

THE LION AND THE MOUSE.

ARMING II CRUDE MELODRAMA OF TIMELY INTEREST.

Montre, John B., threatened a Supreme Court Justice with ruin, but he was finally thwarted by his future daughter-in-law. Eleven Actings.

It has been frequently urged of late years, by those who still have hopes for the native theatre, that about the freshest and most promising field for the dramatist in the whole business and political life. But the moderns are set against themes of daily and vital interest, and our most gifted playwrights have, almost without exception, confined themselves to the social and conventionally romantic phases of the life about us. It has remained for Charles Klein to open up the new field, and he did it with unadmitted success, last night at the Lyceum, where he presented "The Lion and the Mouse."

Mr. Klein's play is no more of a masterpiece than "The Auctioneer" or "The Music Master," being, in fact, somewhat less well written than either. It deals altogether with the life of the rich and the fashionable, and if Mr. Klein has any real knowledge of that life, or sympathy with the spirit of it, he conveys it very deep in his hip pocket when he sits down to write.

His gentile call on another "Yes, Sir," and "No, no, no." Breaches of etiquette are frequent, lapses of taste are inherent in the conduct of the action. Things are done on the stage all the time that no fellow actor and no girl either. And the plot, in many serious instances, turns out to be crude melodrama. But the melodrama turns on points of vital contemporary interest and is written by a man who, whatever his lighter accomplishments, has a heart-beat which has not been vitiated under his waist-coat.

The first act, of mingled exposition and "character" comedy, was weak as dish-water, and about as palatable. It had the further disadvantage of revealing grave and inherent weakness in the cast. But with the second act the interest heightened and the plot, given in scenes of a vigorous and spontaneous bursts of applause. The third act brought a climax of sustained and striking quality, which was admirably supported by the principals of the cast.

The theme of the play is the evil influence which our plutocracy exerts upon our political and judicial life. A multi-millionaire who has been thwarted by an inflexible honest justice of the Supreme Court, accuses his power to crush him financially and his reputation for integrity. He grasps if the power behind Northern Securities had successfully plotted the ruin of the leader in the decision against it. That this is a typical case is a possibility may be doubted, and Mr. Klein does little or nothing to remove our doubts. But the fact remains that the case is typical of the sort of thing that is happening every day and on all sides, and the standards and principals involved are so handled as to strike home to one in a manner that is rarely convincing. It is in the concluding scenes, in which Mr. Klein evokes his story that the touch of the melodramatist is unpleasantly evident. John B.'s son is in love with the daughter of a man who, in a novel to gain a foothold in his house, steal the plot to ruin her father, which is a pretty rankly of Third Avenue and Eighth.

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CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

SEEK TO QUESTION H. H. ROGERS.

Armstrong Committee Wishes to Ask Him About Agency Contracts.

There is a possibility that Henry H. Rogers, the Standard Oil man, will be called as a witness before the Armstrong insurance committee.

Mr. Rogers is a trustee of the Mutual Life and a member of that company's agency committee. The Mutual's self-investigating committee, in its preliminary report, said that the wrong had arisen of making contracts with agents without report to the agency committee of the knowledge of its members.

Even if the power to enter into contracts was delegated by the committee to its executive officers, the committee is not relieved of the responsibility, and it was said yesterday that the investigators propose to find out definitely just how far the Mutual's agency committee can be held accountable for the contracts which permitted Son Robert H. McCurdy and Son-in-law Thebaud to make their enormous commission profits.

It has been suggested to the committee that H. H. Rogers ought to be able to furnish this information.

Men who are familiar with the Mutual's affairs have suggested that the trustees of that institution are personally liable for the moneys that have been expended in excessive salaries and commissions and there is some talk, even among trustees who have to pay their pro rata shares of bringing an action against the board members. It is reported that T. O. persons in effect point or two as a butler. Sadie Sargent as a nurse, and James Sargent as a valet, and a number of other persons who are reported to be in the household.

The popular appeal of the play will doubtless be strong, but its legitimate dramatic interest centers mainly in the fact that it makes manifest, for the first time the rich possibilities of the too long neglected dramatic art of which it is made.

NEWS OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Oiga Netherese to Appear for Charity Benefit's Reopening.

Henry Jewett, who has been playing the role of Franzelle in support of Mme. Fiske, has retired to become a student. Fiske has secured Henry B. Stanford for the Jewett's place.

ROOSEVELT FOR REFORM.

Minnesota Commissioner T. D. O'Brien, Just back from Washington, says President Roosevelt has promised to cooperate with State insurance commissioners in an effort to put life insurance companies on a proper basis.

"I want to know, Mr. President," said the Minnesota commissioner, "if you should be asked to join us in our conference and help us work out the problem whether you would consent to do so."

Senator Denville Will Demand Investigation of American Insurance Cos.

Miss Von Betz's Concert.

Fireworks Plant in a Tenement House.

Will Take Marines to Panama.

Composer D'Indy Due To-day.

PUBLICATIONS. APPLETON'S BOOKLOVERS MAGAZINE

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number of this great periodical which contains also an article on Senator Albert J. Beveridge, by GEORGE HORACE LORIMER entitled "A Study of the Self-Made Man."

"Montmartre," by Alvan F. Sanborn "Algiers in Transition," by Dr. Maurice Baumfeld "Taormina the Beautiful," by Caroline Baker Keuhn "Japan: Our New Rival in the East," by Harold Bolce

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The Staircase of Surprise

By Frances A Mathews. Author of "My Lady Peggy Goes to Town."

Would you marry an heiress? Would you give up a Chinese Princess with languorous eyes to marry a beautiful American girl? The Earl of Stavordale, hero of this novel of the Chinese-Japanese war, was confronted by this problem.

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WASHINGTON SOCIETY NOTES.

Counting Wedding of Secretary Hitchcock's Daughter and Capt. Stenmander's Sons.

JACCARD GALLERIES

AMUSEMENTS.

Wallack's Theatre, Broadway & 40th St. Maude Adams, Peter Pan. Knickerbocker Theatre, Broadway & 45th St. Sothern, Marlowe, Romeo & Juliet.

Wallack's Theatre, Broadway & 40th St. William Faversham in "The Squaw Man." Extra Matinee, Thanksgiving Day.

Wallack's Theatre, Broadway & 40th St. Marie Hall. Maude Adams, Peter Pan.

Wallack's Theatre, Broadway & 40th St. St. Nicholas Rink. Is Now Open.

PUBLICATIONS. HARPER'S BOOKS

The Gambler. By the Author of "The Masquerader."

The Travelling Thirde. By GERTRUDE ATHERTON.

Her Memory. By HELEN HAYES.

Miller School.

Madame Kalich.

Marie Hall.

Monna Vanna.

Marie Hall.

Madame Kalich.

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