

# PLAYS AND PLAYERS

### TONIGHT'S ATTRACTIONS.

Marquam Grand Dark.  
Cordray's—"One Night in June."  
Baker—"Mistress Nell."  
Arcade—Continuous Vaudeville.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Marquam Grand—Tuesday, "Robin Hood;" Wednesday, "The Serenade;" Thursday, "The Queen of Laughter;" and Wednesday matinee, "Robin Hood."  
Cordray—"Down by the Sea."  
Baker—"The Case of the Rebellious Susan."  
Arcade—Continuous Vaudeville; change of bill Monday.

Hall Caine's "Eternal City" proved to be interesting in conception, broad in scope and advanced in thought and withal of entirely human purpose and attainments. As such it strikes a responsive chord in the heart of the theatre goers.

With its spectacular features it is strongly reminiscent of "Ben Hur," but there is more direct appeal to the intelligent understanding than to the impressive features which so profusely illuminate the drama of old Jerusalem. The music is uninteresting and appears to be a useless waste of time, but the play will appeal to theatre devotees for many seasons to come.

The Seattle critics generally condemn the Bostonians' new opera, "The Queen of Laughter," which was given its premiere in Spokane. Of course the production does not run with the smoothness that comes after a series of performances and it should be in fairly presentable shape for Thursday night when Portland theatre goers will have a chance to witness the piece at the Marquam Grand.

The sale for the Bostonians' engagement opened today and it is anticipated that standing room will be at a premium during the three nights which they hold forth. The repertoire includes "The Serenade" and "Robin Hood."

There is a true womanly tenderness in the character of "Mistress Nell," which was portrayed by Miss Esther Lyon in the play at the Baker this week. It contained wholesome heart interest, clever comedy, sparkling dialogue and surprising situations, all so skillfully woven together as to form a stage creation without the slightest suspicion of any alloy.

The play is peopled with characters taken from real life, not caricatures of nature, but a beautiful and truthful collection of men and women whose doings during the reign of the good King Charles III has left a page stamped in the history of the world. The members of the company were particularly adapted to the correct interpretation of the different roles and the week's records was crowded houses at every performance.

Mr. Mansfield's announcement that he will produce a drama based upon Wagner's "Parsifal" next season and appear in the title role himself is interesting. The name of the author who will adapt the composer's libretto to the uses of the dramatic stage is not given, but it is conjectured to be none other than Mr. Mansfield himself. A "Parsifal" play properly staged might be a success from a standpoint of curiosity, but it will have to possess supreme literary and dramatic qualities to compensate for the loss of the music, which is the better half of the opera.

The Iroquois theatre, which was destroyed by fire very recently in Chicago, with such an awful accompanying holocaust of death, is to be repaired and reopened. The cost of the work will approximate \$22,000. It was thought improbable that the building would be used again for a playhouse and the Iroquois Memorial association had made plans to use the site for a hospital or other public institution to commemorate the victims of the conflagration. It is said that the name of the theatre will be changed to the Northwest. Further comments are superfluous.

In this country there's growth in public appreciation (not popularity) is due less to his pretensions as a sociological revealer than to his surpassing skill as a dramatist. His influence is seen in the writings of many of the European and American playwrights, but none of his disciples, acknowledged or unadmitted, approaches the craft and art of the rugged old Norseman. When an Ibsen drama is presented properly in this



AGNES CAIN BROWN.  
Prima Donna Soprano with the Bostonians.

country nowadays its drawing powers are great. This season the receipts forthcoming from the box office prove that most conclusively.

"The much-talked-of daughter of Lillian Russell may develop into an actress one of these days if miracles come into fashion," remarks an eastern critic, "but at present I must confess to being ungallant enough to say that Dorothy doesn't amount to much."

The energetic press agent of Mrs. Fiske writes that contracts have been signed by Harrison Gray Fiske and Hugh Morton by the terms of which Mr. Fiske secures the rights to and will in due time produce a new and remarkable drama by that author.

George Ade is a lucky boy. His latest comic opera, "The Shogun," went into rehearsal this week and in the meantime Ade will retire and await the criticisms. There is a strange coincidence in the fact that the scene of action is laid in Korea and the present war there between Japan and Russia. In the stage story everything is straightened out by an American who becomes a ruler and is known as "The Shogun."

Is Richard Mansfield an acting manager? Yes, Richard Mansfield is an acting manager. Why is Richard Mansfield an acting manager? Because he manages to act while he manages, and manages while he acts. It is now announced with some authority that the first actor will produce "Ivan the Terrible" in New York this season, in spite of the organized, insistent and determined objection of his board of advisory managers. Mr. Mansfield has fought out this desire to "do Ivan" from the beginning of his season.

Reports from San Francisco indicate that the Webber & Field's engagement at the Grand Opera house, which continues a fortnight, is a distinct success. On the opening night the house was

packed to the doors. It is still undetermined whether the organization will include a visit to Portland on this coast trip.

David Belasco and the theatrical trust are fast widening the breach between them. Mr. Belasco now announces that he will construct eight or 12 more first-class theatres in the largest cities and in fact he is going to be a "trust" by himself.

