

PLAYS AND ACTORS.

WHICH HAVE MOST POTENT INFLUENCE—CHARACTER IS STORY.

BRIEF SEASON OF FARCE COMEDY.

The Nancy Hanks and a Night in New York Should Prove Strong Drawing Cards—Eugenie Blair as Jane Eyre—Notes and Comments.

Great interest is now being taken in the subject of play-writing, and surprise is expressed that writers of wit and genius do not use their talent to supply the theatre with "good pieces."

Carrie Radcliffe, Clayton E. White, Louise Muldener, E. S. Morey, William Florence Wickes, Riva Gibson, and others.

The Martine Tannehill Company will be followed on Wednesday by "Jolly" Nellie McHenry, who will appear at the head of her own company in a new play, entitled "A Night in New York."

Eugenie Blair and her own company, which includes Edwin Perry, will return to the Academy next Saturday for two performances, presenting "Jane Eyre."

Miss Blair's success in "East Lynne" will be readily recalled, and her interpretation of the character of Jane Eyre will be awaited with much interest.

"PO" WHITE TRASH.

THE IDLER DISCUSSES THIS WRETCHED CLASS OF HUMANITY.

HE HAS NO USE FOR "TACKY" FOLK.

Good Clothes and Wealth Cannot Hide Their Status—The Bright Things He Might Have Said But Didn't Say.

When it comes to a case of "po' white folks" or "niggers," I say give me "niggers" every time. "Niggers" don't count for much any way you take 'em, and their love for watermelon surpasseth their affection for soap.

Poor folks and "po' white folks" are by no means the same. Like everybody else in Virginia, I have been rich myself since the war (nor was I before the war, for that matter).

I've seen breaklayers (I wish I could have more dealings with this class, for all flesh is but clay, after all who didn't squish a sign of "tacky" in the next wink of my eye, I'd run across a silk hat, broadcloth rooster who possessed all the attributes—who was "dead po' white," if I may be allowed to squish a word or two in your ear.

When company comes to our house, we make a conscientious effort, cost what it may, to put the best foot forward. All we have been invited to notice in this time may reverse cuffs, comb hair, hide a soiled shirt-front with a large cravat, and do divers other things called to create a good impression.

Death of Mrs. Eleanor Belt. Mrs. Eleanor Belt, whose death, in the 87th year of her age, at Boydton, Va., is announced in the obituary column, was for fifty years a resident of this city, where she will be remembered by old citizens as the daughter of Nathaniel Sheppard, for many years the chief financial officer of the corporation.

The Strongest Fortification. Condors are from 4 to 5 feet in length, having a spread of wings between 12 and 20 feet. Condors and vultures have been seen to circle slowly in the sky for hours without any apparent motion of the wings, and their means of doing so is still a mystery to scientists.

Among the Good Templars. At a well-attended meeting of the members of Richmond Lodge, No. 423, I. O. G. T., held Friday night at 8 o'clock, the lodge deputy installed the following officers for the quarter ending April 28th: Past Chief Templar, Dr. Leo A. Pusey; Chief Templar, William Hall; Secretary, Wm. Templar, Miss

WHAT IS PAINE'S CELESTIAL COMPOUND?

Paine's celestial compound is the one remedy that can be trusted to make a person well. It stops the drain on the nervous system; dispels harmful humors from the blood, and increases its volume and its nourishing capacity.

There were many drunks. This is a feature of the docket—kicked the servant—other cases. Justice John had a very comfortable roll of sinners yesterday morning, and an unusual number of drunks.

Buried treasures in Henrico. A Negro ploughman turns up a bottle full of money. Every now and then money—not a bad penny, either—turns up in some part of Henrico, where it has lain buried for years, and the lucky finder ploughs up several acres, under the impression that he has found the treasures of the Montezumas.

Representative may here. Wants the Governor to interfere in the case of Harry Simpson. Hon. W. H. May, of Alexandria, who represents that city and county in the House of Delegates, is in the city, and yesterday called on the Governor and notified him that, with Messrs. Samuel Brent and Eugene Taylor, he would ask him to commute from one year in the penitentiary to ninety days in jail the sentence of Harry Simpson, who was convicted of robbery from the person of Harry Simpson, on May 15, 1896, and charged with stealing about \$500 from a man from Washington.

News of the City Hall Courts. Ministers do not make prompt returns of marriages. A great many Richmond ministers overlook the fact that the law requires them to return to the Clerk of the Hustings Court certificates of marriages performed by each of them.

Property transfers. E. P. and Ellen Ford's trustee to A. J. Vaughan, 15 feet on south side Cary street, 22 feet east of Randolph, \$1,500. W. M. Leathley, H. H. Clarke, Harry Causton, W. M. Leathley & Co., to W. M. Leathley, H. H. Clarke, Harry Causton, and Meredith Leitch (new firm of W. M. Leathley & Co.) all of the property conveyed to W. M. Leathley & Co. by J. D. Lump, trustee by deed March 10, 1884, and recorded in Deed-Book 131 C, page 121, subject to incumbrances, \$1.

Virginia Hospital Auxiliary. The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Lady Managers of the Virginia Hospital, postponed from Tuesday last, was held yesterday, Mrs. Edgar Taylor presiding. There were thirty members on the board present, an unusually large attendance, considering the inclemency of the weather.

The Next Star Course Entertainment. The fifth entertainment of the star course will be given next Friday evening, and will serve to introduce the famous picture play "Miss Jerry" by Mr. Alexander Black, editor of the Brooklyn Times.

Orders for printing sent to the Dispatch Company will be given prompt attention. Orders for printing sent to the Dispatch Company will be given prompt attention. Orders for printing sent to the Dispatch Company will be given prompt attention.

