



H. R. ROBERTS AS DEAN MATTLAND.

LAYS and players far above the ordinary were seen at the local theaters during the week just past. Taken all in all, the lovers of the drama were given a much wider choice of attractions than of late has fallen to their lot. A feature of the week was the first appearance in this city of Miss Eugenie Blair, admittedly one of the leading emotional actresses on the American stage, in "A Lady of Quality," at the Seattle theater. Her engagement began Thursday and will end tonight. At the Third Avenue theater the clever comedy-drama "Brown's in Town" was presented by a company of extraordinary merit.

To criticize Miss Blair's presentation of Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's intensely dramatic play is not an easy task. To criticize Miss Blair herself, or to criticize the play, would be far easier. With Miss Blair considered individually, little fault can be found. Likewise with the play. But Miss Blair and the play in combination, it is not unjust to either to say, hardly merit the same praise.

That Miss Blair is an actress of a great deal of ability cannot be questioned. Not had she appeared in any other play than "A Lady of Quality" she would have left a better impression on Seattle theatergoers. Not that her acting was not all that had been claimed for it, but simply because the role which she attempts is one which she is not adapted to play successfully.

The heroine of Mrs. Burnett's play is Clorinda Wildair, a bold, young English beauty of a strong masculine type. Youth and ravishing beauty are the very foundation of the character, and to successfully assume it, the actress must possess both these attributes. Miss Blair is not old; neither is she unbecomingly young, and almost the perfect qualifications do not fit her for the part of Clorinda Wildair.

ordinary ability, has proved the possibility of writing a play that is brimful of fun and yet contains not a hint of unclean wit. Any person who cares for farce-comedy cannot help being pleased with "Brown's in Town."

To produce the play Delcher & Hennessey have a splendid company, including the author, Mr. Swan himself, who plays the part of the unfortunate Brown; Webster Cullison, who assumes the role of Arthur Howard, young Brown's accomplice in deception; Maud True Knowlton, who makes as pretty a bride as was ever seen on any stage, and last, but by no means least, Jessie Mae Hall, who as the bride's dearest friend throws herself heart and soul into the task of aiding Dick and Letty to conceal their secret marriage from the former's rich and irascible father.

Miss Hall, who, off the stage, is Mrs. Swan, the wife of the author of "Brown's in Town," is an ingenue of no mean ability, and besides being a capable actress, has a pretty face and a good voice. Miss Knowlton is also a remarkably handsome young woman, and gives promise of becoming a leader in her profession. Not the least important of the "Brown's in Town" Company is Fannie Midegely, who plays the part of the colored cook and sings some new and melodious "coon" songs.

THE attraction at the Third Avenue this week will be Lincoln J. Carter's great scenic production, "Remember the Maine," a thrilling melodrama based upon the startling events immediately preceding the late war with Spain. The play, not a new one to the Seattle public, having been seen at the Third Avenue before. Manager Russell says that the company is better and that the scenery has been added to since the play was here first.

IN the first act, in which the fair Clorinda appears in boy's costume, Miss Blair's shortcomings are particularly apparent. The truth is that for the portrayal of a slender girl of 18 Miss Blair has a figure entirely too matronly, and the fact is sharply accentuated by her male attire. To act the part she is perfectly competent, but to look it she is not. And appearances count for a great deal on the stage as well as off.

After the first act Miss Blair is seen to better advantage, and when in the fourth and fifth acts she appears as Lady Dunstan, she very nearly realizes the expectations of the beholders. In both these acts she is given full scope for the display of her ability as an actress and rises fully to the demands of the tragic scenes where she strikes dead at her feet the villain, Sir John Oxon, who betrayed her in her girlhood and has returned to taunt her with her weakness.

"A Lady of Quality" is a play that strikes one as having been written with the sole object of displaying the star. The center of the drama, and almost the only figure, of the drama. She dominates the action, and with the exception of the villainous Sir John, all other characters do little but furnish a background for her. In spite of the fact, Miss Blair's company is one of the best balanced to visit the Seattle theater in many months.

