

THEMES FROM THE THEATRE.

PLAYS IN WHICH ORIGINALITY IS NOT AIMED AT.

An Illustration Found in "The Gates of Justice"—Audiences That Seem Satisfied with Old Story in New Arrangements—News of the Actors.

Anyway, why should new melodramas be written for the Third Avenue and the other cut-rate houses? Certainly the audiences don't want them. A study of these theatres and the plays that thrill in them is convincing that novelty is of no use. The old characters, dastardly hero, persecuted heroine, scheming villain, green-eyed adventuress, frolicsome soubrette and all the rest in the old incidents of injured virtue and hair-breadth escapes from sudden death—these are wanted and nothing new. "The Gates of Justice" at the Third Avenue this week is new in name only. It is an old piece rechristened, but it might as well be entirely new for all the novelty such plays develop. Besides, in using an old play there can be no doubt about the thrills. In this example a settlement is where the adventures reveal her perjury by the rich red of her dress and the wealth of gold in her teeth. She is regarded as wicked at these theatres and "honest miners, m' lads," as the salt of the earth. Only one of the miners is a villain. He declares boldly that he will kill the heroine in public to prove her immoral, and thus make way with the one witness who could prove him guilty of the murder! Who has been killed and how? Nobody tells. The incident is referred to as the murder! with hard breathing before and after. But, even though the villain looks at the woman at the suggestion of the kiss, and says he would do "even that" to gain his ends, the "honest miners, m' lads," will not believe she could be so wicked. She looks like Stuart, the Male Patti, but has a masculine voice. No one could look into her mainly face and believe she could be so gay as to kiss a miner in the main street. A woman with such a marble brow and peroxide tresses would at least take to a side alley.

In the second act she is dragged to an insane asylum, where a great change in her nature creeps over her. The gentle spirit of Stuart, the Male Patti, gives way to the heroic strength of Emma Carus, the Female Barytone. No longer the tender shrinking thing of yore, she displays the courage that must possess the Carus when she sings "The Bell Shall Ring" in "The Ring of the Diamond." She throws down six heavy suppers and escapes from the home of the domineered.

In the third act she has sunk again into gentle timidity, perhaps from the warning of the rashness of the Male Patti, but more like the Richard Harlowe self-possession of the woman of the world. This strong, she saves the heroine from the hands of the Russian Brothers in a study worthy of the keenest student of dramatic art.

Agnes Ardell, an actress better known out of New York, who has travelled successfully as a star in the title role of "Miss Nell," has been engaged for the principal part in Bolesey Kirliff's revival of "Around the World in Eighty Days." Mabelle Gilman has returned to town to start rehearsals for her first season as a star, during which she will act in a musical farce written for her by Sydney Rosenfeld and called "The Nightingale." Sarah Cowan has also about to begin rehearsing a vehicle being a society comedy by Glen McDonough entitled "Among Those Present." Blanche Walsh is to have "The Daughter of Hamlet," by Stanislaus Stange, a drama founded on Flaubert's "Salammbô." It is said to resemble "Macbeth," but it is said to be less good. The London censor would not allow it to be performed and which Mrs. Patrick Campbell may do here.

Two big theatre articles saw frivolous fare last night. At the Broadway the entire orchestra and balcony were given over to fire chiefs from various cities of this country, who are here in convention, at this mixed pleasure with business, by enjoying "Sally in Our Alley" with their families. The Herald Square Theatre's party was 200 in number and was made up of out-of-town journalists, artists, actors and the Shuberts had invited them to see "The Emerald Isle."

Edward H. Sothern is encouraging American dramatists as well as about to begin for Shakespeare, in his preparations for the season after the one that he is about to start with "Hamlet" and "If I Were King." Besides "Hamlet," "If I Were King" will be one of three new dramas, two of which are home-made. Cole Younger of Louisville is writing a Biblical tragedy, to be called "David," and Ernest Lacy is writing a "Philadelphia high school, is at work on a romantic play about Thomas Chatterton, the English poet. Justin Huntly McCarthy, who supplied Mr. Sothern with "If I Were King," is going to try to fit him again with "The Proud Prince."

