

MAXINE ELLIOTT IS IN TROUBLE

American Actress Will Open Engagement Early to Avoid Being Scooped.

TWO PLAYS WRITTEN ALONG SAME OUTLINE

Both Productions Will Be Counterparts of Lady Grosvenor's Caravanning Expedition but Are Not Plagiarisms.

(Journal Special Service.)

London, Aug. 10.—Here is the latest instance of "unconscious cohabitation" on the part of two playwrights, and present indications are that it may make some complications for a popular American actress in this country. This is Maxine Elliott, whose plans have all been made for opening at the London Lyric early in September, with a new play by H. T. Edmond, and who now finds that there may be another piece on similar lines in the field.

At the outset, by wish of the author "When We Were Twenty-One," particularly was made public regarding his new piece for Miss Elliott, but recently an unexpected happening completely altered the situation. This was the exploit of Lady Arthur Grosvenor, aunt of the Duke of Westminster, who, as the cables to America announced at the time, suddenly took it into her head to sample the life of the gipsy and forthwith set out through Oxfordshire in a caravan as "Sarah Lee, Licensed Hawker."

Now exactly such a proceeding on the part of a fair number of the British aristocracy forms the theme of Edmond's play, which is called "Under the Greenwood Tree." Wandering about as a "simple life," his heroine encounters on a certain bachelor nobleman's estate, is surprised by the owner, and the essential romance follows. Naturally Edmond, whose play was written some two years ago, did not desire to be accused of having simply "adapted" the Lady Grosvenor incident, and accordingly the details of his plot were communicated to a dramatic writer lately and published with appropriate comments.

Now for the second "coincidence," which is not less surprising than the first. Forward at once comes an author of note, Mrs. Margaret Wood, with the announcement that over two years ago she commenced to write a play whose first act was laid in a house in Park Lane, and the other two in a forest where the heroine was caravanning. What is more, Mrs. Wood states that her play has not only been completed, but accepted by a London management, so if the Edmond work is not actually anticipated, to say nothing of having a rival, both Miss Elliott and the author may count themselves fortunate.

Mrs. Wood, be it explained, brings no charge of plagiarism against Edmond; she wants only to avoid having such a charge brought against her by the dramatist, whose plot has been first to get into the papers. Meanwhile the rival pieces, should both be produced, will have no more interested spectator than Lady Arthur Grosvenor herself, whose caravanning tour was brought to an end recently by the parlous state of the English "summer." I have not been able to interview Maxine Elliott

on the subject, the actress being out of London at present, but the obvious motive for her is to arrange to begin her season at the Lyric earlier than she had planned, if possible, and thus avoid the danger of what in the newspaper world is known as being "scooped."

Wanted another Phillips. "This legend may be said, metaphorically, at any rate, to adorn the portals of half a dozen English actor-managers who see opportunities in really good poetic drama, but up to now their respective quests have proved fruitless. The subject occurs to one on learning that Phillips himself has just promised Martin Harvey to write him a play based on Scott's "Bride of Lammermoor," and that Lawrence Binyon, a promising young English poet, is the latest candidate for the mantle which the author of "Paolo and Francesca" once wore but apparently won't.

Harvey, it is true, may get his poetic version of the Lammermoor romance, but if he does he will be more successful than any other English manager has had since the days of the late Stephen Phillips, who made a great success in "Paolo," Beerbohm Tree and several others, but being pleased by not actually being forthcoming. Rumor says, but never mind! The fact remains that for over three years no new piece has come down the English stage, and that there seems no one else to supply the void.

Would-be Ellshas to this Elijah have been many, but disappointing. There was James Bernard Fagan, for example, "that young verger" aimed high in writing his "Prayer of the Sword," but it did not please and he turned his attention in order to tour the provinces, and with a costly company and effects. All will wish the venture well, of course, but in view of all the recent failures to emulate Phillips' success, no rash prophecies will be indulged in here. The author of "Attila the Hun" is said to have "stepped himself" in the Burgundian and Germanic legends that cluster around his hero's name and to have produced a piece of uncommon power and grip. If, so, there may be less cause for regret in case Stephen Phillips' latest promise remains, like his others, unfulfilled.

Do English folk dislike Americans to the extent of wanting only to see them caricatured on the stage? Such a statement is nonsense, of course, but as it has been made seriously by an American theatrical agent, lately returned from this country it perhaps, calls for some reply. An effective one comes from Mrs. Madge Carr Cook, who, of course is the star of "Mrs. Wiggs," the piece which A. T. Worm declares had succeeded in London only because it masked English folk feel superior to Americans.

In a letter published this morning, Mrs. Cook says: "I do not agree with Mr. Worm's statement that the English hate America. Certainly since our arrival in this country the attention and courtesy extended towards us by the press and public alike are sufficient to contradict the pessimistic saying of Mr. Worm."

