THE CAPTAIN OF RURALES.

BY F. F. THOMPSON.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTER.

Ramon, captain of a band of Mexican brigands, loves Dolores Gutierrez, daughter of a Judge of a Mexican town, and, for her sake, resolves to become an honest man. Before reforming, however, he and his men rob two Americans.

CHAPTER II.

The Capture.

AS the band of men driving their captured booty made their way up the mountain toward the rendezvous agreed upon, Capt. Ramon called Juan to his side and told of his resolution to seek honest employment, leaving Juan captain of the brigand troop.

Juan made no reply. The tone in which his commander spoke showed that his mind was firmly made up and that there was no chance of altering his determination. Perhaps, too, the lieutenant was not displeased at securing the command which he had once thought should have been his by right.

With a wave of his hand Ramon again turned and rode back down the trail toward Encina.

Had not his mind been so deeply occupied with his own indefinite plans and with the parting from his old companions he might have remembered more clearly the danger which he had been told threatened him and his men. But no thought came to him of the troops who were in the mountains searching for him. He had ridden back to the canyon and the horse was about to turn toward Encina when there came a sudden rattle of musketry. At the same time he felt a sharp, stinging pain in his right side and his horse pitched forward. Too good a rider to allow himself to be thrown beneath his animal, Ramon instinctively drew his feet from the stirrups and threw himself to one side. The act saved his life for, as the horse fell, another rattle of shots came from the rocks opposite and a dozen bullets buried themselves in the body of the animal.

Stunned by his fall, Ramon lay for a moment trying to recall his scattered thoughts. Then, as he essayed to rise, he was quickly seized by a dozen hands and bound hand and foot so that he had no chance to struggle. His captors wore the blue of the government troops, and he knew that he was in the hands of those men who had been sent out to capture him and his comrades.

At last the town was reached. The way to the prison was along the main street. The news that the troops were coming with a prisoner had reached the place even before they did, and half the citizens were in the street to see the unusual spectacle. Hardly had the little procession come in sight before the cry was sounded on every side:

"The captain! They have caught the captain, and he is wounded!"

It was this news that Senorita Dolores heard. It was this that caused her to stagger and fall even as she instinctively tried to go to the aid of her injured lover. They found her lying in the garden where she had talked with him twenty-four hours before. They carried her into the house, but before they could restore her to consciousness Ramon was in a cell.

As they took him into the corral two Americans stood by the door.

"Good evening, captain," said Farnham. "We meet under different circumstances now."

"Poor devil; don't badger him," said Hasbrouck.

There was little doubt in the minds of the citizens as to what would be the fate of Ramon. Caught in the act of brigandage, almost, there would be no mercy shown him. Even old Pablo felt certain of that. He was too familiar with the motto of the Government troops, "Quick trials and a quick volley," to expect that there would be any different procedure in the case of the prisoner.

With Dolores there was no such resignation. Her first thought when she found herself lying on her bed with old Therese by her side was for her lover. She rose in haste and ran to her father.

"Oh, father," she cried, as he entered the room, "save him! You must save him. He is innocent. I know it. I can prove it."

"I am afraid that will be hard, my child," said the old judge. "There are two Americans who lost everything only last night, and they say he was in company of the men. They have already told their story to the captain of the troops."

"But he was with his men only to say farewell. I know it. I am sure of it. Only yesterday he told me he would reform."

"And then," prompted the old judge, as the girl hesitated.

"And then he would come and ask you for me," finished Dolores, as she hung her head.

The alcalde stood in thought for a moment. Had his daughter looked closely, she would have seen that he was much troubled by her admission that she had seen Ramon after she had been forbidden.

"You will save him?" she asked again when her father did not speak.

"I will try," answered the Judge.

Then, pressing a kiss on his daughter's forehead, he left the house. He made his way toward the public prison (to which Ramon had been taken. Before he reached it he turned and went to his own office. There, opening the safe, he took out a paper on which was the government seal and the signature of President Diaz. This he read over carefully, as though to familiarize himself with every word and to be certain of the meaning of every phrase. When he had finished he placed the paper in his pocket.

