

AMONG THEATRICAL PEOPLE.

BY HERBERT GIBSON.

New York City, N. Y., Special—To the admiring public theatrical life seems but one chain of happiness, rejoicing and merry-making but in reality it is one continual struggle for supremacy and a life of hard study and rehearsals day and night and even Sunday. Very few people ever think of the hardships that the actor and actress have to endure in order to reach the top of the "ladder of fame" and after they reach the top they must continue struggling to hold on because there are hundreds ready for their places. If people call theatrical life a catch I can not see it.

Young stage struck girls never think of the hardships that they are about to face. They always look at it from the pleasure stand point, and how many stage struck girls have left their happy homes, their churches and caused their parents to weep just for the sake of being a "Chorus Girl?" They would amount to hundreds a week, and a better proof of this is to just notice when a manager in this city puts an ad in the papers for a Chorus Girl. One couldn't count the applicants and they are not only poor girls but wealthy ones also. They majority of them are from the country surrounding this city. Just because a girl knows she can sing a little and some one tells her she is so handsome too, she thinks it is nothing else to do but to go on the stage. And she says to herself "What a fool I would be to continue working for a dress maker for four dollars a week when I can get fifteen dollars per week on the stage as a Chorus Girl and see the sights of the world also.

With this foolish idea she comes to New York with her fare and a few dollars over, and knowing but few people here she soon begins to feel lonesome and weary, and in visiting all the theatres she finds that all the companies are filled for the time being. What is she to do now? All of her money has been spent and she is too proud to write home for more money, she joins a show on the Bowery or in some beer garden in Coney Island, the very last step on the theatrical "ladder of fame".

Mr. Richard Mansfield spoke the truth last month when he said, "To be a successful actor or actress one should be well bred, have good manners, a good voice, good looking (the latter is absolutely necessary for women), and a player who wishes to succeed must have temperate habits and cannot dissipate.

NOTES.

Ritchie and Francis who made "My Hannah Lady" popular and Mr. Nathaniel Bivins' great song entitled "If I Don't Change My Mind," are playing at the Academy of Music in Mr. Brady's production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

The original "Blind Tom" is still alive. He was seen in this city last month and looked very pale and thin. He has not appeared in concert for the past eight years. Mrs. Bethune, his guardian, says he has lost none of his old time executive ability at the piano, he will reappear in concert next fall. His many friends all over the country ought to give him a rousing reception as that will be his last tour.

"A Lucky Coon" company played at Patterson, New Jersey, last week.

Williams and Walker in the "Sons of Ham" played at Philadelphia last week and are playing at Newark, New Jersey, this week.

New Jersey can not boast of being tired of rag time when they have four colored companies playing to packed houses nightly in different parts of the state this week.

Mr. Pat Chappelle who owns a theatre at Tampa, Florida is scouring the country for colored performers to present his musical comedy "A Rabbit's Foot" written especially for him by Mr. Frank Dumont of Philadelphia, Penn.

William Brady's mammoth production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is now in its fifth week at the Academy of Music this city and seats are still in demand, the company will make a tour of the South where it has never been seen be-

fore. Southern people do not like the play here, and have denounced it severely. I asked a Southern chap that had seen the play how did he like it? He replied in an angry mood, "I don't like it at all," and every word he said was ice coated. The company will also go to London where it will appear at the Drury Lane Theatre.

The Star Theatre in this city where Cole and Johnson presented a trip to Coontown a few weeks ago, is to be torn down next week and all the colored companies that have helped to make its walls ring with joy will perform hereafter in the Grand Opera House.

Black Patti's Troubadors have returned from their long Western tour and will play at Carnegie, Pa., April 20th. They are booked to appear at the Academy of Music, Washington, D. C., shortly.

"South Before the War" played last week at Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Marion's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company played one night last week at the Empire Theatre, Atlantic City, New Jersey. It was only three years ago that colored attractions were not wanted at this theatre yet the management is sorry that they did not book this attraction for one week instead of one night.

Billy Farrell who held the championship for cake-walking so long in this country is making the hit of his life in London, England, where he is known as the "Creole Comedian" he has written several new songs, one entitled "Hot Foot Sam" has proven to be the real thing.

Isham's Octoroons will be seen shortly at Kernan's Theatre, Washington, D. C., in "King Kastus" they will open the Roof Garden season in New York City at the Madison Square Garden. Smith and Johnson, Billy English, Billy Miller, Hampton and Johnson, Musical Mokes, and Harry and Sadie Britton are the brightest lights of the company. Madame Flower and Miss Stella Wiley are reported to have joined this company, but the air is full of reports these days.

