

## THE CURTAIN.

CRESTON CLARKE TO PRESENT HIS NEW DRAMA, "THE SHOP GIRL."

Other Attractions—"The Shop Girl" was a Success—Bill Nye Hissed and Belted with Rotten Eggs—Notes.

Manager Leath offers as an attraction at the Academy to-morrow night that sterling young actor Creston Clarke, who will be seen in his new romantic drama "The Shop Girl," by Edgar Allan Poe. Creston Clarke is the distinguished young tragedian whom the people are looking forward to with great expectancy to fill the position of representative tragedian, left vacant by the death of Edwin Booth. His mother was Edwin Booth's sister, and his father the famous comedian, John H. P. Clarke, who, living in London, was the first to be honored by thousands of old-time play-goers as the star comedian of his time.

Creston Clarke, the second son of John H. P. Clarke and Ann Booth, was born in Logan Square, Philadelphia, in the year 1866. He was educated in Paris, and made his professional debut in London in 1882 as Ascanio in "The Fool's Revenge," his uncle, Edwin Booth, being the benefactor. He first appeared as "Hamlet" under the management of the late John T. Ford, in 1887, at Richmond, Va., the same city where his grandfather, Junius Brutus Booth, made his first appearance in this country, in 1821. He has recently finished a very successful engagement of fifteen weeks in Philadelphia, playing many of the parts in which his grandfather and uncle achieved their fame. With his uncle he was an especial favorite. Mr. Booth expressed the hope and belief that Creston would follow in his footsteps, and from his late artistic success there is reason to believe that he will fulfill his uncle's wish, and add lustre to "a line of kings."

The northern press has received Clarke's new drama in a most friendly manner, and it is one that should prove of especial interest to the Richmond people.

Hanford, Spencer, and O'Brien will present the "Merchant of Venice" Tuesday night, "Damon and Pythias" Wednesday matinee, and the "Hunchback" Wednesday night.

Friday and Saturday, with a matinee on the latter day, Noble McHenry will present "The Bicycle Girl."

"The Shop Girl" was brought from the strand to Broadway, and New York gave it a royal welcome. The New York Herald, after complimenting the cast, says: "Creston Clarke's company is complete and vigorous. Every one contributes something to the movement, and many voices combined to make the songs vigorous and tuneful. The orchestra was exceptionally good, and almost up to the London standard of volume."

"The dear old songs of 'Her Golden Hair Was Hanging Down Her Back' and 'Beautiful, Beautiful, Bertie' were sung as they never had been sung, and were therefore received with overwhelming applause."

"The first act is so much better than the last musically and dramatically that all the performers in accordance with the English custom, passed rapidly before the curtain and each was awarded his or her full merit of praise."

"The beauty of the English girl was highly appreciated, for aside from the speaking parts assigned in the cast, the stage was constantly filled with a most bewildering array of beauties whom the 'Johnnies' present clasped metaphorically to their starved shirt fronts, just as they have done in London for two years past."

"The fact that the fun is made by an American writer goes hand in hand with New York's appreciation of his wit. The music by Ivan Caryll is as agreeable and tuneful as if we had only heard it yesterday."

"The Bostonians presented 'War-Time Wedding' in San Francisco last week and achieved a success."

It had a crowded house, and the singers and dancers were heartily applauded. Originally the opera was called "In Mexico." It is at once romantic and dramatic, and the score is in line with those of "La Padilla."

The scene is laid in Mexico in 1848. Captain Harry Falcon, who has been wounded and left for dead, sister Ursula, of the convent, finds him conscious and has him carried to the gardener's lodge, where he is nursed by Marquitta, who is subsequently discovered. Miss Marquitta, an heiress orphan of Mexican and Spanish blood, she has a guardian, Don Diego Alvarez, who has previously lost \$50,000 at roulette, but his notes were torn up by his old friend, Olympe Morren, and they play a part in the villainy.

At the opening of the opera the young ladies of the convent have arrived at the hacienda en route to the city for safety, and as the villagers are enjoying a dance, the young ladies join in the festivities. Ramon Falcon enters in command of a guerrilla band. He has determined to win Marquitta, and the nucleus of the band has been engaged by Don Diego to escort them to the city as members of Falcon's band. The guerrilla captures Sellen, and they in turn are captured by American troops. Ramon is about to be executed by the Americans. His servant, in company with Teresa, arrives at the camp and begins to devise schemes for Ramon's deliverance. Sellen now tells Marquitta is safe, and she consents to marry him at once, which she consents to. Teresa learns that Ramon loves Marquitta, Felipe avenges Teresa by stabbing Ramon to the heart.

The New York Herald of last Tuesday says: "The audience that assembled in Chickering Hall Tuesday night to hear Bill Nye lecture were disappointed. The lecturers in the street were calling out 'Stunning room odds,' and sold tickets at a premium. But inside only about a hundred people were found in the orchestra seats and possibly as many more in the gallery. After waiting for some time the audience became impatient. Caricaturist Pool, of Boston, appeared and drew some sketches. A Mr. Elliott was then introduced, who went out with Mr. Nye's arrival. After a recitation Mr. Nye appeared and got off a few insipid jokes about art, saying that he never knew what art was until he went to Europe. He then went to the blackboard and drew a few schoolboy figures. A few more were heard and a part of the audience left. Mr. Pool came out and announced that Mr. Nye was unable to appear. He then went to the time with the sketches which he accompanied. The audience was dismissed at ten o'clock."

Bill Nye was also advertised to lecture in Patterson, N. J., on last Wednesday night, to which it is to be presumed he was not very well received. After he lectured Nye and Pool drove in a carriage to the city station to take the midnight train for New York. A crowd of young men in the street had tipped and belted the carriage. Nye was injured in the back and the carriage was smashed.

Arrangements have been completed for his presentation to Joseph Jefferson of a ovine cup by his fellow members of the dramatic profession. The presentation, as has already been announced, will take place at the Chickering Hall on Wednesday, at half-past one o'clock. The exercises will open with an address of welcome by Daniel Frohman, the chairman of the committee that has had the matter in hand. A. M. Palmer also will make a short address, and Mrs. Agnes Booth Schofield will recite an ode, written for the occasion by William Winter. Frank Mayo will then make the presentation address, to which it is to be presumed Mr. Jefferson will respond.

The cup, which is of heroic size, has been modeled by Neile, the sculptor. It is three handles are portrait figures of Mr. Jefferson as Rip Van Winkle, Bob Acres, and Dr. Pangloss, while the cord between the handles contains scenes from these plays and also from "The Cricket in the Hearth."

Mr. David Belasco is a stickler for details in stage effects. During the last rehearsal of "The Heart of Maryland" his attention was attracted to the corner used in the second act. As soon as the scene was set he began to arrange

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While through the haze Of waning days, The wild geese stray, With dismal cry.

Through misty veil The sun shies pale; The breeze comes, And a mournful tune;

While everywhere, Upon the air, There hangs a prayer Without a tune.

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