

BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS



SCENE FROM "PEER GYNT" Richard Mansfield at the New Amsterdam.

SAM BERNARD. In "The Rich Mr. Hoggensheimer," at Wallack's. It has now run for more than 150 nights.

BEN GREET. As Shylock, at the Garden Theatre to-morrow.

FRANCIS BYRNE. In "The Chorus Lady," at the Hackett.

SCENE FROM "HAMLET" Sothern and Marlowe at the Lyric.

NEW BROADHURST PLAY

"The Mills of the Gods"—Ben Greet at Garden Theatre.

A new play by George Broadhurst, author of "The Man of the Hour," called "The Mills of the Gods" will be produced at the Astor Theatre to-morrow night by the Wm. F. Block Amusement Company. The piece is in four acts, with scenes laid in New York City and in a small Pennsylvania town.

To-morrow night the Garden Theatre will reopen, when the Ben Greet players will again be seen in Shakespeare's plays, presenting "The Merchant of Venice" as the first play of the series. This play will be given during the first week, and will be followed during the week of March 11 by "Macbeth." The first part of the week of March 18 will be devoted to "As You Like It," and the second half to "Julius Caesar." Holy Week—beginning March 25—will have a revival of the fifteenth century morality play, "Everyman."

The Princess Theatre will be dark to-morrow evening, when Miss Margaret Anglin and Henry Miller take "The Great Divide" to Washington for the single special performance of the Moody drama arranged in honor of President Roosevelt, the Cabinet, Congress and the foreign diplomats. This unusual occasion over, "The Great Divide" will resume its run on Tuesday evening, and will be presented there without interruption the remainder of the season.

"On Parole" continues at the Majestic Theatre. This military romance by Louis Evan Shipman, with Charlotte Walker and Vincent Serrano in the leading roles, was played to large audiences all the week. It is staged by Henry Miller.

Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe will, during the seventh week of their engagement at the Lyric Theatre, present four plays from their repertoire. D'Annunzio's play, "The Daughter of Jorio," was to have been the bill for Thursday and Friday and the Saturday matinee, but this production has been abandoned for the present. Instead, "Jeanne d'Arc" will be the bill for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings; "Romeo and Juliet" on Thursday and Friday evenings; "The Sunken Bell" at the Saturday matinee and "Twelfth Night" on Saturday night. During the last seven weeks Sothern and Miss Marlowe have appeared in seven plays, three by modern authors and four by Shakespeare, the latter being "Twelfth Night," "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet" and "The Merchant of Venice." The plays by the modern authors are Percy Mackaye's "Jeanne d'Arc," Hauptmann's "Sunken Bell" and Sudermann's "John the Baptist." The engagement at the Lyric Theatre will come to a close on Saturday evening of next week. On the following Monday Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe, accompanied by a party of friends, will embark on the steamship America, sailing for London, where they will open their engagement at the Waldorf Theatre on April 15. Their entire company, consisting of thirty-five people, will follow on the Minniehaha, of the Atlantic Coast Line, on March 25. This boat will also carry ten carloads of scenic paraphernalia, properties and effects.

There will be an entirely new circus at the Hippodrome, beginning on Monday afternoon as an added feature to the double bill of "Neptune's Daughter" and "Pioneer Days." One of the circus acts will be that of twenty-four Bedouins who have just arrived from Morocco. These swarthy sons of Sahara, with eight camels and complete camp equipment, will enter as though marching across the desert, and will make camp at the foot of the audience. Then, by way of diversion, the Arabs will perform various acrobatic tricks. Another new act will be the performance of a lion performing seals and sea lions, introducing for the first time the spectacle of a sea lion riding on the back of a seal. The performance of this achievement represents the highest development in the way of training a sea lion. The Patty brothers, a new troupe of acrobats from Europe, will also appear, with many other new acts. Powers's elephants continue in the arena, and so does MacCollin.

On Thursday afternoon at the Herald Square Theatre, the Shuberts will offer for the first time in America, George Bernard Shaw's comedy, "Over the House," with a cast headed by Herbert Kelcey, Miss Effie Shannon, William F. Hawley, Ferdinand Gottschalk, Henry Kolker, Miss Adeida Kessel and Frank Davis.

