

WILL APPEAR AT THE RICHMOND PLAYHOUSES THIS WEEK



R. L. GIFFEN.



MARGARET FULLER, Leading Woman.



ROBERT WARWICK, Leading Man.

PLAY BILLS FOR THE WEEK.

At the Academy. Dark all the week. At the Bijou. All the week, with usual matinee—"Convict 999." At the Colonial. Vaudeville, all the week, with fully matinee. At the Majestic. Vaudeville, all the week.

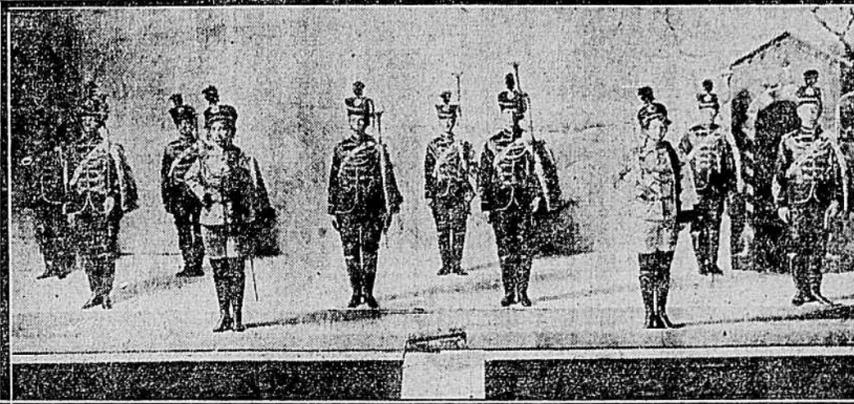
BY BRUCE CHESTERMAN.

The Academy, after being dark for a week, during which the house will be given a spring cleaning, will open Easter Monday for the initial performance of the Giffen Company, which will make Richmond its home until mid-summer.

Mr. Giffen has been in New York for the past ten days, where he has been busy perfecting all his plans in connection with the forthcoming season here. He has engaged a company that should give Richmond theatregoers performances that will not suffer by comparison with the best \$2 productions that have been seen upon the Academy Stage. Among those in the company may be mentioned Mr. Robert Warwick, the leading man; Miss Margaret Fuller,



FAMOUS FORD, Absolute Monarch of all Handcuff Experts.



"THE MILITARY GIRL" AT THE COLONIAL THIS WEEK.



JACK SHARKEY, with "Convict 999."

other forty-eight—that is, if he slocves down some in his going. Leonard does an act that is a "classic" of its kind. Next season he will be a member of the George Washington Minstrels, organized by Cohan and Harris, the opening to take place in Chicago in August. George Evans (Honey Boy) will be the other big card at the head of what will be the most expensive minstrel organization in the country—bar none.

The featured number of the Colonial's bill this week will be the Military Oulet, headed by the girl with the baton. Nothing along so pretentious a scale has ever previously been seen in vaudeville. Mr. Jesse L. Lasky, its projector, staged "The Black Hussars," "The Stunning Grenadiers," "The Piano-players" and "The Lasky Quintet." Tapa, reveille, tattoo, guard mount, assembly call and adjutant's call, as rendered by the buglers of "The Military Oulet" under the guidance of "The Girl with the Baton," is certain to be one of the most popular features of the spectacle in three scenes, showing army life in Russia, India and America.

The Kenton family, with "Buster" as the bright, particular star, present an act that has been laughed at from one end of this country to the other. The small pocket edition of this clever family only appears at matinees, as a special inducement to the ladies and children.

Ford at Majestic. The Majestic this week will have the famous Ford, the handcuff king, who has puzzled the police all over the country with his skill in getting himself out of any shackles that may be placed upon him.

Ford enjoys the proud distinction of having appeared in twenty-seven different countries, and has succeeded in thoroughly baffling the efforts of the various police officials to fasten him so he cannot escape. Regulation police handcuffs, nailed packing boxes, shackles, manacles, strait-jackets, insane restraint coats, laundry baskets, mail bags and sundry other methods of keeping him prisoner have all been tried, but they utterly fail before the remarkable powers of this young man. During his stay in Richmond Ford promises to present some of the most sensational escapes ever performed in this or any other country, and invites any one having a pair of regulation handcuffs or shackles or even strait-jackets to test his ability to escape therefrom.

Academy Week Commencing Easter Monday, April 20 Wednesday and Saturday MATINEE

Jake Wells and R. L. Giffen Present

THE GIFFEN COMPANY

In a Magnificent Production of

The Prisoner of Zenda

Beautifully Staged Splendidly Mounted Handsomely Costumed

PRICES Night, - - - 25c to 75c Matinee, - 25c to 50c

BIJOU! Richmond's Popular Playhouse

Matinees Tues., Thurs. and Saturday

A. H. WOODS Offers The Newest Sensational Melodrama By OWEN DAVIS In 4 Acts and 15 Scenes Entitled

CONVICT 999

Or, From Society and Richness to Poverty and Crime

SEE

The Great Transformation Scene The Remarkable Armory Scene The Unexcelled Electric Effects

Kirkland, Mr. Theodore Hamilton and Mr. Allen Patton.