Especially has she been fortunate in the choice of the feminine members of the company. As gay Lady Betty Tantillon, pretty Virginia Carter could not be excelled, and as Anne Wildair, Clorinda's gentle-hearted sister, Ida May Park does work that is above criticism. Of the men in the cast William Bramwell, as Sir John Oxon, has the only speaking part, practically. In some respects his acting is quite clever, but on the whole he makes less out of it than there is in the part. At times his delivery is stilted in the extreme, and his actions ungraceful. Possibly, however, this is his conception of the part of a seventeenth century rake.

THE cleverest farce-comedy seen at the Third Avenue in many months is "Brown's in Town," which closed a week's engagement there last night. In it Mark Swan, himself a young actor of more than

success in. Last season it was played by the present company throughout the East. This will be the first time "At Gay Coney Island" has ever been seen at a popular priced house in Seattle.

IT is the unanimous opinion of San Francisco critics that Minnie Tittell Brune, who is now playing legitimate drama in that city with Frederick Warde, is rapidly developing into a great actress. She is now Mr. Warde's leading lady.

TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR JUST A SINGLE ARIA.

MRS. CORNELIUS VANDERBILT for a long time bore the proud reputation of having paid the largest sum to any individual singer for her contribution to a private musicale. Fifteen hundred dollars was the sum denoted on the check sent Mme. Melba for a couple of songs, but having been persuaded to break through her rule against singing for any at private entertainments, Marcelle Sembrich stands already engaged to sing this winter at a wealthy woman's house just one aria for the sum of \$2,000.

Paderevski can't beat this, Jean de Reszke never would try and Calve will sing for nobody but her friends.

When Emma Eames and Nordica sing for money they never consider any price under \$100 per song, and from their friends they accept no money. Some of the most important contributions to the history of music which have been published for many years it is owing to the fact that the work which Sullivan has done, and it also makes him a definite personality.

Howard's work as an illustrator in a short story, "A Life for a Life," which is to appear in the January Scribner's, is one of the best of the kind which begins in the January Scribner's, is to be most abundantly illustrated. A corps of artists, including the best of the country, are preparing the original drawings for this series.

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Edward F. Bilewicz, editor of Popular Science, a well-known magazine in popular study, is to conduct a department of "Nature and Science for Young Folks" in St. Nicholas, and will answer all the questions children ask him. Another new departure is the St. Nicholas League, an organization of young people in America and England, of which the magazine is the organ. The league is offered for the best compositions, drawings, photographs, etc. St. Nicholas will give unusual attention to educational subjects in 1900. The January number will contain an illustrated article describing the work done in Washington in "Out-of-Door Schools," where classes study plants and animals, government, geography, science and art in the parks, museums and public buildings.

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of the month of the recent progress of some branch of knowledge. This review will be written by the most important and distinguished of the subjects under discussion. The International Monthly is under the direction of an advisory board composed of one member from each of the principal countries of the departments, who has to co-operate and associate with him one person residing in France, one in England and one in Germany. The editorial management will be conducted by Mr. Frederick A. Richards.

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The 30th thousand of David Harum is announced by D. Appleton. It is an opening feature of the holiday season, and the announcement will doubtless attract additional attention to the "Harum" series, wherein David and the Widow Cullum play so touching a part.

A few months ago Seumas MacManus carried the leading magazine of the day, but he brought with him the kind of matter publishers wanted and before his departure all the leading magazines sought his work. "Through the Turf Smoke" has already run through four editions, and his stories are appearing in the Century, Harper's, McClure's, Saturday Evening Post and other leading periodicals.

centenary of Heine.

ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT GERMAN LYRIC POET.

