

# MADAME MODJESKA'S NEAR CLOSING SCENE OF HER LIFE

## UNCONSCIOUS AND WON'T LAST LONG

### Her Son, Ralph Modjeski of Portland and Family at Bedside.

(From News by Longest Leased Wire.)  
Los Angeles, April 3.—Mrs. J. Edwards, Ballow, Barlow and Boyd held a conference today at Bay Island cottage and examined Madame Modjeska. At 3 o'clock they announced as their report that she can not live longer than two days at the most and may die at any moment. She has been unconscious all day. Dr. Boyd has remained with her both day and night and her husband, Count Charles Bozenta, and her son, Ralph Modjeski of Portland, Or., and his family are constantly at her bedside.

Madame Modjeska wrote the following interesting biography of herself for the souvenir program for the musical and dramatic benefit performance to herself under the direction of Daniel Frohman, which was given at the Metropolitan theatre, New York, Tuesday, May 2, 1905, in which some of the most famous artists of the day participated.

By Madame Modjeska.  
"It was in the small but historic town of Bochnia, in Poland, that my stage career began. I had gone there from my native city of Cracow, and, though still in my teens, had been married to M. Modzejewski and had a baby son.

"In Bochnia occurred a catastrophe in which several men were killed. They left widows and children without support and we pitied these bereaved ones greatly, but our pity threatened to remain fruitless, for we were poor, wretchedly poor. Then a happy idea came to me.

"Let us, I suggested, organize a charity performance for their benefit."  
First Stage Experience.  
"The idea was received with general acclamation. There was in Bochnia at that time a provincial actor, M. Lohoboj, and my sister and I had some knowledge of the stage, and we ourselves, as children, had given little improvised plays at home.

"We three, and a young student who was spending his vacation in Bochnia, made up our company. There was no hall to rent for the benefit, which was very fortunate, for we could not have afforded to pay the rent. There was no newspaper nor printing office in town, so we decided not to advertise at all. For the hall we obtained a large room in the Casino, a kind of local club, where the social festivities of the town were held, and which possessed a small stage. The footlights consisted of a few lamps and a number of tallow candles.

"In the selection of the play there was much difficulty in finding one which was suitable for the occasion. The play chosen was 'The White Camelia,' which was a comedy, and I was to play the chief one, a French comediante called the 'White Camelia.' I was to play a countess of noble birth, and great difficulty was to find a wardrobe suitable for a fashionable lady of France. Happily my mother had a gray silk gown—a remnant of a better time. It was not easy to transform this into a modern, French looking garment, or to make it fit my mother, who was stout and I was very slender.

"The audience was much larger than we had expected and our performance was received with surprising favor. But for me, the chief event of the evening was the visit of a stranger. He was very pleasant and seemed struck with my impersonation of the impudent valet. This visit had a vital influence on my career, because the stranger was M. Cheybenicki, a famous actor and dramatic author, whose influence afterward started me on my theatrical work in a larger field.

"We gave several performances which proved such a genuine scheme we decided to change our impromptu amateur company and we became a band of strolling comedians, going from town to town through all Galicia. This was begun my stage career.

"My first husband having died, I was married in 1868 to Charles Chapiowski, a man of aristocratic birth and a journalist of high reputation. On the day after the wedding we left Cracow for Warsaw, where I was offered an engagement at the Imperial theatre. This was a great honor, but a dangerous one. The theatre organization was enormous and unwieldy, the salary list including 800 people. The artistic force was chiefly recruited from its own dramatic school.

"A new president of the organization, Count Moukhouff, had been appointed in 1868. This gentleman, of very high intellectual attainments and position, began at once to infuse new life into the veins of the company. Instead of following the other plan he looked out

## PARIS HOSPITAL FOR THE SICK BRITISH

### Institution That Has No Superior in Its Up-to-Date Completeness.

Paris, April 3.—Thanks to the large-hearted and energetic support of prominent Americans residing here, most of the purposes of the hospital or their professional duties, a want that has long been keenly felt by all concerned in the American colony in Paris is on the eve of being supplied. I refer to the American hospital, in the suburb of Neuilly, already in such an advanced stage of preparation that it will be possible to open it at the beginning of this summer.