Senor Gutierrez hurried to the headquarters of the military commander.

"I came to see you," said the alcalde, "in regard to that young man whom your troops captured, because I wish to save him if possible."

The captain stared at him in amazement.

"It would seem as though there is something lawless in the air of these mountain regions," he said, musingly. "It makes two-thirds of the people sympathize with these brigands and the other third help them actively. It prompts judges to beg for their release. I cannot understand it."

"What I am or what I have done makes no difference in this case," answered the alcalde. "You say your orders allow you to show no mercy to men caught in the mountains. Tell me, when were those orders given you? What is the date of them?"

"The date? I could not tell you without looking at the papers, but it must have been about four months ago."

"Four months!" exclaimed Senor Gutierrez.

"Yes. It was before we came into the mountains in pursuit of these men, and we have been here nearly three months."

"Then you do not know—then you have not seen the new orders?"

"I know nothing of any new orders," replied the soldier.

"The orders are not addressed to you," answered the alcalde. "They were sent to me to be carried out, and before I could do so you have seriously interfered with them. I had been seeking this man you hold as prisoner, but before I could get word to him your work had been done. Only one thing is left now. He must be set free, so that the wish of the President can be carried out."

"Set free!" exclaimed the soldier. "Are you crazy? Do you think I am going to release a brigand captured under arms when the witnesses of his last offense are here to testify against him?"

"He must be set free," replied the Judge. "He is summoned to the capital. I will show you."

As he spoke the Judge fumbled in his pocket and drew forth the papers which he had taken from the safe in his office. Opening one of these, he handed it to the soldier.

"Read that," he said, "and you will see why I say he must be free. In that you will learn the wishes of the President, which are as binding on you as on me, even if they are not addressed as orders to you."

The soldier took the paper and read. An expression of surprise showed on his face as he perused the order. When he had finished he examined the signatures and the seal carefully to satisfy himself that everything was as it should be. This done, he handed the paper back to the alcalde.

"I had no idea of this new plan of the President," he said. "But I do not see how it affects me in the least."

"What! Doesn't affect you?" asked the alcalde. "Don't you see what it says?"

"Yes, I read it," answered the soldier. "It says that all chiefs of brigands are to be summoned to the City of Mexico for a consultation with the Government, and it gives them the President's personal and official promise that they shall not be interfered with during their journey there or back. But it doesn't say anything about brigands who are caught with arms just after committing an outrage. There is no order there for me to set such men free."

But the soldier was evidently puzzled. His respect for and dread of the President were too great to make him wish to do anything which should in any way offend the head of the Government.

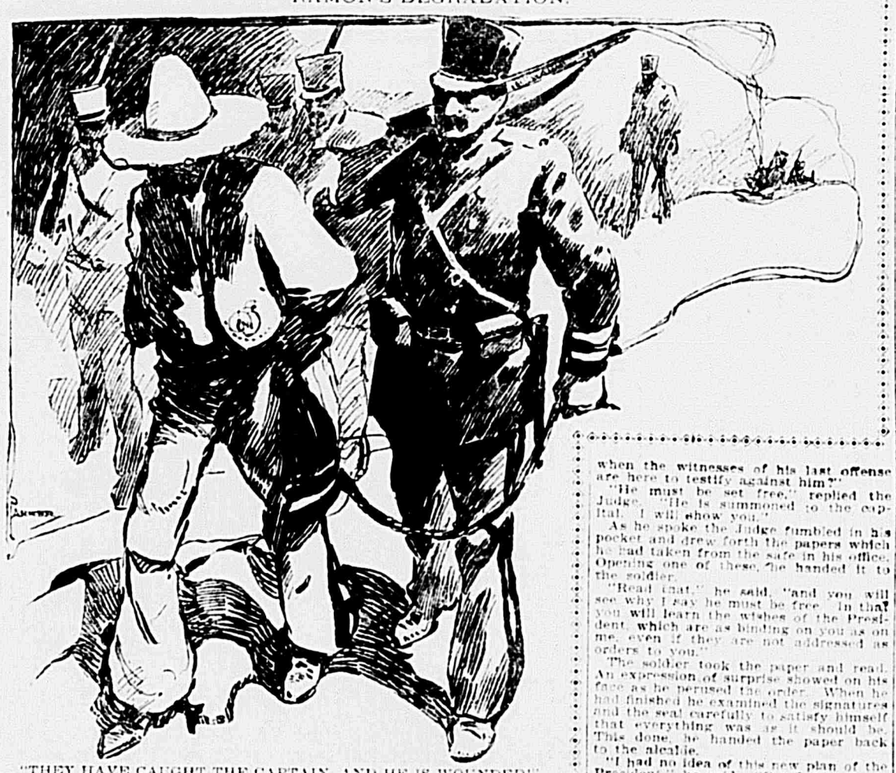
"Then let this man go to Mexico City," pleaded the alcalde. "As my order commands. He can go under guard of your men and the President can be told the circumstances. Let him decide."

