ABOUT PLAYS AND PLAYERS

By BIDE DUDLEY

After Sunday Broadway will have to worry along without that champion of matrimony and champion of "Casey at the Bat," De Wolf Hopper. Sunday Mr. Hopper will board a train with Los Angeles as his destination, and there, for fifty-two weeks, he will face the motion picture camera and defy its operator to do his worst.

"I have promised William A. Brady," he said, "to return to his management when I get ready to resume regular stage work. Mr. Brady released me from my contract with him without argument, which was about as nice a thing as any manager ever did for a star. He thinks I won't like the movies."

"What do you think about it?" was asked.

"I'll answer that question later."

Mr. Hopper said he had signed up to act for the Majestic people for one year, and that there was a "mutual option" on his services for another. Somebody has predicted that the first thing they'll have him do in California is to act in a scenario based on "Casey."

CECIL B. DE MILLE HERE.

Cecil B. De Mille, who tired of the legitimate stage two years ago, after producing "Baxter's Partner," "Speed" and "The Marriage Net," and went to California to become a film director for Jesse L. Lasky, is back for a brief visit. Mr. De Mille recently finished producing "Carmen" and two other plays, with Geraldine Farrar in the principal roles. He declares he's through with the regular stage forever.

"The picture life is the life for me," said he.

Mr. De Mille brought with him a little tip that is interesting. He says there is a great deal of exaggeration in the reports about the enormous salaries film stars are receiving. Oh, they do get excellent pay, says he, but the film companies do not pay them nearly as much as the press agents do.

MRS. WHIFFEN ENGAGED.

Klaw & Erlanger and George C. Tyler have engaged Mrs. Thomas Whiffen to play the part of the mother in "Moloch," the war drama they are soon to produce. Mrs. Whiffen has been a familiar figure in the American drama for forty years.

TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS.

The Executive Committee of the United Managers' Protective Association will meet a committee representing the American Federation of Musicians early next week to discuss conditions surrounding union musicians in the theatres. It is hoped that, as a result of the conference, the restrictions the managers say they encounter when seeking to employ orchestras will be modified.

BY WAY OF DIVERSION.

Her hair was like gold and her eyes were clear blue,
Her heart was that of a queen,
I gazed on her fondly (the last thing I do)
And thought for the fairest I'd seen.
She had with a courtesy that's born of real grit,
As I turned to the girl and addressed her, "Say,
'Gee-g', because you a mule?" I murmured.
"Why, that's fit."
She said, then I wildly caressed her.

GOSSIP.

Gerrytal Horne contemplates entering vaudeville with a sketch.

"My Lady's Garter" will open at the Booth Theatre Sept. 6.

Joe Drumm is handling the press work for May Irwin in "No. 13 Washington Square."

Julian Eltinge, in "Cousin Lucy," will open an engagement at the Cohan Theatre Aug. 27.

James Oliver Curwood is to write scenarios exclusively for the Vitagraph.

Miriam Grace has been engaged for a role in John Wills's comedy, "Two Old Cronies."

A special orchestra of thirty men will accompany "Sumurun" at the Palace next week.

John McCormack is to give another concert at the Auditorium, Ocean Grove, on the evening of Labor Day.

F. J. Barr, manager of the Holyoke Opera House, Holyoke, Mass., ventured into town yesterday.

Vincent Bryan has gone to Los Angeles to write scenarios for the Keystone Company.

Hugh Ward of the J. C. Williamson Company, Ltd., of Sydney, Australia, is due in New York soon.

Pauline Seymour is soon to appear in a new play written by Charles O'Donnell.

Ruth Sinclair, of "Under Cover," who was bunged up in an auto accident, is out of the hospital and ready to again uplift art.

Stella Adams, bride of James Whittendale, has gone to Los Angeles to continue her film work and James is the picture of despair.

Francis X. Bushman, motion picture star, will appear in person at Loew's Circle and Greeley Square Theatres to-night and tell the audiences all about the business of film-starring.

In the new play which is to reopen the Punch and Judy Theatre, Mrs. Hopkins is to have the chief role. Her husband will content himself with merely a bit.

Charlotte Davies, who, as "Innocence," became famous in a night at Hammerstein's Victoria, is to take up film acting. Being a young woman of considerable stage experience she expects to make more than a bare living.

The Messrs. Shubert announce that they have arranged to star Irene Franklin, now in "Hands Up," next season in a comedy with music, the book of which will be written by Miss Franklin and the music by Burton Green.

AN ELABORATE PLAN.

The Players' Club, the Drama League and other organizations associated with acting, have a plan to celebrate the Shakesperian tercentenary in an elaborate manner. Beginning April 23, 1916, five Shakesperian performances will be given in the Stadium at the College of the City of New York and, at the same time, similar performances will be given in fifty other cities where branches of the Drama League exist. Howard Kyle is Chairman of a committee working to this end.