Again, I think it is totally wrong to say that "Mrs. Wiggs" and her associates of the cabbage patch are looked upon by the English as representative types of the average American citizens. It is easy to gather from the laughter and applause with which the performances of "Mrs. Wiggs" of the Cabbage Patch are greeted that the appreciation of the English public is genuine and sincere, and not the outcome of any petty or jealous sentiment towards America."

MAKING BIG MINE OF BLUE LEDGE

Developers Make All Provision for Access and Reduction.

ROAD IS COMPLETED—SMELTER PROJECTED

New Town of Elisen Laid Out Close to Mine—Seattle Parties Also Plan Smelter—District in California, But Only Geographically So.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Elisen, Cal., Aug. 9.—Since taking full possession of the Blue Ledge mine at this place, the Blue Ledge Mining company has laid plans for extensive development and improvement, intent upon making this one of the biggest copper mines in the Golden state.

Not only the Blue Ledge, but all other properties of the district, are making splendid progress with this summer's development. Rich strikes have been made on the St. Albans, Blue Extension and Bloomfield groups of claims. On the St. Albans a 50-foot ledge carrying 320 a ton in gold and from 4 to 5 per cent copper has been tapped by the main tunnel. More than 500 feet of development work has been done on this property, which is an east extension of the Blue Ledge. The group is owned by Portland and Spokane mining men, Henry Callahan of Spokane being manager.

The New Town of Elisen.

The daily stages to Medford and Jacksonville are loaded with passengers, and several freight teams are on the road. Pack horses are loaded here almost daily for the trails to the various prospects. The district, covering an area 25 by 50 miles, is nearly all located. While the district is in Sierraville county, California, it belongs practically to Oregon, as the only way of getting in or out is from the Oregon side.

The Blue Ledge company, at a cost of \$10,000, has completed the wagon road from Joe Bar to the Blue Ledge, and the stages and freight wagons now run to the camp.

Elisen is the name of the new town located but half a mile from Blue Ledge camp. It has a hotel and store and application has been made for a postoffice. F. W. Cooley has charge of the hotel.

Plans for Smelters.

The Seattle Mining company is planning to erect a smelter on Seattle bar, four miles below Joe Bar, and near the confluence of Elliott creek with the Applegate river. This smelter will not only treat the ore of the company's mines, but will do general custom work. The Blue Ledge company has in prospect the building of a smelter on Joe Bar, to which the ore will be carried by tram from the adit tunnels of the property. The company has over 300 men on its payroll, and the camp is one of the largest in northern California.

MRS. HART M'KEE IS TIRED OF MARRIAGE

Former Wife of Hugh Tevis Determined to Secure Decree of Divorce.

(Secret News by Longest Leased Wire.)

Paris, Aug. 10.—There was great surprise in the American colony today when it became known that the beautiful Mrs. Hart McKee had instituted divorce proceedings against her husband, alleging cruelty as the reason for her petition. Mrs. McKee is firm in her determination

to go on with the case and it is said that some sensational and startling facts will be brought out at the trial early in October, by Mrs. McKee's attorneys. Mrs. McKee has been temporarily awarded the custody of the children.

None of those connected with the case will talk for publication, but it is understood that a disagreement between the McKees is not new. There is a report that they fell out soon after the dashing Hart McKee married the fascinating woman who was the wife of Hugh Tevis, son of the well known California millionaire.

Two years and a half ago, Mrs. Tevis married the son of H. Zellers McKee of Pittsburg, who was involved in the Phyllis divorce suit.

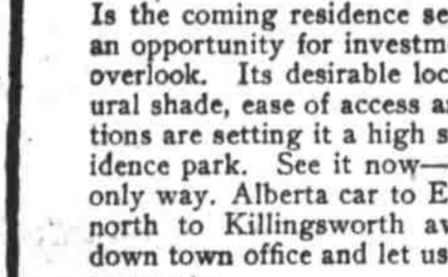
Battler in a Bedroom.

Gallatin Correspondence Nashville American.

A well known citizen of this country, who resides in the Ridge, or North Side community, relates the following: "Not long since my wife went into the bedroom and was horrified to find a large rattlesnake wriggling from behind the door. She called to me, but by this time the snake had sought refuge under the bed, and I killed it with a load of shot from my gun. How long the snake had been in the room or just how it had got there nobody knows."

Judge T. N. Robnett, United States Commissioner at Ardmore, has been announced as a candidate for Secretary of State of Oklahoma on the Republican ticket.

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playing not three feet from the serpent. My wife attempted to strike the snake with a broom, but it sought refuge behind the bicycle wheel, and occasionally thrust its ugly head at her in a threatening manner. She called to me, but by this time the snake had sought refuge under the bed, and I killed it with a load of shot from my gun. How long the snake had been in the room or just how it had got there nobody knows."

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