Madame Modjeska and Her Southern California Home.

thinking that, if I should fall, they would tender me the welcome denied by the people of this foreign land.

Meets McCullough.  
"On my first journey to California I had casually met McCullough, the actor who was then managing the California theatre. In my eagerness to secure an opening I wrote Mr. McCullough a letter, which secured for me an audience with him and led to the first of my many years' engagements in the country of my adoption. That was at the beginning of July, 1877, five months after I had begun my first appearance in the theatre in Bochnia.

"The stage manager then suggested that I play 'Adrienne Lecouvreur.' Now this part was then considered one of the most difficult in the range of an actor's repertoire. I had never played it before, but I had seen it performed by Rachel and the public well remembered the magnificent performance. Several tragic actresses of the Warsaw theatre had attempted to play it afterwards, but had failed to win approval. I hesitated, but I decided to try it. I was determined to brave the matter out; so I answered, 'Yes, I will play it.'

"At last the great night came. All the house had been sold out, the Warsaw public being curious to see how this young actress, yet unknown to fame, would accomplish a task in which no other actress had succeeded since the imprisonment of the character by the divine Rachel.

"At the moment when I was about to enter the scene, one of the most violent attacks of stage fright I have ever experienced, and I think that I should never have taken the steps that carried me from the wings such as the scrutiny of that multitude of critical eyes had not a friendly hand pushed me back behind the deep silence prevailed the audience, an ominous silence, and yet after my first scene I was absolutely absorbed in my part. The hush continued until I came to the fabric of the pigeons. At its close there burst from the theater such a storm of applause as I had never heard before and have heard seldom since. My battle was won.

"My husband was a journalist, so active and trenchant with his pen that his articles gave offense to the government, and in 1876 we migrated to the United States, filled with enthusiasm for a Utopian plan to establish near Los Angeles, a Polish colony in which we and our fellow countrymen might enjoy the blessings of liberty. Our Arcadian idyl was not a success. It brought an exhaustion of our material resources and compelled us to exchange our dreams of peace for a new struggle for existence.

"I formed the bold decision to go to San Francisco and study English for the American stage. The year 1877 found me there. By a singular stroke of good fortune, I happened to meet a young woman of Polish extraction, who spoke excellent English and who consented to give me daily lessons of one hour, through the friendliness of which I should be able to master the tongue sufficiently to act in English.

"But another perplexity assailed me. I was very doubtful about my success. How, I wondered, would my acting be received by these audiences, so strange to me? Would not my foreign accent, my native intonation render me ridiculous? How often did I brood over this question, looking out at the waves of the beautiful bay of San Francisco and

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It all at once seems to appear strange that a British hospital should have been in existence here for nearly 40 years and yet that Americans would have been so long without the benefits of a similar institution for their important colony. The British hospital, however, owed its origin to a chain of fortunate circumstances. During the siege, that great philanthropist, Sir Richard Wallace opened a dispensary, and it was this initiative which finally developed in his mind the project of permanent hospital, built and endowed at his own expense; whereas it is practically only of late years that American interest in Paris has developed sufficiently to create a pressing need of such an institution.

The project was finally decided upon, was quickly carried through with the active support of men like Messrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, John H. Hayes, H. H. Rogers, J. D. Schiff, and John J. Hoff. A fine property was purchased in the rue Chauveau, at Neuilly, near the Bois de Boulogne, and the building, which already existed, being joined together by a solid red brick structure, the whole forming a fine and modern hospital. The hospital is up-to-date in its equipment and completeness of its equipments, any similar institution in the world. The hospital is designed to meet the needs of all classes in the American colony, students, artists, business and professional men.