On Tuesday a new farce by Curt Kraatz, entitled "The Doppelgänger" ("The Double Marriage"), will be produced at the Irving Place Theatre. The plot concerns the bewildering adventures of two men who have been twice married, and who are suddenly confronted with both their wives, each of whom is unaware that her husband, or ex-husband, has remarried. The complications which result must be observed to be believed. Will Trauer, the popular comedian, and Otto Trepow will play the parts of the two husbands. The piece will be interpreted by Franziska Hedwig von Osterreich and Franziska Marie Immisch. Appended is the following list of the cast:

Ludwig Richter.....Will Trauer
Blanka.....Franziska Hedwig von Osterreich
Charlotte.....Otto Trepow
Charlotte.....Franziska Hedwig von Osterreich
Gertrud.....Franziska Marie Immisch
Ferdinand.....Franziska Marie Immisch
Ulrich Bonstedt.....Max Lieb
Dr. Leisner.....Will Kaiser
Augustus.....Franziska Marie von Wegern

"The Doppelgänger" will be repeated every night next week (beginning Saturday) and Saturday matinee. The programme for to-morrow night will be Schiller's "Maria Stuart."

Columbia's annual "variety show" will be presented for a week's run in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf, beginning Monday evening, March 11, with performances every evening and a matinee on Saturday. So successful and profitable have been the shows of the last four years that from the accumulated surplus it has been possible to make the coming opera more pretentious in scenery and costumes than ever before. "The Day of March," selected after keen competition from six plays submitted, is the work of Emil Bredendahl, who wrote both the book and the music. Additional numbers by W. E. Kelcey, G. A. Friedland, G. A. Hoppling, and Turner, have been interpolated, and K. S. Webb, who has revised the libretto. Altogether the list of authors sounds like that of an English musical comedy. The rehearsals have been directed by Lewis Hooper. Among the students in the cast are George Kenney, E. C. Thompson, E. C. Mann, and J. H. Hines. W. E. Kelcey, R. G. Conried, son of Heinrich Conried; A. H. Hopping, R. S. Alder, T. A. Gannon, a student of water and V. B. Murray, with a student chorus of forty.

"The Tattooed Man," with funny Frank Daniele, holds court at the Criterion.

At the Casino Louis Mann continues to present "The White Hen."

Montgomery and Stone celebrated their 200th performance of the Blossom-Herbert musical comedy,

"The Red Mill," at the Knickerbocker on Wednesday last.

"The Man of the Hour" reached its 100th performance last week at the Savoy Theatre.

George M. Cohan begins his fourth week in "George Washington, Jr.," at the New York Theatre to-morrow evening.

Williams and Walker in "Abyssinia" will begin their second week at the West End Theatre with to-morrow's matinee.

Miss Frances Starr's popularity as a matinee favorite has called forth so many requests for extra performances that Mr. Belasco now announces two special London matinees, Thursday, March 14, and Thursday, March 21. These will be the only performances, aside from the regular ones, when the Belasco-Fully drama, "The Rose of the Rancho," will be seen at the Belasco Theatre.

Miss Rose Stahl continues to draw large audiences at the Hackett Theatre in James Forbes's "The Chorus Lady."

"The Lion and the Mouse," which has been playing continuously for three seasons at the Lyceum Theatre, is still proving one of the greatest magnets for New York theatregoers.

At Wallack's Sam Bernard is enjoying great popularity.

Daly's Theatre at present contains "The Belle of Mayfair," and large audiences are the rule.

"The Three of Us" goes on its successful way at the Madison Square Theatre.

William Collier continues in "Caught in the Rain" at the Garrick.

At Joe Weber's "Dream City" and the clever musical burlesque "The Magic Knight" continue to win favor.

"The Road to Yesterday" may still be seen at the Herald Square.

"Breweater's Millions" continues at the Hudson Theatre.

Miss Eleanor Robson presents "Salomy Jane" at the Liberty Theatre seven performances a week, with a Wednesday matinee of "Merely Mary Ann."

"Ben Hur" is the attraction at the Academy of Music.

Etienne Girardot may still be seen as "Charley's Aunt" at the Lincoln Square Theatre.

Miss Barrymore still plays "Captain Jinks" at the Empire. Her next play will be "The Silver Box."

At the Hudson Theatre on Tuesday, April 9, the Actors' Society of America will give its third annual New York benefit in aid of its building fund.

At Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre of Varieties this week Miss Marie Presser will begin her second and last week at this theatre. The return of Harry Tate's English Comedy Company in "Motoring," Berza's comedy circus and his unrivaled donkey, Maud; Fields and Ward, comedians; Nichol Sisters, Kentucky belles; Frank Bush, popular monologist; Lody Hartour, English comedienne; Wilton Brothers, comedy bar act; Rooney Sisters, singers and dancers, and new vitagraph views complete the bill.

