

STOCK COMPANY REVIVAL OF "PRINCE OTTO."

Interest Manifested in the Romantic Story of the Wandering Rover Who Lost a Throne and Won His Wife's Heart in Fairy Land.

Yesterday afternoon the audience at the Murray Hill Theatre, almost entirely composed of women, children and evening gowns, trembled when the floor Baron von Gendemann declared his undying love for Princess Scraphina, spouse of Prince Otto.

Stevenson's version of Robert Louis Stevenson's romance—surely his most beautiful—is rather stale to-day. Was it ever very fresh or virile dramatically? To illustrate the absolutely undramatic quality of the novel one need but recall its mediocre imitation, "The Prisoner of Zenda," which was better than the original.

This particular audience did enjoy it. Edna Phillips is now a prime favorite at the Murray Hill, and when she conquers her monotonous vocal delivery and her provincialisms of pronunciation and gesture she will be quite presentable.

William Bramwell was Otto, hereditary prince of lazy land. He was rather slouching in his endeavor to convey the impression of a royal faunt. But he had his moments, and at the close, where the adapter has seen fit to read a Sunday school proemium into Stevenson's poetic finale, Mr. Bramwell was at least in the picture.

When the big buck elk in the Park menagerie has grown his horns he stalks about the enclosure with the greatest dignity and lords it over his half dozen wives. He is then ready for anything in the way of a scrap, and with the big horns can put up a good fight.

"Prince Otto" will run all the week when you pay twenty-five cents for a comfortable matinee seat hypercriticism should sneak off to the Bronx and look at the animals in the Zoo; yet we must register our modest line of criticism in this capacity if not brilliant interpretation. —East Lynne

LAST OF THE MAYOS TO RETIRE.

Deronda, daughter of Frank Mayo to marry a Colorado Mine Owner. Deronda Mayo, a daughter of the late Frank Mayo, will retire from the stage next week. She leaves the cast of "Tit for Tat" at the Savoy, to become the wife of Green, a mine owner, in the new play, "The Springs." The marriage will take place at the home of Miss Mayo's sister, Mrs. James Elverson (Eleanor Mayo) in Philadelphia.

News of Plays and Players.

At the matinee benefit for the Home for Crippled Children to be given at the Broadway Theatre on May 16, Eleanor Robinson and Kylie Bellew will give the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet." Clara Morris, Margaret Illington, Clara Blandick, E. M. Holland, Frank Roberts and Basil West will play the scene from "The Two Orphans" and the stars of almost every other important show in town will take part.

Maria Temple has obtained the English rights to "When Knighthood Was in Fashion." Plans were filed with Building Superintendent Hoppe for the additional proofing of the stage of the Academy of Music to comply with the requirements of the Mayor's safety committee. Two 12-inch fire walls are to be erected at the back of the big proscenium frame. New metal grooves will be installed for the asbestos curtain. The proscenium arch space above the curtain is to be filled in with fireproof blocks.

CLUB WOMEN'S TRIP TO ST. LOUIS.

Representatives of the Federated Women's Clubs of New York State met yesterday afternoon in the offices of the "Woman" magazine and completed the arrangements for their journey to St. Louis to attend the biennial meeting to open on May 17 and continue till May 20. A special train of five cars will leave here on May 16, carrying 200 delegates from this State, most of whom are members of the New York State Federation. Mrs. President of the club, Mrs. Dora Lyon, was vice-president of the club. Mrs. Lyon is now one of the lady managers of the exposition.

McClure, Phillips & Co., N. Y.

The Silent Places

By the author of "The Blazed Trail" Stewart Edward White "A stirring wildwood romance of devotion and daring and death. But you meet here more than the conflict with nature and the fever of the man-hunt. There is a woman—only an Indian girl to be sure, but a woman, and one eloquent of romance."—New York Times.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

The big lawns in Central Park on which the public is allowed to play tennis and baseball in summer are not thrown open until the first Saturday in May. Many people think they are open on May 1, and all this week the Park policemen will be busy keeping people off the grass. A large negro walked out on the upper lawn yesterday and seated himself under a tree to enjoy the warm air and sunshine. A cop saw him and blew his whistle from across the lawn. The dandy paid no attention to the policeman, crossed the grass blowing his whistle every few feet.

