



charged against the ability of American playwrights. While American managers are howling for the foreign production, the native playwright goes to London to find one of the markets for his wares. If the same spirit is in the mind of the play as obtains in his writings, "Fort Frayne" will be a great American play.

William B. Gross, who is one of the pleasantest and most radical departures from the lines that tradition has established for minstrel show beginnings. But then what is to become of Brady?

American dramatists are having a hard time of it just now, as a scanning of the theatrical announcements in the big Eastern cities will show. William Gillette, who wrote and acts in "Secret Service," seems to be the only one who is snatching anything like a share of the laurels which the present New York theatrical season has yielded.

One Englishman has done this now for two seasons, Edward Rose, who turned into a play for the stage the character of "The Prisoner of Zenda." The play is a popular book, and who this year has furnished the theater with "Under the Red Robe." Mr. Rose is building up a fortune by means of his facility for finding romantic plays and imposing them upon audiences both in London and New York as the product of English wit.

Not content with legitimately crowding out American play writers from their own territory, the Englishmen are even purloining the good ideas of Americans and imposing them upon audiences both in London and New York as the product of English wit. A case in point which has come to my notice is that of Peter Robertson, whose theatrical writings in the San Francisco Chronicle are a delight and an inspiration.

On the same subject of managerial preference for foreign productions, Charles Frohman, when attacked for not securing an American play in which to star Maude Adams, said: "So far from desiring to star Miss Adams in an English or French play, I much prefer to present this American girl in an American play. I shall only take a foreign piece if I cannot secure a satisfactory American play. And to show the strength of my conviction, I will make this offer to American dramatists: 'If they will write a play which is a suitable one in which to present Miss Adams on her first appearance as a star, I will be only too glad to produce it, and will agree to pay the author such terms that his receipts from the royalty will be in the first twelve months amount to at least \$10,000. I will guarantee, shall be the minimum that he will receive. If the play is more than ordinarily successful his royalties will be larger, but I promise him \$10,000 at least the first year, and as much more hereafter as the play earns him by its continued production by Miss Adams.'

While managers and playwrights are quarreling over the international question, I am pleased to announce that Capt. Charles King, whose army stories have delighted so many thousands of readers, means in a fair way to add to his laurels as an author those of a successful playwright. He has recently signed a contract with the Actors' Society of America for the production of his play, "Fort Frayne," at the Broadway Theater in New York. It adds no little honor to the production that this play was chosen by the board of directors from among a dozen others submitted for the choice of the society.

The play was written in collaboration with Mrs. E. G. Sutherland, of the Boston Journal, and Mrs. E. S. Fry, the leading literary woman in America several years ago. The play is not, as might be supposed, a dramatization of the successful novel by Capt. King of that name, but the novel was written by the author of the play. After the play was written it was submitted to friends of the author and dramatic critics for their opinion, and while this on the one hand could protect his rights in the play, it has at once did, and it speaks well for the interest developed in the story that the novel went to the eleven thousand in cloth, in a new edition of 2,000 in paper has since been issued, while the publisher has made between \$1,000 and \$2,000 out of the production. Once the novel was off the ground, Capt. King resumed work on the play, which was again reproduced, and this it is which is now set for production by the Actors' Society. (Capt. King will leave for the East some time next month to assist in the preparation for the production. His contract with the society is for three years, and it is understood that after the New York production the play will be brought West. At the same time it is put on the boards in New York it will be produced by the Actors' Society in London.

The statement concerning the production in London of "Fort Frayne" is a pleasing one, as it rather discourages those charged against the ability of American playwrights.

having in charge the Living Poster Exhibit, to be given in Ranko's hall, April 4, ought to feel confident. The tableaux, the intermissions, the general decoration of the hall, the local effects, are all being particularly scanned with the intention of making the most of each. In addition to its merit, the novelty of it all emphasizes its attractiveness the more.

On Tuesday evening the members of the G. A. R. S. of V. and W. R. C. combined and held a social at Manny's hall, which was a marked success in every particular. The drum corps played several lively selections, after which there was quite a large programme, consisting of several songs and declamations, all of which were well received. The leading event of the evening, however, was the reproduction of a school fifty years ago, in which Mr. Wilcox acted the part of the pedagogue in a way to amuse his audience. Delicious refreshments were served.

Mrs. R. W. Grover entertained a few friends Thursday evening in honor of her friends, Mrs. William Craft, of Victoria, B. C., at her residence on Wilbert street. The guests amused themselves with various games of cards and with vocal and instrumental music.

Miss Hazel Shields commemorated her eleventh birthday by giving her young friends a very pleasant party at the residence of her parents on Broadway. The young girls were entertained from 2 to 6 with all sorts of games, stopping for a time to partake of dainty refreshments. Miss Hazel Shields received a number of very nice presents from her friends as mementoes of the happy day. Those present were: Miss Hazel Shields, Miss Gertrude Sullivan, Miss Grace Sullivan, Miss Edna Murdoch, Miss Bessie Murdoch, Miss Mabelle Holland, Miss Blossom Sears, Miss Thea Peabody, Miss Freda Hilke, Miss Hazel Crook, Miss Katie Chamberlain, Miss Alice De Long, Miss Cleo De Long, Miss Una Lord, Miss Stacy Beck, Miss Edna McDonald.

Mrs. William Craft came over from Victoria on Tuesday and will remain visiting friends in Ballard for some weeks. Mrs. Herbert Hyland returned from Whetoom Tuesday night. Mrs. Dora Emerson has returned from an extended visit with her sister, Mrs. L. R. Lambert, at Snoqualmie. Miss Belle Faulkner was entertained with a surprise party at her father's residence on Times street Saturday night.

It surprised many visitors to the Chicago World's Fair to find that all the blood-purifiers, Ayer's Sarsaparilla, was the only one on exhibition. The reason is that Ayer's Sarsaparilla is a standard remedy, and not a patent medicine, or secret nostrum.

For the first time in a great many years there is a Roman Catholic in the cabinet, Judge McKenna, the attorney general.

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