By selecting a site in the quiet suburb of Neuilly, the promoters have avoided the usual disadvantages of dust, smoke and noise. As a further precaution against noise the floors are laid on a special construction, called prismatic, which also keeps out cold. Extreme care has been taken to prevent the accumulation of dust and microbes by the avoidance of sharp corners and angles and by using smooth flat surfaces for the walls. Even the door handles have had their corners smoothed and rounded.

Charles Knight, the Franco-American architect, has devoted much attention to the question of ventilation. In addition to the hot water system with its radiators, there is a grate in each room, which is connected with a soiled linen chute in direct connection with the basement and fitted with a special apparatus for the purpose. All the heating and lighting apparatus is hidden from sight within the walls. I noticed an ingenious contrivance for the ventilation of the rooms, which, within, dispensing with the tedious and disagreeable operation of opening the shutters in order to get at the shutters.

Another interesting feature is the care taken to keep the heat from entering the operating room. Here, for instance, there is no radiator, the heat being communicated by a brass tank containing water, which is heated by itself being, of course, in connection with the heating apparatus below, the room of which is heated by a double boiler. Moreover, the lower half of the ceiling in the operating room are of polished white marble.

The American hospital is proudest of its sun terraces on the roof of the building. In order to guard against the sun's rays, the terraces are covered with a material which is as light as air and might be caused by a sudden strike of the electricians—an eventuality which has occurred in the past. Late in the afternoon of the 2nd inst., special storage batteries have been set up, ready for action the moment a but-  
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# BAKER'S \$100,000 COURTHOUSE PRISON DICKENS MADE FAMOUS



Citizens claim it is the finest structure of its kind in Oregon, outside of Portland.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
Baker City, April 3.—Baker county's new courthouse, located at Baker City, is nearing completion and will be occupied by the county officials about June 1. Outside of Portland it is the largest building in the state. It represents an expenditure of over \$100,000. The fact that the material used was native stone, quarried about 10 miles

from the city, enabled the county to erect such a fine building at so small a cost. Notwithstanding the heavy amount of expenditures during the last year, Baker county is out of debt. The location of the jail is on the fourth floor. A room 40 by 60 feet will be set aside by the county court as a special exhibit room for showing the great mineral, agricultural and other diversified resources of the county.

## PORTO RICANS MAD AS HORNETS

### Anti-Post Faction Demands the Governor's Removal— Legislature Deadlocked.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Washington, April 3.—The American experiment in the governing of colonies is being subjected to a very severe test just now. The news does not come from the far-off Philippines nor from Hawaii, but from the island of Porto Rico, where up to this time the American administration has been reported to be progressing smoothly. Here, however, a highly indignant committee of Porto Ricans seeking the assistance of the federal government and, incidentally, the scalp of Regis H. Post, the governor of that island.

The trouble arises over internal affairs. At the recent meeting of the Porto Rico legislature the house of delegates failed to pass the regular appropriation bill. An extra session was called and after several days of argument the house and the council reached an agreement on the budget practically as it was originally submitted by the council. The council, however, refused to sign the conference report, although admitting that the agreement was satisfactory. They stated that they were waiting to see whether certain other measures pending before the legislature were passed according to their wishes.

The council refused to pass the bill increasing the number of federal judges, whereupon the house amended the appropriation bill in such radical fashion that the council refused to pass the budget and the legislature again adjourned.

So Porto Rico is now facing the coming fiscal year without any appropriations for government expenses. Governor Post is blamed by the unionist party for this situation. They say his relations with the dominant party are those of intrigue and unworthy concession.

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## DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IS LEFT OF THE ONCE DREADFUL MARSHALSEA.

