

TWO NEW PLAYLETS AT COLONIAL THEATRE

Robert A. Roberts as Dick Turpin Performs One Drama All by Himself.

A GEORGE HOBART FARCE

Audience Likes "An Opening Night" With Its "Contrasting Types and Cheerful Story."

"Dick Turpin" at the Colonial Theatre. Jacob Sly, R. A. Roberts, Jerry Hines, and Lady Maud Alexander.

"An Opening Night" at the Colonial Theatre

Paul Gordon, Edward Ewald, Virginia, his wife, Mrs. M. M. May, Mrs. Jane, May Macdon, Mrs. Olga, Hugh Gibson, Mrs. O'Brien, May Donahue, Miss Miggie, Adelaide O'Brien, James Noonan, Robert Minkin, Thomas J. Smith, Cliff Hochinger, Sam Rosenbly, Charles Warren, Director Williams, Taylor, Carr, William Dobson, Byron Dickson, Mrs. Dobson, Marie Seales, Charles Phillips, William A. Knight, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Hope, Miss Ligon, Olga Fischer, Miss Murphy, Robert Minkin, Mr. Hoffmeyer, Harry Everett, Mr. Saxe, Cliff Hochinger, Mr. Saxe, William A. Knight, Tempo Whitman, R. A. Hope.

The activity of the vaudeville theatres is proof against the potential season, so there were short plays to be seen at the Colonial and other playhouses of the same kind yesterday, although there was no novelty to be found in the regular theatres. One of the features on the programme of the Colonial Theatre yesterday was the appearance of Robert A. Roberts in "Dick Turpin."

Mr. Roberts is an actor of the kind described by a previous generation as a "protagonist." In those days he was a well-known figure in the playhouses. With the more serious views of the theatre that prevail to-day he finds the music hall his field. Mr. Roberts is of the school of Fregoli and De Vries, and he adheres in style to the dramatic seriousness of the Dutchman rather than the farcical extravagance of the Italian.

The enjoyment of such performances must always be greatest on the part of the actor who takes those varied roles in a little play. He is working, to be sure, rather hard, and in the case of Mr. Roberts he is compelled to do it week after week. Yet there is such a satisfaction in knowing that he is the only one who is to benefit by his exertions. He has to pay only himself and not four or five other actors as well. It is quite conceivable that actors quite capable of impersonating the other characters might be found and that they would, at least in the case of the women, do it rather better than the one who is under the necessity to act the whole drama himself. So it really is the protean player rather than the audience that derives most of the benefit from such an arrangement.

Mr. Roberts was successively yesterday afternoon a bailiff, a murderous keeper of an inn, a Yorkshire farmer, a young lady of title and the anonymous knight of the road who gave his name to the play. Of course he popped into windows and out of doors with the rapidity expected in the case of a courtier in such performances. He was a different personage at each apparition. He seemed to differentiate most strikingly the characters of the bluff Yorkshireman and the murderous knight who kept an inn on Hampstead Heath called "The Spaniards" that figured so conspicuously in the history of the robber.

The scene in which the action of the one act play passes is the kitchen of the inn, The Spaniards, and an attractive view it was with its suggestion of comfort, the polished brasses and the gleaming tiles from the kitchen of the original house. The mounting of "Dick Turpin" and the picturesque of its figures place it considerably above the average of the usual main hall turn. Its action is sometimes obscure. A note on the programme moreover, says that action passes on the night before the outlaw's famous ride to York in October, 1789. He was hanged a short time afterward and buried in the minister at York. So the historical reality of these events helped to give "Dick Turpin" an additional thrill.

George Hobart's latest contribution to musical farce is called "An Opening Night" but it closes the Colonial programme. It is divided into three scenes. One shows the timentous room of a young married couple who are quite penniless, the second finds them sitting on the steps of a church, and the third shows them free to a vaudeville entertainment. The last scene presents the opening of this new theatre. It was their kindness to others that prevented them from having the money to take a trip to the States, and the audience is glad to see them happy. It seemed also to take pleasure out of the talkative janitress, the stuttering drug store keeper, the Irish landlady, the Italian shoemaker and the other strongly marked types that Mr. Hobart provided. The spectators enjoyed the singing of the church choir with all those elements in its favor. "An Opening Night" should be a complete success were it half as long as it was yesterday.

"THE LIFER."

