanwhile workmen are rushing repairs to the Heilig, which is to be rechristened the Portland, and excavation for the New Heilig will begin this week. During the coming season there will be a bloody chasm between the Bungalow and the Portland, and much warfare will be waged.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Morton Cohn are spending a few weeks at Banff Hot Springs.

Earl Dwire is to go to the Orpheum circuit in a sketch with George Bloomquist.

One of the season's new melodramas is called "Pinky the Pinkerton Girl." Fortunately we aren't on its route.

Marshall P. Wilder, who was an Orpheum feature here recently, writes that he has returned from London and is at his summer home at Atlantic City.

Augusta Glose was seen as a vaudeville headliner at Keith's Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theater this week for the first time in New York City. Reports about the quality of Miss Glose's work in the West were found not to have been exaggerated. Miss Glose as a pianist presents a beautiful picture in her handsome gowns and the good setting furnished by her management. But these matters are of minor importance and the big drawing power is her performance at the piano that stamps her as a high-class entertainer of importance and big drawing power. Miss Glose has captured Broadway.

The foregoing from the New York Star indorses the opinion formed here at the Orpheum some months ago.

It is known that Robert Mantell was offered a large salary to appear in vaudeville next season. It was suggested that he be seen in a series of scenes from Shakespeare. Mr. Mantell was obliged to refuse the flattering offer because he already was under contract to William A. Brady. There is no doubt that vaudeville managers would receive Mr. Mantell with open arms if you imagine a finer half-hour offering than Mr. Mantell in his magnificent scene from "King Lear," in which the mad ruler ends a fine apostrophe with:

Aye! Every inch a king. And then, babbling of the mutterings of the distraught monarch; or a scene from "Richard III"—than which performance of Mr. Mantell's there is nothing better in general conception and execution. And, with the educating that vaudeville has received from the men who now rule its destinies, it is altogether probable that Mr. Mantell would be both understood and appreciated.

"Lottie Williams is to make her debut in vaudeville next month.

A play by Theodore Kramer is called "The King of Bigamists." Fortunately Portland will be spared its infliction.

George Howard has been re-engaged for Blanch Walsh's leading man.

Harry Askin, of Chicago, is to produce "The Mountain Girl" the last of this month.

This summer "The Mikado" has been revived by various opera companies with great success.

Doyle's "The Fire of Fate" will first be seen in New York at the Hudson Theater. Sir Arthur has promised Charles Frohman to come over for the production.

Charles Frohman has engaged Edwin Arden for "Israel," the new play by Bernstein.

Della Fox, now being booked for vaudeville, has had all new songs written especially for her use.

Lily Lena opens her season September 20, after finishing the Orpheum time.

Adelle Ritchie may be seen in vaudeville a week or so before going into a production with the Shuberts.

Minnie Dupree, who appeared in "The Road to Yesterday," is in vaudeville with a sketch called "Wanted—A Cook."

The dramatic papers all have comprehensive notices of the death of Mrs. Jane Gernon and biographies of the "grand old woman" of the stage.

Later in the season James O'Neil, who is to appear as Saracenusca with Viola Allen in Marion Crawford's "White Sister," will resume his starring tour.

Henry Koller, who played leading parts with Margaret Anglin in Australia and New Zealand, has returned to this country, and is to star in a military play.

The Lieber Company have engaged Mabel Hite and will star her in a new comedy.

edy. Her husband, Mike Donlin, will be in her company, and will have a role written especially for him.

A new play which will have its first production in Paterson, N. J., is called "As the Sun Went Down." It is a story of the West. The company presenting it is to be headed by Etha Williams.

Florenz Ziegfeld is seeking to enlist Nora Bayes and Jack Norworth from appearing in vaudeville, claiming that he has a contract with them for the season in the Folies of 1909, also an option on their services for the next four years.

Pay W. Rice, ingenue with the Baker Stock Company a few years ago, is to be in a "Folly of the Circus" company.

It looks as if David Warfield would have a long-cherished ambition realized. David Belasco announces that he will give Mr. Warfield an opportunity to play Shylock in the near future, as he contemplates making a production of "The Merchant of Venice" during the coming season.

At least one far-seeing manager has been endeavoring to induce J. M. Barrie, author of so many clean plays, to write for vaudeville, even going so far as to offer him a large sum in advance for a playlet-comedy-tragedy-fairy story or whatever the brilliant Scotchman cares to write. There is no doubt that Barrie would be doing an immense service to vaudeville and incidentally, would add largely to his income, if he would write playlets. Barrie is understood of the masses. His comedy and his pathos are so human that anything he writes contains that great quality of appeal without which anything in or out of vaudeville must be flat, stale and unprofitable. Barrie's "Pantaloon," for instance, would be a splendid piece of vaudeville property. When it was seen at the Criterion Theater, New York, a couple of years ago, it was generally accepted as something out of the ordinary, as well as having the dramatic spirit. It generally is understood that Charles Frohman has an option on almost everything that Barrie writes, which is quite natural. It was Mr. Frohman who first saw the beauty and human qualities of Barrie's work and who gave him his greatest chance before the vaudeville stage. But what a great thing it would be for vaudeville if J. M. Barrie would join the ranks of the other popular playwrights who are writing for the vaudeville stage.

