# PLAYS AND THE PLAYERS.

*THOSE ON OUR STAGE THIS WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS.*

**An Attractive List of Theatrical Entertainments—An Actor Who Needed a Prompter Very Much—Actresses Broken Down Mentally by Overwork—The Source of a Duel.**

Upper Broadway is thronged by idle actors. More than half the travelling companies take a vacation during the week before Christmas, not that they wish to, but because their services are not wanted. Their contracts give to the managers the right to skip this worst time of the season in the theatrical business. But no New York theatre is closed on that account, and some of the best of the stars are shining here as brightly as ever. Julia Arthur will revive "A Lady of Quality" to-morrow night at Wallack's, after to-night's final performance of "Pygmalion and Galatea," and "Mercedes." John Drew is bringing his long term with "The Liars" at the Empire to an end. William H. Crane is in his last fortnight of "The Head of the Family" at the Knickerbocker. Annie Russell has only two weeks and a half more for "Catherine" at the Garrick. Viola Allen with "The Christian" at the Garden, May Irwin, with "Kate Kip" at the Bijou, and the stock company with "Trelawny of the Wells" at the Lyceum, are continued indefinitely. Robert Hilliard and Elita Proctor Otis are forces in the melodrama of "Sporting Life" at the Academy of Music. Edward M. Holland and Frederick Williams are factors in the farce of "On and Off" at the Madison Square. Virginia Earle and Adele Ritchie are vivacious in "A Runaway Girl" at the Fifth Avenue. So are Madge Lessing and Marie George in "A Dangerous Maid" at the Casino. Ada Rehan is devoting herself to *Portia* in "The Merchant of Venice" at Daly's. Clara Morris has started on a round of the low-price theatres with "Miss Multon" at the Star. Marie Dressler and Edwin Foy are in their last week with "Hotel Topsy Turvy" at the Herald Square. Frank Mordaunt and others are in the final fortnight of "The Village Postmaster" at the Fourteenth Street. Sadie Martinot is disrobing herself in "The Turtle" at the Manhattan. Frederick Haldn and Mollie Fuller are at the head of the company that has brought "Pousse Café" back to town merrily at the Grand Opera House. The Whytals are offering a novelty in "Vagabondia" at the Harlem Opera House. Alexander Clarke and Mamie Gilroy are in "The French Maid" at the Columbus. Albert Dalton in "The Chain of Destiny" at the People's and the German stock company in "Im Weissen Rocss'l" at the Irving Place. John E. Kellerd and Mary Shaw are among the artists ready to appear to-night in "The Sorrows of Satan" at the Broadway. Mr. Drouet, Mr. Redmond and Miss Ingham are in the stock cast of "The Ticket of Leave Man" at the Murray Hill. Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Stewart, Miss Macnichol and Miss Norwood are four of the dozen members of the Castle Square forces assigned to roles in "The Bohemian Girl" at the American.

Howard Kyle may have felt last Monday that he had discovered a defect in the system of the Keith continuous shows. He was for the first time an aid to Louise Thorndyke Boucicault in Augustus Thomas's "A Proper Impropriety." The comedietta lasted a little over a quarter of an hour, and Mr. Kyle was not in its first scene. When he was in view all depended on the author's characteristically bright language, as nothing akin to variety show slam-bang had been supplied. Further, the actor was playing a breezy, self-confident Westerner. His share of the dialogue had not gone far before he needed a prompter, and there was none. The actor evidently thought that the trouble lay with some one in the wings, presumably a stage hand. The young fellows at Keith's become their neat uniforms and are under admirable discipline, whether sweeping sand from the stage or assisting a specialist with his apparatus. Some of them take thoughtful parts in sketches. One chap in particular can enter, present a card salver and low his way out without being comic. But the chap in the wings couldn't or wouldn't read the lines to Mr. Kyle as fast as they were needed. As often as the latter caught a suggestion he spoke with excellent effect, which made his hesitance stand out all the more. For a few moments the waits were confusing, next they were ruinous to the dramatist's meaning, and finally the actress was compelled to become an open prompter. It may be that Mr. Kyle made the mistake of thinking that a vaudeville audience would accept such unreadiness as a mark of genius. The Keith lieutenants usually provide all the necessaries. If Mr. Kyle had given warning that he needed some one to tell him what he ought to have known, provision would doubtless have been made.

Most of the current vaudeville performances are by specialists, but a few are strangers, and many of the others are well liked. The usual short plays, too, are in use in the continuous shows. Lillian Burkhart plays "Extravagance" at Proctor's and here Helene Mora and McIntyre and Heath are top-liners. Grace Huntington is using "Checkmate" at the Pleasure Palace, where Marshall P. Wilder is the biggest gun among entertainers. Louise Thorndyke Boucicault has an Augustus Thomas comedietta at Keith's, and the Lamms and Fillson and Erroll are listed. Joaquin Miller, in Arctic costume, is to be a lecturer on the Klondike here next month. Carrie Scott and Gertie Cochran lead at Pastor's. The annual Christmas entertainment for the children of the stage will be given at Pastor's next Sunday night. Of the music halls, Weber & Fields's continues its bright burlesques of current dramas. Lew Fields is out of the cast through an accident on the stage last Saturday, but he is expected to recover soon. Koster & Bial's has two fine new specialties besides those held over, and Ida Heath celebrates her return to America by singing in a wee voice and dancing with marked skill. Patrice, the Pattersons and Tayor and Sinclair are among those at the Harlem. Burlettas and specialties make up the shows at the Dewey and Sam T. Jack's. Two pretty wax groups of timely interest have been added to the Eden Musée collection, and a marionette show is offered to youthful visitors.

