

Plays That Have Made Hits and Those That Have Been Hit

By JOHN W. AVERY.

W. H. Crane.



DAVID HARUM.

The Delmore Sisters.



At the Bijou.

Calendar for the Week

Academy of Music.

Monday and Tuesday Evenings—William H. Crane in "David Harum."
Wednesday Matinee and Evening—Al. H. Wilson, in "A Prince of Tatters."

Bijou.

Week beginning to-morrow evening and usual matinees—Ross and Fenton's Entertainers.

The past week has been the most brilliant in the history of local theatricals, since the curtain rang up on the season of 1932-1933.

Few cities in the country have presented, in the same space of time, such a line of meritorious attractions, and few cities have shown in the matter of attendance such marked appreciation of what was offered.

The smart folk have had an opportunity to display their most stunning gowns, and others perhaps not accounted quite so "smart," have seized the chance to satisfy their appetites with the good things that have been spread upon the theatre table. All of which goes to show that if the right class of attractions are presented here, there will be no lack either of appreciation or dollars.

It has been clearly demonstrated during the present season that meritorious offerings, stamped with the approval of the metropolis and other theatre-going places, can depend upon liberal patronage and warm plaudits in Richmond. On the other hand, plays that smacked of mediocrity have met the fate here they deserved, except in a few cases, where the public was misled into going to see a show with a national reputation, but interpreted by a weak and insufficient company. In the light of the past week, it behooves the local management of both theatres to eliminate as far as possible poor shows from their bookings, and to let the public understand that nothing but the best attractions obtainable will be presented for its amusement. When this guarantee can be given, there is no reason to doubt that Richmond will take its place and be accounted one of the best show towns in the country.

RECORD OF THE WEEK.

The week was opened by Edie Ellisler, who appeared in the Marlowe production of "When Knighthood Was in Flower." An audience that tested the four walls of the Academy was present to welcome Miss Ellisler's return to this city. Her play was met with a royal welcome, and she was handclapped by a weak company to interpret it. Miss Ellisler's age also worked against her in portraying the role of Mary Tudor, but despite these objections, the play seemed to please the large audience.

John Drew's appearance on Tuesday evening in his new play, "The Mummy and the Humming Bird," proved to be the social event of the season. The Academy was crowded with the culture and beauty of the city, and Drew was given a royal welcome. While this was the first bow he had made since he became a star under Charles Frohman, which occurred over eleven years ago, by his clever and delightful conception and delineation of the role of Lord Lumley in David Harum's play, he made a lasting impression, and will be welcomed by crowded houses should he ever decide to revisit Richmond.

Miss Audrey, the Prodigal, who stole out of her cradle to view the scenes in a metropolitan view months ago,

returned to the place of her birth Wednesday evening, and the fatted calf was killed to fitly celebrate her home coming; that is, judging from the large audience and demonstrations of approval in the Academy that evening.

That popular old actor, Stuart Robson, finished the eventful week in two revivals of "The Henrietta" and "The Comedy of Errors," which were presented respectively at matinee and evening performances. Both plays are reviewed in another column of this paper.

At the Bijou, Phroso, Rosow's midget, and other vaudeville entertainers filled in the week, and managed to do a profitable business.

COMING OF CRANE.

By a curious coincidence, William H. Crane follows upon the footsteps of his former co-star, Robson, and will be seen at the Academy to-morrow and Tuesday evenings, in his famous dramatized version of David Harum. Perhaps no actor on the stage at the present day numbers more friends, or a more cultured clientele in this city than Crane, and the large sale of seats indicates that he will repeat past triumphs when he appears at the Academy to-morrow evening.

In transplanting the story from the book to the stage, the dramatizers were careful to take full liberties with Westcott's work. Into three acts the play is divided, and all of the scenes are laid in Homeville, N. Y. In the first act, the audience sees David's bank on one side, Aunt Polly's house across the road, and in the background the big barn, wherein David kept his horses. All of the familiar characters are quickly introduced. There is David's factotum, Dick Larabee, and Dug Robinson, who drives the stage from the depot. Then comes that old skinflint, Zeke Swinney, and shortly after him a "dumb tough time of it" on the river road. The story is quickly developed. Deacon Perkins comes back to look the bay "hoss" over, and the animal is brought out of the barn and down to the trough. David then meets the tale of the animal, which will "lead without hitchin'!"

