

FAREWELL OF THE FOREMOST: J. FORBES-ROBERTSON

It was only accident that made Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, who is to make his farewell appearance here shortly, an actor. As a child he had played Macbeth with his brothers and sisters, one of whom, it is said, acted the part of the army of Macbeth, another the army of Macduff, with instructions to create an impression of numbers by rushing wildly from wing to wing, a device that worked admirably until the two collided, when the poverty of the battlefield was revealed.

In like fashion was Forbes-Robertson's earliest performance of Hamlet given. The actor delights in telling the story. "I was fourteen at the time, and we produced the play in the drawing room. My sister doubled the parts of Ophelia and the first gravedigger. I well remember that when the curtain rose, showing Ophelia burying herself, the audience laughed, which put me into a great rage. Swinburne was one of our audience, lying on the floor in front of the stage. He was convulsed with laughter and delight, which, of course, we did not at all appreciate."

But it was not acting which interested Forbes-Robertson in the early part of his life, but painting. He had already achieved considerable success in this art before he went on the stage. His first appearance as an actor came about through the inadequacy of one of the younger players in W. G. Wills' "Mary Stuart," in which the beautiful and adored Mrs. Rousby was playing in London. The author was complaining of the difficult task of finding someone to play Chastelard in his drama when Forbes-Robertson's father, one of the ablest art critics of his time, said, "Why not try Johnston?"

The suggestion was acted upon, and Forbes-Robertson, abandoning his original intention of becoming a painter, became an actor instead. However, he has never wholly deserted his first calling, as his well known picture of the church scene from "Much Ado About Nothing," commissioned by the late Sir Henry Irving, testifies. His work has also been hung several times in the Royal academy.

Johnston Forbes-Robertson was born in London Jan. 16, 1853. He was the eldest son of J. Forbes-Robertson, an art critic and journalist who had come to London from Scotland. The elder Forbes-Robertson was closely associated with the pre-Raphaelite movement in England and had among his friends the foremost painters, artists and literati of that brilliant mid-Victorian period. It was in such an atmosphere that the young actor grew up, and no doubt his early surroundings had a tremendous influence in the molding of his character, his tastes and his ideals.

After his debut as Chastelard with Mrs. Rousby in "Mary Stuart," Forbes-Robertson toured England and appeared in London with Miss Ellen Terry under Charles Reade's management.

Leaving Miss Terry's company, Forbes-Robertson entered upon perhaps the most important period of his career—important not because of his



SIR JOHNSTON FORBES-ROBERTSON

achievements at that time, but for the foundation and sound schooling it gave him for future work. This was his joining Samuel Phelps' company at the Gaiety theater in Manchester, England. He became Phelps' own pupil, a privilege and opportunity which Forbes-Robertson ever gratefully acknowledged. Phelps was the greatest actor of his time. Some critics have even called him the greatest of all English actors. With Phelps the young actor had the opportunity of playing every sort of part. Those were the days of the stock company, and, despite some of its very obvious faults, Forbes-Robertson regards it as the best school for young actors.

In 1876 Forbes-Robertson returned to London. After an engagement at the Lyceum he joined the Bancrofts at the Prince of Wales theater. Among the plays he appeared in there were "Diplomacy," "Forget-me-not," "The Robertson comedies," "Duty," "Ours," and also "Money" and "School."

As leading man for the late Helena Modjeska, Forbes-Robertson acted at the Court theater in London in 1880-81, playing Romeo to her Juliet, the husband in "Frou-Frou" and Leicester in "Mary Stuart," one of her most beautiful and pathetic roles. Her Juliet, Forbes-Robertson says, has never been surpassed by any actress.

After playing Romeo in Wilson Barrett's production of "Romeo and Juliet," he joined Henry Irving at the Lyceum in 1882, appearing as Claudio in "Much Ado About Nothing." Another engagement which he acted numerous and various roles.

His first visit to America was made in 1885, when he came as leading man for Mary Anderson. With her he was seen as Pygmalion, Romeo, Orlando, Incompar and Claude Melnotte. His first appearance in New York occurred on Monday night, Oct. 12, 1885, when

GREATEST ENGLISH-SPEAKING ACTOR TO MAKE HIS LAST APPEARANCE HERE



AS THE PASSERBY

he appeared as Orlando in "As You Like It."

