The Stage

All the News of the Theatrical World.

Just in Passing.

Neill-Frawley Combine.

James Neill, whose brilliant success for years at the head of the James Neill company, and Daniel Frawley, the founder of the well known Frawley company, have become associated together in sending the first American dramatic company to Manila.

The organization will be known as the Neill-Frawley company and it will sail from San Francisco August 16. It will be under the immediate direction of Daniel Frawley, who will go with the organization.

Present contracts call for an engagement of 12 weeks at the Paz theater, Manila; four weeks on tour in Singapore and Hong Kong, and a return engagement of eight weeks in Manila. Returning, the company will play in Nagasaki, Kobe, Shanghai, Yokohama and Honolulu.

***

Mascagni Is Coming.

Pietre Mascagni, whose name has become famous throughout the world through his composition, "Cavalleria Rusticana," is coming to America. A cable has been received from Florence, Italy, stating that he signed contracts whereby he will come to conduct his own operas. "Cavlleria Rusticana," "Iris," "Amico Fritz," and others. Mittenthal brothers and S. Kronberg are the men who have secured Mascagni for this tour.

The Mittenthal brothers are well known New York theatrical managers, while Mr. Kronberg is known in the musical world through his connection with the Maurice Grau Opera company. The organization will comprise besides Mr. Mascagni, a large and complete orchestra, a quota of solo singers, and a full chorus, numbering in all 110 people. The orchestra and soloists will be brought from Europe with Mr. Mascagni, while the chorus will, in all probability, be secured in this country. The costumes and effects used in the presentation of the different operas will all be brought over from the other side. The tour of Mascagni will open at the Metropolitan Opera house, New York, in October.

***

Rapid Career of an Actor.

The rise of Stanislaus Stange, who made the stage version of "Quo Vadis," has been rapid. It was not so many years ago that he was a struggling amateur, with a boundless ambition to become a great actor, says the Washington Star. His desires lay in the direction of tragedy, and, supported by a band of fellow aspirants, he acted in "Richard III" and in "The Bells." That was 10 or 12 years ago, when Mr. Stange lived in Kansas City and had classes in elocution. Then he gained a foothold on the stage, playing in Brady's "After Dark." Then came an engagement with Marion Manola and Jack Mason, the translation of "L'Ami Fritz" for their use, and its success. "The Magic Kiss," for which Mr. Stange wrote the libretto, and in which Camille D'Arville made a hit, followed, and after that it was easy sailing, and Mr. Stange retired permanently from the stage to devote himself to writing plays. "Brian Boru" and other operas and a one-act play or two have made up his work to the present time.

***

Her Hopes Blighted by a Story.

The knighting of the English actor, Wyndham, recalls the tragic manner in which a certain English actress was robbed of all hope of having "lady" ever tacked on to her name, says the Chicago Tribune. As a matter of fact, at the time that this tragedy occurred, the actress, who, with her husband, managed one of the most brilliant companies in London, stood in what one might term the direct line of succession. They were both on the top wave of popularity in London, and she was deservedly acknowledged to be one of the best actresses in all England. Then came that fatal day when the prince of Wales gave a certain dinner, and the famous actress' less famous husband was among the guests commanded to appear. After the dinner the actor-manager was called on for a speech. Instead of making a speech he told a story. It wasn't a particularly decollete story, as after-dinner stories usually go, but in view of the fact that, unknown to him, the princess and various other ladies of the court had come into the gallery to hear the speeches, it was quite low cut enough to nip in the bud any chances of knighthood which might have been coming his way. The prince was furious, but not nearly so much as the actor's wife. To this day they say that this unfortunate episode frequently figures in her curtain lectures.

***

Travers-Vale's New Plays.

During his summer season at Electric Park, Kansas City, Manager Travers-Vale will produce two new plays, one of them, "Miss Chittenden of Chicago," by Louis M. Thayer, a Butte newspaperman recently of Cincinnati. The other is entitled "Foiled by Fate" and is the work of a gentleman, prominently known in New York newspaper and literary circles. "Foiled by Fate" is a four-act melodrama of great intensity and originality of plot and treatment. It is said by dramatic critics who have read it to be equal in strength and interest to any drama of the kind now on the stage, and much superior to many of them. The author is new as a writer for the stage, but as a writer of books is well known. His latest novel a story of the rebellion, is said by as competent a literary critic as Murat Halstead, the veteran journalist, to be "the best war story ever written." It is believed that his play will be an instant success. Mr. Travers-Vale, under whose management the two new plays will be produced, has long been one of the leading managers in Australia and is extending his field to the United States.

