

BELASCO'S NEW MIRACLE PLAY AND ONE OF SHAW'S FUNNIEST DRAMAS PLEASE BROADWAY

Frances Starr, in Role of Convent Novice in "Marie-Odile," Meets Her Ideal Man in Corporal Who Is Personification of Picture of St. Michael She Admires—"Androcles and the Lion" Is Problem for Stage Manager, Brute Being Dominant Feature.



Frances Starr and Francis Williams in Scene from "Marie Odile" at Belasco Theater

Frances Starr, Harry Vogel and Jerome Patrick in Scene from "Marie Odile" at the Palace Theater

Ethel Barrymore and Edward Fielding in "The Shadow"

BY LLOYD LONERGAN. NEW YORK, March 20.—(Special.)—Of the plays that have been on the local stage this season, perhaps none has more "mechanics" than "Marie-Odile," in which Miss Frances Starr is appearing with great success at the Belasco Theater. In this play all three acts take place in the convent room, dingy except for the light shining through one large church-like window over the doorway leading to the sunny courtyard.

As nearly every theatergoer might imagine, there is not much in an "atmospheric" way to be got out of an interior, aside from the mere essentials in decorations and furnishings, which, in themselves, must not obtrude so that they distract the audience's attention in any way from the play itself.

Usually an author burdens down his manuscript with a sea of unfathomable stage directions, scene plots, etc., despite the fact that many of them know nothing about the mechanics of the stage. Edward Knoblauch, author of "Marie-Odile," has a good working knowledge of the stage, and he did not fall into this mistake. All his manuscript told concerning the sweet and beautiful drama that was the scene of the play was laid in a small convent in the mountainous regions of Alsace, at the time of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. Then the author merely said in a few words that the scene throughout the play was laid in the refectory of the convent, and told briefly of a large door, a window, a colored picture with a wrought-iron windlass, a large recess up two low steps at the back to the right; a small grating window to the left of this recess; a colored picture of St. Michael and the dragon; a clock on the right wall; high up on the same wall a niche containing an image of the Virgin with the infant Jesus; a shelf with two candles and a vase of faded flowers before her; another large door to the left, and to one side of the door a little holy water stoup and a sprig of box in it, over this on the wall a plain black crucifix, and above the door a small picture of Saint Marie-Odile, the patron saint of Alsace.

For furniture the author called for a large oak table, long enough to accommodate 12, and running lengthways, with an arm chair on the right end for the Mother Superior, a small serving table under the window in the recess and a stool under the image of the Virgin.

These few stage details and the only time given by the author in his meager stage directions being about 5:30 in the morning for the beginning of the action, was all that Mr. Belasco had to work on. No doubt he was most thankful for this, as it meant that he would not have to proceed to eliminate impractical stage directions, and substitute others for them, as is usually the case. With the chief role of the play clothed in absolute spiritual sincerity and poetic innocence, together with a group of nuns having little to say except the speaking of prayerful utterances in Latin, it was left to him to create an atmosphere on the stage that would wait itself through the proscenium, and give the audience a breath of convent life in all its sweet and simple sincerity and spiritual seriousness. That he did so, has surprised none of Mr. Belasco's admirers.

Mr. Belasco is said to have remarked that never in his life had he so difficult a play as "Marie-Odile" to produce, but as he made good with it, there need be no regrets on his part.

Emma P. Trentini, once prominent in grand opera, and now a "regular theater star" is at the Fort-fourth Street Theater as the heroine of "The Peasant Girl" in its first incarnation, "The Peasant Girl," under the title of "Pon-

leblut" was a popular work abroad. It has now been "Americanized" by a trio of native geniuses, Edgar Smith, Herbert Reynolds and Howard Atterbridge. Other names that appear on the programme are Melville Ellis, who designed the costumes, Jack Mason, who arranged the maneuvers of the chorus, and J. H. Benrimo, the stage manager. Furthermore Comstock and Gest are associated with the Shuberts in the management.

Despite the fact that everybody's name goes on the programme, it is the same old comic opera that figured in the benefit performance on Noah's Ark. A cold-hearted count is in love with a penniless ballet girl, but he is also admired by a woman of wealth and fashion. She determines to win the count, disguises herself as a peasant girl, and surprising as it may be to unophisti-

alocquently about the sardine mine. There was a spirited kiddy dance in the second act, while the score is not only beautifully made, but is melodious and varied with several waltz move-

FLOWERS FOR SUMMER BLOOM RECOMMENDED

Iris, Lily and Gladiolus Advised for Best Effect and Directions Given to Enable Novice to Grow Them Successfully.

BY STELLA WALKER DURHAM. AT THIS season of the year, when tulips, hyacinths and daffodils are giving us their cheerful assurance that Spring is really here, is a good time to think about the planting of summer-flowering bulbs. While we have not yet learned to plant the Spring-blooming things, especially daffodils in "crowds" and "hosts" as in the flower country, still there is a gay array of them in many Portland gardens this year.

It would add much to the joy of these gardens if their owners would plant summer-flowering bulbs as generously as they have the early Spring-blooming sorts. Incidentally this is a good year to invest in Summer bulbs, for they are less expensive than usual, owing to the fact that many European growers, unable to dispose of their stocks, are throwing them away upon the American market. This applies especially to gladioli. But whatever the price paid for them, the purchase of bulbs that appeals to many is that it can be easily moved from one rented garden to another.