Father Doyle of the Paulists believes that habit is the larger part of man's actions. When Father Doyle was in Washington last week he went to see President Roosevelt. The pope's humor was in a bad way. Father Doyle, whose mind was concentrated on the work in hand, for a moment forgot his surroundings. Being used to greeting popes of the kind to whom salutation is always a kiss on the signet, the priest instinctively raised the hand of the President, but caught himself before he touched his lips to it, and covered his embarrassment with a smile.

The stiff fashion plate shown in tailors' windows for the edification of the would-be well dressed man is destined soon to belong to the past. Rapidly its place is being taken by more or less well executed pictures which bear the mark of least artistic aspiration. At first, the drawings in sepia and Indian ink were shown, but this spring Broadway shops have exhibited paintings in oil, and they mean no mean reputation, though, to be sure, the canvases lack his signature.

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Few of those who noticed how tenderly Siegfried's hand lingered upon the brow of the sleeping Brunhilde ere he removed her helmet at the last performance of "Siegfried" at the opera knew that thereby hung a tale. The fact is that Gadsdi has never forgotten the disaster which once befell him on the morning of the wedding. He still puts in an extra supply of hairpins when there is a love scene in prospect.

On the Sixth avenue elevated train which leaves Park place soon after 2 o'clock in the morning you always find Queen Lil. That's the only name she is known by. She is an old negress who plays a banjo somewhere downtown. She has been traveling on the road so long that she has become a legend of it. The guards say she has been riding with them for more than fifteen years.

When the car fills up Queen Lil takes her hat out of its case and plays all the way to her station. She never passes the hat and hence is popular. In several stores along Nassau street the pay telephones have attachments to prevent patrons while talking from inhaling germs from the mouthpiece. There is attached to each transmitter a small silver box containing disinfecting fluids. When the patron begins to talk the disinfecting fluid is blown into the mouthpiece.

The Hartford fire insurance agency has moved, chiefly because it did not wish having its name in William street, taken possession of for other purposes than for insurance without its leave. Twice within a fortnight the agents had a span of truck horses enter through their plate glass windows, and, upon being asked to leave, they making it unpleasant for the holders thereof. The horses were uninvited and the agents didn't like it, so they moved.

NEWPORT TAX LIST.

New Yorkers Add Greatly to the Increase in Valuations. NEWPORT, May 3.—New Yorkers will be interested in the results of the work of the assessors of Newport by which the valuation has been largely increased. An important item is the addition of the \$250,000 trust fund created by Gen. Samuel Thomas, which was moved here from New York during the year; also, by the addition of Robert W. Goellet and Robert Goellet to the personal estate of \$150,000, the latter having sworn off their taxes in New York. A number of estates have been increased in value, but the above make up the bulk of the increase.

The valuation for 1904 on real estate is \$35,158,900; personal property, \$7,866,500; total, \$43,025,400, on which will be collected \$1,200,000, or \$12 on each \$1,000, the sum of \$618,204.80. The total gain over last year is \$92,800. The estates taxed for over \$200,000 are the following: William Astor heirs, \$219,200; William Waldorf Astor, \$203,400; Mrs. O. B. Belmont, \$200,000; Perry Belmont, \$180,000; E. J. Berwind, \$147,400; Mrs. H. S. Brooks, \$104,100; John Carter Brown, \$100,000; John Nicholas Brown, \$100,000; E. T. Gerry, \$100,000; Mrs. Robert G. Gable, \$100,000; Ogden Goelet, \$100,000; Mary A. King, \$100,000; Mrs. Sherman Oakes, \$100,000; H. A. Taylor, \$100,000; Samuel T. Francis, \$100,000; H. M. McCormick, \$100,000; Van Alen, \$100,000; Mrs. C. Vanderbilt, \$100,000; W. Vanderbilt, \$100,000; G. P. Wetmore, \$100,000.

BOOKS AND BOOKMAKING.

Thanks to Rubenstein, a fairly large portion of the song loving public has a vague conviction that the Arts must perish when they love, and that it's all very sad and tragic and satisfactory. Margaret Horton Potter, however, was not satisfied with such a casual and superficial acquaintance. She pursued the Arts to their native haunts, and has put the love doomed race into a book which she calls "The Flame Gatherers," and which will be published next week.