There are two roles in "The Earl of Pawtucket" which almost any actress would be glad to play for nothing. This remarkable state of affairs has been brought about by the fact that, in the theatrical profession, they have come to be looked upon as "lucky parts" and of all superstitious people actors and actresses as a class are the most so. These roles are Harriet Fordyce and Ella Seaford. All the actresses who have played either have subsequently been married to rich men, or have obtained engagements at very large salaries—practically star parts.

The wonderful performance being given at the Arcade theatre by the Tetsumari, a troupe of seven Japanese, is the feature of the year in vaudeville circles. The same bill will continue all day today and Sunday.

Howard Kyle will present "Rosemary" at the Marquam shortly. The annual engagement of the Murry and Mack company is announced at the Marquam Grand theatre next Friday and Saturday nights, February 24 and 25, with a popular matinee Saturday. The seat diagram for this engagement will be opened on next Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

Ben Hendricks, the popular character actor, will be seen here shortly in a new play, "Erick of Sweden."

Pearl Landers, Daniel Frohman's ingenue, and well known through her

clever work with T. Daniel Frawley here in stock, has signed for stock season at the Bush Temple theatre in Chicago. It is understood her husband, Al Phillips, who played the minister here with Stoddard last season, has also signed a contract with the same people.

Stetson's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" under the management of Leon Washburn, is to appear at the Marquam Grand theatre in the near future. Daniel Sully will be seen as the star in the "Chief Justice" at the Marquam.

Alice Johnson, formerly here with T. Daniel Frawley in stock plays and now engaged in a road tour of "A Friend of the Family," is sick at Jacksonville, Florida, and her part is being taken by an understudy, Edith Terry.

The Baker Theatre company will leave on its road tour next month and is to be followed here by the Neill-Morocco company.

It is highly probable that the Olympia Opera company will play a limited engagement at Cordray's theatre in the near future. The repertoire includes a number of favorite operas.

The Bostonians will present a repertoire including "The Serenade," "Robin Hood" and "The Queen of Laughter." The latter had its first premiere at Spokane recently and is said to have lots of dash and verve, with plenty of pretty and tuneful melodies. The Bostonians need no further introduction.

Clever Cathrine Countess, who has made so many friends here as leading lady of the Baker stock company and who last season starred in a road tour of "The Christian," is said to have signed a three years' contract with Ralph Stuart.

Daniel Sully will shortly appear at the Marquam Grand in "The Chief Justice," an original and powerful production. The popular star has given to the stage such successes as "The Corner Grocery," "The Millionaire," "O'Brien the Contractor," "The Parish Priest" and "The Old Mill Stream," and is said to have achieved the triumph of his life in this latest play.

"The Game Keeper," an Irish melodrama, is coming this way and popular Frank Healey writes that it is playing to good business. Frank, by the way, was in advance with "Over Niagara Falls," and has been promoted to business manager of the new play.

It is a pleasure to anticipate the arrival of Howard Kyle, the romantic actor,



OZA WALDROP.  
The Bright Little Ingenue with the Baker Company.

who will shortly appear at the Marquam Grand in "Rosemary." Mr. Kyle is best remembered here for his clever work in "Nathan Hale." During March Rose Cecilia Shay and her grand opera company are also booked for an engagement.

### PRESS AGENTS' MONOLOGUES

**THE BOSTONIANS.**  
The Bostonians will give four performances at the Marquam Grand theatre beginning Tuesday night, February 23. The bills are: Tuesday night, "Robin Hood;" Wednesday night, "The Serenade;" Thursday night, the new opera, "The Queen of Laughter;" Wednesday matinee, "Robin Hood." To the role of King Lecherins in "The Queen of Laughter," which he created, Henry Clay Barnabee is irresistibly funny, being ripe, droll, finished and rich in explosive surprises. He is lighter of foot and happier in spirit this season than he has been in a dozen years, though on the 14th of November, 1903, he celebrated the completion of his seventieth year. We have the authority of the most conservative New York Tribune that "he seems to grow younger as he grows older," and that on the occasion of the opening of the season, August 24, he was the liveliest person on the stage. It will be in order for Mr. Barnabee's admirers to take up Oliver Wendell Holmes' felicitous compliment to Julia Ward Howe on a memorable occasion and congratulate him on being "70 years young." It is a great privilege to diffuse such cheer as Barnabee diffuses at 70, something that the gods vouchsafe to few. There is joy in such winter of life, and Barnabee is the kind of man to make the coldest winter take on some of the genialist of summer memories.

The advance sale of seats opened this morning.

