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THEATER NO INSTRUCTOR FOR CHILD

By Ella Terriss

There can be no doubt that children nowadays are taken far more frequently to the theater than was the case some ten or fifteen years ago. When I was a child an afternoon or evening at a theater was a form of amusement that children seldom were permitted to enjoy, and I know several people who never saw the inside of a play house until they had arrived at an age when they no longer were controlled by their parents or guardians. But nowadays it would be difficult to find a child who has not paid at least some occasional visits to a theater; and I think that it is for many reasons an excellent thing to permit children to enjoy themselves in this manner. But common sense dictates, or should dictate, to parents that discrimination should be exercised in selecting the sort of theatrical entertainment which they take their children to see. Of course, a child never should be taken to see a play that is not wholesome in character. It is, indeed, hardly necessary to say this, for I do not suppose any parent would—wittingly, at all events—do so; but parents often take their children to see plays which the latter are incapable of appreciating or understanding, and the result is that the poor little ones, instead of being amused by their visit to the theater, are bored and made unhappy.

I remember once asking a little boy of some 7 summers if he enjoyed going to the theater, where I knew his parents used to take him fairly often. "I hate it," he replied with conviction; "it is a horrid old place." Now, this little lad's parents were Shakespearean enthusiasts, and had taken him to see "Hamlet," "King Lear," "Othello," and "King John." Small wonder it was that the little chap had formed a poor opinion of the pleasure to be derived from theatrical entertainments; for how could he be expected to understand or appreciate the grandeur and beauty of these plays? I persuaded his parents a short time afterward to take him to a light musical piece, and the little fellow, when I next spoke to him, had changed his mind about the theater being "a horrid old place."

A child should never be taken to a theater with the idea of instructing him. Any attempt to do so from the stage is bound to be a failure. The object in taking children to see a theatrical entertainment should simply be to give them a few hours' through enjoyment. Grown-up people sometimes forget, I think, that a piece that may appear trivial and absurd to them may afford a great deal of enjoyment to a child.

A child has little, if any, sense of humor, but as a rule a considerable sense of fun; and it is always the fun of a piece that delights him. And the piece should always be bright—bright stories, bright scenery, and bright songs. A child sees in such an entertainment not merely a theatrical entertainment but a real live world full of people and things he has dreamed of, and the realism of it gives him the sort of pleasure which grown-up people who have forgotten the days of

their childhood find it difficult to sympathize with. It is a mistake to take the child to the theater to instruct him, but it is not a mistake to take him there for his amusement.

It is becoming, I am glad to say, every day more generally recognized that a dull childhood is a bad thing for a child. It is unnatural. A child is by nature meant to be bright, joyous and happy. I have heard it said the excitement which a theatrical performance affords a child is a bad thing, because it is unnatural; but that is exactly what it is not. It is not unnatural for a child to laugh and shout and clap his hands at a theatrical entertainment that pleases him, or to remain absorbed in the development of some story on the stage which interests him. In both cases he is enjoying a thoroughly healthy form of amusement, which is good for him; but if he dislikes the performance—if it wearies or tires him—then he certainly will not derive any benefit from it. Under such circumstances it would be much kinder to take a child out of a theater than to keep him there against his will until the piece is finished.

Cured Lumbago.

A. B. Canman, Chicago, writes Mar. 4, 1903. "Having been troubled with Lumbago, at different times and tried one physician after another, then different ointments and liniments, gave it up altogether. So I tried once more, and got a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment, which gave me almost instant relief. I can cheerfully recommend it, and will add my name to your list of sufferers." Sold by D. J. Fry.

Smiles

Now for the referendum.

The grange is an order the politicians must reckon with. They will all be making pilgrimages to Macleay hereafter.

The Daily Astorian had about the hottest daily special from the state capital.

Benton county has been wiped off the map in the senatorial representation.—Albany Democrat. But they have a hold-over senator. So their votes will be counted in the election of another Republican senator.

Good for Governor Hughes of New York. But he would be read out of the party here. Yet he was all that saved it there.

Chancellor Day says the poor are lazy and drink too much. He seems to consider everything outside of the millionaire set as "poor white trash" any how.—Eugene Register.

The Dallas Observer has become a semi-weekly. It was a good local newspaper before.

The Texas Wonder.

Cures all kidney, bladder and rheumatic trouble; sold by all druggists, or two months' treatment by mail for \$1. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive street, St. Louis, Mo. Send for testimonials. Sold by Stone's drug store. 4w-1yr

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EDEN WAS IN DIXIE

Kansas Scientist Found Place Where Eve Handed Adam a Lemon

Jackson, Miss., March 2.—The Garden of Eden—originally was located in Yazoo county, Mississippi, according to Prof. Clinton McMickle, a Kansas scientist. So confident is he that he wants to organize a stock company for the purpose of making extensive excavations on the farm of W. A. Henry, a well known lawyer and planter, about seven miles south of Yazoo City, for the purpose of unearthing the ruins of a once splendid city erected shortly after the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden.