It appears that a priest of old, personally angered by the head of the house of Asra, took advantage of his special pull with the gods to curse the race root and branch, to curse it swiftly, vigorously, exhaustively, if Margaret Horton Potter's narrative is to be trusted. The Asras were to love, but love for them would mean death. The Arab hero of the tale is taken captive by the Hindus, loves Ahalya, the favorite wife of the Rajah of Mandu, and dies according to contract; but before the curse does its worst much that is thrilling happens.

The author has acknowledged the source of her inspiration by having the Rubenstein motif printed in the front of the book. Jack London's new book of short stories, "The Faith of Men," is the most interesting fiction publication of this week.

The stories all have an Alaskan setting, and, after all, it is in that northland that Mr. London finds his best inspiration, as it was there that he found his first inspiration. He was in the University of California when the Klondike craze began. At the first hint of the new gold fields he dropped his books and went to the Klondike with the first rush.

He packed 1,000 pounds over Chiloote Pass himself, making several journeys in order to accomplish it, and was in the midst of the worst hardships and sufferings of that first Klondike winter that the desire to put the experience into fiction form and the belief that he could write stories worth reading came to him.

Stories of Alaskan stories, Miss Elizabeth Robins' "The Magnetic North" is attracting considerable attention, and may be read as widely as the author's earlier book, "The Open Question," to which she signed the pen name of C. E. Raimund. Miss Robins is an American girl, born in Louisville. After beginning a promising stage career here, she went abroad to travel, received an offer of an excellent London contract, and has lived abroad ever since. She went to the Klondike chiefly to be with her brother, and she paid for the experience by long and serious illness after her return to London, but she has entirely recovered, and her novel proves that she accumulated a wealth of interesting experience.

Another wanderer in far lands has returned to London and written a book about his goings to and fro. Henry Savage Landor went out to the East more than a year ago for the purpose of collecting material for a book about the little known peoples and islands of the Malay Archipelago. He has lived and traveled in the midst of the most hardships and sufferings, as yet, no rumors of torture and desperate adventures such as his last book celebrated are afloat, he must unquestionably have collected much valuable matter.

The book, which is to be called "The Gems of the East," will soon be published. Katharine Holland Brown is one of the latest additions to the ranks of young woman novelists, and she has been most happy in her choice of theme and setting. Comparatively few folk know anything about the little French community settlement of Iowa, which lived and traveled out in Illinois at the abandoned Mormon settlement of Nauvoo, but the story of the colony is a record of high hopes, lofty ideals, great hardships and pathetic failure.

The settlers were of a scholarly and cultivated class and dreamed of an ideal commonwealth, and their story is full of romance and picturesque detail. It is an Illinois woman, who has had the wit to see a novelist's opportunity in the community's history of eight or ten years, and her book gives promise of success. Miss Miriam Michelson is the young woman novelist most conspicuously in the public eye just at present—or perhaps one might more accurately say in the publishers' eyes. She has scored a hit with her first book, "In the Bishop's Carriage," and immediately, as is the up-to-date custom, many publishers have arisen and beset her, clamoring for book contracts and offering good—very much fine gold.

Miss Michelson belongs to the Pacific Slope group of writers, and lives in San Francisco, but she was in the East for a time, engaged in newspaper work. Her next book, "The Madigan" goes to the Century company, and will be published serially before coming out in book form.

That same Pacific Slope brings to itself a goodly number of clever literary folk nowadays. Gouverneur Morris has been living out there during the past year, and has a house just outside of San Francisco. Chester Bailey Ferriss, too, has settled down in California for a time. Louise Forslund, who won a name with "The Ship of Dreams" and other Long Island stories, is in California collecting material for her next book. Thomas Nelson Page has spent the winter in Santa Barbara, but has now returned to Washington.

Stewart Edward White has built a home at San Diego, and then there are the native Californians who have made the Bohemian Club famous and another group, not of Bohemian Club calibre, but well known despite that barrier to real fame.

A book by Grover Cleveland is, on the Century Company's fall list. Rudyard Kipling has a new volume of short stories almost ready for press, but has not decided upon the title and has not designed to furnish any information concerning the tenor of the tales.