"Well," replied the soldier at last, "I will do that. It will not be too late to execute the brigand if the President says your orders do not supersede mine."

Satisfied with what he had accomplished, though it was less than he had hoped at first, the alcalde bade adios to the commandant and went to his home.

(To Be Continued.)

RAMON'S DEGRADATION.



"THEY HAVE CAUGHT THE CAPTAIN, AND HE IS WOUNDED!"

HOW THE CIRCUS IS GETTING READY FOR ITS OPENING.

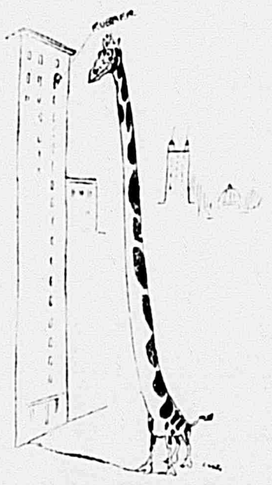
Some Frank Opinions Overheard in the Menagerie--Ambrose Park All in a State of Keen Expectancy.

Primping and manicuring for a stroll up Fifth avenue.

The lion gets a hair-cut.

The change of climate gave the elephant the grip.

The tiger makes ready for a visit to Tammany.



The giraffe does a little rubbering.

The monkeys discuss the peanut trust and Brooklyn life.

"I've got fifteen dollars in my inside pocket—don't you see?
To me it is a warning.
Next Saturday I'll make a call
On my friend at Tammany Hall.
And divil a cent I'll have on Sunday morning."

The Tiger hummed the old tune over as he shaved off his whiskers.

"Say," said he, "when a fellow goes to Manhattan he has to spruce up a bit—especially when he goes over to see a swell cousin at Tammany Hall. I may be nothing but an old circus tiger, but I know a thing or two when it comes to fixing up. Those city chaps are great on dress."

"Got a haircut myself to-day," said the lion. "Feller sets kind of rusty stored away all winter in a dead town like Columbus. I am just waiting to see the elephants get in that cane rush on the Brooklyn Bridge. Say, it's colder than a Bridgeport barn here."

And the old man rolled himself into a ball and tucked his paws under him like a cat.

Elephant Soaked Feet.

Just then the camel came out shivering and looked at the sky.

"Wait till he gets to the city. He'll have to hump himself then all right," chuckled the monkey, who had his throat done up in red flannel.

"I guess you're not so warm," growled the camel, and he went back into the tent. All the way in he grumbled, "When they cinch that peanut trust your goose will be cooked, Mr. Jocko."

All the time Old Man Elephant, who does the champion act of walking on his hind legs, was soaking his feet in hot water and taking hot stuff.

Feared Sore Throat.

The giraffe never peeped his head out of doors. He explained to some of his intimate friends he didn't care take the chance of getting a sore throat. "If I did," said he, "don't you know there wouldn't be enough flannel in Brooklyn to cover it."

"I wish you would lend me that throat so I swallow this rum," said the elephant."

"I would," said the giraffe, "but, you know, one swallow doesn't make a summer."

Then the hyena let loose a weird, uncanny howl, and all the other animals beat their heads against the doors of the cages.

Old Noah's Ideas.