***

An Important Contract.

The contract recently signed between Klaw & Erlanger and Frank Pixley, the librettist, and Gustav Luders, the composer, by the terms of which this firm obtains the exclusive control of all their work for the term of five years, is one of the most important agreements between managers and authors made in several years. Messrs. Pixley and Luders have sprung into great prominence in a comparatively short time through the very pronounced success of three musical productions of their authorship—"King Dodo," "The Burgomaster" and "The Prince of Pilsen"—each in turn evincing marked ability in book, lyrics and music foretelling of conspicuous future development on the part of these writers.

Mr. Pixley was formerly a newspaperman in Chicago. He first attracted attention by his cleverness in writing short sketches. These gave him a wide following, which hailed his first pretentious effort, "The Burgomaster," with the prediction that he would soon become recognized as one of the leading librettists of this country. Since then each new piece from his pen has been awaited with considerable interest, especially by Chicagoans. While his work shows that the turn of his mind is somewhat toward the extravagant in musical entertainment, it possesses distinctive merit in genuine amusement value not noticed in the efforts of librettists who have become known during the past few years. In all that he has written he has especially displayed much originality and constructive ability in the creation of comic characters and broadly humorous comedy situations. His lyrics are always exceptionally well written and his dialogue is trenchant and ripe with wit. Heretofore the scope of his work has been more or less limited, but with the broader horizon his connection with Klaw & Erlanger will give him, he wil lundoubtedly develop in full consonance with the spirit of enterprise with which he will be surrounded.

***

Green Room Gossip

Aubrey Boucicault may make his debut as a star next season.

***

Richard Golden, famous as "Old Jed Prouty," is to succeed to the rights of "Foxy Quiller" for next season.

***

Hope Booth is reported to have created a sensation in Paris with her well known posing act.

***

Catherine Lingar and Wilard-Sims will star in a new farce next season called "Pickings from Puck."

***

Harry Smith and George Hobart, two librettists for many musical comedies, have quarreled over "The Wild Rose."

***

E. M. Holland has been engaged for the part of pope in Viola Allen's production of "The Eternal City" next season.

***

Lee Stuart, a chorus girl now in London with the Gaiety company, will shortly wed the celebrated jockey, Henry Spencer.

***

Rose Beaumont, now Dan Daly's prima donna in "The New Yorkers," was once a rider in Barnum & Bailey's circus.

***

Frank Jefferson, the youngest son of Joseph Jefferson, lately made his debut in an amateur performance in New Jersey.

***

James W. Morrissey has made up an opera company to give grand opera in New York. Rose Cecilia Shay is one of the prima donnas. Frank Belcher appears on the list.

***

A New York contemporary notes as a curious item that in the cast of "Quo Vadis" in that city are the names of a Forrest, a Booth, an Irving, a Gilbert and a Terry.

***

Mrs. Patrick Campbell will return to America next season, appearing at the Garden theater, New York, for a 20-weeks' run, under the management of Charles Frohman.

***

Stella Tracey is now playing the leading role in "The Snow Girl," from which Paula Edwardes resigned last Saturday night. Miss Tracey made quite a hit when she first appeared in the part last Monday night.

***

Maurice Barrymore has been rapidly sinking the past two weeks and is now confined to his bed. The doctors pronounce his case absolutely hopeless and say it is only his wonderful constitution that keeps him alive.

***

An elaborately arranged benefit will soon be given Theresa Vaughn in New York, E. E. Rice having all the details well in hand. Miss Vaughn is still in the Worcester sanitarium, but her health has improved wonderfully of late.

***

The success achieved by Robson and Crane in "The Henrietta," given in New York last week for the benefit of the actors' fund, may lead to a short tour by the pair in the piece. Charles Frohman may direct the tour.

Harry B. Smith and Reginald De Koven, Her husband, W. D. Mann, will be the business manager of the company.

***

It has been decided to present Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" on the stage. Klaw & Erlanger have secured the dramatic rights and the piece will be presented early in the coming year, with Arthur Dunn in the title role.

***

James Neill presents for his next season's tour a brilliant series of plays: "The Starbucks," Opie Read's character creation; "Under the Red Robe," the dramatization of Stanley Weyman's great novel; "Wheels Within Wheels," "Mrs. Dane's Defense," and the greatest hit the Pacific coast has seen in years, "The Red Knight," Geo. H. Broadhurst's latest play. There will be ten plays in all.