The extra attraction to the World in Wax at the Eden Musée, beginning to-morrow, will be J. Warren Keane, assisted by Miss Estelle D'Arville, in his magical act. He will introduce his latest mystery, "Askme," or the dial of eternity, as well as a clever illusion, "Zenah," the girl from nowhere. New cinematograph pictures and a special programme by Karl Kapossy's Hungarian Gypsy Band are given every afternoon and evening.

A bill of unusual excellence has been arranged by Robert E. Stone and Max Weber for the entertainment and ball tendered to them by members of the Weber Theatre Company at Terrace Garden to-night. The vaudeville part will begin at 8:20 o'clock and is to be followed by dancing. The music will be furnished by the Weber Theatre orchestra.

Among those who have volunteered for the vaudeville part are Miss Cecelia Lottus, Maurice Parkow, William Gould, Dave Lewis, Miss Lottie Gilson, the Big Three, Williams and Walker, Felix Rich's troupe of Japanese, Gus Edwards and Johnson, Davies and Lodelia.

Miss Alice Lloyd, who scored a success at the Colonial Theatre last week, will be retained as the headliner at that theatre. Miss Lloyd is a comedian direct from the "halls" of London. The Empire City Quartet will make its first New York appearance in several months. Staley's Transformation, a new spectacular musical act, will have its first presentation on any stage. The Kaufmann Troupe of cyclists will do many feats of skill and daring. Karno's Speechless Comedians will offer their pantomime, "A Night in the Slums of London." The McNaughtons, English talking comedians, will be retained for a second week. O'Brien and Havel will be seen in their comedy sketch, "The Girl and the Boy." George W. Day, a black face comedian, will render a new and original monologue, "Pierce and Malize" will contribute a singing specialty, and the vitagraph will show new motion pictures.

At the Alhambra Theatre this week Miss Vesta

Victoria will continue to be the headliner, making her third week at this theatre. She will introduce a number of new songs and continue to sing the old favorites. The Eight English Rocker Girls will be seen for the first time at this house in their singing and dancing number. The Waterbury Brothers and Tenny, musical comedians, will offer their new act, "Harmony Island." Christopher Bruno and Mabel Russell will do a singing and dancing specialty. Lew Bloom and Miss Jane Cooper will present their latest comedy sketch, Kemp's "Tales of the Wilds," which will be a decided novelty. It is a reproduction of a lecture, depicting travels through the West. Rex Fox will do a ventriloquial and wire walking act. The Three Laurels, European acrobats, will do some new gymnastic tricks. Nevins and Arnold will sing and dance. The vitagraph will show new moving pictures.

For the second week of the new stock company at Keith & Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre, beginning to-morrow, "Leah Kleschna" will be the offering, and the promise is made that the original production will be used. The play should test the capabilities of the company.

E. M. Holland, the latest recruit to vaudeville,

Proctor's Fifty-eighth Street Theatre this week. Thomas Ryan and Mary Richfield, in "Mag Haggerty's Reception," contribute another feature. Avery and Hart, two "real coons," who emulate Williams and Walker, are also on the bill.

The dramatic menu for this week at Keith & Proctor's Harlem Opera House will be Hall Caine's "The Prodigal Son," which had a run of over two hundred nights in this city a few seasons ago. This is the first time that this play has been given at popular prices. All the scenery and stage effects of the original production will be used. The occasion will mark the second week of Keith & Proctor's uptown stock company's tenancy in their new home.

Tony Pastor will offer this week a bill which contains several acts new to New York. C. Grant Gardner and Marie Stoddard will head the bill in their "Vaudeville Frivolities," an eccentric singing and dancing act, with new imitations. Keno, Walsh and Melrose, comedy acrobats, will also be seen in their great "revolving arch act." For the special attraction the Haywards and Conroy company

Germany. It is this letter which is treasured among the Pennsylvania Dutch.

Here is a copy of the letter:

The man who works on Sunday is cursed. I command that ye do not work on Sunday, but go to church. Do not trim your hair or wear false hair, and you should not be proud of your riches. Give to the poor, and fully believe that this was written in my own hand, and was sent by Christ, and that you will not do like cattle.

You have six days in the week wherein you shall do your work, but the seventh day (namely, Sunday) you shall keep holy. If you won't I will send war, hunger and pestilence, and much trouble and punishment. I command that it be your way, young and old, rich and poor, that you never work on Sunday.

You should confess your sins, that they may be forgiven you.

Wish not for silver and gold. Remember that I made you. Do not be happy if your neighbor is poor and needs help. Honor your father and mother, so that you shall live long on earth. Who does not believe this is damned.

I have written this with my own hand. The person who speaks evil of men shall not expect help of me. He who has this letter and does not give it to his neighbor is cursed from the holy church.