Returning to London, the actor began his memorable engagement as leading man for Sir John Hare at the Garrick, London. Playgoers whose memory goes back to that eventful night in London in 1889 when Hare produced Pinner's "The Prodigal," will recall the sensational success Forbes-Robertson achieved in this play. In a single night Forbes-Robertson won a place in the front rank of English actors.

From that time on Forbes-Robertson became a prominent figure on the English stage. He then made his second visit to America, returning to England to rejoin Hare in revivals of "Diplomacy," "Caste" and "Money." About this time he also appeared as Buckingham in Irving's all star revival of "Henry VIII." His Buckingham must rank with his greatest successes because of the great feeling and imagination, poetry, simplicity and truthfulness with which he invested this role.



AS HAMLET

ness with which he invested this role.

In 1896 Forbes-Robertson made his last appearance with Irving in "King Arthur," in which he played Lancelot, Lucius Clove, in Pinner's "The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith," was his next important role, after which he opened his first managerial season in London at the Lyceum. "Michael and Hiland Angel," Henry Arthur Jones' best and best appreciated play; "For the Crown," a beautiful production of Francois Coppée's poetic drama, translated and arranged for the English stage by John Davidson; "Magda," "The School for Scandal," "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" were the principal productions of this season.



AS DICH HELDAR

however, he has never done. Berlin, Hanover, Hamburg and Amsterdam were visited in the course of this continental tour.

Returning to London he began his season at the La Scala, which brought to light some noteworthy plays, particularly "Pelleas and Melisande," "The Moonlight Blossom," "The Sacrament of Judas" and Shaw's "The Devil's Disciple." He also acted Macbeth then for the first time in London.

His marriage to Gertrude Elliott, an American actress, occurred in December, 1900, and since that time Miss Elliott has been closely associated with him in most of his productions. "Alice and Men," a comedy of eighteenth century manners by Madeleine Lacette Ryley, an American author living in London, and "The Light That Failed," a dramatization of Rudyard Kipling's novel, were the chief productions of 1902, after which he made a third, and subsequently a fourth, visit to America. It was in 1902 that he made his first appearance here in "Hamlet."

Revisions of his various successes were made in England, and then he came to New York in 1906 to produce for the first time on any stage George Bernard Shaw's brilliant satirical "history," "Caesar and Cleopatra." "Hamlet" was also given during that season as well as his first performance here in "The Merchant of Venice," which he had produced in Manchester, England, for the first time in August of the same year.

"Passing of the Third Floor Back," Jerome K. Jerome's modern moral play, was produced at the St. James theater in London in 1908. Forbes-Robertson did not expect the play to be a success; but, needing something to fill in the gap until another drama he had in view should be ready, he decided to present Jerome's play.

"Passing of the Third Floor Back" remained the entire season in London and the following fall was brought to America, where it ran for an entire year in New York and was seen throughout the United States and Canada during the following two seasons. Forbes-Robertson at the close of his eighth visit to America was a man of fifty-nine years. In full possession of his powers, at the ripe age of intellectual richness, his art matured and his name established throughout the English speaking world, the actor decided to make preparations for quitting the stage. His announcement that he would forthwith begin his farewell tour of England and America was received with disbelief and wonder. It was impossible to consider Forbes-Robertson as nearing the age for retirement, but the actor had always had a fear of being compelled to linger on and appear before the public long after he had passed his years of usefulness. He dreaded hearing those words so often spoken: "Yes, yes, very fine, but you should have seen him ten years ago." He determined to quit the stage while he could still "shake a leg," as he himself puts it.

In the fall of 1911 Forbes-Robertson began his farewell tour of the English provinces at Nottingham. The tour lasted until March of the following year. On March 22 he began his last London season at the Drury Lane Theatre Royal. This historic London theater was a fitting place for the close of a career so closely associated with the great players of the past and so nobly devoted to the highest ideals of the theater. The season lasted for eleven weeks, during which the immense theater was packed at every performance, the box office receipts rivaling and in many instances surpassing even pantomime business. Such enthusiasm has seldom been seen in a London theater. Forbes-Robertson had been absent from London for five years. His return showed how highly he was esteemed by the London press and public.