A Playlet With a Convict Hero Staged at Hammerstein's.

"The Lifer" at Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre. Warden Hennessy of Sing Sing Prison, John Moore, Connelly, a guard, Edward Loftus, John Morgan, No. 2886, Robert McWade, Sr., Morgan, a probation officer, Edward C. Howard, Mary, Ellen Mortimer, James Lormer, and E. Fernandez, A patrolman, Thomas Dow.

A short play in three scenes, "The Lifer" by Aaron Hoffman, was produced at Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre yesterday afternoon for the first time in this city. It tells the story of John Morgan, sentenced for life to Sing Sing prison for a murder he did not do. After serving thirty years the real murderer confesses on his deathbed and the "lifer," who has become a trusty, is set free. He is turned out with but the usual \$5 in his pocket. Without friends and means he attempts burglary in the hope of being returned to prison for life, but by accident selects the home of his daughter, who is living unwedded with a wealthy young man. The man is about to leave her when she kills him with a revolver. The "lifer," who is hiding behind a curtain, declares that he did the killing and returns to Sing Sing.

"Women and the High Cost of Living."

At the headquarters of the Fifteenth Assembly District Woman Suffrage Party on Tuesday evening, April 2, Miss Johanna Heath, president of the district, presided over a meeting on "Women and the High Cost of Living." Miss Frederick Nathan will preside. The meeting began at 8 o'clock promptly. All are welcome.

"MONA" AT THE OPERA.

Professor Parker's Work Has Its Final Performance for the Season.

Otto H. Kahn, financier, connoisseur of paintings, traveller, reader, observer, director of one of the most remarkable musical institutions in the world, while delivering himself of a most skillfully made overture to the speech-making at a dinner recently given in honor of Brian Hooker, poet, and Horatio Parker of "Mona," declared that the musician had made no concessions to the taste of the gallery or to that of the boxes. Nevertheless it was given last evening at the Metropolitan Opera House, probably in order that the most exclusive audience of the week might have an opportunity of examining this unending opera. It was the final performance of "Mona" for the season.

It may be said that most box holders arrived at the opera house very late and departed very early. Some of them permitted their boxes to be occupied by proxies. As for the standees, who constitute the unerring barometer of operatic popularity, it is unquestionable that their territory was affected by an area of low pressure. The tests usually employed in the determination of popularity have had some application in the case of "Mona," and it is safe to say that operagoers, in general, will have to acquiesce a taste for the work.

Mr. Kahn's deftly framed sentences of praise were doubtless sincere. But it remains none the less an incontrovertible fact that the instincts of the gallery and the boxes are correct. It may be that they need cultivation in order to become tastes, but at bottom they are sound. The so-called concessions which they demand have been made by all the great masters of the lyric drama, and all will have to be made, because the method of expression in the musical drama must be lyric. The great musical climaxes must be elements in their melodic and harmonic power. Regret has been expressed here before that Professor Parker did not introduce a larger amount of purely tuneful writing. His declamation is so dignified, so arduous and so genuinely forceful that his ability to create a strong and stirring score cannot be questioned. "Mona" narrowly misses being a big opera. It would have come closer to the mark if the composer had made a more direct appeal to the ears of his audience. The performances at the Metropolitan have done much to demonstrate the soundness and stability of the local operatic tradition. Even when the "Mona of the Golden West" was produced here for the first time on any stage the house had the benefit of the experience of Puccini and David Belasco, two guests, but the production of "Mona" has been the exclusive work of the house itself. To compose a consistent and artistic method of representation for an opera written in such individual moods and such a characteristic musical diction was no small achievement.

PHILHARMONIC ASKS AID.

Needs 1,000 Subscription Members in Order to Get Pulitzer Bequest.

The Philharmonic Society having found itself left to the Pulitzer bequest of \$500,000 with the eventual reversion of another \$500,000, has discovered also that from the general public it must get a goodly number of subscribers before the executors of Mr. Pulitzer's estate can hand over a part of the money. The annual members of the society must have not less than \$10 and the society is sending out an appeal for the public's support. In that appeal the society sets forth the fact that in the season just ended there were eighty-six concerts and that the average attendance was an increase of about 50 per cent. over those of the season 1910-11, while the expenses of the present season, as compared with those of three years ago, show an increase of less than 10 per cent. For three years the large deficit in the society's accounts was met from a guaranty fund supplied by a number of voluntary subscribers. This fund is about \$100,000.