It was Emerson who said: "All we call a poet is the principal event of the century." The year 1899 marks two such anniversaries, the birth of Germany's greatest lyric poet, Goethe and Heine. In August was celebrated all over the civilized world the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The centenary of Heine's nativity followed on the 13th of December.

The spirit of German chivalry, says the Chicago Tribune, was first awakened in "Goethe," but "Werther" became the foundation of Goethe's fame. In "Werther" was represented "a languid sentimentality." "The Echo of Rousseau" the work was called. The cries and whistles of a new world were found in his pages. But in "Werther" Goethe also describes his early trials and disappointments, and, as he says, in his conversations with Eckermann: "I had loved, and suffered much. This was it."

That there was not much love lost between the two giants of German literature is well known. Heine showed a kindly appreciation of Goethe, but did not understand the older writer. In view of this fact it is interesting to know what Heine thought of Goethe's first novel. The words, which he inscribed in a volume of "Werther," that came to light a short time ago, and is the property of a Milwaukee man, read, when translated, as follows:

"In 'Werther' was noticed, as in the compilation of a true story, the description of a young German student, who is in search for love, which made a great noise in a windmill time. His affecting letters were read with tears. Some sagacious people declared that the manner in which 'Werther' had been driven to his tragic end, was a great deal more than a literary circle had added to his safety for living. The cause for the suicide had given the subject more discussion. Some fools at the time also conceived the idea to kill themselves. The book, through its international contents, was explosive in its effect."

"Romantic School, Hamburg, 1838."

The German Byron, as Heine has been called, expressed himself almost as indignantly of Goethe's "Faust." "Every billiard attendant in Germany breaks his head about this work." Nevertheless, he looked forward to an interview with Goethe. A visit to Weimar, which he made in 1824, did not turn out as pleasantly as he expected. Eight years later he made another visit to Weimar, and on this occasion he rehearsed appropriate speeches to cheer the "severe old man," but forgot them, when first they met, and could only pass the remark that "the plums between Jena and Weimar were excellent."

"How are you occupying your time?" Goethe asked.

Heine responded: "With my 'Faust.'"

BOOK NOTICES

LITERARY NOTES.

IN an artistic little volume called "Bardana Ballads," of which Howard Weeden is the author and illustrator, will be found some of the choicest little bits of verse, mostly of the traditional kind. Joel Chandler Harris has written the introduction to the book. Mr. Harris says that "in the midst of the furious striving for effect characteristic of our brief day, the simplicity and modesty of these little poems are very striking. There is a story behind each pathetic face here pictured, and the verses are like a sweet and softly played refrain, recurring and filling up the pauses." Doubleday, McClure & Co.

One interesting item in the catalogue of the late John Sartain's "Reminiscences of a Very Old Man" (1808-1897), is the attention given the book by collectors and extra illustrators.

"The King's Mirror," by Anthony Hope, is desired almost unanimously by English critics to represent the best literary work which the author has done.

D. Appleton & Co.'s December books include the important "History of American Privateers" by Edgar Stanton Macleay, author of the standard "History of the United States Navy"; "The White Terror," the new romance by Felix Gras, author of the "Reds of the Midl," translated from the French by an enterprising publisher; "The Story of Ronald Kestrel," a novel of literary life, by A. J. Dawson, and "Canada," by J. N. Melraith, a new volume in Appleton's "History for Young Readers" series.

"Bird Lore" (the Macmillan Company), for December, announces the inauguration of a new plan in self-educational work, which cannot fail to be of assistance to the many hundreds of bird students who are pursuing their studies with no other guide than the bird's own song. An advisory council has been formed, composed of over fifty prominent ornithologists residing throughout the United States and Canada, who have consented to respond to requests for information and to supply the material which is placed in direct communication with an authority on the birds of their region whose aid will materially simplify the problems which beset the beginner.

"Via Crucis" is in its thirty-fifth thousand.