Charles Frohman is organizing a company to play "The Two School" in New York in October. The actors at present acting in it at the Madison Square will do so for some time and then produce a French comedy called "The Two School."

SHOES STOLEN FROM HIS FEET.

One of Devery's Men Robbed as He Stept in a Doorway.

A big, raw-boned chap, who said he was William Ward of 238 West Twenty-ninth street, walked into the Tenderloin police station last night in his stocking feet and complained that his shoes had been stolen. Ward wore a big Devery button on his coat, and said that he had celebrated Big Bill's victory so well that he had fallen asleep in a doorway at 117th street and had gone to third street. While he slept some one stole his shoes.

"Why don't you ask the Chief to buy you another pair?" said the sergeant, jokingly. "Huh," said Ward. "Didn't he buy the ones I lost? He bought me socks, too, and the clothes I'm wearing. Maybe that he's elected he won't be so easy."

NO TRACE OF A TORPEDO.

Tale About a Submarine Explosion Wrecking the Jacob Kuper Just a Yarn.

A story was printed yesterday to the effect that the explosion which blew up the tug Jacob Kuper on Aug. 14, killing four men, was the result of contact with a submarine torpedo. It was declared that divers had found the bow of the tug smashed inward as if by an outside force. Jacob Kuper of 22 South street, owner of the tug, said that nothing had been discovered to give any basis for the yarn.

Death Epilepsy Delayed Operation.

Morris Epstein of 417 Third avenue, who was hurriedly transported to Bellevue Hospital from the Polytechnic Hospital in an ambulance yesterday morning, after having been prepared for an operation at the latter place, died in Bellevue. The doctors at Polytechnic were unable to operate when the patient was ready, owing to an accident to some sterilizing apparatus. Epstein was suffering from appendicitis.

Women Who Dress Fashionably.

Keep up to date by reading the fashion notes and studying the dress illustrations printed on the women's pages of the SUN and THE EVENING STAR.

CITY NEEDS TO BORROW MORE.

Comptroller Grout Defends Full-Value Assessment Plan.

Comptroller Grout issued a statement yesterday defending the new plan of assessing real estate for taxation at its full value. The basic purpose of the new plan of assessments, he said, was the doing away with the existing inequalities by which some properties were assessed at 20 per cent. and others as high as 80 or 100 per cent. "If there still remain other inequalities," he added, "which under the present laws cannot be reached, such as the taxation of mortgages or the exemptions of the great personal fortunes of non-residents, they must be met by the Legislature, and their existence is no reason why we should not remove such inequalities as we can. And, finally, it is proposed by this method to enable the city to proceed forthwith and rapidly with improvements which it cannot afford to delay. It is not proposed, however, to increase either the tax rate, or what is more important, the tax bills, but to reduce both."

The Comptroller denies that an increased debt means an increased budget, and says that under the new methods the city is striving to increase its working capital, and to decrease tax bills by turning the annual excess of \$5,000,000 on the old sinking fund into its proper destination, the general fund for the reduction of the city debt. In this connection he explains:

It has already been stated that the budget will be decreased next year by about \$5,000,000, and that the tax rate will be decreased also by the excess of \$5,000,000 on the sinking fund conditions at present create a surplus of \$5,000,000, and a decrease of \$10,000,000 out of \$25,000,000, and if even liberal increases were made to the various city departments which have been made, we could still reasonably hope to levy at least \$10,000,000 less of taxes next year than would be levied this year.

JEROME WARNS JAKE WOLF.

Knows What Wolf Told Minnie Kurtz.

Phone—Wants No Monkeying.

