

LONDON BOWS TO AMERICANS

FEATURES OF THE SOCIAL SEASON JUST CLOSED.

American Hostesses and Debutantes More and More in Evidence—New Lines of Entertainment Introduced—Royal Guests of Our Countrymen Abroad.

LONDON, July 28.—The London season of 1909, which reached its natural conclusion on July 24, was unusual in two ways. First, the weather did more to spoil festivities than any amount of financial depression had ever been able to accomplish, and, second, American hostesses and American debutantes were more in evidence than ever before.

The English hostess was troubled greatly by the weather, for of all forms of entertainment the garden party is the one she prefers, and this year such functions were practically out of the question. The great, gloomy looking houses in London in which people of fashion live often have beautiful gardens hidden behind high walls. Here garden parties are given amid flowers and trees so luxuriant that it is difficult to realize that one is in the heart of the metropolis and not in the country.

This season has been almost bereft of these out of door entertainments. When May proved cold and wintry most hostesses put off giving their garden parties till June. When June was marked by day after day of pouring rain, all who had not actually sent out invitations postponed using their gardens till the following month and when July turned out to be like June very few hostesses were brave enough to plan outdoor entertainments and those who did were obliged in seven cases out of ten to turn them into ordinary drawing room teas when the day came.

There is no doubt that the American hostess is now an established and important figure in the London season. No entertainments are more magnificent than those given by women superbly gowned and jeweled than she is. Naturally the embassy is the centre of American functions, and undoubtedly this year Mr. and Mrs. Reid have surpassed themselves in the magnificence and frequency of their dinners, dances and receptions.

An American hostess brought back the cotillon into favor. For some years this form of dance had not been given in London. The Duchess of Marlborough wished to inaugurate her beautiful new ballroom at Sunderland House with something different from the ordinary ball, so she planned new and charming figures, purchased costly and novel gowns, and gave a successful cotillon. Every one wondered why interest in the cotillon had flagged and every one congratulated the Duchess on reviving it. Several English hostesses followed her example.

Mrs. Potter Palmer gave a cotillon at her house for the younger smart set, with whom she is a great favorite. She gave a dinner first to more elderly members of society, who stayed and watched their youthful compatriots dance. Mrs. Palmer led the cotillon herself, and Evelyn Fitzgerald. Her favors included hand painted fans, beautiful sunshades and gold and silver cigar and cigarette cases, etc., and the figures were very pretty to watch and very satisfactory to dance.

Mrs. John Ford, a rather new American hostess, brought out her daughter with a cotillon given at the Mabel Milford Club and Lord Somers led. Other Americans who struck out on new lines of entertainment were Lady Chesmore and Lady Cavendish. The Russian dancers gave their performance in the ballroom of her handsome house at Princes Gate. The room, which is in Louis XV. style, is very large, and a large number of guests were present. The Russian dancers gave their performance. Miss Margaret Cooper, an English girl who sings topical songs to royalty very well, and then sang the national anthems of the countries which she has visited. Princess Christian and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught represented royalty on this occasion.

Lady Cooper followed at a dinner at which there were some fifty guests. Several hundred other guests came later and were amused by recitations and songs by various famous performers. For his two concerts at his town house on Carlton House Terrace Mr. Astor brought over some Continental artists who engaged the very best of the opera singers of this season—Tetrazzini, of course, and Destini. Royalty attended these concerts in the persons of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia.

In the same locality Mrs. John Mackay gave a concert with an array of famous singers to entertain her guests. Mrs. Mackay's musical fell on the same night as the Marlborough cotillon. Balls were given by the Anthony Drexel Biddle, Mrs. Drexel, Mrs. James Henry Smith for her daughter, Miss Anita Stewart; Countess Pappenheim for her daughter, Countess Pauline, and Mrs. Countess of St. John, for her daughter, Mrs. John Byrd. All these took place in the beautiful houses these Americans own or have rented.

The King's liking for Americans is well known and this season he has dined with many American hostesses. Lady Granard gave a dinner at which both the King and the Queen were present. Countess of Manchester had a small dinner for the Queen and Princess Victoria with a dance to follow and she has had the King as guest several times. The King's last dinner was given by Mrs. Lewis Harcourt, Mrs. Walter Burns, other hostesses who have had the King as a guest.

PLAYS OF THE NEW SEASON

SEVERAL THEATRES REOPEN THEIR DOORS TO-MORROW.

"The Florist Shop" and "The Ringmaster" to be seen for the first time—Marie Doré, J. T. Powers and Dodson in Old Paris—New Shows' Benefit.

"The Florist Shop," to be seen to-morrow evening at the Liberty Theatre, will be Henry W. Savage's second metropolitan production of the season. The play is a farcical comedy of the modern German school. It is by Oliver Herford, and is based upon the piece which won favor in Berlin and Vienna, entitled "Glück bei Frauen" (Luck with Ladies), by Alexander Engel and Julius Horst. To tell the amusing incidents of the plot, the entanglements, the well high impossible complications, would be well nigh impossible. It is the story of a girl with original ideas of matrimony have just returned from their wedding journey. One desired an unwritten page, a man without a past; the other has set her heart upon a man who has seen life and had adventures. Each has drawn from the matrimonial grab bag, however, exactly the reverse of what she has bargained for, and the young husbands endeavor to keep up the deceit. From this premise Mr. Herford has constructed a series of complications, while his lines bristle with epigrams. "The Florist Shop" contains twenty-seven speaking parts, the principals including Nina Morris, Marion Corne, Louisa Dreyer, Roland Corne, Corinne Uzzell, Dorothy Parker, Gabrielle Bacot, Georgianna Wilson, Gwendolyn Lowrey, Anna L. Bates, Lionel Walsh, Richard Sterling, John Thomas, Richard Freeman, John Hines and Adelaide Orton.

