

DIMMED STAR EMERGING FROM CLOUD

Melbourne MacDowell Shows Some of His Old Form in His Appearance With the Actress Who Once Called Portland Her Home.

By J. F. S.

Melbourne MacDowell, one time co-star with Fanny Davenport, and one of the greatest Antons that ever played the role of the Roman general, to ultimately be tossed into the button-molder's pot with those who have neither great virtues nor great sins?

It was a strange Melbourne MacDowell that we saw last week in the little old theatre with its cramped stage and motley audience—a Melbourne MacDowell who had lived and had seen life and acted life, and who had faced death and drunk the cup of humiliation. That physique, which in his younger days must have been magnificent and which is still, in spite of its tendency to heaviness, is commanding, seemed pitifully out of place in the tawdry settings of the act. And that full, richly toned voice seemed strangely out of tune with the common noises of a cheap vaudeville house.

"Have you ever noticed," said a man the other day, "an actor never speaks of the present? It is always the past or the future." The remark was occasioned by overhearing two actresses, seated at a nearby table in the cafe, remark that last year they had played to record business during their Portland engagement.

It is always what an actor has been, what successes he had in his younger days or in past seasons, how excellent he was in some other part, or else how great he is going to be. The retrospective view is paralyzing; the present is inconsequential; it is only the future that can really result in expansion and that holds out hope for the people of the stage.

I knew the story of Mr. McDowell's past. The present was only too plainly in evidence. The interesting thing was what the future might hold in store for him. Could he overcome the years wasted and harder still, the memories of what he had been, and rise by stepping stones of his dead selves to higher things?

His act was a bad one, in many respects, and sinned against good taste in many more. But that it was powerfully done could not be denied. When Marius, the slave, stepped upon the stage the audience felt that it was looking upon a personage. The lower jaw was overgrown with flesh. The hair was white over the temples. But he stepped with a grace that bespoke the accomplished actor. And the richness of his voice was still impressive and inspiring. The eye flashed clear and true. Only the mouth gave the impression of weakness; the mouth and the lines of the chin.

When later on I met Mr. McDowell in my capacity as interviewer he looked the part of a man who was fighting to attain something that he greatly desired. What that might be I was fortunately spared the impertinence of asking. The past had left its stamp, of course. You could see it in the pathetic look of the eyes, a look that was pathetic in spite of its directness and resolve, and that seemed to be inspired by the cry of the balls of wool, the materialized thoughts. "We are thoughts, thou shouldst have thought us; hands and feet thou shouldst have lent us."

Perhaps he will struggle back to himself. And perhaps he will prove the truth of the buttonmaker's, "To find thyself is to slay thyself." For Melbourne MacDowell is trying diligently to find himself.

DICK OBEЕ RETURNS TO MARVEL AT PORTLAND

Dick Obee, dramatist, actor, raconteur, dramatic critic and theatrical manager, and one of the most entertaining and personally attractive men connected with theatrical affairs in America has spent the past week in Portland arranging for the production of Creston Clark's new play at the Marquam Grand.

In his years of varied experience in connection with theatrical enterprises in this country and England Mr. Obee has crossed the continent some 18 times and has managed such stars as Mme. Modjeska, Rose Coghlan and many others of equal prominence. Mr. Obee is one of the best known theatrical men in the country and has an enviable acquaintanceship with members of "the profession."

He first visited Portland in 1889 as a young actor, stranded and out of money. The company he was with had been broken up by a personal encounter between the husband of the leading woman and the advance man. It happened in the hotel where they were staying up for the night, said Mr. Obee. I stepped into the roundabout and instead of the husband of our leading woman manhandling his nails with his knife, and although I was surprised to see him in town I paid no particular attention to him. He went on up stairs, through his wife's room and into that occupied by the advance man. Here he found his wife and the advance man, the latter standing in front of the mirror adjusting his tie.

"It broke up the company of course. The advance man stayed behind, went into a lumber camp as time-keeper and 240,000. He said that fight was the luckiest thing that ever happened to him. As for me I dragged myself into the postoffice in Portland—the same ancient pile you have now—absolutely up against it. I was only a boy, it was my first visit to Portland and I was mumbled excitedly and called upon the name of the founder of the



MELBOURNE MACDOWELL.

the cheapest of stock companies. But those are Mr. McDowell's dead selves perhaps. His present act is the best work he has done for years. And he is sticking to it faithfully and hard, determined to again climb the ladder which seemed of so little consequence years ago. With McDowell, too, it is no the past, nor the present, but the future. Like Maeterlinck he has set out to meet the things that are coming to meet him and to grapple with them as best he may.