Three detectives from the District Attorney's office went over to Jake Wolf's saloon, at 11 Delancey street, shortly after midnight yesterday and arrested William Wolf, a bartender, who says he is not a relative of Jake's, for violation of the excise law. He was locked up over night and arraigned before Justice Wyatt yesterday morning and held for trial.

Jake Wolf accompanied Bondsman Kahn to the District Attorney's office, and was in the bail bond department when District Attorney Jerome heard of his presence. Mr. Jerome went into the room.

"Which is Wolf?" he asked. "Jake stepped forward."

"Are you going to monkey with any more of my witnesses?" asked Mr. Jerome.

"Yes, you," replied Mr. Jerome. "I know all about you and your connection with the Police Department on the lower East Side. I know all about your connection with Inspector Cross. I know what you said over the telephone to Minnie Kurtz, and I know a lot of other things that I'll reveal to you."

"Can't I speak with you?" asked Wolf.

"You can't speak with me in private. If you've got anything to say you can say it here."

Wolf had nothing to say in public. Mr. Jerome then went away. So did Wolf, thinking deeply.

About 4 o'clock Detective Maher appeared in Wolf's saloon.

"I want you, Jake," said he. "There's a warrant for you."

Wolf was taken to the Criminal Courts Building, where he was held on the charge of violating the excise law.

SHOT HIS WIFE IN THE STREET.

Post Office Clerk O'Grady Had Loin in Wait for Her, Watching From a Saloon.

William O'Grady, a stamp clerk at the Jersey City post office, living at 173 York street, shot his wife, Rose Agnes, yesterday at Summit avenue and Congress street. The bullet struck her in the lower part of the right cheek, lodging in the neck. She was taken to the City Hospital. The pair were married five years ago. Mrs. O'Grady, who is a school teacher, left her husband and child in the morning, and went to the home of her father, 124 Fourth street. She told O'Grady that she would be able to support herself and daughter, and that she would not return to O'Grady until she had secured a position at 1085 Summit avenue, yesterday afternoon and sat for an hour at a window which Mrs. Sothern with "If I Were King" is going to try to fit him again with "The Proud Prince."

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THE MAINE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

BATTLESHIP MAKES JUST THE REQUIRED RATE OF SPEED.

The Working of the Machinery was in All Respects Satisfactory—The Mechanisms That Determine the Vessel's Military Efficiency Were Incomplete.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The long-expected report of the board of naval officers appointed to conduct the official speed trial of the new battleship Maine was submitted to the Secretary of the Navy to-day. After making tidal corrections, the board found that the battleship had failed to develop her required speed of eighteen knots by a small percentage, but when it came to make allowances for the important fact that some of the stoke boats used to mark the trial course had drifted from their proper position, it ascertained that the Maine had really gone farther than the total length of the course. This recollection of the vessel's speed resulted in the conclusion that she had made just eighteen knots, the minimum rate demanded by the contract.

Secretary Moody has determined to accept the vessel. If she had fallen below the speed requirement, as it was at first believed she had, the Navy Department could have rejected her, or, in accepting her, compelled the builders, the Cramps of Philadelphia, to pay a penalty.

The report of the board shows that on the day of the trial, Aug. 21, the Maine made the run over the trial course between Cape Ann, Mass., and Cape Point, Me., and returned at the rate of 17.35 nautical miles per hour, going north, and 15.73 nautical miles per hour going south, giving a mean speed of 17.00 nautical miles per hour for the entire run.

The board found that the steering gear worked well and the vessel showed remarkably good maneuvering qualities. In making the turn at the end of the first run, the diameter of the turning circle was about 325 yards. The mean draft of the vessel at the time of trial was 23 feet 6 inches. "The working of the machinery, both main and auxiliary," says the board, "and the performance during the trial was in all respects satisfactory."

The board complains that the Maine was in a very unsatisfactory condition for inspection at the time of her trial "owing to the large amount of unfinished work of an important character." It repeats what has been said by other inspectors, that it is undesirable to subject vessels to preliminary acceptance tests when they are far from final completion.

