

THE PLAYS OF THE PAST WEEK

NEAT CHARACTER DRAWING IN "WHITEWASHING JULIA."

A Delineation of Manners Rather Than of Passions, Thought-Clever Situations in "The Marriage of Kitty"...

They are telling the story in London that Henry Arthur Jones's nine year old son was taken to see "Whitewashing Julia..."

Now this embryo critic put his finger on the weak spots of the new play at our Garrick—it was produced at the Garrick in London...

So much must be said of Mr. Jones. When he is natural he is very, very good; when he is melodramatic he is worse than horrid...

The first act of "Whitewashing Julia," despite its loquacious talk, is more real than the other two, though the second finds more favor with the public...

The pretty song so feelingly delivered by Miss Tempest in Act II, called "Tou Passé" and is composed by Rudolph Berger...

"The Marriage of Kitty" is hardly a masterpiece. Its situations are cleverly contrived, and the authors have infused enough vitality into the chief characters to make them acceptable...

Mr. Jones wrote the part of Bill Stillingham for Arthur Boucher, the actor-manager of the Garrick. Mr. Boucher is not a little in the mood to one know that better than the dramatist...

Of Miss Fay I have expressed late and often my lively admiration. She is admirable in just such a well bred part, one without the scranell-pipes of passion...

In a word, Fay Davis is cerebral. The head rules—I am taking the word "cerebral" as its face value...

Her Julia is conventional as is the character, though Violet Vanbrugh lent it a certain impulsive wildness missing in the American performance...

I have called dimpled denis of destiny. What then is the symbol of Marie Tempest's tip-tilted nose, that nose she declared was her misfortune in life?

There was little change from the London personal of "The Marriage of Kitty" when it was given here at the Hudson last week...

And, by the way, her French is the best, both as to accent and diction. It is thought she was born in France, but not having had much to say on the matter, she did not care to correct the impression...

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his sniffling cold in the head is not overdone. And how easy his love-making—I mean technically—for he has to exhibit a manner well poised head in its contours snappily, its features arch and winning...

Of course, Kitty married him for his money; the presence of the other woman, too, had a stimulating effect upon her. After she put on that last gown—all her gowns are miracles—she was sure of victory...

Writes George Brandes of Bjornstjerne Bjornson: "The first important work with which Bjornson broke a silence of some years was the drama 'Bankruptcy'...

Since that first night there has been an unbroken series of demonstrations that the conditions are such that intelligence, if it is there, is helpless. Competent men are employed by Mr. Conried. It is idle to say that such people as Anton Fuchs do not know their business...

There is only one stage and there is only one orchestra. Hence there can be only a limited number of general rehearsals. Now "Parsifal" has to be prepared, and that is no small task. In fact it is a huge undertaking, and it is taxing all the energies of Mr. Hertz, the conductor, who is rehearsing the singers and the players in the score...

The stage management, then, is lax and at times puerile. It would fill too much of the useful space of this paper to catalogue the ridiculous things that are done and the equally ridiculous accidents which have occurred since the opening of the theatre...

There is a good scene in Act II, of "A Failure" where, after a copious banquet, toasts are proposed to Tjalle by his overfed friends. Several neat bits of characterization are revealed, notably that of an unrepentant pastor and an honest brewer...

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be given at the Montauk Theatre this week, with the incidental music of Mendelssohn. Mr. Goodwin's acting of Bottom is one of his best achievements...

"Checkers," the pleasing comedy which was made from Henry W. Blossom's story will be given at the Amphion. It had a very successful engagement at the American Theatre in Manhattan recently...

"The Wayward Son" will be presented for the entertainment of the Columbia Theatre's patrons. Corse Payton and the stock company at Payton's Fulton Street Theatre will produce "Two Nights in Rome"...

The players at Payton's Lee Avenue Theatre, where Eita Reed is the star actress, will revive "Monte Cristo"...

"The Lottery of Love," well remembered as one of the best of the Augustus Day comedies, will be played by the Spooner company at the Bijou...

Denman Thompson will appear at the Grand Opera House in "The Old Homestead," the popularity of which is undiminished. Al H. Wilson goes over to the Folly with "A Prince of Tatters," it is an amusing play, with an abundance of catchy music and songs of pretty girls...

OPERA AND OPERA SINGERS.

THE REIGN OF STAGE MISMANAGEMENT CONTINUED.

How Windows and Doors Misbehaved to the Detriment of Puccini's "Tosca"...

By St. Paul, the work goes bravely on. But a little while ago and the already noted quiverers with the host of Mr. Conried's proclamations about the wonderful improvements which were to be made in the performances at the Metropolitan Opera House...