**"THE CASE OF REBELLIOUS SUSAN."**  
The new week opens at the Baker theatre with the matinee tomorrow afternoon at which the Baker Theatre company will produce "The Case of the Rebellious Susan." It is a high-class society comedy in three acts by Herman Arthur Jones, and tells the story of a wife's determination to seek redress because of her husband's supposed flirtations. She flirts with a young man named Lucien Edensor. A serious complication is averted by an elderly mutual friend, Sir Richard Kato, who, from the beginning acted as peace-maker

between her and her husband. Some of the best comedy of the play centers about the interchange of experiences between this separation of James and Susan. There are two other mated pairs in this lively drama, more or less unhappy, but comically so. One Admiral Darby, who portrays the aged benedict who has been on duty away from his wife, Lady Darby, for six months. There is a Mrs. Quessel to whose charms the mentor, Sir Richard Kato, succumbs. The delightful comedy is rounded out by the relation of the troubles of the Fybusess. She is a strong-minded advocate of social reform and female suffrage, strenuous and oratorical. He is her aesthetic but unequal protector.

**"DOWN BY THE SEA."**  
"Down by the Sea" commences a week's engagement at Cordray's theatre tomorrow (Sunday) with a matinee.

"Down by the Sea" is a comedy-drama and has been running for the past eight years in England. It received its initial American production last season at Boston, Mass., where it played to the largest week's business in the history of the Boston theatre. The play is a dramatization of a well-known English novel, but the characters and situations have been slightly changed to suit the tastes and ideas of the American theatre-goer. The play occupies the position in literature with such attractions as "Shore Acres" and "Way Down East." It is bright and clean, not overdrawn, and has a distinct vein of comedy which brightens it wonderfully.

**"SLAVES OF THE MINE."**  
"Slaves of the Mine," which comes to Cordray's theatre next following "Down by the Sea," tells an every-day story favoring of the soil of the locality in which its scenes are laid, with characters drawn from life, and a plot which is skillfully constructed, contains bright and witty dialogue, strong complications and dramatic scenes of great strength. Special new scenery by James Fox of New York and a metropolitan cast insure a finished performance.

The name "Rose society" has appeared in the papers a number of times lately and yet there are many people who know very little about this organization and what it is aiming to accomplish.

### The City of the Million Roses

Previous to the organization of the Rose society, a "Floral society," the floral department of the State Horticultural society, was the only organization of the kind in Portland. The object of this society was to assist in the planting and cultivation of roses in general. Mrs. Card and Mrs. Shafford were prominently identified with this work. The floral society was reorganized about two years ago into what is now known as the "Rose society." The rose question was considered so much more important that it was decided to give attention to the planting and culture of that flower alone. The present object of this society is to assist the people of Portland in making this the "rose city" of the world.

The rose seems peculiarly adapted to Portland. The soil and climate are the best that have been found for its hardy growth, and it flourishes with so little care that the society ought to have the assistance of every Portlander in carrying out its purpose.

Francis Lee, secretary of the society, says that over 1,000,000 rose bushes have been planted in Portland during the past two years. Seven thousand bushes have been planted on the grounds of the Lewis and Clark fair. A sum of \$40 has been given to Mrs. Rose Hart, the president of the society, \$29 being taken from the treasury and the same amount being donated by the Women's club. The money has been used in purchasing roses, which have been planted along Thurman street, from Twenty-first out to the Lewis and Clark fair grounds. It was intended to have the slips planted next to the curb, but owing to the fact that there is a law in force prohibiting the planting of plants on the outside of the walk on a streetcar line, they were planted on the inside. Ulrich Bruner is the rose who has been planted along this street. This rose is a brilliant cherry-red. This is one way which the society has taken to advertise the rose. Mrs. David Dryden, treasurer of the society, suggests a way by which the men of the city may help to make this the rose city of the world. She says: "My advice to the gentlemen is to wear roses in their buttonholes. Many gentlemen are loth to do this because it seems as if they were trying to make themselves conspicuous." Mrs. Dryden is an enthusiastic rose grower. She says:

"There is no reason why Portland should not be known as the rose city of the world. In the first place we have the soil and the climate. The plants do not cost much. I think a dollar would buy enough plants for one summer. My advice to amateurs is not to undertake rose culture on too large a scale at first. Buy just a few plants to start with so as to learn their several individualities and then if you acquire a fondness for the culture you may work on a larger scale. The tea rose is one of the most interesting varieties. Some people consider them best because they are so delicately beautiful. They excel all other classes for bouquets and cut flowers. The Hybrid is a very popular variety. This class includes the Hybrid Teas, the Hybrid Perpetuals. The Hybrid Teas are not hard on the Perpetuals, but will stand out during the winter with very slight protection. The Perpetuals are valuable for outdoor planting, as they are very hardy and will stand the most severe winters. They are very showy. Another favorite variety is the La France. This is delicate in coloring, perfect in form and is very fragrant, so is naturally well liked.

"If young people could only be taught that plants are living, feeling entities. The soil here is so fine that people set the plants in the ground and then expect them to blossom beautifully without any further attention. Roses are gross feeders. They must have enriching occasionally. The soil must be stirred up around them so that the poor things can have a chance to breathe. Sometimes they will be watered so much that the roots actually decay and again they will be dying for a drink. Rose culture has always seemed to me like a game of whist. There are certain rules to follow and there are also exceptions to these rules. People who wish to cultivate roses successfully must study the individualities of the different flowers. These are as strongly marked as those of people. I wish people would plant more climbing roses, as they make such a grand show. Again let me repeat my advice, wear roses so that we may be known as the rose city of the world."

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