We were given a particularly delightful view of our friend the devil last week—a view that recalled how frequently he used to be seen upon the stage and how the fashions of today have practically banished him from stage society excepting as a polite impersonation now and then.

He was the devil of childhood's dreams, the personification of the first picture of Satan that I ever saw and the one that has always remained in memory. It was on the cover of a volume called "Horrors of the Johnstown Flood," which adorned the center table of my dentist's waiting room. What the devil had to do with the Johnstown flood was never explained. He had not much more excuse for appearing in "The Black Crook," but he was there and lent a cheerful bit of color to the production, so every one was glad to see him.

What would the world be without the devil? He personifies ambition and ambition makes life worth the living. Was it not for ambition that the unfortunate red-garbed one was ejected by Saint Michael? He was a nuisance probably, as most overly ambitious people are. But it isn't probable that he was the owner of a pitch fork at that time. The pitch fork, we are informed, came later.

DICK OBEЕ RETURNS TO MARVEL AT PORTLAND

Dick Obee, dramatist, actor, raconteur, dramatic critic and theatrical manager, and one of the most entertaining and personally attractive men connected with theatrical affairs in America has spent the past week in Portland arranging for the production of Creston Clark's new play at the Marquam Grand.

In his years of varied experience in connection with theatrical enterprises in this country and England Mr. Obee has crossed the continent some 18 times and has managed such stars as Mme. Modjeska, Rose Coghlan and many others of equal prominence. Mr. Obee is one of the best known theatrical men in the country and has an enviable acquaintanceship with members of "the profession."

He first visited Portland in 1889 as a young actor, stranded and out of money. The company he was with had been broken up by a personal encounter between the husband of the leading woman and the advance man. It happened in the hotel where they were staying up for the night, said Mr. Obee. I stepped into the roundabout and instead of the husband of our leading woman manhandling his nails with his knife, and although I was surprised to see him in town I paid no particular attention to him. He went on up stairs, through his wife's room and into that occupied by the advance man. Here he found his wife and the advance man, the latter standing in front of the mirror adjusting his tie.

"It broke up the company of course. The advance man stayed behind, went into a lumber camp as time-keeper and 240,000. He said that fight was the luckiest thing that ever happened to him. As for me I dragged myself into the postoffice in Portland—the same ancient pile you have now—absolutely up against it. I was only a boy, it was my first visit to Portland and I was mumbled excitedly and called upon the name of the founder of the

Richard Obee.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

As is usually the case toward spring, the waning season holds much in store for theatre-goers. Mrs. Pat Campbell, the famous English actress, is coming to Portland soon for a two-days and matinee engagement. Other interesting events in the dramatic calendar are Willie Collier in "Caught in the Rain," McIntyre and Heath in "The Ham Tree," Wilton Lackaye, Francis Wilson and many other stars are to show here before the closing of the season.

Frank Lalor pronounces his name as though it were spelled "Lawlor." As the most frequent mispronunciation is "Laylor," but the popular little comedian of "Coming Thro' the Rye" sometimes has to stand for "Lallor."

Eddie Foy insists on playing "Hamlet," and will appear for a week in the Shakespeare places at New York theatre, footing the expense himself. Florence Rockwell is chosen for the role of Ophelia.

Henry Miller has given out the information that he hopes to establish a stock company in the near future. He has plays by William Vaughn Moody, Moody, Percy Mackaye and Ridgeley Torrence.

Klaw & Erlanger and Joseph Brooks have engaged Guy Standing and Theodore Roberts, now starring joyfully in "The Right of Way" for a term of years. These actors will continue in their present play next season, but a new play will be put on whenever "The Right of Way" fails to attract.

Virginia Earl, who has been in vogue for the past few seasons, intends to retire from the stage at an early date and go abroad. An auction sale of the furnishings of her country home at Cornwall-on-Hudson, including a large library, and also her stage wardrobe, took place last week and realized a large sum.

George Arlis of Mrs. Flske's company is looking for a play that shall be a suitable vehicle for him next season. If successful in his search he will be seen at the head of company next fall. Should he not find a play to suit him by the end of his present tour with Mrs. Flske, he will probably go to Europe for several months.

J. M. Barrie is finishing a play which will probably be produced first in New York, with Maud Adams in the leading role.

Charles Frohman is in conference by cable with Otis Skinner, with a view to presenting Mr. Skinner in a Shakespearean repertoire next season.