"If we only had a little decent weather," said old Noah—that isn't the Noah you are thinking of in the Ark, but he knows as much about animals as that ancient mariner did—"if we'd only had a little decent weather you would have seen these here critters hopping about with glee. It is so dummed cold it stiffens 'em up. They have been in warm winter quarters at Columbus and this cold spell in this open air makes 'em dopish."

Old Noah has been with Sells's circus for thirty years, and he knows every animal in the new aggregation of Forepaugh & Sells from the tiny toy dog to the overgrown elephant that looks as if he would like to eat a keeper now and then for breakfast.

All Getting Ready.

Every day the animals are rehearsing getting ready for the big show that opens at Madison Square Garden next week.

To-day the trainers were on hand and put their charges through the paces. Nearly all the animals showed marks of the effects of the bad weather. Some had colds and others were stiff in the joints. But the preparations must be pushed forward rapidly, for there are only a few days more in which to get ready.

Next Saturday night the procession will move from its quarters in Ambrose Park, Brooklyn, across the big bridge. The procession will form at City Hall Park and move uptown.

The acrobats and athletic performers have been busy for some time practising at the Turner halls in Brooklyn. They say they are all in good trim. Everybody is ready. Even the lemonade has been colored pink.

The ring-master cracks his whip. In comes the little lady on the milk-white horse, there is a sound of brass and sheepskin. The clown hops out and—

The elephant's going round and round,
The band begins to play,
And the little boys 'round the monkey cage
Had better keep out of the way.

THE BROOKLYN THEATRES.

Charles Frohman's Comedians at the Columbia—Other Bills.

"The Lash of a Whip" and "The Shades of Night" formed the double bill given by Charles Frohman's comedians at the Columbia Theatre, Brooklyn, last night. The company included Fritz Williams, E. M. Holland, Catherine Florence, Elsie De Wolfe and others.

"David Harum" began the second and final week of its run at the Montauk. William H. Crane in the title role gives a fine characterization of the country banker, and his supporting company is up to the mark.

At the Orpheum Jessie Bartlett Davis was warmly welcomed by a big audience. The entertainment also included B. F. Keith's spectacular production, "The Pageant of Nations," the Russell brothers, Murray and Lane, Charles R. Sweet, Joe Flynn, Le Marr and Gabriel, the Three Eddys and others.

"A Trip to Chinatown" in its new form was given at the Grand Opera-House. It is one of the late Charles H. Hoyt's best farce-comedies, and, as presented last night, kept the audience in a roars of laughter until the fall of the curtain on the last act. Harry Gilfoil and Mabel Montgomery filled the leading parts, and specialties were introduced by a large number of the other members of the cast.

"The Dangers of Paris," a melodrama, was the bill at the Bijou. It was presented with a mass of heavy scenery, and the various characters were interpreted by competent players.

CADETS TO GIVE PLAYS.

Youthful Soldiers Will Act for Money to Buy Uniforms.

The cadets of St. Bartholomew's Church, attended by the Vanderbilts, will develop into full-fledged actors tomorrow night.

The entertainment will be held at the parish house, No. 209 East Forty-second street. Elaborate preparations have been made to make the affair a great social success with the young people, and nearly all the seats have already been disposed of. There are 175 cadets, and the proceeds of the entertainment will be used to purchase new uniforms.

Two comic sketches will be presented, one called the "Two Lunatics" and the other "The Sumptry."

Descriptive remarks by

MR. HENRY T. FINCK

on the life and works of

LISZT

illustrated with the Pianola

AEOLIAN HALL, 18 W. 23D ST.

To-morrow, Wednesday, April 17th, at 3.00 P. M.

ADMISSION COMPLIMENTARY TO ALL.

PROGRAM:

Rhapsodie Hongroise No. 12 ..... Liszt
Polonaise No. 2, in E Major ..... Liszt
(a) Gnomen-Reigen, (b) Waldesrauchen, ... Liszt
Hark, Hark the Lark ..... Schubert-Liszt
Spinning Song ..... Wagner-Liszt

This is the third of a series of lectures by Mr. Finck, given in the place of the regular Wednesday Pianola Recitals. It affords an opportunity to hear rendered, with the aid of the Pianola, the most difficult works, and will also show the great assistance which the Pianola offers in the study of the masterpieces.