Some of the principal mechanisms that determine the military efficiency of the vessel, such as turrets, ammunition hoists and magazine fittings, were so far advanced in their construction, the board says, as to be capable of operation in any manner whatever.

"Under such circumstances," it adds, "the preliminary acceptance trial fails to realize the full intent of its purpose under the contract, and the Government loses a valuable and necessary safeguard in determining that the contract for the construction of the vessel has been properly executed."

BOY KILLS HIS SISTER.

She Was Half-Awake in Bed, and in Play. He Had a Shotgun in Her Temple.

PATERSON, N. J., Sept. 17.—William Hubbs 6 years old, shot and killed his sister May, 15 years old, as she lay in bed this morning at her home in Hawthorne. The girl and her little brother slept together. The boy got out of bed about 6:30 o'clock. His father had gone to work and his mother was in the kitchen cooking. The little boy went out into the hallway and found a shotgun, left there by an older brother. It was thought to be unloaded.

The child took up the gun, and fired and hardly caring, and went into the bedroom. He playfully said he would shoot May. The girl was only half awake, and she smiled and lay still. The boy fired and the bullet entered the girl's head just above the right temple, killing her instantly.

The mother rushed upstairs at the report of the gun and saw her daughter covered with blood in bed and the boy standing in the middle of the floor amazed.

FOR A WAY TO SHEEPSHEAD BAY.

Congressman Wilson Declares He Will Try to Have a New Channel Dredged.

Congressman Frank E. Wilson, Assistant Engineer H. C. Wilson and a party of business men, piloted by Alderman Fred W. Lundy of Coney Island, made a trip through the channel leading from the ocean into Sheepshead Bay on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of learning what has needed in the way of improvement there.

The Congressman, after experiencing the difficulties of navigation in the shallow waters of the Bay, and the almost impossible task of raising a vessel through the channel against the tide, declared his intention of asking Congress to make an appropriation for the dredging and widening of a new channel, which would be 1,000 feet wide, some 1,000 feet west of the present main channel.

The idea of the business men of the section is to have a channel 100 feet wide and six feet deep at low water, through which vessels carrying lumber, coal and other merchandise may go direct to Sheepshead Bay, instead of having the goods carried by the railroad, as at present.

FLEEING MURDERER KILLED.

Posses Fire a Volley and Two Bullets Pierce His Heart.

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 17.—Gottlieb Neugebender, hunted by posses and held since the commission of a double murder ten days ago, was shot to death late yesterday afternoon by a squad of his pursuers. Neugebender made his last stand in a corn field. A rifle volley brought him down, two bullets piercing his heart.

MR. McCALL'S NEW COUNTRY SEAT.

He Will Place Water Between His Neighbor and Himself.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Sept. 17.—John A. McCall, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, broke ground to-day for a handsome country seat. The total cost, including the price paid for the fifty acres of land, will reach \$200,000 more. The country seat of E. B. Gaddis of Newark adjoins Mr. McCall's on the south. Their places will be separated by an artificial lake, which Mr. McCall will have constructed during the winter.

John Galvin Leaves Fortune to Brother.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 17.—The will of John Galvin, who died two weeks ago in St. Louis county, has been filed for probate at Clayton. He was nearly 70 years of age and unmarried.

The will leaves a liquor store and dwelling at 77 Lexington avenue, New York, and a residence at 326 East Thirtieth street, in the same city, to his brother, Huber Galvin, with what money he had on deposit in the Fifth Avenue, Franklin, Greenwich, Emigrants' and East River savings banks of New York at the time of death, as well as a farm of 178 acres in St. Louis county. The will was made in New York in July, 1893.

Arizona's Candidates for Congress.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Sept. 17.—In the Territorial convention held at Phoenix to-day the Republicans nominated Robert E. Morrison for delegate to Congress. The nomination was unanimous. The Democratic candidate is J. F. Wilson.

PUBLICATIONS.

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