***

Edna Wallace Hopper and Cyril Scott have been re-engaged for "Florodora" next season. There seems to be no end to the rage for the tuneful double sextet and the catching "Under the Shade of the Sheltering Palms."

***

Charles Frohman has secured control of "The New Clown," a farce comedy, and will open the Madison Square theater with it next season. James Lee Finney will play the principal role of a young lord who disguises himself as a circus clown.

***

"The Major and the Judge,' a new musical comedy, by Will B. Cressy, will be sent on the road by Hurtig & Seamon at the beginning of next season. Tom Lewis, Sam J. Ryan, Mau dHunt and many other popular favorites will be in the cast.

***

"The Wizard of Oz," Fred Hamlin's new extravaganza, perhaps the first production of the kind to claim the West as its home, is making good at the Grand, Chicago. The scene, contrary to supposition, as induced by the title, is not laid in the fastnesses of the Alps or other abodes of the stereotyped wizards, but in a little Kansas village. John Slavin is said to be the bright particular star of the piece. The caste includes Anna Laughlin, Helen Byron, Ailleen May and others of note.

MRS. PATRIC K CAMPBELL,

Who Will Return to America Next Season Under the Management of Charles Frohman.

Again it is reported that Maude Adams and the great Bernhardt are to star jointly next season in "Romeo and Juliet." According to the latest press matter the entire company will speak English, with the exception of the only Sara, who is to exhibit her shapelies as Romeo.

***

Maurice Levi, the well-known orchestra leader with the Rogers brothers, will remain in New York permanently hereafter as Klaw & Erlanger believe he will prove more valuable writing music for them than conducting the orchestra.

***

Marguerita Sylva will be starred next season under the management of Nixon and Zimmerman, in a new comic opera by

JAMES NEILL,

Who Has Combined With Daniel Frawley to Put in an American Stock Company at Honolulu.

IN A PLOWING CONTEST.

Prominent Chicago Men Contend In Field for a Prize.

[Rockford, Ill., Special Baltimore Sun.]

One of the greatest plowing contests ever seen in northern Illinois has taken place at the Sinnissippi farm near Oregon, Ill.

Judge Peter Grosscup, W. J. Calhoun and Col. F. O. Lowden participated in the match. The judges were three well known Chicago men—S. H. Bethea, J. M. Dickinson and George M. Peck, general attorney of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. W. J. Baker, who is one of the most prominent men in Ogle county and manager of the big farm owned by Lowden, acted as referee.

After a hard struggle Mr. Calhoun won the decision and obtained first place, not only as the fastest worker in the field, but also as the best plowman. The race between Judge Grosscup and Colonel Lowden was an exciting one, and the judges were unable to decide which should be awarded second place. The first prize was a solid silver plow of small size.

The party left Chicago on a morning train, arriving at the summer home of the Lowdens—the Oaks—about noon. An elegant country dinner of approved Ogle county style was eaten. Immediately after dinner the men went to the barns, where each was provided with a span of horses and a riding plow, and the contest in the field began, Mr. Calhoun proving the best plowman from all standpoints.

The Quill

Current Book Chatter and Magazine Comment

Alfred Henry Lewis' Career.

Alfred Henry Lewis has had a career that has been full of variety and interest. When a member of the bar of Cleveland, Ohio, his health became impaired, and he turned to the wild life of Arizona for recuperation. The results of the years spent by him among the cowboys of the Southwest have been shown in his famous "Wolfville" and in its companion, "Wolfville Days." After leaving Arizona Mr. Lewis spent a number of years in the practice of law in Kansas City, where he was subsequently attracted to newspaper work, becoming one of the staff of the Kansas City Star.

This led to his going to Washington as the correspondent of the Chicago Times and ultimately to his engaging in newspaper work in the city of New York, where he became the editor of the Verdict; but of late he has devoted his entire time to writing fiction.

Some time prior to the first publication of "Wolfville" a Michigan dealer sent in an order for two copies of the book. His letter was filed, and when "Wolfville" appeared the publishers wrote to him to ask if he still desired the two copies. He answered that his customer was dead, but that he would try to induce "the family" to take a copy. As his order for a copy arrived soon afterward it is presumed that he succeeded.

Review of Reviews.

In the Review of Reviews for July the issues of the great coal strike are presented from various points of view; the editor, in "The Progress of the World," reviews the position of the railroads and the operators; an illustrated account of the methods of anthracite mining is contributed by Mrs. Rosamond D. Rhome of Wilkesbarre; Dr. Talcott Williams gives "A General View of the Strike," and Mr. H. T. Newcomb furnishes important statistical data relative to the anthracite carrying railroads.