The society has drafted a new constitution and bylaws. This constitution makes the executive committee consisting of musicians only, comprising what are called musical, sustaining and annual members. The sustaining members will include patrons giving at least \$500, the fellows in perpetuity, those giving at least \$100, and the fellows for life those giving at least \$1,000.

RECALL TRIANGLE WAIST FIRE.

Mortality Figures Show Marked Decrease in Deaths This Year.

The weekly mortality record showing that there were only 1,517 deaths in the city last week as compared with 1,833 during the same week in 1911, was another reminder of the Triangle waist fire on the last Sunday of March a year ago, when 142 inmates met death. Last week's death rate was 14.3, a 100 per cent reduction as compared with a 1919 rate of 19.8. Heart disease caused 230 deaths, ten more than last year, and tuberculosis (pulmonary) 219, or forty-two more. The 226 deaths from pneumonia were twenty-three less than last year. Contagious and communicable diseases also showed decreased mortalities.

JOHNSON DEMANDS GINGER.

Prods the Fire Marshal's Office - Kelly and Young Ed Croker Out.

Edward F. Croker, Jr., son of the ex-chief of the Fire Department, lost his job in the Fire Marshal's office yesterday. Last October he obtained a temporary appointment as assistant Fire Marshal at \$1,500 a year. He went up with 600 dollars at the recent civil service examination and on the eligible list sent to the Fire Department he stood No. 75. The Commissioner Johnson appointed two men from the top of this list yesterday and this let out young Croker. In talking to the new appointees the Commissioner said that 25 per cent of the fire in 1911 during the last year were of incendiary origin and it was three some ginger was injected into the Fire Marshal's office so that incendiaries could be suppressed.

JOHNSON DEMANDS GINGER.

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SHUBERT AND AMES BUY NEW NEW THEATRE SITE

Take the 88 Year Lease and Will Build Two 4th Street Theatres.

TO SPEND \$600,000 ON IT

New Houses Will Seat 900 and 1,200 and Will Only Use Half the Ground in the Plot.

Lee Shubert and Winthrop Ames have acquired the large site planned for the new New Theatre in West Forty-fourth street running through the block to Forty-fifth street and directly in the rear of the Hotel Astor. On this plot they will immediately build two small theatres, following the general architecture and plans of the Maxine Elliott Theatre. The plans for the new theatres, drawn by an out of town architect, have already been accepted and the contracts for the work have been given. Both houses, it is expected, will be ready for occupancy by October 1.

The site was acquired six weeks ago by Mr. Shubert and Mr. Ames jointly from the founders of the New Theatre, who had planned to build a theatre similar to but smaller than the former New Theatre, now known as the Century. The lease of the land will run for eighty-eight years. The cost of the proposed theatres will be between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

When the plans for the now abandoned New Theatre were drawn it was provided for a private street directly back from the Hotel Astor and running through from Forty-fifth to Forty-fourth street. The street was to be thirty-five feet wide, to provide ample carriage room for the already congested theatre district. This street will be built in accordance with the previous plans.

Speaking for Mr. Ames, who is confined to his home with tonsillitis, as well as for himself, Mr. Shubert said last night that while the plot covered all the land between Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth streets, only the half on the Forty-fourth street side would be utilized for the new buildings. Although they had acquired the entire property they had not definitely decided what would be done with the Forty-fifth street side of the plot, but Mr. Shubert intimated that additional theatres might possibly be built there.

LIEBLER & CO. SUE SHUBERT.

Ask for a Receiver of Their Partnership in "The Blue Bird."

The theatrical firm of Liebler & Co. brought suit yesterday against Lee Shubert as equal partner in the production of "The Blue Bird" and asked for the appointment of a receiver of the partnership on the ground that the plaintiff was afraid Mr. Shubert would be unable to respond for any judgment that may be returned against him in the case. The parties to the action entered into a contract concerning "The Blue Bird" in 1910 by which the Lieblers were to produce and rehearse it and Shubert manage it and look after the finances. The Lieblers allege that Shubert has not been giving true statements of the weekly box office receipts, but that he has been taking more than his share of the profits and using the money for other enterprises in which he is engaged. They say he is threatening to book the play for this spring and summer in a Chicago theatre, but they claim that if he does so the plaintiffs' rights will be in danger. They say the production is worth \$100,000 and they want an injunction restraining Shubert from doing anything with the play. The Lieblers and Shubert got the rights to the play from the New Theatre.