The lecture itself will be unusually interesting on account of the reputation of the lecturer, Mr. Finck, the musical critic for the New York Evening Post.

"SAPHO" CAUSED LAUGHTER.

Miss Martinot as Like Miss Nethersole as She Possibly Could Be.

Miss Sadie Martinot having been out on the road for some weeks, came to New York with "Sapho" and presented it last night at the Grand Opera-House. It was Miss Martinot's first time here in this play. So far as the presentation of the piece is concerned, the promise that it should be the same in point of accessories as that seen during Miss Nethersole's engagement was kept nearly to the letter. Miss Martinot's part was taken conscientiously.

There is no intention to make any criticism of this play. New York has seen it.

It is only necessary to say that Miss Martinot played the part as nearly like Miss Nethersole as she could, under the circumstances. Some of the "circumstances" were new people. They may do better later on.

The stair scene in the close of the first act caused laughter where laughter is not intended. But the audience was not to blame.

The house was tolerably well filled, in spite of the storm, and it must be said that it seemed to think the play was full of funny incidents. At times the greeting given to certain situations was a sort of hilarity which one hears sometimes at a circus. If "Sapho" as played last night can please people as they seemed to be pleased, why should anyone see it to mar their pleasure.

In a word, Miss Martinot and her company satisfied their audience.

REVIVALS LAST NIGHT.

N. C. GOODWIN and Maxine Elliott gave Harlem "When We Were Twenty-One" at the Harlem Opera-House last night. The play was produced as it was seen at the Knickerbocker earlier in the season.

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THE MURRAY HILL was filled last night when the curtain went up on "Oliver Twist." Elsa Proctor Otis played the part of Nancy Sikes in a creditable manner, and the supporting company gave evidence of careful rehearsal.

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"ON THE STROKE OF TWELVE" was brought out to a good house at the Metropolis.

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THOMAS E. SHEA played "Man-o'-Warsman" at the Star. It remains during the week.

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MISS EVA TAYLOR, a clever Western actress, made her first appearance here in the dual role of Lady Isabelle and Mme. Vine in "East Lynne" at the American. She will be seen in "The Flag of Truce" Thursday night.

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THE NEW PLAYS at the German theatres were "The Star" at the Irving Place and the "Potato King" at Philipp's Germania. Mme. Helene Odilon made her first appearance at the Irving Place and received an ovation. The play will be continued Tuesday and Wednesday nights. After that, during the remainder of the week, Mme. Odilon will be seen in "Camille."

CONTINUED PLAYS.

"THE CASINO GIRL" at the Knickerbocker, "Florodora" at the Casino, "Are You a Mason?" at Wallack's, "San Toy" at Daly's, "The Climbers" at the Bijou, "The Price of Peace" at the Broadway, "In the Palace of the King" at the Republic, "Lovers' Lane" at the Manhattan, "When Knighthood Was in Flower" at the Criterion, "Under Two Flags" at the Garden, "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines" at the Garrick, "On the Quiet" at the Madison Square, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at the Academy of Music, and "Mavourneen" at the Fourteenth Street Theatre, had good houses last night.

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THIS WEEK is the 120th of "San Toy" at Daly's.

AT THE VAUDEVILLES.

"MY LADY" remains as the principal attraction at the Victoria. A new and tuneful number entitled "Simple Mary Green" made a hit last night. Charles Ross, Crawford, Lottie Medley and Miss Faust sing it.

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ROSE COGHLAN had an ovation last night at Keith's. The specialties are good.

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THE LAST WEEK at Weber & Fields's opened to a roaring house last night.

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HURTIG & SEAMON'S had M. B. Curtis in "Sam'l of Posen" for the big piece last night, and a lot of good specialties. Miss Oriska Worden, from the operatic field, made a hit.

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"GIDDY THRONG" and a big bill of scintillating specialties began another good week's business at the New York last night.

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KOSTER & BIAL'S and Proctor's have excellent bills this week, and both places were crowded last night.