Other railroads are a character sketch of Princeton's new president, Woodrow Wilson, by Robert Bridges; "The South African Peace," by W. T. Stead; "West Point and Its Centenary," by S. E. Tillman; "The Empress Dowager's System of Modern Colleges for China," by Robert E. Lewis, and Mr. Guerlac's instructive commentary on French politics.

The Chautauquan.

The contents of the July Chautauquan include the following signed and unsigned articles: "Highways and Byways," "Makers of Recent Chautauqua Literature," "Evolution of Chautauqua," "Chautauqua: The Largest Institution for Higher Education in the World," by Frank Chapin Bray; "Builders Unto Music, Verse," by James Buckingham; "Chautauqua Expansion," "Social Service of Chautauqua Circles," "The Education of 'The Strollers,'" interview with Francis Wilson; "Chautauqua as an Educational Center," by George E. Vincent.

The Atlantic Monthly.

A cheerful and entertaining editorial "On Keeping the Fourth of July" opens the July Atlantic Monthly. In "Certain Aspects of America," H. D. Sedgwick, Jr., points out the inequalities that have arisen from our rapid industrial development; J. A. LeRoy, fresh from the Philippine commission, in his "Race Prejudice in the Philippines," shows how we suffer there by giving rein to our local prejudices among a proud and resentful people, while Andred Sledd of Georgia, in his "The Negro, Another View," with rare courage and frankness, discusses the effects of a similar feeling at home, and William F. Willoughby, the island treasurer, sums up the results of the important work already accomplished by "Two Years of Porto Rican Legislation."

Among the literary features of the number are "Walks with Ellery Channing," selected excerpts from the unpublished diary of Emerson; Edward Dowden's keen study of "Walter Pater," George P. Baker's "The Plays of Eugene Brieux," Gerald Stanley Lee's lively essay "On Reading Books Through Their Backs" and the regular reviews of "Books Old and New."

In fiction, the Baroness von Hutten, R. E. Young, George S. Wasson, Dallas L. Sharp and others furnish entertaining stories and sketches; Edward N. Pomeroy, Hildegarde Hawthorne, Virginia W. Claud and James H. Morse contribute poems and the lively Contributors' club rounds out an entertaining and appropriate midsummer number of the Atlantic.

National Geographic Magazine.

The special reports of Professor Robert T. Hill, of the U. S. geological survey, and Dr. Israel C. Russell, of the University of Michigan, on the recent volcanic disturbances in the West Indies are published in the current number of the National geographic magazine. The articles are beautifully illustrated by photographs taken by the authors. Professor Hill and Dr. Russell were of the special expedition sent by the National Geographic society to study the cause of the terrible disaster in Martinique and St. Vincent. The reports of the other members of the National Geographic society expedition, Dr. Angelo Heilprin, of Philadelphia and Professor T. A. Jaggar of Harvard university, will be published in an early number of this magazine.

The Outing for July.

The July Outing does not contain a dry paragraph nor one that does not recall to sportsman, nature-lover, and the great mass of out-door-hungry workers the joys of the best in summer recreative life. It has, too, information invaluable to one preparing for a vacation in the woods, and those who would perfect themselves in sport.

Full of the joyous tinge of the out-of-door are Summer Days on the Mirimichi, in which Mr. Tappan Adney tells of a week's canoeing in the wilds of New Brunswick, When Man Turns to the Waters—an article on our summer sports at the waterside, and Photographing Big Game in Close Season. So, too, is the Anglers of the Wharf, which makes one feel the longing tand thirst for fresh air, which sends city boys and men to the docks to fish; and The Fastest Sprint, in which Arthur F. Duffey tells the reader how he made a new world's record for the hundred yards dash and what were his efforts, emotions, hopes and fears.

One of the practical articles is that by Miss Lillian C. Moeran, on The Breeding and Showing of Dogs by Women. Miss Moeran points out where most would-be breeders fail and why they fail. She tells them how to correct their errors and gives a sketch of the leading lady dog breeders.

Other highly interesting articles are The Buffalo Runners, fifth in the story of the Trapper series, by A. C. Lunt; About the Cougar, by Franklin Welles Calkins; English Steeplechasing, by George C. Roller; The Relation of Athletics to Art, by R. Hinton Perry, and Recent American Development in lawn tennis, by J. Parmly Paret.

Blackmore's Best Book.