Catherine Campbell was arrested at a St. Louis hotel on a charge of stealing small articles from the house. The manager of a resident theatrical company, in which she was the leading actress, writes to say that she was deranged by the mental strain of studying and rehearsing a rôle every week, while at the same time playing another. She has been sent to a sanitarium. Victory Bateman, who broke down mentally at the same kind of overwork, is said to be nearly well.

Sarah A. Baker, aged 81, the oldest actress in America, is to go to the Forrest Home in Philadelphia. This retreat, founded by Edwin Forrest, accommodates only a few persons, and when death makes a vacancy there are many candidates. The trustees make a careful selection, taking into account worthiness of character, length of service on the stage and probable congeniality with the other inmates. Mrs. Baker acted sixty-two years, and for a long time with Thomas Keene, who died recently.

All the time at Wallack's from Feb. 6 to the end of the season has been taken by Charles Frohman. The first piece will be an English version of "The White Horse Tavern," which Daniel Frohman owns and intended to use at the Lyceum, but cannot on account of the continuance of "Trelawny of the Wells."

Some who see "Vagabondia," by Russ Whytal, are surprised by the fact that its episode of the duel is precisely like the one in "Heartsease," by Joseph I. C. Clarke and Charles Klein. It was original with Watts Phillips, of whose drama, "Camilla's Husband," the Whytal piece is a slightly altered version. That it was put into "Heartsease" is said to be due to Henry Miller, the actor, who deemed the last act weak, and therefore took what he wanted from the old and almost forgotten play. So the authors are able to plead not guilty of the plagiarism.

Actresses are not often hired by measure, but Anthony Hope desired that the heroine in "Rupert of Hentzau" should be very tall and slender. Jobyna Howland, nearly six feet in height, has been engaged.

Henry V. Esmond, who had a success in London with "One Summer's Day," though it did not make much impression here, has just failed utterly with "Cupboard Love." Its first audience at the Court ridiculed it.

Eugene Cowles sprained an ankle so badly on the stage at Baltimore that he could not act again for ten days.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West will be at the Madison Square Garden again in the spring. That other big visitor, the Barnum-Bailey circus, is still on a tour of Great Britain.

The playbill of the Castle Square, Boston, contains this: "Your money refunded if you are not satisfied, and you call for it at the box office." Another thing in the programme at this theatre indicates that the management's faith in human nature has been shaken a little bit. For a while umbrellas were lent to people caught there by storm and a simple promise to return them was exacted. "Umbrellas may be obtained at the checkroom," the offer now runs, "by depositing $1 for their safe return in good order within fourteen days."


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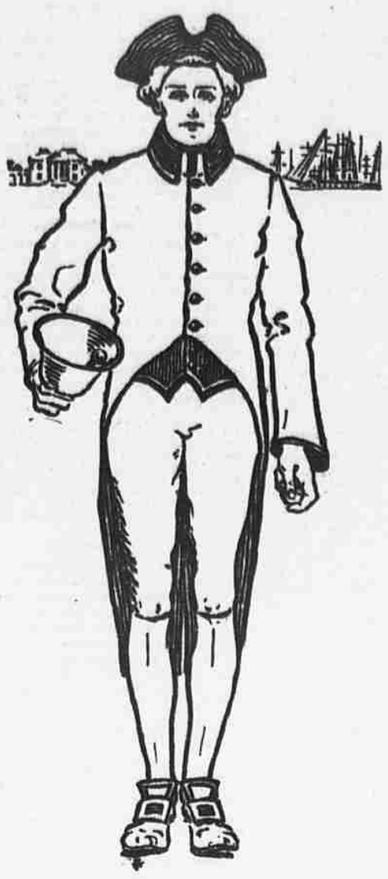

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**The Elder Gordigiani Will Set Up a Studio in This City.**

Among the passengers who arrived on the First Bismarck yesterday were Michele Gordigiani, an Italian artist, whose portraits are well known in this country, and his son Eduardo. The younger Gordigiani has made his home in this country for three years, and his wife is a Philadelphia woman. The son also is a portrait painter. One of his more talked-of works is a portrait of Duse, the actress. He has also under way, in Baltimore, a large portrait of Cardinal Gibbons.

Michele Gordigiani is the recognized court painter of Italy. In the last thirty years he has painted every member of the royal family of that country as well as the Prince of Wales, the Queen of Servia, and other royal personages. The late Alfonso XII. of Spain gave him a sitting. There are many dozens of Gordigiani's portraits in the cities along this coast, and it is proposed to gather them together as a loan exhibition in this city, together with portraits and other pictures by Eduardo Gordigiani.