Directions Are Simple. Of course, Fall is the best time for planting most Summer-flowering as well as early Spring bulbs, but there are a few bulbous and tuberous-rooted plants that are best planted in the Spring and a few that must be dug up and stored in the Fall. Practically all the same cultural directions apply to all bulbs. They all require a moderately rich soil that is well drained. The latter condition is important and a liberal use of sand will help wonderfully in affording good drainage. Be sure not to let fresh manure come in direct contact with bulbs. A general planting rule is to cover them with soil one and one-half times their depth. Most of the Summer-flowering things are not adapted for planting in formal beds as tulips and Dutch hyacinths are, and so cannot well be used for succession in these beds. A good plant for filling in the formal beds after the tulips and hyacinths have died down is the tuberous-rooted begonia. Some of the new frilled sorts are beautiful. They do much better if started in a box of sand indoors than if planted directly in the open. It is better not to put

ments and a march which are strong in Slavic charm.

WELLESLEY GIFTS LARGE

Women Raise \$1,265,866 to Rebuild College Buildings Burned.

BOSTON, March 12.—Wellesley women have raised through their own efforts \$1,265,866 to rebuild their fire-swept college building since the campaign for the \$1,000,000 endowment was begun in June, 1913, according to a detailed report just issued by the alumnae committee for restoration and endowment. The report includes, so far as known, all money raised, given or pledged by and through the alumnae, nonalumnae, undergraduates and many of the faculty.

New York leads the list of contributions by cities with \$406,531.63. Boston is second and Chicago third. The four classes in college added \$68,872.44 to swell the fund. The list includes \$11,400 contributed since the fire for the student alumnae building, because of the decision to raise that entire fund over to the restoration fund if it were needed to secure certain large conditional gifts.

Loyal college girls in far-distant countries joined the fight. Substantial sums were received from China, Japan, Formosa, Korea, Turkey, South America and Hawaii.

BEAUTY ACCUSES ARTIST

Man Answering Charge Says Model Was Only Mud to Him.

DETROIT, Mich., March 14.—"She was nothing to me but so much mud," Ailyn Sherrick, former Lima, O. artist, testified before Justice Stein a few days ago, referring to Irene Palmer, of Cleveland, said to be Ohio's most beautiful girl and a pecuniary success for physical perfection.

Sherrick was protesting his innocence of the charge of disorderly conduct preferred against him because of his alleged treatment of Miss Palmer, who went to his studio in response to his advertisement for models.

Sherrick had noted her on his list of applicants as an exceptional model and he was sure that of those who applied she was the best. She was attired in a long gown of black and wore a dainty French model hat.

"I am a professional model," she testified. "I went to the studio to investigate conditions there. I had been suspicious, and I wanted to find out what he was doing. I was met by Mr. Sherrick, who turned me over to his wife, and she conducted me to a small room, where she helped me take off my clothes with the exception of my shoes and stockings. Mr. Sherrick came in then."

"He said I was a fine model and asked me to come back Tuesday. He said he had an order from a Chicago man for a series of nude pictures and he wanted me for the pose."

COLOR SAVES NEGRO'S LIFE

Murder Jury Fearing Prejudice Charge Chooses Imprisonment.

BUTTE, Mont., Mar. 14.—Because he was a negro, Des Stewart escaped the hangman's noose, the jury returning a verdict finding him guilty of murder in the first degree and fixing his punishment at life in the penitentiary.

Stewart was convicted of the murder of Edward Miller, May 16, 1914. The jury on the first degree, found him guilty in the first degree and ten of the jurors favored hanging as the penalty. The two other jurors thought the public would say it was because of race prejudice. The jury fixed on life imprisonment.

Stewart killed Miller following a quarrel over 45 cents.

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WEST KEEPS OWN MONEY

Cash Once Sent to New York Banks Is Now Held at Home.

CHICAGO, March 13.—The West no doubt will greatly enhance its importance in the United States as a result of the happenings of the last year or two. The greatly improved position of farm products is obvious, but there are many other influences. The great losses in the United States in recent months have been on such things as common stock, in railroad and industrial companies. Of these few are held in the Western states compared with the holdings of the East. Indeed, the worst corporate collapse of recent years, that of the New York, New Haven & Hartford, scarcely concerned anybody west of the Alleghenies except as bearing on general business interests.

The Western holdings other than those in local corporations are mainly of bonds.

Banking capital is lodging more and more in the Western states. An aggregate of more than \$1,000,000,000 of deposits in the Chicago banks has become a fact familiar to the public, and statements as of the present time show an increase here of \$80,000,000 since the report the latter part of last year. In the same period Minneapolis banks gained \$1,500,000; St. Paul, \$5,000,000; Kansas City, \$1,000,000; Omaha, \$5,000,000. In the National banks alone, the Western points are getting much of the money which formerly was sent to New York to be loaned on the Stock Exchange at 2 or 3 per cent.

This in the Western states is developing important financial centers of their own and the Federal reserve system will contribute to this process if it works out as its projectors have intended.

"OLD SHOES" BOUGHT UP

New York Exporters to Send Out-of-Date Stocks to Belligerents.

DULUTH, Mar. 14.—Two men, said to represent a large exporting firm of New York, it is said, purchased all available "old stock" from local shoe dealers here. They paid cash for the shoes, boxed them up and sent them to New York.

They would not say definitely what their plan is, but would not deny that the shoes are to be sent to countries involved in war and whose manufacturers have been unable to turn out the usual product.

The terms "old shoes" is a mere technicality, for in reality the shoes have never been worn. They are, however, out of date.

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