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LILLIAN BURKHART presented her new piece, "Jessie's Jack and Jerry," at Proctor's Twenty-third street house last night for the first time. "Madame Butterfly" began its 100th week at Proctor's Fifth Avenue. The vaudeville features at both of these places are most excellent. The bills at Proctor's Fifty-eighth Street Theatre and at the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Theatre are unusually good and were well received.

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10 yards Matting.
1 Chair.
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1 Spring.
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1 Comforter.
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DINING-ROOM.
1 Extension Table.
6 Dining Chairs (cane seat).
1 Sideboard.
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15 yds. China Matting.
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Helen H. Halston, 628 Lexington ave., New York, says: "My complexion fair as a May day queen. She says of other users: "I see why any lady should continue to lack a beautiful complexion when it can be so easily obtained by simply sending name and address to Mme. M. Ribault the same as I did." Write her to-day.

Amusements.

EMPIRE THEATRE. B'way & 40th st. Evgs. at 8 o'clock. Mats. Wednesday & Saturday. For a Limited Number of Performances. EMPIRE'S ALL STAR CAST. DIPLOMACY

GARRICK THEATRE. 35th st. & Broadway. Evgs. 8.30. Matinees Wednesday and Saturday. CAPT. JINKS OF THE HORSE MARINES with ETHEL BARRYMORE and GREAT CAST.

GARDEN THEATRE. 27th st. & Madison av. Evgs. 8.15. Matinees Wednesday and Saturday. 100TH TIME MAY 1. PICTORIAL SOUVENIRS. UNDER TWO FLAGS with BLANCHE BATES as Cigarette.

CHARLES FROHMAN'S CRITERION THEATRE. B'way and 44th st. Evenings 8.15. Only Matinee Sat. at 2.15. JULIA MARLOWE. WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER.

MADISON SQ. THEATRE. 24th st. nr. B'way. Evgs. 8.30. Matinee Wednesday & Saturday 2.15. BOTH TIME MAY 3—SOUVENIRS. WILLIAM COLLIER. | ON THE QUIET.

WALLACK'S Broadway and 30th st. LAST 2 WEEKS. Evgs. 8.30. Matinee Sat. 2.15. ARE YOU A MASON?

DALY'S. At 8.10. Matinee Wed. and Saturday at 2. SAN TOY

STAR Evgs. 8.15. Mat. Wed. & Sat. Gus. Rol THOMAS E. SHEA in Dr. JEKYL AND Mr. HYDE. Gr. 50.

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HARLEM O.H. GOODWIN OPERA HOUSE. MAXINE ELLIOTT Mts. 2.15. WHEN WE WERE TWENTY-ONE.

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BUFFALO BILLS WILD WEST AND ROUGH RIDERS
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23d St. 5th Ave. 58th St. 125th St. | Fatma & Smana, Lillian Burkhart, 8 Olcras, Press Eldridge, Leo Dervalio, Mme. Butterfly, Severus Schaeffer, Ward & Curran, A. Loraine, Z. Rewisten, Jos. Welch, Clarice Vance, Dupont & Lotta, Crane Bros., Little & Pritkow, &c. Dicky Bell, Kathryn Osterman, Sickert & Berg, Musical Dale, Hale & Francis, &c.

KOSTER & BIAL'S WHITE RATS. W. 34 st. 1.45, 7.45. Sunday Mat. & Eve. Concerts. 25c. Mat. ALL. ORCH. | EV. GS. 50c. | Jas. J. Corbett. Sig. Sol, Duffy & Sidney, Max Waldon, McMahon & King, Tenley & Simmon, The Famous Wilsons, Filbert Fake & Co., Vernet Dale, Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Neuville, H. Y. Fitzgerald, the American Pregoli, Purcell & Maynard; others.

14TH ST. Theatre, nr. 6th ave. Mats. Wed. & Sat. Res. orch. circle or bal., 50c. 8th CHAUNCY OLCOTT | MAVOURNEEN. Hear "Molly O" and all the famous songs.

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COLUMBIA EVERY EVENING. Mats. Wed. and Sat. THE LASH OF A WHIP and THE SHADES OF NIGHT. As given at the Lyceum Theatre, N. Y.

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