A sixpenny edition of R. D. Blackmore's "Lorna Doone" of 150,000 copies, appeared a few years ago and was quickly sold out. Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co. have now issued another edition at the same price, and intend also to publish sixpenny editions of the same novelist's "Springhaven," "Craddock Nowell," "Christowell," "Alice Lorraine," "Mary Anerley," and "Cripps the Carrier." Mr. Blackmore used uncomplimentary terms to the many thousands of readers who preferred "Lorna Doone" to his other stories. "It would not surprise me much if you made a hit with the sixpenny L. D.," he wrote to his publishers, who were proposing a sixpenny edition, "such is the thickheadedness of the many-headed. . . . If the other books, some of which are of a higher order than L. D., could be made to go, I might defy the few seasons yet before me." "Springhaven," the story of Napoleon's proposed invasion of England, with Nelson as one of the heroes, Blackmore considered his masterpiece.

In "Around the Throne" Paul Winchester attempts to get to the heart of things political and social by setting down some "Sketches of Washington Society During a Recent Administration." In the course of some 200 pages Mr. Winchester analyzes character and discusses human motives with a free hand, but the credibility of his sketches of course depends as much upon the reader's temperamental prejudices as upon his knowledge of Washington life. The volume is published in Baltimore by B. G. Eichelberger.

In their series of Eclectic School Readings, the American Book company have just issued "Animals at Home," a supplementary reader by Lillian L. Bartlett containing material suitable for the fourth or fifth grades. It gives sketches of the lives and habits of 25 representative birds, animals, fishes and insects, and includes suggestive illustrations from photographs and drawings.

"A Year's Sermons" have been collected by Rev. S. D. McConnell, D. D., into a volume bearing that title, and they are published in New York by Thomas Whittaker. They have never been delivered from the pulpit, but were written for the press, and first met the public eye upon the editorial page of a Philadelphia newspaper.

Mr. W. L. Courtney at the annual dinner of the British Authors' society, quoted an Eastern legend in support of the proposition that criticism was one of the oldest of all professions: "Adam's first recorded remark (uttered presumably while naming his subjects) is said to have been, 'This is an ass.'"

An exhaustive life of Tolstoi has been written by Dmitri Merejkowski, author of "The Death of the Gods" and other romances. It will consider its subject from the point of view of man, worker, philosopher, prophet and artist, and will be published by G. P. Putnam's Sons.

It is reported in London that J. M. Barrie's new story will be entitled "The Little White Bird," and that it will be published by Hodder & Stoughton before the end of the present year.

A GREAT SALT FIELD.

How Product Is Obtained in the Middle of the Colorado Desert.

[New York Tribune.]

In the middle of the Colorado desert, a little to the north of the Mexican border, and 264 feet below the level of the sea, lies a field of crystallized salt more than a thousand acres in extent, presenting a surface as white as snow, and beneath the noonday glare of the sun so dazzling that the naked eye cannot stand its radiance, it stretches away for miles and miles about Salton, Colo., an ocean of blazing, blistering white.

Here daily throughout the year men are at work overturning the great deposit with massive ploughs and scrapers getting it into great piles preliminary to putting through the refining process. The salt ploughs used to secure the harvest are great four-wheeled implements, driven by steam and managed by two men. The salt crust is thrown up in parallel ridges, then laborers with hoes work it to and fro in the water, washing out the dirt, preliminary to stacking it in mounds to be taken to the mill.

Salt springs in adjacent foothills are constantly contributing to the deposit, and so heavily laden are they with almost pure salt that the plough has hardly passed on before a new crust has formed in the furrow left. This fact renders it unnecessary to operate more than a small portion of the vast deposit. At present only 10 acres are worked.

As may be supposed, work in these fields is performed under the most trying conditions. No white man can stand the intense heat, and for this reason the work is done wholly by Japanese and by Coahuila Indians. Of these the Indians are by far the better adapted to the work, the Japanese performing only one portion, sewing the sacks in which the salt is shipped. The atmosphere, laden as it is with particles of salt, gives rise to a painful thirst, and the only available drinking water comes from a single well. It is warm and ill-tasting.

Beautiful mirages frequently appear above the great salt field in the daytime, sky pictures of magnificent cities and flower-dotted, tree-shaded fields. The moonlight, too, produces wondrously beautiful effects upon the great field of gleaming salt. For several weeks in the year the thermometer on the salt field averages 140 degrees, and the reflection of the sun produces a glare like that from a furnace. The deposits vary in thickness from 2b to 20 inches, and form a solid crust over the great marsh. It is estimated that about 700 tons are now ploughed up daily.