Lillian Russell will go to London to present "Wildfire" at the end of the present season, and will open her New York season in this play in the autumn.

Anna Held and her company will give one performance of "The Parisian Model" in Paris, and will then go to London for an all summer run of the piece.

Alice Nielsen, it is announced, has received an offer to sing the role of Zerlina in "Don Giovanni" at the opening of the New Colon theatre, in Buenos Ayres, in May. If Henry Russell, who

Plays Boy's Role But Prefers to Wear Gowns

"Would I want to be a boy? Well, I should say not!" Thus, in no uncertain tones did Miss Ruth White, star of "The Burgomaster" company which comes to the Heilig next Sunday night, who plays the role of Willie Van Astorbitt in that production, rise up in defense of her sex and express her abhorrence of masculinity—with a reservation, of course.

Miss White played the role of Willie in the original "Burgomaster" company, organized some seven years ago, and it is safe to say that since then she has spent almost a fifth of her time masquerading in men's attire. "Then you do not believe in Dr. Mary Walker's idea that male attire should

be worn by women?" "No, indeed," she replied. "I am an optimist. Wasn't it Robert Burns who wrote to his fellow-sinner exhorting him to repentance: "But fare ye weel, auld Nickie-Ben! (O, wad ye tak a thought an' men! Ye aibins might dinna ken— Still hae a stake: I'm wae to think up' ye den, E'en for your sake!"

Christian religion for the first time in his life. They all got out of the wreck without being soiled, in fact, although Mr. Obee's back was hurt and sometimes pains him in the night. A week or so ago Obee was caught in a country hotel and forced to share his room with a traveling man. When he had been asleep some hours Obee was awakened by hearing the fellow shake his head roughly and peering anxiously into his face say, "Good heavens man! What have you done? Hadn't you better get it off your conscience? Tell it to the sheriff!"

Obee unconsciously moaned all through the night and the traveling man supposed that he was sleeping with a conscience-stricken criminal. But the theatrical man's mind never a sheriff is mentioned in his hearing.

TRAIN WAITED.

Hurry Call From Traveler Who Didn't Want Card Game Stopped.

From the Kansas City Journal. Hoppenon, the Union depot barber, keeps a private mug for Senator Clark of Montana and various eastern railway officials. He has been called out of bed at night to shave an eccentric patron, but he said last night that the demands made upon him by R. T. Crane Saturday night were new and decidedly interesting.

Crane is in the implement business and lives in Chicago. He travels about the country in a private car. Saturday night the Crane car was attached to the Santa Fe No. 9, inbound. As the train neared Chillicothe, Mo., the implement magnate discovered that he had forgotten his safety razor when he packed for his trip to Los Angeles. Crane had the conductor of his train telegraph the Santa Fe agent here to have a barber at the depot for him. The train was late and it doesn't stop here more than 10 minutes when on time. Hoppenon was notified and was in readiness with his outfit, the barber looking up, inquired: "Saturday night the Union depot at 8:25 the barber swung on the private car and had his patron lathered before the engine stopped. Crane, sitting in the drawing-room of his car, was enjoying a game of solitaire. The cards were spread about the table and the implement king did not appear to notice the barber's presence. When the lather began to tickle his mouth Crane, without looking up, inquired: "Does the game interfere with you?"

When Hoppenon replied, "I'm here only to shave," Crane placed the next card carefully and went on with the game. The barber finished in five minutes, was paid by a secretary and bowed out of the car.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY TO PLAY SCOTCH FAVORITES



W. H. Boyer, Conductor of Chorus.

All good loyal clansmen will want to be on hand at the Armory April 10 when the Chicago symphony and Mr. Boyer's Portland chorus will give Max Bruch's "Fair Ellen" which is distinctly Scotch in character. The hit of the bagpipe will be heard and the strains of "The Campbells are Coming," constantly recur in the orchestration. The whole effect as chorus and solo voices relate the story of the siege of Lucknow is most dramatic, and this cantata will prove an interesting addition to

the first program of the festival. The chorus during the engagement, will also sing "The Swan and the Skylark," which is one of the most beautiful cantatas written.

One of the most remarkable offerings of the season will be the presentation of the "Messiah" on Palm Sunday afternoon when the old Armory will shake with the reverberations of 300 voices in those fine old choruses. Much interest is being manifested in this event, and it will be a rare opportunity to hear this favorite oratorio.