Well, the first week of the season came and with it a performance of "Rigoletto" in which the stage arrangements were so much better than they had been in the older days, when the excellence of the cast was relied upon to please the public...

But Miss Walker can sing, or at least she can on Monday night. So many artists have been brilliant beginning here and have afterwards permitted themselves to be deluded into the belief that public taste in New York was represented by the yelling braves behind the orchestra rail that the commentator must be cautious about accepting a debut as an earnest of the future...

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But that is only another demonstration of the simple truth that Mr. Conried, who is a manager and not a dramatist, and a theatrical manager of artists' proclivities, has not had time to do everything. It is much easier to play Pook Baa in the theatre than to play Pook Baa in the theatre...

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himself that all was well before he rang up the curtain. Didn't he have time? The intermission between the first and second acts was nearly half an hour long. It is a safe bet that Joseph Humphreys will engage to go to the Metropolitan Opera House stage on any night, and he will be the best of the best...

A vision of singers! After all, they are the magnets that attract the public to the opera house. Mr. Conried's company now stands pretty well disclosed, and it is interesting to note how badly off it is for singers of minor parts. Why does the gnawing tooth of time attack such useful people as Mathilde Bauermeister? She has hardly a shred of voice left, but she knows the stage and is acquainted with the opera...

And the Valkyrs! Of course people must be heard, and they ought to have the stage of New York's opera house for a training ground? How Turin and Rouen and The Hague went out of existence? Think of Marcia van Drossé, Lillian Heitfeldbach, Josephine Jacoby, Isabelle Bouton and Paula Ralph occupying the places which used to be filled by Behman, the French singer, Fred Schell, Camille Seygard and the like! It was hard on Brunnhilde. There was a double meaning in Wotan's words:

One new singer among the women folk claimed a high position last week. That was Edyth Walker, who has a perfect right to spell her name with a y if she likes it. She is a brilliant beginning here and have afterwards permitted themselves to be deluded into the belief that public taste in New York was represented by the yelling braves behind the orchestra rail that the commentator must be cautious about accepting a debut as an earnest of the future...

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THE WEEK'S DRAMATIC NEWS.

HENRIETTA CROSMAN COMING AS A BELASCO STAR.

Anna Held to Present "Mam'zelle Napoleon"—New Comedy at the Grand Theatre—A Thriller From Chinatown—Vaudeville Changes—Brooklyn Hills.

Wednesday night will be made notable at the Belasco Theatre by the presentation of a new play written by David Belasco and acted by Henrietta Crosman. It will be New York's first opportunity to greet Miss Crosman as one of the Belasco comedies. "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" is the name of the play, and about all that is known concerning it in advance is that Mr. Belasco got it from Egerton Castle's book "The Bath Comedy," the story of which he changed and directed to suit himself and the dramatic exigencies. It will show to its auditors a merry party of dandies and ladies representing a time when manners and morals were freer than they are in December, 1903.

Anna Held has come to town and will produce at the Knickerbocker Theatre on Tuesday night a musical comedy named "Mam'zelle Napoleon," which has already been witnessed with unceasing joy by the theatre-going folk of several cities. "Mam'zelle Napoleon" is Miss. Mars, the French Emperor's favorite actress, and the scenes of the play to exhibit, in costume, the story of a woman of distinguished appearance. She has an excellent voice, of clear and even brilliant quality. It is a cool and dispassionate organ. It has no molting mellowness, but it is free from glittering metallic qualities. It is fairly well delivered, and at any rate the tones are steady, heavy, well and clear. Let us hope that Miss Walker will seek higher standards. She was a capital America, and there was something quite like resemblance in the troubles of Rhadames, sought by two such women as this and the Alda. Miss Walker has a most excellent figure and her stage presence is uncommonly good, though she is not a beautiful singer. She is rather a woman of distinguished appearance. She has an excellent voice, of clear and even brilliant quality. It is a cool and dispassionate organ. It has no molting mellowness, but it is free from glittering metallic qualities. It is fairly well delivered, and at any rate the tones are steady, heavy, well and clear. Let us hope that Miss Walker will seek higher standards. She was a capital America, and there was something quite like resemblance in the troubles of Rhadames, sought by two such women as this and the Alda. Miss Walker has a most excellent figure and her stage presence is uncommonly good, though she is not a beautiful singer. She is rather a woman of distinguished appearance. She has an excellent voice, of clear and even brilliant quality. It is a cool and dispassionate organ. 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