If you have many sins and are sorry in your heart your sins shall be forgiven. Who shall not believe shall die and be thrown into purgatory.

In the last days I will call for your sins, and you must answer.

Every person who carries this letter or has it in his house shall not be struck by lightning. And he will surely have abundance of water to drink. He who teaches this letter to his children will receive his reward. Hold this my letter which I have written until the end of thy days. Amen.

It is difficult to believe that such superstition exists a few miles from the legislative halls at Harrisburg, and less than one hundred miles from Philadelphia, but such is the case.

The number of residents of York County who believe the letter emanated from God, and who regard the wonders it has worked in curing diseased cattle, staving off lawsuits and in preventing sickness and death, is remarkable.

Only recently a well-to-do farmer carried one of the letters over his heart during a lawsuit in the York County Court, under the impression that it would surely win for him his case.

CLERKS AND THEIR PAY.

Has not the cheapening of the mere ability to read and write put the salaried clerk, rather than the day laborer, in the lowest ranks of wage earners? Certainly he comes far below masons, bricklayers and many classes of artisans. The plight of the clerk on a fixed salary is told graphically in the last report of the First Assistant Postmaster General, Frank A. Hitchcock: "Among the twenty thousand postoffice clerks whose pay runs from \$600 to \$1,000, registrations during the month of October were at the rate of 21 per cent a year. During the present year probably one out of four of these clerks will have resigned, a surprising reversal of the tradition concerning government employees. These men do not give up a life job on impulse. They cannot live on the pay they get, and commercial positions, while prosperity is at high tide, will pay them more. Mr. Hitchcock pleads for higher salaries and a definite system of gradual promotion. In the boastings of prosperity, much painful irony must be seen by two classes, persons living on fixed incomes from investments, and these salaried clerks. The employer has secured his share of prosperity by putting up prices from 20 to 50 per cent; the "dollar a day man," as he used to be called, and the poor farmer have joined the union and forced 10 per cent raises from time to time. The clerk has no union; meantime he must pay the high prices which his boss and other bosses have fixed for food and clothing.—Collier's Weekly.

RESULT OF WEARING HIGH COLLARS.

That high collars tend to produce nervous headaches among both men and women is the most recent discovery of a well known Viennese physician. Quite accidentally the doctor's attention was directed to the very high and very tight style of collar worn by a patient who was always complaining of headaches and giddiness. The collar was laid aside, thus removing the compression of the neck, and the patient's headaches and giddiness disappeared. Struck by this result the doctor paid particular attention to the kind of collars worn by his "headache patients," and in very many instances the change to lower and easier fitting collars brought immediate relief. In the case of women wearing high stiff neckbands it was found that doing away with these had a similarly beneficial result. The doctor declares that nobody with any tendency to headache should wear high collars.—Fall Mail Gazette.

What Credulous Persons in Pennsylvania Believe In.

Letters purported to have been written in heaven and by God Himself, and which are treasured as charms against everything evil, are peddled daily in the rural districts of York, Lebanon and Berks counties, Pennsylvania.

These strange writings are called "Himmelsbrief," meaning letters from Heaven. Throughout the counties mentioned, and other parts of Pennsylvania they are framed and hung on the walls, where they are guarded with jealous care.

The vendors of these letters are persons of good repute, but as superstitious as those who purchase them. The writings had a wide circulation in Germany more than a century ago.

Deluded persons believe that after the letters were written by God they were dropped from heaven at three places. One of them, they say, fell on the top of the Hartz Mountains, in Germany; another was dropped on the top of the Pyrenees Mountains, in Spain. Another was said to have fallen into the city of Magdeburg,

have been engaged to present their comedy, "The King of Blackwells," an act containing five people and two scenes. Among others are Charles Carlos and his acrobatic dogs, Murphy, Whitman and company, in their rural sketch, "Old Friends," the Holdsworths, novelty banjoists and dancers, and Milton and Grant.

"LETTERS FROM HEAVEN."

HERBERT KELCEY. In "Widowers' Houses," at the Herald Square, March 7.

FLORENCE ROCKWELL. In "The Mills of the Gods," Astor Theatre to-morrow.



BEDOUIN ARABS AT THE HIPPODROME.

A TICKET TO EUROPE.

Several Surprises That Followed Its Purchase.

By Carolyn Wells.

I am a country woman—that is, I live in a suburban town in it is quite near enough to the metropolis for us to consider ourselves near-New Yorkers.