"The Crossing," Winston Churchill's new novel, will be published on May 25, and now that the manuscript is ready in the publisher's hands word goes forth that the advance notices which have been floating about the country have been distinctly misleading.

The book is not a story of the Louisiana Purchase and of the crossing of the Mississippi, as has been generally believed. Mr. Churchill has written of the crossing of the mountains into Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, etc., first by the pioneers, later a tale of immigration. Daniel Boone figures in the story and Andrew Jackson appears in the book as a young boy.

Stewart Edward White and Samuel Hopkins Adams have collaborated upon a mystery novel which promises perceptible thrills. The plot was suggested by a high sea episode of which some sailors tell as fact. A ship was found with all sails set, but with no soul aboard. The ship was manned, but when encountered again later was once more unattended. All sails were set as before, but there was no trace of the crew.

Here is matter full of possibilities. Better spend a million dollars in advertising and make a million, than to spend one hundred thousand and make nine hundred thousand dollars.

PUBLICATIONS.

ONTO WATANNA'S new Japanese novel. Daughters of Nijo. Illustrated in color and decorated by Kiyokichi Sano. Cloth, \$1.50.

Dr. JOHN WILLIAMS STREETER'S Mrs. FLORENCE M. KINGSLEY'S amusing social sketch. The Singular Miss Smith is full of witty thrusts at a number of current notions. Illustrated. Cloth, \$1.25.

THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN FARM "Is as fascinating as a novel, captivating because it creates envy. But it is also charming."—Cleveland Leader. Cloth, \$1.50 net (postage 13c.).

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THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY PHILADELPHIA NEW YORK BOSTON CHICAGO

BAD COLOR SCHEME. Will the Company Please Change the Shade of Its Time Tables.

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NAMI-KO A REALISTIC NOVEL. Translated from the Japanese of KENJIRO TOKUTOMI

NAMI KO is the strongest and most realistic Oriental ever known in Japanese literature. It shows the mighty battle between the old and the modern spirit. The book is a human document, throbbing with life. It shows the existing social conditions, the mental attitude of the people, their manners and customs as no European or American writer is able to give them.

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New Fiction Published This Week

A new book by the author of "The Call of the Wild." The best novel of Western life. In paper covers, at 25c. Mr. JACK LONDON'S The Faith of Men. Mr. OWEN WISTER'S The Virginian.

Any of These are Delightful Reading. ONTO WATANNA'S new Japanese novel. Daughters of Nijo. Mrs. FLORENCE M. KINGSLEY'S amusing social sketch. The Singular Miss Smith. Mr. SAMUEL MERWIN'S breezy novel of the Lakes. The Merry Anna. Dr. JOHN WILLIAMS STREETER'S Mrs. THEODORE THOMAS'S Our Mountain Garden.

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UNDER THE HEADING OF "Books That Are Worth Reading," the Boston Beacon says: "The passion for detective stories, like hope, springs eternal in the average human breast, and therefore 'Quintessence Oakes,' by Charles Ross Jackson, is destined to a wide popularity among those who like to see mysteries unraveled in a skillful manner. The plot of the story revolves around a Colonial home in the forests, where inexplicable tragic deeds are enacted, which for a time baffle discovery. Mr. Oakes takes the matter in hand, and with the aid of able assistants unearths the secret happenings that had terrorized an isolated settlement, upon the outskirts of which the place of horrors exists. He has a foresight and an insight worthy of Sherlock Holmes, and with slight clues he arrives at an eminently gratifying conclusion. Those who have followed this astute and good-natured detective through his ingenious devices in 'The Third Degree' will find that he has lost none of his persistent ardor and rare tact in this new enterprise, which is fraught with dangers on every hand from which he escapes with almost superhuman power. He conquers through a combination of incidents that are as surprising as they are thrilling. The scenes in which he figures are sometimes accompanied by really humorous complications, and not seldom they have a pathetic side that is genuinely touching. His portrait is an engaging one, and there are other characters in the romance that are hardly less effective. The story, which is supposed to be told by a New York lawyer, is unhackneyed in its situations, and is related with the freedom of a born raconteur." (New York: G. W. DILLINGHAM COMPANY. Price, \$1.50.)

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