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THE MODERN DRUGGISTS PENDLETON



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1902.

SCENIC VS. ACTING.

It would appear that acting is passing for the time. When two of the greatest American actors engage in a tour where scenic effects and ballet are the principal features, then it looks bad for the stage as an educational factor.

"The Tempest," as produced by Warde and James, was pleasing to the eye and exciting to the mind, but wherein was there a lesson or an appeal to the intellect? The weird, the beauty, the majestic all were in evidence, but acting, words spoken from the heart, commonsense things, such as people understand, the natural, all were absent.

Warde had the opportunity and did display his wonderful talent, but it was in an unnatural way. The great interpreter of Shakespeare's masterpieces, wherein the intellect, the soul is appealed to, was out of place as Prospero, the magician in his cell.

The great James, the ideal Othello, the smooth Cassius, the model Virginius, and Damon of Damons, groveling on the sands as Caliban, the savage and monster, was as far out of his sphere in legitimate acting as is a gentleman stooping to hobnob.

This does not mean that he did not depict the character well and probably better than it has ever been previously rendered, but that he belongs to a different class, and owes it to the people to play in a role to educate rather than fascinate. As Caliban he is nothing, teaches no lesson, is only remembered as an ignorant, deformed savage monster. In his former renditions he is remembered as the great delineator of strong, forceful, intellectual character.

But the tenor of the time is to amuse, excite, please, rather than to instruct. The fault probably lies with the public. It would rather look than think. It would rather laugh or be amazed than be commonsense and practical. It governs. It would rather pay for this kind of amusement than something stronger. It is a commercial age. The world is looking where there is the most money. The actor cannot prove the exception. If the public wishes weird, dazzling, incomprehensible slush, the actor must give it.

But it is sad to contemplate that the world is reaching that point where two of our greatest actors must abandon the masterpieces to cater to those who only come to look. It robs the stage of its greatest purpose—to instruct—it forces lesser lights who follow the stage to resort to more frivolous things scenic, to please. It means the passing, for the time, of legitimate acting for the scenic and spectacular. And before the legitimate returns again, two of America's greatest actors will have probably passed off the stage forever.

The daily dispatches continue to bring out the comment that there were never so many train wrecks as nowadays. There seems to be no doubt of the fact. Is it because of the increase in number of railroads, or that we get better telegraph service than formerly, or have railroad men become more careless? With experience and increased facilities to avoid accidents, surely men are not growing careless in the face of a daily death list.

Every train from the East brings scores of immigrants. They are not pleasure-seekers, but homeseekers. They are not such a class as come over on ships, either. They are all

intelligent Americans, good citizens, and will be an honor to the country in which they locate. It is unfortunate that so many of them are passing through this section of country. Many of them will find homes in less favorable places and dig for years to obtain what can be secured here in much shorter time. This country should be advertised, not so much for itself, for it will settle up soon enough, but for the honest homeseekers who are casting their lot in the great Pacific Northwest.

It is claimed that Harvey Scott, who has repeatedly stated that he was not a candidate for the United States senate, has left his candidacy for the position in the hands of friends, expecting them to urge his claims while he is spending the winter in Europe. He expects to return, however, in time to be on the ground when the legislature meets. Mr. Scott will probably make a strong fight, but no man with all the sins of the Portland Oregonian hanging over his head will ever be elected to office.

Rioting by the strikers in France almost equaled that of the rioters in Pennsylvania. This class of work only weakens the cause of the strikers. The fact that they hold out so long with these obstacles to contend with only shows that they are growing stronger every year. As soon as they learn to use reason and commonsense altogether instead of bloodshed, they will win. They are in the right primarily and right must always eventually win.

The new forest reserve has caused a whole lot of comment, but it has caused not so much inconvenience as the land-grabber and timber shark. They were gobbling it as rapidly as they could find henchmen to act and swear with them.

There are more theories nowadays on taxation and assessments than on any other subject. If all of the plans suggested were carried out the taxpayer would soon have cause to complain in earnest.

While the taxpayers are all satisfied, who is going to secure a change in present methods? It is claimed that the fellow who doesn't pay any taxes is raising all of the fuss. Why is he kicking?

SENSATION IN THE PULPIT.

Only a short time ago there was a little ripple of excitement in New York, caused by the appearance at one of the churches of a gifted young lady who entertained the congregation by whistling "Robin Adair" while the contribution box was passing around. Encouraged by the success of that venture and undeterred by the few and faint protests that followed it, other clergymen enlivened the dull season in their churches by similar gayeties and then the discussion became louder and the protests more formidable.

While that controversy was waxing warm as the summer itself in the East, reports came from London of a movement started in that city to get the use of rural churches for theatrical entertainments during the week, the argument being that country people have not a fair share of the joys of life and since they cannot afford theaters they should be permitted to make joyous use of the venerable edifices of the church.

Naturally these innovations on the old fashions of worship have provoked something more than criticism. There have been heard really virulent denunciations of the novelty. A case in which a live and kicking "Florodora" chorus took the place of the usual church choir called for special wrath, and for a time it seemed as if no one of the enterprising innovators would dare to rise and defend in argument that which he tolerated and even promoted in practice. The silence on the part of the sen-

sationalists was, however, not long maintained. A champion has arisen and has spoken brave words of defiance. This champion says:

"Sensationalism is biblical. See Jonah marching through the streets of Nineveh. Elijah was tremendously sensational on Mount Carmel. Let a minister tear a Bible in pieces or hurl it to the floor in passionate protest against some sin and he would attain to the sensationalism of Moses. Pentecost was so sensational that the disciples were accused of drunkenness, and some of the Old Testament prophets were extreme sensationalists in their preaching."

Warning up to his theme the sturdy advocate of live tactics added: "My plea is for more sensationalism. Let each preacher study his field and determine in what way he can best startle, attract and impress the indifferent about him." The advice is good, but as a defense of the whistling girls and the Florodora chorus it is but indifferent. One might be sensational without being gaudy. We wait to hear some advocate of the new order, or perhaps it would be better to say the "fresh" order, present a reason why the church should exchange the choir for a ballet and the preacher for a comic monologist. —San Francisco Call.

THE OCEAN MERGER.

Mr. Morgan's international steamship merger, just legally launched under a New Jersey charter, is another striking example of the prevailing trend toward industrial and commercial consolidations.

The old International Navigation Company disappears and the new International Mercantile Marine Company takes its place, with a capitalization of \$120,000,000, an increase of \$105,000,000 over that of the old company. This increased capitalization represents the value, as estimated by the creators of the merger, of the old company's plant and business plus the plants and businesses of the White Star, American, Red Star, Leyland, Atlantic Transport and Dominion lines.

An interesting feature in the new ocean merger's prospects is that the British government has given its pledge of equal treatment in the matter of mail-carrying contracts with the Cunard line and otherwise. It has a working agreement also with the German lines. This by no means implies that the steamship traffic of the Atlantic has become a monopoly. Competition still exists. And if, as the new combination's promoters say, nothing more is aimed at than a reduction of operating expenses and the prevention of ruinous rate-cutting, the public will suffer no harm. Economy of management should lead to better service and lower passenger and freight rates, and if it does it will be a good thing all around.—New York World.

"There is something wrong with Newport," remarked the editor, "with the dispatches." "Why so?" asked the assistant. "Why, nothing silly has happened there for over two weeks."—Philadelphia Record.

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