"The Ringmaster" is the title of the new four act modern drama which the Messrs. Shubert will present at Maxine Elliott's Theatre to-morrow evening. The play is the work of Olive Porter. In general terms, the theme of "The Ringmaster" may be described as the conflict of money and old ideals of integrity in the business world, showing the contrast of the old idea merely to keep within the letter of the law, and the new idea of playing a fair and upright game even in the struggle of the stock market. Among the leading players in the cast are Laurette Taylor, Marion Ballou, Oza Waldorff, Arthur Byron, William Rosell, George Howell, Frederick Burton and Edward Emery.

Anybody who has ever seen the quaint "Carlotta" of Miss Marie Doré in W. J. Locke's exquisite comedy, "The Morals of Marcus," will welcome the news that during the week beginning to-morrow night at the Lyceum Theatre, Miss Doré will be seen in seven performances of the play that will be in the nature of a farewell to the part. Two seasons ago Miss Doré acted "The Morals of Marcus" at the Criterion for an entire season. Since then she has been on tour, and judging from the comments heard she has greatly added to her status as an actress by her repeated performances of a part that admits of considerable study and variation in interpretation.

James T. Powers will resume his engagement in "Havana" at the Casino Theatre to-morrow evening. The theatre has been closed to give Mr. Powers and his associates a much needed rest after more than 250 consecutive performances of the musical comedy. "Havana" has not been materially altered. "Havana," however, will have the distinction of being presented on Monday evening in an entirely new scenic equipment and with new costumes throughout.

"A Gentleman From Mississippi," with Thomas A. Wise and Douglas Fairbanks as costars, moves to-morrow night from the New Amsterdam Roof back to the Lyceum Theatre. The cast has been re-decorated and re-furnished. The play has had a long run, but the end is not yet in sight.

At the Herald Square Theatre to-night there will be a benefit for the Newsboys Home fund. Among those scheduled to appear are Thomas A. Wise and Douglas Fairbanks in a sketch, Annabelle Whitford and twelve bathing girls, Ernest Lambert and the "Havana" Hello, Peopha, number, Lotta Faust, George MacFarlane, Isabelle D'Armond, Gertrude Hoffmann, Annette Kellermann, George Cohan, Gus Edwards and many others.

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AMERICAN MUSIC HALL & ADIRONDACK CAMP. "STORM PROOF & STANLEY." JULIAN ELTINGE. ANOTHER BIG HIT MALCOLM SCOTT. GRACE LA RUE. EDITH HELENA. "A NIGHT IN RECTOR'S" WITH "THE 7 PEREZOFFS."

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At the Herald Square Theatre to-night there will be a benefit for the Newsboys Home fund. Among those scheduled to appear are Thomas A. Wise and Douglas Fairbanks in a sketch, Annabelle Whitford and twelve bathing girls, Ernest Lambert and the "Havana" Hello, Peopha, number, Lotta Faust, George MacFarlane, Isabelle D'Armond, Gertrude Hoffmann, Annette Kellermann, George Cohan, Gus Edwards and many others.

The Gaiety Theatre open s. s. season to-morrow night, when J. E. Dodson resumes his run in "The House Next Door," by J. Hartley Manners. Mr. Dodson will remain at the Gaiety for four weeks. He will be supported by the same cast which presented the comedy last season. It includes Mabel Kellerman, Eleanor Moretti, Ruth Chester, Fannie Marloff, William J. Kelly, Frank Looze, Regan Hughton, Herbert Standing, W. J. Sams and A. T. Hendon.

At the Astor Theatre to-morrow night "Paid in Full," Eugene Walter's drama of modern New York, begins the last week of an engagement that has heightened its Broadway popularity. Fritz Williams has shown himself an admirable dramatic actor in the role of Joe Brooks, the first serious part he has ever played, and Katherine Florence has scored decidedly as Emma.

"The Gay Hussars," now playing at the Knickerbocker Theatre, possesses a score that is both classy and melodious and furnishes a fine setting for the romantic story which the play has been produced lavishly and it was relief to discover that Mr. Savage has brought forth a cast and chorus whose faces were new to Broadway.

The Edén Musée has an interesting collection of groups in wax illustrating events of new and history and up to date motion pictures.

At the Brighton Beach Music Hall, Annette Kellermann and Charmion the famous Diving Queen, Annette Kellermann, in her diving and swimming exhibitions, Al Leech and his Three Rosebuds will be seen in their bright skit "The New Teacher," in which singing, dancing and amusing situations occur. A one act playlet will be offered by Wilfred Clarke and company entitled "What Will Happen Next?" and the Potter-Hartwell Troupe will present their comedy extravaganza "The Ballad of the Blue Bird" in which Melville and Higgins in songs and patter, Cartmel and Harris in the sketch "Nearly an Actress," Will Rogers in an exhibition called "The Hebrew Messenger and the Theban"; Hilariou and Rosalia Ceballos, with their nine "Phantastic Phantoms," a dancing novelty; Walsh, Lynch and company, in the comedy playlet called "Huckin's Run"; "Bob," the clown, and his funny dog, "Tip," in a comedy acrobatic act, and Howard and company in a musical sketch entitled "The Heiress" will complete the bill.

AMUSEMENTS.

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