London, April 3.—Among the few places still strongly reminiscent of one of Dickens' most famous works—"Little Dorrit"—is Marshalsea prison, a portion of which may be seen just across London bridge on the south side of the Thames. This place is often sought by visitors, but it is by no means easy to find. There are several narrow courts and turnings to negotiate, and, as the inhabitants of the district think you mean the very roughest element, inquiries as to the whereabouts of the relics meet with little response. Most of the details of the district think you mean a saloon when you inquire for the 'Marshalsea,' and kindly offer to show the way to the district which has been succeeded by their anticipation of favors to come in the form of liquid refreshment.

Luck came away behind a lot of buildings, after passing through a place called Angel court, there still remains a portion of the Marshalsea prison wall. The paving stones of the little garden which faces this wall are the actual remains of the one time famous 'Little Dorrit.' It is the introduction to "Little Dorrit," Dickens thus describes this spot.

"If you stand in the little recreation ground facing the wall, you can read a tablet, inscribed in the stone, which tells you that this was originally the Marshalsea prison, made famous by the late Charles Dickens, who in his novel 'Little Dorrit'—just above this is the name of a firm of machinists. The prison built in the windows still remain, as in the days of the old Marshalsea, its motley crowd of debtors. Among these, it will be remembered, was Dickens' own father, who in his life had been a debtor under the name of Mr. Micawber. It is a rather curious fact concerning Dickens himself that he was always haunted by the memory of his father's imprisonment; and it was for this reason that he worked so incessantly, even in the last days of his life, to get Dickens was filled with this notion, he did not stint in his expenses, as he lived in grandiose houses, and was fond of giving elaborate dinners to his numerous friends.

The neighborhood of Marshalsea prison today is mostly given up to workmen's houses, and some very wretched slums, but close to the place where the wall of the prison may be seen, in Lant street, there is a house which was once a boy when his father had lodgings at the expense of the government' within the debtors' prison, which Dickens today pretty much as it did in Dickens' time. His readers will recall that it was in this room that the immortal Bob Sawyer lived, and that the other members of the neighborhood with much affection in 'Pickwick Papers.'

It is going to be difficult now to find Dickens resorts in London that it has been suggested that the Dickens Fellowship should have a tour of the old prison, strangers to these famous spots of interest. This would certainly be a welcome innovation to the American contingent, and it is hoped that some of our 'browsing' around, looking for mementoes of their favorite author.

## Notes From the Labor World

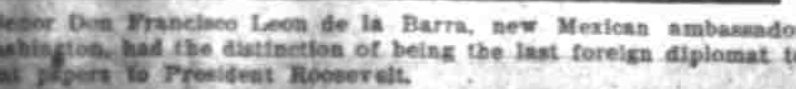
Brooklyn, N. Y., has a Hebrew Longshoremen's union.  
A union of stone-masons has been started at Mankato, Minn.  
A workmen's clubhouse was recently erected in Newcastle, England.

United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers will convene in New York City on May 1.  
San Francisco will endeavor to have the labor movement of the international hold its 1910 convention there.  
A bill to extend the liability of employers for injuries to their employees is now pending in the assembly at Albany, N. Y.

The California State Federation of Labor has begun a campaign to organize the fruit and cereal growers throughout that state.  
The San Francisco Bakers and Confectioners' union recently decided to organize all the helpers in local bakeries into an auxiliary.

An effort is being made by the musicians of Seattle, Wash., to have the California State Federation of Musicians in 1910 held in that city.  
Moving picture operators at San Francisco have recently been organized into a union, as an auxiliary to the local union of theatrical stage employees.  
The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers have just let the contract for furnishing the steel for its new 13 story building at its headquarters, the cost of which is to be about \$1,000,000.

## NEW MEXICAN AMBASSADOR



Don Francisco Leon de la Barra, new Mexican ambassador had the distinction of being the last foreign diplomat to...

## FRED CARPENTER



This is a picture of the man who is to take the place of Secretary Loeb in the White House. He is Frederick Carpenter and has been President Taft's secretary for a long time.