"The Prisoner of Zenda" has been selected by Mr. Giffen for the opening bill, and the complete production will be brought here from New York, the scenery being painted by Joseph Hart, perhaps the best known artist in his line in this country. The costumes will be furnished by Miller, of Philadelphia, which fact is ample assurance that the parts will be correctly and handsomely dressed. The greatest care will be exercised in the mounting and staging of Anthony Hope's pretty romance, which, in its dramatic version, is more appealing than is the story as told between the book covers. The play has always had a fascination for theatre-goers, perhaps because the theatre-goer, like all the rest of the world, loves a lover, and if the pathway is beset with danger, there is a little added thrill in following the story to its end. It is the glamour of romance which sheds its soft glow over this pretty love story that lends to it that charm which appeals alike to young and old.

It may be expected that Mr. Giffen will give "The Prisoner of Zenda" such a production as has never been witnessed here, for in the performances of even the best of road organizations there is, of necessity, a lack of attention to detail. In the hurry of getting a production in and out of a theatre within the period of twenty-four hours, too much elaboration in the way of detail is not possible. But it is this very policy, on the part of Mr. Giffen, of overlooking nothing that will tend to carry out the illusion desired, and impart just the atmosphere and coloring necessary to make the picture come to life, that has made his name stand at the top of the column among managers whose ideals are not subservient to the commercial spirit which is often dominant in theatrical enterprises. Therefore, knowing the ample opportunities afforded for the embellishment of such a play as "The Prisoner of Zenda," the prospective patrons of the company may look forward to the most sumptuous production Mr. Giffen has ever offered in the South.

The New Company. Naturally, much interest will centre in the personnel of this company, which is to make its first bow before a Richmond audience to-morrow week. Mr. Robert Warwick, the leading man, possesses all the qualities necessary for that position. First of all, he is an actor of ability, and has that happy faculty of being able to win his audience by his very force of personality, having that intangible something called magnetism. He also has what is most essential, a good voice. So much for his capabilities, of which no one need have a doubt, who saw him in Miss Mary Mauer's production of "Glorious Betsy." His appearance, which is not the least thing to be considered, as any matinee girl will tell you, is a strikingly handsome—so much so that it is a safe prediction that the feminine contingent among the company's patrons will at once receive him with outstretched arms, figuratively speaking, of course. Mr. Warwick is known as one of the best "lovers" on the stage, and those who have, with expectation, noticed the seeming lack of ardor of some of them, know just what this means. Many an actor, otherwise good, has found this his stumbling block.

Miss Margaret Fuller will be the leading woman. She is known as an actress of charming personality, and has the reputation of being one of the best dressed women on the stage. She imparts to her impersonations that degree of womanliness that is so much desired, and which, strange as it may seem, is lacking in the work of so many actresses. For the want of this quality many a portrayal has been merely a surface-like creation. Richmond theatregoers would abso-



lutely resent it if Miss Grayce Scott were not a member of this company, for it has been the one question, above every other, that has been asked since it was first known that the Giffen Company would again make its home in this city. Miss Scott, than whom there is no actress a greater favorite here, will certainly be a member of the company, though, owing to her engagements in New York, she will not be able to join until May 1st, when her contract under her present management expires. When Miss Scott does appear this season her first entrance is going to cause such an outburst of applause in the nature of a "reception" as has, perhaps, never been witnessed in the Academy.

Miss Lucille LaVerne will be the character woman of the company, and

Majestic Theatre. ALL NEXT WEEK. Famous Ford

The Handcuff King—Defies All Shackles.

Jack Stockton, Tramp Comedian.

5 Performances Daily Ten Cents Admission.

BASE BALL. Richmond vs. Buffalo.

BROAD STREET PARK MONDAY, APRIL 13th. TUESDAY, APRIL 14th. Admission, 25c. Grand Stand, 15c.

REFORMERS' OPERA HALL COLORED "TUESDAY CLUB" Presents "JEHOVAH"

and Grand Opera selections. Greatest of musical festivals. Four prima donnas; chorus of 150; orchestra; one organ and two pianos. APRIL 22nd AND 23rd. Admission cards, 25c and 50c.

she is also a great favorite in Richmond and will be heartily welcomed again. As there is no part for her in "The Prisoner of Zenda," however, she will not be seen until the second week's production.

Of course, Mr. Warwick will play Fassendill in "The Prisoner of Zenda," a splendid part, which will give him the opportunity of leaping into favor at a single bound. Hardee Kirkland and Theodore Hamilton are two actors who have won their spurs and are ranked high in the profession. Black and white, which he could have earned up in New England, but the vaudeville villain only smiles when he is accused of this. Anyway, here's wishing him luck, and it's ten to one it's no better luck than he deserves. It's the "winter" of his discontent, just now, but the golden autumn days are coming. Eddie, boy. Now, no one who doesn't already know can guess the riddle, and no harm's done.