George Cohan's new play will be brought out in Philadelphia on April 6 at the Chestnut Street opera house, where he will remain for two weeks.

Ethel Barrymore has received word from her brother, Lionel, who is studying art in Paris that he is so satisfied with the progress that there is very little likelihood of his return to the stage for some time to come.

"The New Stenographer," a musical comedy by Clifton Crawford, will be produced by Joseph Hart next season, with Carrie De Mar and Mr. Crawford as stars.

Virginia Harned will play a stock company of themselves out of St. Louis this summer and will try a new play with the idea of using it for her starring tour next season.

Adeline Bourne, Katherine Stewart, George Ingleton and Langhorne Burton have resigned from Olga Netherole's company because, according to Louis Netherole, they were dissatisfied with the number of rehearsals called.

Charles Frohman is shortly to produce "Brewster's Millions" in Paris. The play is already running in this country, England, Australia and negotiations are going on about its production in Berlin.

Negotiations are now under way between the Chicago symphony and Leila Carter, which may result in the latter's appearance in a dramatized and decorated variety show at a workroom. Hackett purchased the rights of a play from Elinor Glynn just before she sailed for Europe. Mrs. Glynn expected at that time that Hackett would portray the character of Paul, and it is possible that he has changed his mind and consented to do this, providing he can persuade Mr. Carter to accept a co-starring arrangement.

A friend of Maude Adams tells charmingly something of the contents of a letter that J. M. Barrie sent Miss Adams in gratitude for her gift of the little green jacket Peter Pan wore during his burly American exploits. Mr. Barrie has hung the little coat upon the wall of the great loft which years ago he bought and turned into a workshop. "I know it stays there by day," ruminates Mr. Barrie, "as well as I know that it goes off upon strange travels by night. It flies into the drawers of my desk, into my innermost secrets—to all of which it is gladly welcome. But how it manages to get off and away it whisks through the mystery of night to Kensington Gardens."

SHOT HOLES IN CABLE.

But the Boys Who Did It Had to Earn and Pay \$10 Fines.

A telephone company in Columbus, Ohio, has been having troubles of its own. Not long ago, according to the American Telephone Directory, bullet holes were found in the sheath of a 200-pair cable on the east side of the city. The city police have had this matter in hand but in the present case have made no arrests.

Some time before this the company had another large cable shot into, and a detective located two boys, who confessed to this mischief. These boys were taken before Judge Black in the juvenile court, who sentenced them to pay to the telephone company \$10 each, with the admonition that the money be earned by themselves outside of their school hours. Most of the amount of these fines has been paid to the company by the boys.

BAKED BEAN RABBIT.

How to Make Use of the Remains of the Boston Breakfast.

A novelty in the shape of a bean rabbit is recommended in the Woman's Home Companion as a good way of using up the left over baked beans. The recipe is as follows: Melt two tablespoonsful of butter, add one teaspoonful of salt, one-eighth of a teaspoonful of paprika, one half cupful of milk and one cupful of cold mashed baked beans. Stir until thoroughly heated and add one half cupful of grated soft, mild cheese. As soon as the cheese has melted serve on small circular pieces of toasted bread or zephyrites. The recipe is admirably adapted for chafing dish use.

Technical schools are attracting the attention of labor unions in Minneapolis. Several are discussing plans to provide means by which their members may improve themselves through the study of modern ideas and methods.

NEW BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

The following list of books will be on inspection in the circulating department of the Public library for one week and will go into circulation on March 20:

- PERIODICALS. Atlantic Monthly, July-December, 1907, v. 100. Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, July-December, 1907, v. 182. Dial, July-December, 1907, v. 43. Harper's Monthly Magazine, June-November, 1907, v. 118. Littell's Living Age, July-December, 1907, v. 254-255. Outlook, September-December, 1907, v. 87. Boigne—Memoirs, v. 2, 1908.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN. Champlin—Young Folks' Astronomy. Hill—Twenty-six Historic Ships. Holbrook—Round the Year in Myth and Song. Hutton, ed.—Children's Christmas Treasury.

Ingersoll—Wild Life of Orchard and Field. Porter—Wild Beasts. Roosevelt—Good Hunting in Pursuit of Big Game in the West. Smith—The Home Aquarium and How to Care for It. Ward—The Rational Method in Reading; primer.

DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL. Athol—Sunshine and Sport in Florida and West Indies, n. s. Bagot—Lakes of Northern Italy, 1907.