FROM THE CHESTNUT TREE.

"The Police Department's going to have an aeroplane squad."

"Made up of regular patrolmen?"

"No, by cops."

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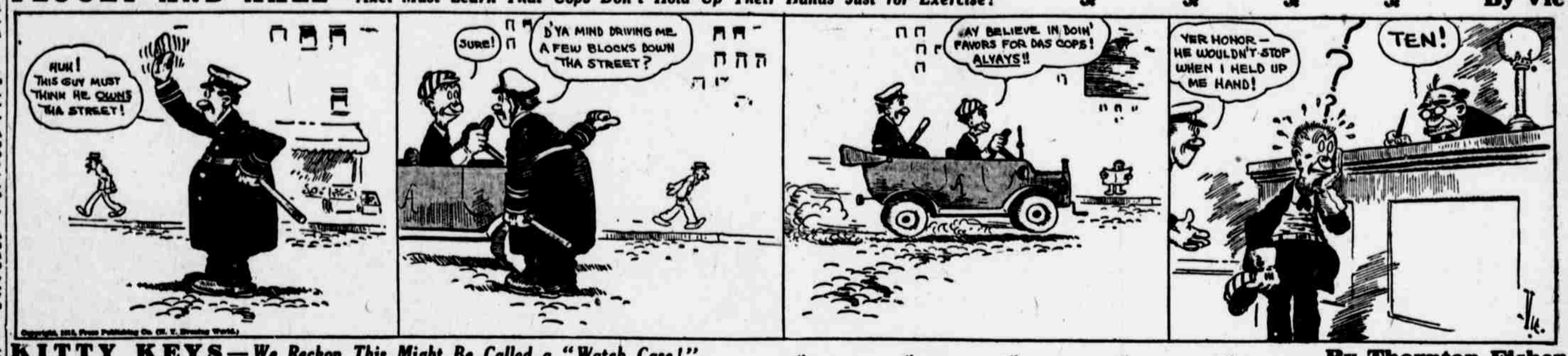
"'S'MATTER, POP?" By C. M. Payne

FLOOEY AND AXEL—*Axel Must Learn That Cops Don't Hold Up Their Hands Just for Exercise!* By Vic



KITTY KEYS—*We Reckon This Might Be Called a "Watch Case!"* By Thornton Fisher

TUMBLE TOM—*Golden Locks Presents Her Tresses to Old King Cole!* By Eleanor Schorer

Tom promised that he would return to the court of Old King Cole, and he did. It was the King's birthday, and every one brought a present for him. Miss Muffet gave her curds and whey, and Mary made him a pair of lamb's wool bed slippers. With these he was delighted.

Suddenly, out of the floor popped Mab, the Fairy Queen. "O King," she cried, "what do you wish for most in all the world? But ask, and it shall be had by thee!" He did not have to stop to think. "I should like to have long, rich hair to hang about my shoulders," he answered.

Immediately Mary, Miss Muffet, Jack's sister Jill and all the girls present hid their heads, and ran away, helter-skelter, afraid of being asked to give their pretty tresses to make the King a wig. This time the tables were turned, for it was they that tumbled in their haste, not Tom.

Only little Golden Locks, whose hair was twice as beautiful as any of the others, remained. Tom escorted her to the throne, where she took her place beside Mab, the Fairy Queen, and, sweeping a low bow, said that Old King Cole should have her curls for his birthday.

Snip—the King's barber's shears took off one lovely curl, when, obeying his mother's call, Tom tumbled into Ope -Eye World. But all that day he fretted about what Golden Locks will do without her pretty hair and how very unbecoming it will be to an old fellow like King Cole.—*Continued to-morrow.*

MARY DOANE'S SUCCESS—*No. 17—Going Home*

THE STORY OF A GIRL WHO "MADE GOOD" ILLUSTRATED BY WILL B. JOHNSTONE

By Betty Vincent

Mary resolves to go home for Christmas Day, as it falls on Saturday, and she will have nearly two days with her mother. She draws from her little hoard enough money to buy a warm and pretty dress pattern for Mrs. Doane.

She stays after the closing hour at the store, gleefully selecting certain books which she knows will be interesting and helpful to her younger brother and two younger sisters, and which she is allowed to buy at cost.

Although the store is kept open late the night before Christmas, Mary packs her bag before she goes to sleep, storing in it a few clothes and the gifts for the home people in order to be ready for an early start.

Although she has slept but little, Mary is wide-awake on the train that bears her home Christmas morning. It seems to her that she will never get there, yet as she nears her little town she greets with a smile every familiar landmark.

When the train finally pulls in at the station, Mary's mother, brother and sisters are all waiting for her on the platform, with a hailstorm of hugs and kisses. They hurry her away, all telling of the wonderful Christmas prepared for her.—*(Continued to-morrow.)*