

JOHN HARE'S RETURN.

TO APPEAR AT THE CRITERION IN "THE GAY LORD QUEX."

ANOTHER MUSICAL PLAY AT THE CASINO—BILLS AT OTHER THEATRES.

John Hare is about to begin another American season. He will open at the Criterion Theatre to-morrow evening in "The Gay Lord Quex," by A. W. Pinero, which was played with considerable success in London. It will have substantially the same cast here as there. After his engagement in New-York Mr. Hare will visit other large cities, going as far as Chicago and remaining in America till about April. It is not his present intention to give any other play.

A production which has been looked forward to with a good deal of anticipation is "Florodora," which is to be seen at the Casino to-morrow night. This also has had a prosperous London career. It is described as a musical comedy. Not the least notable feature of the performance is that it will again introduce to the American public Willie Edouin, who was popular here many years ago in "A Rag Baby," "Dreams" and other farcical plays. His daughter, Miss May Edouin, who has never acted in this country, is also in the cast, other members of which are R. E. Graham, Sydney Deane, Cyril Scott,



JOHN HARE.
"The Gay Lord Quex," Criterion Theatre.

now playing the melodrama in Boston. The change will be for that night only. On Tuesday both companies will be at home again.

"The Rogers Brothers in Central Park" will remain at the Victoria Theatre for only two weeks more. Miss Isadore Rush will to-morrow night succeed Miss Della Fox in the cast.

James A. Herne's "Sag Harbor" has passed its fiftieth performance at the Theatre Republic and still continues its run, which is expected to last for some time.

A FRENCH WATERLOO MONUMENT.

From The London Chronicle.

It is distinctly good news that the French are about to erect a national monument on the field of Waterloo. Although the fortune of war decided against them, they have as much reason to be proud of the conduct of their countrymen on that day as of the valor of their equally unsuccessful countrymen at Quebec fifty-six years earlier. There is in the Canadian town a monument common to the commanders of the hostile armies, both of whom fell in the battle; and that monument has done much to bring the two races into harmony. A French memorial

beside our own on the field of Waterloo ought, in like manner, to bring the two nations together. Victor and vanquished were alike brave.

VAST PROFITS FROM THE CONGO.

KING LEOPOLD'S RELATION TO IT AS RULER OF BELGIUM.

Brussels correspondence of The London Express.

It is erroneously believed in many quarters that King Leopold of Belgium, as Sovereign of the Congo Free State, owns it, or at least part of it. This is not a true statement of affairs at all, as the government of the Free State is based on much broader and more liberal lines.

First, it must be remembered that ever since King Leopold was chosen as ruler of the Free State, in May, 1885, he has contributed annually £10,000 toward its support out of his personal fortune.

He has thus paid £600,000 up to this year, and his contribution of £10,000 still figures in the budget of 1900 toward the defraying of the State expenditure.

In return for this risk—for in the beginning it looked to all as a very hopeless risk—there can be no doubt that he made stipulations for certain concessions, for he has the reputation of being one of the shrewdest and most far-seeing men of the day.

That the Congo has turned out to be a gold mine to those Belgian merchants and bankers who were hardy enough to risk the first ventures has proved fortunate for the King, who, as a private individual, has naturally and justly taken advantage of the Congo market in order to reimburse himself, if possible, for the tremendous outlay he has guaranteed to the State for the last fifteen years.

Recently it has been stated that no Congo enterprises have paid, that money is invested in the Congo only to be lost, and so on.

This is entirely inaccurate, for no enterprises of the present day are paying better than the companies in the Congo Free State.

This must be said in justice to King Leopold, its founder, for, with the idea that the Congo is a total failure, the belief that King Leopold makes millions out of it cannot fail to place



SARAH BERNHARDT.
As the Duke of Reichstadt in "L'Aiglon."

Miss Fanny Johnston and Mrs. Edna Wallace Hopper.