Eddie Leonard, whose real name is Eddie Toney (the latter quite a familiar name in Manchester), is the great big noise in vaudeville, and if he only worked four weeks a year he wouldn't starve to death, for he would make enough to keep him going the

ers in vaudeville, is topping the bill at the Colonial this week. Eddie is a Richmond boy, or rather a Manchester boy, which is much the same thing, and the past week he has been spending his time with his folks in the town across the river, canceling his date in Fall River in order to have an extra week at home. There are those who say that there was another magnet that helped draw Eddie away from some 300 plunks, more or less, which he could have earned with his lilted song and dance up in New England, but the vaudeville villain only smiles when he is accused of this. Anyway, here's wishing him luck, and it's ten to one it's no better luck than he deserves. It's the "winter" of his discontent, just now, but the golden autumn days are coming. Eddie, boy. Now, no one who doesn't already know can guess the riddle, and no harm's done.

Those who love the best that the stage has to offer in the way of legitimate drama, produced on an elaborate scale by a company as capable as the most exacting could wish, are likely to be gratified in their desires in that direction during the season of the Giffen Company. Mr. Jake Wells, in securing for Richmond the productions which are to be offered at the Academy during the spring and summer season, has harkened to the cry of the theatregoers. "Give us the best, and we will pack the playhouse to the doors." The best is to be given at less than half the price charged for some productions seen during the regular season, and Mr. Wells, in affording this opportunity to playgoers of this city, is accepting in good faith a challenge so often made.

The Bijou This Week. The Bijou this week in "Convict 999" will have one of A. H. Wood's scenic melodramas, a play said to head the list of this season's crop of real "thrillers" in the startling nature of its story and the rapidity of its action. Very little is left to the imagination of the audience, it is said, and the way that things happen makes the gallery howl with delight, and even the dignified occupants of the parquette breathe faster than usual. "Convict 999" is said to be a good play; a well-written play; a modern play, and a very interesting play. It is also safe to predict that it is a strenuous play. Dick Thurston, the hero, a handsome and popular member of the National Guard, finds himself suddenly accused of murdering a woman, who is found wetting in her blood in an alcove at the Eighth Regiment Armory, on the night of the regiment's annual ball. A strangely complete chain of circumstances seems to point to him as the murderer, and lead to his arrest, trial and conviction, and later his sentence to the electric chair at Sing Sing, where he becomes "Convict 999." John Blaisdell, who holds the position of first assistant district attorney, and is largely instrumental in bringing about Dick's conviction, is an unscrupulous scoundrel, whose enmity is caused by his hopeless infatuation for Alice Bradstone, the beautiful fiancée of the unfortunate young guardsman. "Convict 999" is given in four acts and thirteen elaborate scenic settings, the latter of more than usual splendor. The play is said to be plentifully supplied with humorous situations and several good comedy parts, and there are also a number of musical specialties. The dramatic portion of the cast is said to be filled by actors of more than the average capability. The Colonial's Bill. The Colonial's bill this week is topped by "The Girl with the Baton," which is much the same thing, and the past week he has been spending his time with his folks in the town across the river, canceling his date in Fall River in order to have an extra week at home. There are those who say that there was another magnet that helped draw Eddie away from some 300 plunks, more or less, which he could have earned with his lilted song and dance up in New England, but the vaudeville villain only smiles when he is accused of this. Anyway, here's wishing him luck, and it's ten to one it's no better luck than he deserves. It's the "winter" of his discontent, just now, but the golden autumn days are coming. Eddie, boy. Now, no one who doesn't already know can guess the riddle, and no harm's done.

KEITH VAUDEVILLE.

Colonial

"WHERE SOCIETY GOES." WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY MATINEE APRIL 13

THE CLEVER RICHMOND BOY AND FAMOUS MINSTREL, EDDIE LEONARD Assisted by His Boys in a Scene told of the South, "IN THE LAND OF COTTON."

GILBERT and KATON Hebrew Comedians and Parodists. McGRATH and PAGE Entertainers on the Banjo.

THE KEATON FAMILY

One of the Most Eccentric and Laughable Acts on the Variety Stage. Buster Will greatly Amuse the Children.

COCCIA and AMATO

Fancy and Novelty Dancers, "The Mixer and the Malt."

BEN BEYER and BROTHER KINETOGRAPH

Comedy, Bicyclists and Unicyclists. Best and Latest Views.

A CARNIVAL OF MUSIC THE MILITARY OCTETTE.

11 PEOPLE—INCLUDING—11 PEOPLE. "THE GIRL WITH THE BATON." Most Gorgeous Musical Act We Will Offer This Season. Three Complete Changes of Scenery and Costumes.

CUT OUT THIS COUPON This coupon and 15c will entitle any lady to a reserved seat at any Colonial matinee, excepting Saturday, week of April 13th. It is worth 10c