The younger Gordigiani's studio in the Carnegie building will be reopened immediately, and the father also expects to open a studio in the neighborhood.

**Our Director of Fine Arts at Paris.**

John B. Cauldwell of New York has been appointed Director of Fine Arts for the Paris Exposition of 1900. Mr. Cauldwell was chosen for the place by Ferdinand W. Peck, the United States Commissioner-General to the Exposition, and his selection is approved by the National Academy of Design, the Society of American Artists, the National Sculpture Society, the American Water Color Society, the Architectural League of New York, the American Fine Arts Society and the Society of Mural Painters. Mr. Cauldwell is a member of the Century, University, Metropolitan and Union League clubs, and is one of the Advisory Board of the National Academy of Design. He is a graduate of Columbia College, class of 1877.

## MARRIED.

**STRANGE—RYLE.**—On Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1898, at the home of the bride's mother, Paterson, N. J., by the Rev. Dr. David Magie, Miss Elizabeth Willett Ryle to Albert Bruton Strange.

## DIED.

**BARNES.**—On Sunday, Dec. 18, 1898, of pneumonia, Theodore M. Barnes.

Funeral services will be held at his late residence, 785 Madison av., Wednesday morning, Dec. 21, at 10 o'clock.

**BOTTOME.**—On Tuesday, Dec. 20, at his residence, Frank A. Bottome, M. D., son of the late Rev. Francis and Margaret Bottome, in the 33d year of his age.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

**BROWN.**—On Monday, Dec. 19, of pleural pneumonia, Rev. Thomas McKee Brown, rector of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

Funeral services at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, West 46th st., on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 11 o'clock A. M.

**CAMERON.**—At South Orange, N. J., on Monday, Dec. 19, Helen, wife of the Rev. Lewis Cameron, and youngest daughter of Frederic W. Rhinelander of New York.

Funeral at the Church of the Holy Communion, South Orange, on Wednesday, Dec. 21, on arrival of the 1:30 train from Barclay and Christopher sts. Special car attached. Returning at 4:15 P. M.

**DENHAM.**—On Monday, Dec. 19, 1898, Albert G. Denham.

Funeral services at his late residence, 520 Sterling place, Brooklyn, on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 2:30 P. M.

**FISCHER.**—At his residence, 316 5th av., Sunday, Dec. 18, of pneumonia, Charles P. Fischer, formerly of Havana, Cuba, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Services will be held on Friday morning, at 10 o'clock, at the Church of the Transfiguration, 29th st., between 5th and Madison avs. Friends are particularly requested to kindly omit flowers.

**HOWE.**—At the residence of his son-in-law, William Brenton Welling, Davenport Neck, New Rochelle, on Monday morning, Dec. 19, Lindsay Irving, son of the late Hon. John Howe of Brookline, Mass.

Funeral at Trinity Church, New Rochelle, on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 3 P. M. Train leaves Grand Central Station at 2:02 P. M. Interment at Albany Thursday on arrival of train due there at 12 noon.

**REYNOLDS.**—On Sunday morning, Dec. 18, 1898, Hoffman Kissam Reynolds, son of David I. and Lulie Kissam Reynolds, in the 30th year of his age.

Funeral from the First Reformed Episcopal Church, Madison av., corner 55th st., on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 10:30 A. M.

**WALGROVE.**—On Monday evening, Dec. 19, 1898, Walter D. Walgrove, son of George M. and Catharine Louise Walgrove, in the 16th year of his age.

Funeral services at his late residence, 726 East 140th st., Wednesday, at 8 o'clock P. M.


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IN

LITERATURE
OUT TO-DAY

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*BRIDGES HAVE THE CALL.*

**Tammany Wakes Up at a Proposition to Give the R. T. Tunnel the Right of Way.**

At yesterday's meeting of the Aldermen a resolution was introduced by Alderman Goodman (Rep.) directing the Finance Committee to hold a public hearing in order to ascertain whether the building of the proposed new bridges across the East River would interfere with the scheme to build the rapid transit tunnel.

Alderman John T. McCall, the Tammany leader in the board, jumped up quickly and moved that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee. Alderman Goodman protested against the reference, but the motion was adopted. Alderman Goodman explained that while he was in favor of East River bridges he thought that the underground railroad ought to have preference in view of the fact that it was voted for by the people before consolidation took place.

The board passed a number of public improvement resolutions which have been hung up for months. Most of them referred to the laying of new water mains in various parts of the city. The resolution providing for the construction of the Blissville bridge across Newtown Creek was also adopted.

**Newly Packed Ground Sinks and a Horse Gets Into Trouble.**

The storm on Monday night caused the roadway at Central avenue and Covert street, Williamsburg, where the break in the four-foot water main occurred a week ago, to sink several feet. Before a danger line was drawn around the cave-in a horse belonging to Louis O. K. Baking Company fell into the depression. The firemen of Engine 52, at Central avenue and Van Voorhis street, hauled the horse out.