Getting Around the Question. From the Kansas City Journal. A Chicago physician said the other day of the late Dr. Nicholas Senn, the celebrated surgeon, "I studied under Dr. Senn when he was professor of surgery at Rush medical college. I remember how one day he asked me a question that I did not know, and in order to hide my ignorance I gave an ambiguous answer. "Dr. Senn smiled. "He said I reminded him of a school-boy who, taking a written examination in history, came to the question: "Which was the greater general, Caesar or Hannibal?" "The boy answered as follows: "If we consider who Caesar and Hannibal were, and ask ourselves which of them was the greater, we must unhesitatingly answer in the affirmative."

The French government penalizes the employes of its tobacco factories after 25 years' service, the men receiving a pension of \$150 and the women one of \$100 a year.

MISS RUTH WHITE, IN "THE BURGOMASTER."



Miss Ruth White, in "The Burgomaster."

Geographical Journal—July-December, 1907, v. 30.

FICTION. "Blind"—The New Treasure Seekers. "Humber"—Salambo; tr. by Z. A. Rogovin. "Gates"—Cupid the Cow-Punch. "Lancaster"—The Tracks We Tread. "McCarthy"—Seraphim.

PINFARTS. Bates & Gould—Details of Decorative Sculpture, n. s. Clausen—Aims and Ideals in Art; eight lectures delivered to the students of the Royal Academy, 1906. Hunter—Practical Farm Building, Plans and Suggestions, 1906. Moreland—George Moreland, His Life and Works; by Sir Walter Gilbey and E. D. Cumings, 1907. Newbolt—Etchings of William Strang, n. s. Novello's Quarterly, v. 1, 1908. Thonger—A Book of Rock and Water Gardens, 1907.

HISTORY. Hunt—History of England From the Accession of George III to the Close of Pitt's First Administration, 1905. Montague—History of England From the Accession of James I to the Restoration, 1907. Oman—History of England, from the accession of Richard II to the death of Richard III, 1904. Sakurai—Human Bullets, a Soldier's Story of Port Arthur, 1907. Washington, Statistics, Bureau of—Review of the Resources and Industries of Washington, 1907.

LANGUAGE. Moore—Libro Illustrato di Lingua Inglese, an illustrated English-Italian language book and reader, 1907. Welneck—Common Sense Guide to English for Foreigners, 1902.

LITERATURE. Evans—Poems, 1906. Evans—September roses; a collection of verse, 1908. Ibsen—Collected works; ed. by William Archer, v. 1, 1908. Mollers—Plays, in French, with an English translation and notes by A. R. Waller, 8 v. 1907. Payne—The Greater English Poets of the Nineteenth Century, 1907.

PHILOSOPHY. International Journal of Ethics, Oct. 1906; July, 1907, v. 17. Washington, Statistics, Bureau of—Review of the Resources and Industries of Washington, 1907.

RELIGION. Biblical World, July-December, 1907, v. 30. "Doubt"—The Bible, Its Origin and Nature; seven lectures delivered before Lake Forest college, 1907. Jowett—Select Passages From His Theological Writings, ed. by Lewis Campbell, 1903. Pfleiderer—Religion and Historic Faiths, tr. by D. A. Hulsch, 1907.

SCIENCE. Bergen & Davis—Laboratory and Field Manual of Botany, 1907. Britton—Manual of the Flora of the Northern States and Canada, Ed. 2, rev. and enlarged, 1907. Campbell—Lectures on the Evolution of Plants, 1906. Popular Science Monthly, July-December, 1907, v. 71. Velvin—Wild Animal Celebrities, 1907.

SOCIOLOGY. Downes—Fire Fighters and Their Pets, 1907. Johnson—The Country School, 1907. Small—Adam Smith and Modern Sociology, 1907.

USEFUL ARTS. Freeman & Chandler—The World's Commercial Products, n. s. "Mendel's" Genetics—Selection and Cross-Breeding in Relation to the Inheritance of Coat-Pigments in Rats and Guinea-Pigs, 1907. Popular Science Journal, Pub. Co.—Artificial Incubating and Brooding, Ed. 3, 1906. Popular Science Journal, Pub. Co.—Turkey, all varieties, their care and management, 1904. Saunders—Insects Injurious to Fruits, Ed. 2, 1904. Schock—How to Build a Rowboat, 1904. Stephens—The Six-chord Spiral, 1907. Pamphlet of interest—To be found in the reference room. United States forest service—What Forestry Has Done, Jan., 1908, Circ. 140.