Richard Mansfield's gorgeous production of "King Henry V" is to remain at the Garden Theatre for only two weeks longer. It will then begin its tour, and the only remaining opportunities for New-Yorkers to see it will be for a week in Brooklyn and a week in Harlem.

Jerome Sykes seems to have gained immediate popularity in his operetta "Foxy Quiller," at the Broadway Theatre. The work is the enlargement of the character which was the most successful part of "The Highwayman," and Mr. Sykes finds better opportunities in it than in any other piece in which he has appeared here.

Miss Maude Adams, who seems to gratify her admirers by her very presence, without reference to the plays in which she appears, is still doing excellently at the Knickerbocker Theatre in "L'Aiglon." There will soon be opportunities of comparison, as Sarah Bernhardt is approaching to play the Duke of Reichstadt at the Garden Theatre, with the assistance of M. Coquelin, and then theatregoers who feel interested to do so can compare the original with the translation.

Miss Olga Nethersole has come back, and will again present "Sabao" to-morrow night at Wallack's Theatre, the scene of its former struggles.

E. H. Sothern is reported to have recovered from the effect of the wound which he received from a sword accidentally dropped on the stage of the Garden Theatre when he was playing "Hamlet" there a few weeks ago, so that he will be able to act again this week, when he is announced to give "Hamlet" at the Harlem Opera House. It will be presented in the same manner as at the Garden.

"Lost River" is no less prosperous than usual at the Fourteenth Street Theatre. The experiment will be tried to-morrow night of exchanging the Fourteenth Street company for the one



WILLIE EDOUIN. "FLORODORA," CASINO. FANNY JOHNSTON.



HELEN BERTRAM.
As La Colomba in "Foxy Quiller," Broadway Theatre.

the Sovereign in a very false light. A few figures only are necessary to dispel this false light.

First, there is the railway, opened in 1898. This company issued its shares at £20, and their present actual value on the market is considerably over £400. The Anglo-Belgium India Rubber Company, a short time ago, paid a dividend of 100 per cent. Dividends in the various other companies vary all the way from 33 1-3 to 50 and 75 per cent.

The Belgians are a thrifty and practical people, and their commerce and industry unanimously uphold the Congo, not from sentiment or patriotism, but for the very logical reason that to them the Congo is a financial success. Those who hold the 4 per cent bonds obtain more for their money than holders of Belgian State or city bonds.

In 1886 the exports of the Congo Free State amounted to something over £65,000; in 1896, ten years after, to £180,000, and in 1899 to £1,625,000, being £500,000 in excess of the imports.

There is a belief prevailing that the Congo Free State is in some way or other a dependency of Belgium.

This is not so; it is an absolutely independent State, and nothing need prevent King Leopold from abdicating the throne of Belgium and retaining the sovereignty of the Free State in the event of Belgium refusing to annex the State, a matter which will come up before Parliament this year. For by virtue of a treaty dated July 1, 1890, the Belgian Government agreed to loan the sum of £1,000,000 to the Congo Free State, £200,000 to be paid down and £80,000 per annum for ten years.

Six months after the last payment—that is this year—the Belgian Government reserved the right to annex the entire State.

AN EXPENSIVE RAILWAY TO RUN.

From The London News.

The latest report received in London in regard to the progress of the Uganda Railway is to the effect that the railhead has now reached a point about 450 miles from the coast, leaving about 130 miles yet to be completed. This is not far from Mount Menengi, and is distant between thirty and forty miles from the main escarpment. Some idea of the gigantic nature of this trans-African railway may be gathered from the fact that the estimate for working expenses of a single train up and down daily from Mombassa to the lake, after the completion of the line, making allowance for extra trains, is no less than £100,000 per annum. When the railway is complete to the lake much of this expenditure will, it is anticipated, be recouped by the Government, seeing that a tremendous stimulus will be given to the steamship traffic, which will in future tap every part of Lake Victoria. The expected development in this form of traffic will be attributable in the main to the increased facilities which the new railway will afford for the transport from the coast of the sectional parts of these steamers.