In "Spanish Peggy, a Story of Young Lincoln," Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood has written the story of the life of the young Lincoln, which does not lessen the freedom and charm of its pioneer life. It is a book to read and think about. Lincoln is surrounded by ignorance and vulgarity in his young manhood, but this book indicates that after all it was something in his own character which made the dignity of his character possible. Mrs. Catherwood has woven a little love story around the central figure of the story, and makes her stand out as a real and captivating personality. Ann Rutledge, who was loved by Lincoln, is a very interesting character, and her story is a real and radiant actuality.

"The Life of Sir Arthur Sullivan," by Arthur Lawrence, is one of the most important contributions to the history of music which has been published for many years. It is a work which will be read and which Sullivan has done, and it also makes him a definite personality.

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Goethe hesitated, and in a sharp tone said: "Have you no other business in Weimar, Mr. Heine?"

Heine responded quickly: "With the passing of your door, your excellency, all my business in Weimar is ended, and then bade him adieu.

Goethe thought that the one thing lacking in his lyric rival was love, and in his talks with Eckermann he says: "He has all gifts excepting love, and his fellow-poets as little as himself, and thus one is tempted to apply to him the saying of the apostle: 'Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.'"

The "patient resignation, the indomitable will, the sweetness and gaiety of temper, and his unimpaired vigor and fertility of intellect as a biographer says of Heine, after languishing upon his 'mattress grave in Paris,' need not be recalled in the life, the century of his birth.

"I am no longer a divine being," he wrote. "I am no longer the great hero number two, who was compared with the grape-crowned Dionysus, while my colleague, number one, enjoyed the title of a Julia Marlowe, for whom the book is being dramatized."

The history of German poetry since 1827," says another writer, "has mainly been a record of the triumph of Heine. Over all the Teutonic literature of the second half of the century his influence lies spread like a colored radiance."

With the one hundredth anniversary of his birth near at hand, and the advent of a new century, Heine will be remembered.

"Olympian beads who sung
Divine ideas below,
Which always find us young,
And always keep us young."

HAS A RARE GUTENBERG BIBLE.

Treasure to Bibliophiles is Located in Possession of Wisconsin Man.

With the last year a volume copy which has been almost a mistake, identified as a genuine Gutenberg Bible has been located in the possession of Mr. B. F. Perry, who has owned his copy for many years.

Mr. Perry's copy is a very fine one, being printed on the finest vellum, the characters being clear and highly illuminated. This interesting old book is bound in a double cover of soft brown leather, and considering its age, is in a remarkably good state of preservation.

The discovery of this Bible, the product of months and years of patient toil by the monks of the early centuries, calls to mind the scarcity of these ancient volumes, and their great value, which has increased almost tenfold in the last half century. Up to the year 1847 it had been considered an outrageous extravagance when someone had manifested so extraordinary an interest in those ancient works as to purchase a single volume for \$2,500, and in that year, when Mr. James Lenox purchased the volume of the Gutenberg Bible which is now in the Lenox library in New York, for \$30,000, he is said to have remarked, in discussing his purchase, that it was an indiscretion for which he could not be responsible, his plea being that he had been carried away by the excitement at the sale and paid a price far beyond what calmer judgment and reason would dictate.

The value of these Bibles continued to advance, however, until in 1891 a copy of the same Bible as the one purchased by Mr. Lenox, was sold for \$100,000, and written on paper, while the one in the Lenox library is written on fine parchment, sold in Chicago for \$14,800, and a little later, in 1897, another vellum copy sold in London for \$20,000. And it is even true that for a single leaf of one of these Bibles some one paid \$65 at a sale in London.

The Gutenberg Bible was printed about 1450 by Johann Gutenberg in Mentz, and

Third Avenue Theater

W. M. RUSSELL, Lessee and Manager.

WEEK COMMENCING Sunday, Dec 24 SATURDAY MATINEE



Lincoln J. Carter's American Naval Drama.

"REMEMBER THE MAINE"

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