Prof. McMickle passes lightly over the theory of many brother scientists that the Garden of Eden was a myth, and is absolutely positive that on the farm will be found the ruins of a magnificent temple, the doors of which are of pure gold. He has not visited the spot in person, but several months ago addressed a letter to Governor Vardaman setting forth his theories and asked to be furnished with a map of that portion of the Delta country.

The governor was unable to furnish the map, but referred the writer to Major Lamar Fontaine, of Lyons, Miss., the well known civil engineer, explorer, scientist and raconteur, who immediately made an investigation and has publicly expressed his confidence in Prof McMickle's theory.

DR. BELL PLAYED CRAZY.

How G. A. Waggoner Assigned to Him the Role of a Lunatic.

Dr. J. R. N. Bell has been traveling about the state recently more than has been his custom in some time, and the newspapers are printing stories in which he is represented as the central figure. Here is one which was brought to the attention of the Corvallis Times a few days ago when the doctor and G. A. Waggoner met for the first time in years:

"Well, Brother Waggoner," said Dr. Bell, "I'll never forget that joke you had on me at Salem when you put me in the role of a lunatic on the way to the asylum," and he proceeded to explain to the bystanders.

"You see," he said, "it was about my first visit to the capital after I became clerk of the old railroad commission, of which Brother Waggoner was a member. We were at the Cremoketa hotel. As usual, you understand, I was having very little to say to anyone, and Brother Waggoner gave it out that I was a lunatic, whom he was conveying to the asylum.

"I remembered afterward that the people eyed me askance and learned that they expressed very much sympathy for me, since I had given very little evidence of being mentally unbalanced.

"Brother Waggoner had been prompted to his course by the fact that Rocky Earhart, then secretary of state, was to take us for a visit

to the asylum. When Earhart's carriage drove up there were a good many people about who rubbedered to me to an extent that was displeasing to me. I essayed to rebuke them, for their impertinence, by removing my hat and making a low salam, at the same time exclaiming, 'How do you do, gentlemen?' This act confirmed the crowd in the idea that I was really very much off, and I mistook their sympathetic mien for evidence that my remark and manner had rendered them shame-faced.

"But we had our visit to the asylum and in the meantime, I was let into the secret of the people's curiosity. We all enjoyed the joke and I decided to carry it a little farther. So when we returned to the hotel it devolved upon Brother Waggoner to explain that after a brief examination by the asylum authorities as to my sanity, the commitment papers were disregarded and that I was to be taken home. Brother Waggoner stated that perhaps it was just as well because, while at times I was very violent, ordinarily I was as harmless as a new born babe.

"Nevertheless, I paced back and forth in the hotel lobby, with a wild-like demeanor and I shall always remember with much pleasure how a big negro fled from the room when, as he gazed at me curiously, I made a sudden dart toward him. After that I had plenty of room for exercise.

"The hotel proprietor was completely deceived and when he learned of the deception he wanted to buy the cigars for everybody in town. I don't see how the thing worked so well."

"Oh," said Waggoner, "it isn't so strange, but I don't think that joke could have been so successful with anybody else but you."

Alice Roosevelt Wedding

Was something to be recorded in the annals of history. Herbine has been acknowledged the greatest of liver regulators. A positive cure for bilious headaches, constipation, Chills and Fever, and all liver complaints. J. C. Smith, Little Rock, Ark., writes, "Herbine is the greatest liver medicine known. Have used it for years. It does the work." Sold by D. J. Fry.



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Buy Real Estate before the Bargains are gone. Here are, these are snaps:

Four good building lots will exchange for a horse and buggy or will sell on the installment plan. Terms to suit.

Six room house, 2 blocks from car line; barn and fruit. Easy payments. Price \$750.

Five room cottage, modern woodshed, two lots 75x150, located near car line and school. Fine location Price \$1650.

You should see this place before you buy. Eight room modern house put up with the very best of material on street car line; good barn and lot 142x240; good lawn; plenty of shrubbery. Price see Radcliff Co.

Nine room house, plastered, closets, pantry, basement, septic tank, barn 26x34, woodshed 18x22. This place is three blocks from court house. Price \$2625.

Eight room house on car line, all modern, cement walks, beautiful oak shade, good barn, fine location, a bargain at \$2250.

We have a beautiful 10 acre tract near the city, fruit and the best of improvements. You should see this.

Here is a snap, 7 acres all in cultivation, new cottage, large woodshed, barn 24x38, chicken house, fruit, short distance from Salem. Price for 30 days at \$1200.

Ten acres all in cultivation, good five room house, barn and woodshed, good mixed fruit, well fenced, 7 acres in oats, 2 1/2 miles from Salem. Price \$1900.

One hundred acres, 3 1/2 miles from Salem, 70 acres in cultivation, balance in pasture and good timber; 7 wood shed, chicken house, two wells, 30 Royal Ann cherries, 1 acre of apples and other small fruit, fences mostly wire, one team, one cow, set of buggy harness, harrow, cultivator and plow. Price \$87.50 per acre, or will trade for city property.

Eighty acres, 67 in cultivation, 13 in pasture and timber, 30 acres in wheat and cheat, 7 acres in clover; 5 room house, good barn and granary; 4 horses, 6 head of cattle, hogs, chickens; 2 wagons, 3 sets of harness, all implements, hay, grain, etc. Price \$8000.

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