WHAT IS PAINE'S CELESTIAL COMPOUND?

Whenever languor or pain attack the body there is no question as to the urgent need of strengthening and restoring the health by Paine's celestial compound. Women, in trying occupations; not only housewives, but saleswomen, teachers, book-keepers, and others penned up for long hours behind desks and counters, will find their health and strength greatly improved by the use of Paine's celestial compound.

Bargains in Groceries. Prices never heard of before. Now is the time to buy your supplies. Read how cheap we are selling everything. Though our prices are 25 per cent. cheaper than any other house we guarantee the quality to be the very best.

S. ULLMAN'S SON, DOWN-TOWN STORES, 1820-1822 EAST MAIN ST. OLD PHONE, 16. NEW PHONE, 509. UP-TOWN STORE, 506 EAST MARSHALL OLD AND NEW PHONES, 34.

- Breakfast Grits, 2c. pound; Hominy, 2c. pound. Best Granulated Sugar, 4c. pound. Dunlop Patent Family Flour, \$5.50 barrel; 35c. sack. Gold Medal Flour, \$5.50 barrel; 35c. sack. Boston Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce, 3c. can. New Currants, 5c.; New Citron, 12c. New Cleaned Currants, 7c.; New Shelled Almonds, 20c. Tea Dust, good as any tea you ever drank, 10c. pound. Breakfast Hominy in 5-pound Boxes, only 10c. A good Family Flour, \$3.75 barrel, or 25c. bag. Pearl Minnesota Patent Family Flour, \$4.75 barrel, or 30c. sack.

REMEMBER THIS SALE.

These Prices Good for Every Hour and Day of This Week UNTIL ALL ARE CLOSED OUT.

- Thin-Blown Tumblers (not seconds), 5 dozen Decorated Dessert-Plates, worth best quality ..... 3c. each \$1 a dozen, for ..... 4c. each. Decorated Individual Butters ..... 2c. each 50 dozen Decorated Tea-Plates, worth Half-Gallon Glass Pitchers, worth 25c. for ..... 12c. each \$1.25 a dozen, for ..... 1c. each. Gas Globes (imported), worth 25c. for ..... 15c. each 75 dozen Decorated Breakfast-Plates, worth \$1.50 a dozen, for ..... 6c. each. 10 dozen Decorated Dinner-Plates, worth \$1.50 a dozen, for ..... 7c. each. Nickel Alarm Clocks, guaranteed to keep time ..... 75c. each. Nickel Clocks without alarm, guaranteed to keep time ..... 50c. each. 40 dozen Decorated Cups and Saucers, worth \$2 a dozen, for ..... 7c. a pair. Covered and Flat Dishes, to match above goods, at astonishingly low prices, to close them out. 20 Oil- or Vinegar-Bottles, with stoppers, for ..... 5c. each.

DINNER AND TEA SETS.

Twenty per cent. discount on every set in the house. We will include Chop-Set, as well. Sole agents for best lamp in the world, and its name is "B. & H." It gives a perfect white light; no odor; cannot get out of order; easily wiped; does not break chimneys; made in all styles, and cheap as any other.

THE E. B. TAYLOR CO., No. 9 E. Broad St., No. 101 E. Main St.

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MISS EUGENIE BLAIR.

never grow old, and given to an ordinary actor, actually inspire him; he cannot help "doing" something with them. These masterpieces are like realities—that is, the characters seem different at different times. One actor will take one view, another a different one. We also hear a complaint now-a-days, that "the literary element" in a play is not well comed, though a conscientious author may strive hard to get it accepted. It could be easily shown that the "literary element" is essential to a play, and that anything without it has no claim to attention.

An interesting question is whether character or story should be the basis of a play. I venture to think that all true works, particularly comedies, must be founded on character. A character is, in fact, a story, or contains a story. Conceive the character, and on the instant all the situations, perplexities, and conflicts in which the character must be entangled necessarily suggest themselves. On the other hand, when the opposite course is taken, and we start from a story to make a story, there is no spontaneous development; the thing is complete, and there is the artificial process of fitting to it suitable characters. An actor who has to interpret a story is, as it were, borne and confined within strict lines; but give him a genuine character, and it inspires him. It has all the vitality of character in real life, which is ever Protean, and ever novel in the luxuriant shapes it assumes.

A hint of the curious truth, that "character is story," is indicated very clearly in the significance of the titles attached to French pieces, which are often in themselves a story, or suggestion of a story. Take, for instance, "Le Monde ou L'on S'enue," which in itself seems a philosophical epigram; there we see the whole play suggested, and the "World," which it is supposed to entertain by its measured wit and cleverness, is, instead, "bored" by these pretentious, affected figures—instruments of dissipation. A glance at the title calls up these personages. Many other pieces of this kind could be named—such as "Les Surprises de Divorce," "Divorcement," "La Question d'Argent," "Le Genre de M. Poirier."

A brief season of farce comedy will be inaugurated at the Academy to-morrow night, when "The Nancy Hanks" will be given its first production in this city. There will be matinee and evening performances on Tuesday.

It is not a racing play, as the title might indicate, for "The Nancy Hanks" referred to is not a horse, but a goldmine; or, rather, a mine that has been "salted" by unscrupulous persons, and



MR. FRANK TANNEHILL. palmed off as a rich ore-producer upon a speculative Frenchman, on whose wonderful and amusing, as well as complicated, adventures the plot hinges. The cast is a particularly strong one, and is headed by two wonderfully clever actors and comedians—Frank Tannehill, Jr., and Ignacio Martinelli. The latter's great hits in "Dalmocino" at Six, and as Zou in "Fribby" are easily remembered. It also includes Anna Boyd,