The second act is laid in the office of

the counting-room of the bank. It is essentially the office of a man who loves horses. In this act there is the incident of the counterfeit bills; the tussle with Bill Montair, the resignation of Chet Timson, and the securing of the mortgages on the Widow Cullom's home.

In the third act another phase of David Harum's character is shown—his home life. The scene is laid in Aunt Polly's sitting room, and the time is Christmas morning. It is snowing hard outside. Aunt Polly is having John Lenox's things surreptitiously removed from the Eagle Tavern to her spare room. The Widow Cullom comes in answer to David's summons, expecting to be bereft of her home. There is the story of David's visit to the circus; the giving to the widow of her home; the engagement of John Lenox and Mary Blake; and the curtain falls on the Christmas dinner, with David's opening that famous bottle of champagne.

GERMAN DIALECT COMEDIAN.

The many requests lodged at the box-office for the engagement next Wednesday at the matinee and evening performance of Al. H. Wilson, the German dialect comedian, is a most heartful indication of the growing esteem here for this artist. Although this is only Mr. Wilson's third season as a star, he has proved beyond a doubt that he is to be accounted among the best paying and most appreciated players who come to this city. He will be seen here in "A Prince of Tatters."

The supporting company is a strong one, each member being carefully chosen and admirably suited to the role assigned.

Throughout the action of the play Mr. Wilson sings six new and catchy songs giving ample opportunity for the enjoyment of his rich, melodious voice, which has earned for him the title of "The Golden Voiced Singer."

ROSS AND FENTON AT BIJOU.

The next attraction at the Bijou, which will be Ross and Fenton and their vaudeville company, which is said to be the finest aggregation of vaudeville artists travelling as a company this season. A combination of vaudeville artists, who naturally afford a rare show that could be booked in one week, and in this instance it is said Weber and Bush, the well-known purveyors of entertainment, who present this company, have outdone themselves and lost the show

five weeks spring tour, Apr. 15th in Nash Mills.

Miss Amelia Bingham is the richest actress on the American stage, and one of the best managers in the country. She can hold her own with any of the gentlemen of the so-called "theatrical syndicate."

Louis James and Frederick Ward began their tour in Waghams and Kemper, spectacular production of "The Tempest" September 1st, and without exception have made money every week. It is said that Waghams and Kemper added \$30,000 to their bank account in twenty weeks. This is a pretty good showing for old Bill Shakespeare.

Miss Blanche Ring will make her debut as a star under George W. Lederer's management, in a play by Harry B. Smith and Clinton Crawford, called "Nancy Brown." The production will be made in the early spring.

Extra Kendall, who is starring in "The Vinegar Buyer" and is called "the comedian you all know," is to dramatize Eugene Field's "Little Boy Blue." Mr. Arthur Dunn will be seen in this play next season, and a big production is promised.

Blanche Bates' fine and powerful performance of Yo-Son in David Belasco and John Luther Long's Japanese drama, "The Darling of the Gods," is still attracting tremendous audiences to the Belasco Theatre, in New York. It is the artistic and sensational hit of the year.

ODDS AND ENDS.

St. Petersburg is fighting a rat plague of tremendous proportions. For three successive days rats wandering to the river to drink have stopped passing along the suburban Newski railway. The police are distributing rat poison to all householders free of charge, and soldiers armed with sticks watch the road to the river where rats procure their morning drink.

One of the most ill founded of all popular delusions is that blushing is the special characteristic of the female sex. Says the New York Commercial, As a matter of fact, except in the case of very young girls, men blush far more readily than women. The reason for this is that men's cheeks redden with very little provocation. Whatever may have been the case hundreds of years ago, the modern woman shows her emotion, not by blushing, but by turning pale.