BROKER ROOS TAKES CYANIDE.

Once Spectacular Operator Kills Himself, Maybe Over Love Affair.

CHICAGO, April 1.—Herbert D. Roos, a member of the Standard Club and for several years a striking figure on the Board of Trade, committed suicide early this morning by taking cyanide of potassium at his home. The body was discovered by his mother after he had failed to respond to breakfast calls. Two theories are advanced by Roos's friends. Some say he was short on corn and had been on the wrong side of the New York market. Others say he took his life because of grief over an unhappy love affair. "I know of no reason why my boy killed himself," said his mother. Roos had been a successful speculator, winning and losing several fortunes on the Board. He came to Chicago less than sixteen years ago from Mississippi, a poor boy, with his mother, sister and a younger brother. His first connection with the Board was as car tracer with Pope & Eckhart. In 1907 he bought a membership on the Board, and with L. J. Schwall formed the firm of Roos & Co. This firm became active in 1909 when James A. Patten ran his May deal in wheat. Roos was reported to be worth a million dollars, made within a year. Then ill luck beset him; he lost and won several fortunes. Early in 1908 he was stripped of a deal in oats and had to leave the Board. Since then he had been employed by several firms.

SHOT THEM IN DARK.

Story Given Here of Attack on "The Enchantress" Musicians.

According to stage hands and members of "The Enchantress" company just returned from Canada, the breaking of an electric droplight was all that saved the life of Carl Hemman, violinist in the orchestra, whose room in the Hotel Savoy, Montreal, was broken into by three strangers to him early on Sunday morning when he was just going to bed. Hemman had told them that after his door had been given and his assailants had begun to use brass knuckles a chair intended to settle him had hit the single light bulb and put the room in darkness. Under cover of this, Hemman told them he found his satchel and his gun and shot. He hit all three. Harold Chapman and his two brothers, Herbert and Edgar Chapman, were the "victims" in the Montreal. The first violin, Harry Sanford, was not detained by the police, but remained in Montreal through friendship.

NEW HIGH PRESSURE AREA.

Test of Downtown Extension To-day Bids for Apparatus.

Fire Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Thompson of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity will open another area of the high pressure water system at 11 o'clock this morning. The new section is included within Grand street, East Broadway, Park Row, Chambers and Pearl streets. The Fire Commissioner will send two high pressure hose carts to the pumping station at the foot of Oliver street and there Chief Kenyon and a squad of firemen will test the high pressure water pipes. The pressure will be 200 pounds.

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NEW YORK CENTRAL LINES

WHY MISS MERCY WAS FIRED

Dr. Judson Says There Was Nothing Against Her Morality.

CHICAGO, April 1.—Harry Pratt Judson, president of the University of Chicago, today took the witness stand to present the institution's case in the \$100,000 slander suit of Miss Esther Mercy against the dean of women at the school. The climax came when he was asked why Miss Mercy was dismissed from the university. "Because her reliability for truthfulness was not such that made her a desirable student," responded the president. "I received a report from Dean Vincent and Dean Tubbs," Mr. Judson testified. "They reported, after investigation, that in their judgment of the university, they declared that they had asked her to quietly withdraw, but that she had preferred not to do so. At no time was her morality questioned."

MRS. BAILEY'S WILL.

Widow of Circus Man Left an Estate Estimated at Nearly \$1,000,000.

WHITE PLAINS, April 1.—The will of Mrs. Ruth Louise Bailey, widow of James A. Bailey of the Barnum & Bailey circus, was filed this afternoon. It disposes of an estate estimated to be close to \$1,000,000. Mrs. Bailey died at Hobe Sound, Florida, on March 11 last. Among the pieces of property she owned was The Knolls, an estate at Mount Vernon valued at \$250,000. Mrs. Bailey bequeathed \$25,000 to the Woodlawn Cemetery Association and \$25,000 to Ralph Gage Spencer, her nephew. To her niece, Anna Louise Hutchinson of Bridgeport, she gives all her money on deposit in the American Savings Bank and to her sister, Anna Isabel Hutchinson of Mount Vernon, an annuity of \$10,000. The rest of the estate is divided equally among her brothers, Joseph E. Mcadden of Mount Vernon and Thomas B. McCadden of Zanesville, Ohio, and her sister, Lillian Elizabeth Harper of New York city.