Henry B. Harris also is keeping his eagle eye this week on the rehearsals of the Western and Eastern companies which are to appear in "The Third Degree" on the road this season. The Western company will be seen here.

"The Melting Pot," with Walker Whiteside as its star, will open the Comedy Theater, the newest of the Shubert New York theaters, September 6, has been set as the opening date for this Liebler production. Mr. Whiteside made a fine impression here two years ago.

Mrs. Leslie Carter has taken a flyer into the realm of poetry with the following, entitled "A Valley in Avilion":

Hurt by love's darts I creep away Far from the eyes and haunts of men. To vales where loving fancies stray Overhuz with blue, untouched with gray: Where rain, nor troubles ever stay; Nor do I care for true love's sake, With lonely walk for true love's sake. With feet that never can forsake A Valley in Avilion.

Dear heart of mine—this boon I pray: Let not your soul forsake me, when Back to the world so bright and gay. So full of laughter, life and play. You pass—and I have gone away. Remember, Sweet, that I'll be then Wand'ring drest, for true love's sake, With feet that never can forsake A Valley in Avilion.

In that lone vale my heart for aye Shall yearn for things beyond my ken— The white sail fluttering down the bay; Spring; and the blossoms of the May— And backward, dear, my thoughts will stray To vales where loving fancies stray. Yet shall I walk—for that love's sake With feet that never can forsake A Valley in Avilion.

Dearest of mine, whom I pray: Mure I, indeed, fare forth alone; Just I—to seek the golden day? Ah, come with me, my true love's sake— Your feet, nor mine, shall e'er forsake That Valley in Avilion.

All of which isn't so bad for "The Carter."

Will M. Cressy, the Clyde Fitch of vaudeville, has been enjoying his vacation at his summer home in New Hampshire, but also he has been writing some new playlets. This remarkable man, who has written more successful vaudeville playlets than any other man in America, has none, is unlike most actors who write for the stage. He does not build a play and consider it complete and satisfactory. He actually writes his plays, for he has both the technical skill to know what is actable as well as the literary experience which enables him to write lines that have flavor and carrying effect. Mrs. Cressy (Miss Blanche Dayne), by the way, has fully recovered from her nervous attack of last Spring, and Cressy and Dayne will be ready on schedule time to begin another season.

Nance O'Neil, on her return from her vacation in Europe, will resume her vaudeville tour in October. Miss O'Neil is said to have secured a sketch that suits her capabilities.

Ann Murdock has been engaged by Henry B. Harris for "The Noble Spaniard," in support of Robert Edison.

Rehearsals of Eugene Presbrey's dramatization of Holman Day's novel, "The Circus Man," to be presented by Klaw & Erlanger and Joseph Brooks early in the season, began at the New York Theater last Monday under the direction of Mr. Presbrey. The play will open at McVicker's Theater, Chicago, August 28.

Virginia Harned will be seen in a

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Dance," in which she handles a ferocious looking snake about eight feet long. Princess Rajah will be remembered by Portland's gilded youth as one of the star attractions of the Streets-of-Cairo on the Trail at the Lewis and Clark Exposition.

While in London recently Harrison Grey Fiske discussed with Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree the idea of Mrs. Fiske's appearing in London, with the result that tentative arrangements were made whereby Mrs. Fiske will play a joint starring engagement at His Majesty's Theater with Sir Herbert and an English company and production. One of the foremost dramatists in England has been commissioned to write a play having the specific object of providing Mrs. Fiske and Mr. Tree with an appropriate medium. The plan discussed also involves the appearance of Mrs. Fiske during her stay in London in various plays of her own repertoire at His Majesty's Theater. This visit is expected to be made the season after next.

Princess Rajah is a big drawing card at the Fifth Avenue Theater, New York. She is also being well received in her original creation, "The Cleopatra

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It is interesting to note that these well-known actresses, whose greatest stage triumphs have been in Ibsen roles, possess in common many striking characteristics of the typical Ibsen woman. Each has the intellectual, soul-inspired face of the idealist, suggesting self-denial and self-introspection and a thoughtful mind ever dominated by a brooding note of sorrow.

Mr. Fiske has brought back in his trunk several plays, among others "Pinks" and the "Fables," which was the great Christmas success of last season at His Majesty's Theater, and which is to be sent on tour with two companies

authors. Mrs. Fiske writes me from her summer home, Camp Craig, in the Adirondacks, that she is enjoying a splendid vacation, but would rather be in the mountains of the West.