An interesting experiment has been carried on at the artillery ranges at Steinfield, Austria. It is commonly known in some localities, as a whole, that the height of 2,500 yards, the gunners being kept in ignorance of the range. It took twenty-two shots to get the approximate range, and the last shot, the sixty-fourth round, the balloon was hit, and then only slightly. However, the small error was sufficient to bring it slowly to the ground.

Money has more synonyms than any word in the English language, I believe. If you include slang phrases, says a writer in the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune, it will be a few words more than the list might be quadrupled in length. There are in use coin, plunks, plasters, soap, money, dough, dings, ducats, duets, pewter, needful, stuff, collat, rags, shekels, wad, roll, tin, long green, grease, bones, balams, the chicken feed, rino, brass, gold, and on and on for a hundred additional.

A curious old marriage custom, called locally "the settling," still survives in County Donegal, Ireland, and in the Scottish districts of Kinross and Cowal. After the marriage has been publicly announced, the friends of the couple meet at the house of the bride's parents to fix a suitable date for the ceremony. A bottle of whiskey is opened, and each guest drinks to their happiness. The names of a few of the guests are then drawn, and "settling" is complete. Neither the bride nor the bridegroom ever thinks of brooding against the date so curiously chosen. It would be considered bad luck even to speak of alteration.

There has been so much complaint of late on the part of the dear girls that the men were not anxious for matrimony, and that the prospect of single blessedness was becoming more and more terrible, that it is comforting to them to learn that statistics are against men rather than against them. Says the Philadelphia Inquirer. There is a sort of idea current that there are constantly more women than men, and that the sequence the latter have their choice, while the women must face dubious prospects with what fortitude they can muster.

The census figures have been analyzed, and it appears that whatever may be the situation in some localities, as a whole, the women of marriageable age are 2,500,000 less than marriageable men, so that the chances of a woman getting a husband are much better than a man getting a wife. This is accounted for in many ways, since in this country the sexes are very nearly equal. A woman becomes marriageable much earlier than a man, though perhaps her years of expectation are less. It appears that there were in this country in 1920 the grand total of 10,448,153 unmarried men and for these there were only 7,948,700 unmarried women. After deductions are made for those who in either sex can hardly be supposed to contemplate marriage, there remains the excess of men above referred to. Nor is this all. There are 2,700,000 widows and only 1,200,000 widowers, showing that 1,500,000 of the latter have married again, thus further reducing the supply of marriageable girls. The widows are evidently so by preference, for it is well known that a widow has a much better chance at a second matrimonial venture than a maid has at a first, but it seems that widows are not so anxious to try a second marriage. Also divorced men seem to rush into matrimony again, while women similarly situated are more chary.

Thus statistics show that there is hope for all the girls and mighty little for the large portion of the male sex. It would appear that the reason why men do not marry is because they do not get the opportunity. If every man should determine to found a family there would need to be a Sabine raid to satisfy the demand. In the cities the men marry much later in life because they find it too expensive to maintain a family in the style which they wish, and moreover, they prefer to earn money and get luxuries rather than to be the "slave of a poor man." However, it appears that the girls are not so easily deterred by the statistics, and they get out of their present strategic position.

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Pillsbury's Vitas, two packages for, 25c	1 pound package Boneless Cod Fish 5c
Best City Meal, peck, 18c	Pure Cider Vinegar, 20c gallon
White A Sugar, 6 pounds for, 25c	Ladies' Shoe Polish, large bottles, 5c
Black Eye Peas, quart, 6c	Sugar Corn, 7c, or 4 cans, 25c
Carolina Rice, 6 pounds for, 25c	Duffy's Malt Whiskey, bottle, 85c
Home-Made Preserves, pound, 6c	Large cans Pic Peaches, 7c can
Large Irish Potatoes, peck, 18c	Whole Sweet Pickles, per quart, 10c
2-pound cans Best Table Peaches, 8c	Blackberry or Catawba Wine, quart, 10c
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