England has a theatrical society called the "Water Rats" and a society has been organized in this city by ladies under the name of the "White Mice." The "White Mice" have declared that they will stand by the "White Rats" and I think if the "Black Cats," the "Black Mice," the "Pole Cats," and the "Brown Roaches" would hurry up and organize into one society they could render it very unpleasant to the "Water Rats," "White Mice" and the "White Rats."

Not one colored performer has appeared at the Koster and Bial's Theatre, this city, since the house has been infested with such odd looking "Rats." I don't know whether it is that the "Rats" don't want the colored performer or the colored performer is afraid of the "Rats." Up to the time the "White Rats" took charge of the theatre colored talent was always on the program each week.

Herbert Gibson made his last public appearance as a cake walker at the Grand Central Palace, New York City, Saturday evening, April 13th. He was assisted by Miss Mabel Cook of the famous "Cook Sisters" of Boston, Mass. Cake walking is a novelty of the past although it is very popular all through New Jersey and many other states.

Mr. Kid Cole, well known all over Washington deserves great credit for his fancy cake walking. He takes part in all the the leading cake walks in the city. He is engaged to appear at Sulzner's Harlem River Park next month to walk against the champions.

HERBERT GIBSON.

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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

Lawyer Perri W. Frisbie is now engaged in settling the estates of Wood, Thomas and Huton.

Justice Charles C. Cole of the District Supreme Court has tendered his resignation. In this jurisdiction there are five Supreme Court Justices appointed for life at a salary of \$5,000.

We have a number of colored attorneys eminently qualified to fill this exalted position with honor, and it would be a fitting recognition of the legal talent of the race if President McKinley would fill this vacancy by appointing one of these gentlemen.

Lawyer Royal A. Hughes is making a determined fight to save the life of his client Boyd Wallace, under sentence to be hanged on May 24th for the murder of Robert Stafford, his half-brother. He has taken the case to the Court of Appeals, and that tribunal has just allowed him to proceed with the cause a forma pauperis.

The Supreme Court of the United States has recently handed down a decision of the case of Throckmorton vs. Holt. The conclusion reached is against the admissibility of the declarations of the testator made before or after the execution of his will. As this has been a disputed question, many able lawyers contending both ways, the decision will have a far reaching effect in the adjudication of wills.

A decision involving slave marriages was recently handed down by Judge Hagner, in which it was held that a marriage contracted between slaves was valid for the purpose of entitling the wife to dower in the lands of her husband. Mrs. Sophia Diggs Marshall was the complainant in the case and Dr. Phillip B. Brooks the defendant. Mrs. Marshall was represented by attorneys L. Melender King and Dr. Brooks by Hamilton and Colbert.

Lawyers J. F. Bundy, L. Melender King and William L. Pollard were recently admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. Owing to the fact that changes are being made relative to the admission to the bars of this country, which are calculated to lessen the chances of our attorneys to practice before the different courts, they should embrace every opportunity to identify themselves with the higher tribunals.

In this connection it might be interesting to note that the said code virtually abolishes divorces in the District of Columbia, since it reduces the grounds upon which the same may be secured to that of adultery only, and the defendant is not allowed to marry thereafter. This law is very harsh since it might result in considerable hardship to women who might happen to marry cruel husbands, or who may be deserted by their husbands after marriage.

The passage of the new District code has occasioned the filing of a number of divorce suits, as a great many desire to take advantage of the law as it now stands before the code goes into effect January 1, 1902. Among the number who have recently instituted suits for legal separation are: Emma L. Thomas vs. William R. Thomas; William H. Garvey vs. Mary C. Garvey; Mamie Hicks vs. Thomas Hicks, represented by Lawyer William L. Pollard; Cora H. Carter vs. James E. Carter, represented by Attorney Royal A. Hughes; Margaret Smith vs. William H. Smith and Mary E. Brown vs. Charles Brown, represented by L. Melender King.

Congress has recently passed an act which establishes a code of laws for the District of Columbia. An important change effected in the existing law is the provision for 10 justices of the peace instead of 15 as at present, and said justices are to receive a salary of \$3,000 per annum. His reported from very good authority that at least two of the said justices will be colored, and this is as it should be in view of the fact that a great many colored people resort to this court because of the cheapness of costs, etc. Very many of the colored attorneys are in the race for appointment. Those most prominent among the applicants are Lawyers William H. H. Hart, Emanuel Hewlett, L. Melender King and Joseph H. Stewart.

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