I found myself one crisp April morning walking happily along the lower portion of Broadway, impulse urged me on toward the Battery; but, as all because of a woman's smiling face. I was passing the offices of the various insurance companies, and I saw, coming down the steps of one of them, a young woman whose countenance was positively glorified with joy. I couldn't resist a second glance at her, and I saw that both her hands were clasped in prayer and her eyes were shining.

It required no clairvoyance to understand the situation; she had just bought her first ticket to Europe, and it was the glorious achievement of a lifelong desire. I knew, as well as if she had told me, how she had planned and economized for it, and probably studied all sorts of textbooks that education properly enjoy her trip, and make it at the gay color of a pleasure. And as I looked at the gay colored tickets she clutched I was moved to go in and acquire a few myself.

I may as well confess at the outset that I am of a chameleon nature. I not only take color from my surroundings, but reflect manners and customs as great, businesslike, office, with its maps and charts and time tables to do seem to be to buy my ticket, and I did so.

Two days later the postman brought me an unusually large budget of mail. The first letter I opened caused me some surprise and a mild amusement. It began, quite cozily:

"Dear Madam: Learning that you intend sailing from New York in the near future, I take the liberty of calling your attention to the Hotel Xantippe as a most desirable stopping place during your stay in this city."

The letter went on to detail the advantages and charms of the hotel, and to give a complete list of rates, which, for comfort and luxuries promised, seemed reasonable indeed. But here in the world did the urbane proprietor of the Hotel Xantippe know that I contemplated a trip abroad? I hadn't yet divulged my secret, and how an utter stranger could learn of it was a puzzle to me.

But the other letters were equally amusing. One from a drygoods emporium begged me to inspect their wares before purchasing their shoes and garments. Another, and perhaps the most flattering, requested the honor of taking my photograph before my departure. But one and all seemed not only cognizant of my recent departure, but entirely approved of them, and earnestly desired to assist me in carrying them out.

With my willingness to accept a situation, I at once assumed that somehow the news of my intended departure had crept into one or other of the New York daily papers. I couldn't understand why this should be, but surely the only possible explanation was, I placidly admitted to myself, a few nondescript verses, and an occasional paper on some foolish thing as a fine art, but I had not among the point where my name was mentioned.

However—alas! for my vanity—a neighbor soon explained to me that all up-to-date business firms procure lists of those who have bought steamship tickets, and send circular letters to each address. This was indeed a blow to my vanity, but so interesting were the letters which continued to send in that I cared little for the reason of their sending.

One elaborate circular left me hesitating as to whether my proposed journey was advisable, as to all. This letter was from a travel bureau, and explained how, by the purchase of a new-fangled stereoscope and innumerable sets of "views," one could get far more satisfaction out of a European trip by staying at home than by going abroad. "So real are the scenes," the circular assured me, "that one involuntarily stretches out a hand to grasp what isn't there." Surely, realism need go no further than that; yet some overreacting people might demand that the grasped-for thing should be there.

Then came friends with cushions—large, small and double-jointed. Also, they brought air pillows and water pillows, and made me feel that I was being cared for that were numerous and bulky, and adequately expressed their donors' kind interest in my well-being at sea. Also came many sure and absolute remedies for sea sickness, or preventives thereof. Had I taken them all with me, and had they made good their promise, not one of the cabin passengers on the steamer need have been ill for a moment.

Interspersed among the more material gifts was much and various advice.

But, though I listened politely, I sailed away with the advice, in a confused medley, drifting out of my memory. The only points that seemed to be impressed on my mind were that in London purchase "bark" you invariably means either "beer" or "No" (nobody seemed quite sure which), and that in England a man must always call a telephone a lift.—Putnam's Monthly.

INSURED IT EXTREMELY RUDE.

Delegate Flynn, of Oklahoma, tells with great glee of a conversation that took place between a Boston woman and an Oklahoma man, with reference to things Western.

"I take it, madam," said the Oklahoman, "that you've travelled considerable in these parts."

"Quite a good deal," answered the Bostonian. "As far west as California and Nevada, and I've spent some time in Arizona."

"Have you ever seen the Cherokee Strip?" suddenly asked the Oklahoma person.

"Thereupon ensued a painful silence. It was plainly to be seen that the Boston woman was much embarrassed. When she had in a manner recovered her composure, she observed:

"In the first place, sir, I consider your query extremely rude, and in the second place, you might have been more refined in your language by asking me if I had seen the Cherokee diorite."—Lippincott.

AND NOW THE AUTO-DIVORCE.

"So Flyhigh and his wife are divorced? You surprise me! What was the ground?"

"Oh, incompatibility of ideas. She wanted to run their motor car with denatured alcohol, and he preferred gasoline. Of course, they would never agree, so they have separated."—Judge.