It was during his farewell London season that he received knighthood honors. On June 6, 1912, he made his final appearance in London as Hamlet. The great theater was packed. The prices were raised to \$5 (1 guinea) on the lower floor or stalls. Long after the curtain had fallen and the actor had made his farewell speech the applause kept on, and some one in the gallery started "Auld Lang Syne."

The following autumn Forbes-Robertson began his farewell tour of America, his ninth visit to this country. This is a real farewell. Forbes-Robertson will never return. He has won the affection and the esteem of two great nations, and he retires at the zenith of his career with the applause of two continents. He can ill be spared from the stage. The notes of his beautiful voice, which bring nobility and grandeur to even the commonest platitude of the meanest playwright, the wonderful face which lights up radiantly, the piercing eyes, so full of sympathy and understanding—where shall we find their like again? We can but feel that here is not only a great artist—but a man!

Al Selwyn Will Give His Annual Dinner Arranged By His Friends

(United Press Correspondence.)
New York, Dec. 18.—Arch A. Selwyn, better known to Broadway as Al, the abbreviation of his middle name, Alonzo, who is head of the theatrical firm of Selwyn & Co., whenever his brother Edgar goes out to luncheon, has been advised that he will give his annual dinner, to which all Broadway is always invited, at the Hudson theatre tomorrow night.

This expensive news was broken to Mr. Selwyn by Hol Couper Megrove, C. Pincus Hayes, Douglas Fairbanks, Raymond Hitchcock, James Forbes, Irvin F. Cobb, Charles Belmont Davis, Miss Margaret Mayo, Miss Margaret Illingford, George Doran, Crosby Galge, Miss Etta Kennedy, Miss Mary Pickford, William Courtenay, Charles Hanson, Conway, Scamias, O'Sullivan, Frank Crowninshield and many, many others who chased him all over Gotham just to let him know it.

They told him that they had arranged an affair which, for costliness and elaborate splendor will so far outshine anything he has ever done that he will have cause to be proud of their

efforts. Mr. Selwyn also learned that he will pay for the taxis that were used in chasing him. All Mr. Selwyn has to do is make a mental note of the time and place the dinner is to be held and pay the bills as they are presented. Even the slightest detail is attended to for him. Last year's affair set Mr. Selwyn back \$1,180, so this year's host confessed with a touch of bitterness while weeping in his oyster parlor between dances that night.

The taxicab chase was a failure after all and finally, three playwrights, seven actors, a novelist and four magazine men became clogged in a long distance telephone booth. By brute force Mr. Megrove finally wrested the receiver from Ernest Truax and at last located Mr. Selwyn in the Rowayton Waterworks No. 1 Hook and Ladder's fire house, of which Mr. Selwyn recently was made chief in recognition of his work in instituting the special delivery letter system of sending out fire alarms, which recently replaced the old system of notifying the Rowayton firemen by postcard when a fire occurred.

As a fire was under way out near Kale Durkin's farm last night and Chief Selwyn had only begun to get his uniform out of his locker in the fire house he found himself unable to give more than five or six minutes to the formalities of discussing the official

notification.
"May I offer a suggestion, Mr. Chairman?" the fire chief bellowed over the telephone from Rowayton to Broadway. Chairman Megrove conferred briefly with the committee and then bellowed back to Mr. Selwyn that any suggestion he had to make concerning his party would be received and placed on file by the committee and considered for whatever the committee thought it worth.

"I merely wish to say before going to the fire," thereupon said the chief, "that I think this year's party you say I'm giving should have as its chief guests the cast of 'Under Fire,' inasmuch as that's the company now at the Hudson."

"That seems perfectly fair," replied the author Chairman Megrove. "Carried."

The committee after carefully counting the seats and measuring the standing room spaces in the Hudson theatre last night declared that it will be possible to get at least 1,000 of Mr. Selwyn's friends to the party.