TICKET SELLER RECOVERING.

Matthew Finn, Boy Who Shot Him, Held Without Bail.

Matthew Finn of 41 West 117th street, the eighteen-year-old lad who shot and tied to Rob Station Agent A. G. Dwyer in the Cortland street station of the Sixth avenue elevated railway station on Sunday night, and held without bail by Magistrate Appleton for a hearing on Thursday, Finn admitted that he did the shooting. At the time of his capture the boy said his name was Frank White. Upon the advice of the Magistrate he gave his right name and said his father was Michael Finn, a well known printer.

WALDO HEARS OF A SCHEME.

Lincoln Camp Souvenir Book Has Advertising Canvas.

Police Commissioner Waldo has become much interested in a scheme for collecting money ostensibly for the benefit of widows and children of members of the police and fire departments who have been members of the Lincoln Camp of Spanish War Veterans. This camp is composed entirely of the Spanish war. When the policemen of Lincoln Camp were called before the Commissioner and asked for an explanation they disclosed a scheme to issue a souvenir book. The plan was to get out an annual souvenir book of the policemen of the city. It was a money making scheme which would bring the men who bought this right, they say, are the ones who are now donating corporations and business men for money.

CORONER'S JURY FREES PLITT.

Police Stool Pigeon Rearrested and Held for Killing of Negro.

Charles D. Plitt of 61 West 118th street, a stool pigeon for the police, was held by Magistrate Appleton in the Tombs police court yesterday for a hearing on a charge of homicide after being discharged by a jury in Coroner Holtzhauser's court. Plitt is accused of shooting Waverly Carter a negro, during a raid on a rathskeller at 240 Fifth avenue. Coroner Holtzhauser's jury freed Plitt after a more or less tumultuous process, but Assistant District Attorney Strang was so dissatisfied with the jury's findings that he caused Plitt to be rearrested in the police court. Mr. Strang told Magistrate Appleton that two of his witnesses had already been before the Grand Jury and that he was confident Plitt should be indicted. Plitt was held without bail.

Nordica Has Failed to Prosecute.

Supreme Court Justice Bischoff gave counsel for Mrs. Lillian Nordica yesterday a week to show cause why a suit she brought in 1902 against the Southern Railway Company for \$15,000 damages should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute. The suit was brought in the name of Lillian Nordica, and the plaintiff said yesterday that she gave Rose A. Hummel \$1,000 as a retaining fee in the case and supposed the case had been prosecuted with diligence.

GEORGE RECTOR'S SHORE DINNER

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ROBIN "WILL SHOW 'EM UP."

Draws Out Evidence That \$350,000 Offered to Save His Bank Was Refused.

Joseph G. Robin of the Northern Bank was taken from the Tombs to the Federal Building yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus to permit him to examine witnesses in the bankruptcy hearing of the Railway Friction Construction Company. Robin was a director and heavy stockholder in that company. Robin appeared to be in good health and clear headed. The only witnesses examined were Arthur Stumpf, a director of the Northern Bank and Frederick K. Morris, secretary of the Railway Friction Construction Company, in which Robin also held stock. Robin interrogated Stumpf respecting an offer said to have been made to Stumpf's knowledge, to December, 1910, three days before the Northern Bank was closed of \$350,000 in a bond which would make good the deficit of \$250,000 and take a bank over into Robin's hands. Robin refused to accept the offer. The offer was refused by James M. Clifford, counsel for the bank, according to Stumpf. The Robin proceeded to have heard of this offer only a month ago. He said the motive for refusing it was to shut up the bank and thus enable the Bankers, Realty and Security Company to get hold of the Tombs Court Park property of which Robin owns eight tenths, he says. "I showed 'em all up before I got through," said Robin. "I showed 'em that I was a good man and that I never made any overdrafts. All the overdrafts were made by the Bankers, Realty and Security Company. If you didn't wreck the bank who did you wreck it? Robin was asked, 'Don't you know whom I had for counsel?' 'No, not at all,' was the reply. He had a lawyer when he pleaded guilty. W. T. Jerome, but he was withdrawn from the case, stating that he believed Robin to be innocent.

You will tone up your system and feel better for taking in the morning, a glass of Hunyadi Janos Water

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