PECULIAR FACTS ABOUT WELL KNOWN PEOPLE
* * * * *
* Omaha, Neb., Dec. 18.— * ("Cowboy Jim" Dahman and * "Buffalo Bill" (Col. Wm. F. * Cody), who rode the western * ranges together as unknown * cowpunchers years ago, have * never missed holding a reunion * in Omaha at least once a year * ever since. * * * * *

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Rheumatism is "pain" only. Not one case in fifty requires internal treatment. Stop drugging! Rub soothing, penetrating "St. Jacob's Oil" right into your sore, stiff, aching joints, and relief comes instantly. "St. Jacob's Oil" is a harmless rheumatism liniment which never disappoints and can not burn the skin.

Limber up! Quit complaining! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest "St. Jacob's Oil" at any drug store, and in just a moment you'll be free from rheumatic pain, soreness and stiffness. Don't suffer! Relief awaits you. "St. Jacob's Oil" is just as good for sciatica, neuralgia, lumbago, backache, sprains.

Some Hop Business Is Passing at 10 to 12 1-2 Cents Pound

Portland, Or., Dec. 17.—Trading in the hop market is shown in scattered sections, with values generally ruling from 10 to 11 1/2 cents a pound for good quality. Several deals were reported at Willamette valley points during that period, and some business is again shown in California sections, but at slightly reduced values.

Frank S. Johnson Hop company has been a fair operator in local sections recently, its purchases during the last 48 hours including 125 bales in the Mt. Angel section, Bradley and two other lots in the Hillsboro section and 240 bales from dealers. The prices ranged from 10 to 11 cents a pound for these. A late New York mail advice says of the general trend of the trade:

Bales.
Receipts for week 2,880
Receipts since September 1 27,838
Receipts same time last year 46,321

Exports to Europe for week	474
State, 1915, common	186@20
State, 1914	96@10
Pacific coast, 1915, choice	13@15
Exports same time last year	19,186
Imports from September 1	182
Imports same time last year	7,411

Upward of 2000 bales included in the week's receipts were for exportation direct. Several thousand bales have accumulated on the docks here, awaiting shipment to Great Britain. Foreign freight room is scarce, and the port of New York is becoming so congested that it is difficult to transfer stock by lighter from the various terminals to more convenient delivery points.

New business with brewers is still on a small scale, but some deliveries are being made on old contracts, and the local situation is unchanged. In the interior of New York state there is no business to speak of. Remaining stocks are light, quality generally unattractive and buyers are not much interested.

New York hop prices per pound:	
State, 1915, choice	28@30
State, 1915, medium to prime	22@26

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Daniel J. Fry Has Such Faith In This Dyspepsia Remedy That He Guarantees It.

One of the greatest successes in the sale of medicine has been achieved by M-i-o-n, the standard dyspepsia remedy, and its sale is increasing so rapidly that Daniel J. Fry, the popular druggist, has hard work to keep a stock on hand. It is very popular with bankers, ministers, lawyers and others whose business or profession keeps them closely confined, while those who have brought on indigestion through irregular eating, worry, or other causes, have found relief in this reliable remedy.

M-i-o-n comes in tablet form and is sold in a metal box especially designed for convenience in carrying the medicine in the pocket or purse. It is pleasant to take, gives quick relief and should help any case, no matter of how long a standing. This remedy has been so uniformly successful that Daniel J. Fry will in future sell M-i-o-n under a positive guarantee to refund the money if it should not prove entirely satisfactory. No other dyspepsia medicine ever had a larger percentage of cures so that it could be sold in this manner. A guarantee like this speaks volumes for the merit of the remedy.

There is no time like the present to take a thing that ought to be done. If you are a dyspeptic, today is the best time to begin curing it.

State, 1915, common	186@20
State, 1914	96@10
Pacific coast, 1915, choice	13@15
Pacific coast, 1915, medium to prime	11@13
Pacific coast, 1914	7@10
Pacific coast, old olds	5@7

CHICHESTER'S PILLS
THE DIAMOND BRAND
Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c, 25c.

Liver Sluggish?

You are warned by a sallow skin, dull eyes, biliousness, and that grouchy feeling. Act promptly. Stimulate your liver—remove the clogging wastes—make sure your digestive organs are working right and—when needed—take

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Final return limit on tickets sold these dates is January 4, 1916.

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Gouraud's Oriental Cream has been highly recommended by physicians, actresses, singers and women of fashion for over half a century and cannot be surpassed when preparing for daily or evening toilette.

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