THEATER OF ARTS AND LETTERS.

The Barren Results of a "Stage Elevating" Experiment-The Coghlans' Revival of "Peg Weffington"-The Youngest Amer-1can Playright-Other Chitchat.

NEW YORK, April 26.—The only real the-trical novelty in the city is another of the numerous adaptations of "Le Demi Monde," This particular version, which is entitled "The Froth of Society," is the work of Mrs. Frank Leslie, who thus makes ber debut as a playwright. The piece has been on the road and is said to have been very favorably received in the south. The cipal roles are intrusted to Joseph Haworth and Emily Rigl, two particularly competent actors. In fact, it is my opinion that Miss Rigl's superiors in highly emo-tional roles in the whole world can be counted on the fingers of one hand.



SCENE FROM "PEG WOFFINGTON." Mrs. Leslie explained to me some time ago that it was her desire to make the acts of the characters in her play seem more logical than in the original, and several of the changes that she has made are, it must be admitted, decidedly for the better. Mrs. good deal of playwriting. She thinks that she possesses the true dramatic instinct, no matter in what particular respects her work may be defective now, and I am in-clined to agree with her. "The Froth of Society" may not be considered a phenomenally brilliant adaptation, but the measure of success which has been accorded it will doubtless serve to encourage the brilliant woman who is responsible for it to persevere in her new line of work until she shall have evolved a play which will give her as high a position as a dramatist as she now enjoys as

The good people who read New York newspapers and New York dramatic letters will now have a rest from the Theater of Arts and Letters until next season, for that peculiar institution is winding up for the year at Palmer's theater. This exclusive "subscription" organization which charged its patrons \$5 a performance and compelled them to purchase tickets for the entire course at that figure is now admitting the common herd at regular prices at Palmer's, I say "admitting," but that is not the correct expression. "Willing to admit" would be very much nearer the mark, for the people have not beseiged the doors of the theater in their hysterical anxiety to see the plays which dramatists are unable t, and which were therefore put



MLLE. ROSE POMPON. incredible as it may seem, no special detail of policemen has been necessary to keep the general public from breaking in the doors of Palmer's theater in its mad rush to witness the Arts and Letters' "toogood-for-the-average-theater-goer" perform ances. In fact, I have heard it stated that that pig headed jade, the aforesaid general public, will not attend in large numbers even with the great inducement of many free tickets, yelept in theatrical parlance

But to sum it all up the Theater of Arts and Letters was on its face an improbability. On its record it is an absurdity. It is a hideous excrescence on the body dramatic, not because of the poor judgment displayed in the selection of most of its plays, nor because of the fact that it is not managed by a theatrical man, but because it has used the "elevation of the drama" as a stepping stone to exploiting several plays which no one cared to see, and one of which at least brought repeated roars of laughter, although it was intended by the author to be positively grewsome in its seriousness. Such things bring the stage into contempt.

They "elevate" it downward.

Let us see how the Theater of Arts and Letters has lived up to its promises. Broadly stated, at the outset of its career it cited as an excuse for its existence the well known fact that scores of meritorious plays are annually passed around from one pro-fessional manager to another only to be declined. In other words, theatrical specula-tors, as a rule, do not care in this country to try new material. They prefer to ex-ploit "foreign successes," which, by the way, generally prove failures, rather than trust themselves to select an apparently valuable play by a new or unknown author. This ooks like good, safe business method to

the layman, but it isn't. The foreign plays generally don't seem to exactly suit American audiences. Nevertheless this timidity of the managers made it practically impossible for any resident of the United States outside of the few dramatists with established reputations to have his own play produced. This was a very discouraging condition for the develop-ment of the native drama, and it was nominally to correct this evil that the Theater of Arts and Letters was founded. But the ieces which have been produced are in rly every case the work of men and men who already heve national reputais in the world of letters, and at least Lose work is in great demand, and who certs per box. For 222 N Main street. of the plays was written by a dramatist

All in all, outside of affording a good deal and 309 South Main street.

of merriment by floundering about in water much too deep for it, the Theater of Arts and Letters has done nothing except to dis-courage liberal minded patrons from contributing in the future to something w might really prove a stepping stone to fame for young dramatists. "The burnt child dreads the fire," and it will be a long time before any similar enterprise will find the

ecessary backing.
Rose and Charles Coghlan and their excellent company have revived "Masks and Faces," otherwise "Peg Woffington," at the Fifth Avenue theater. The production has been received with favor, "Diplomacy" having about run itself out. The fact that the latter play was particularly successful owing to the magnificent cast and elegant mounting when it was resurrected at the Star theater, added to its enthusiastic reception on the road, perhaps had the effect of inducing the Coghlans to keep it on the boards even after it had become a little less potent as a drawing card, and in conse-quence business at the Fifth Avenue the-ater since "Diplomacy" came back to New York has not been as good as it reight have been. For this reason "Peg Woffington" is said to have been rushed on rather hurriedly, and yet every one who has seen it seems to have been pleased with the pro-duction and the work of the actors who ap-pear in it. Miss Coghian has been espe-cially commended, as has also Mr. Frederic

Mile. Rose Pompon, the latest importa-tion from France for "The Black Crook," is gyrating into the very core of the heart of New York dudedom. This vivacious little "chanteuse excentrique" is very much like others of her class, except that she is considered more clever than a majority of them. She has made a big hit; and that is saying a great deal when it is considered how many French quadrille dancers we have had lately. Pompon, as I hear it, is to dance and warble in Chicago under her



PAUL KESTER. present management during the World's fair and will then go to London, where she has an excellent engagement beginning next October. When she leaves these hospitable shores, she will be the possessor of much more wealth than she now has. Of course Mile. Pompon likes "dear America"

It has been generally supposed that Glen Mac Donough is the youngest value each playwright in America, but it seems that he is not, as Paul Kester is not yet a man. Rather he has not yet attained his najority.

Next season, besides "The Earl of Grammont," the brilliant young Italian actor will produce at least one other of Mr. Kester's plays, which is to be named "The Last of the Moors." Salvini's role in this piece rethe Moors." Salvini's role in this piece requires heroic acting, and the play admits of elaborate mounting—two things of which he is particularly fond. Mr. Kester, it should be stated, is a native of Virginia, but was reased in Ohio.

I hear that Felix Morris, Rosina Vokes'

remarkably elever leading man, is to star next season in a play especially written for him. If the rumor be true, the venture ought to result in the addition of another luminary to the stellar firmament, for Felix Morris probably has no superior in his par-



FELIX MORRIS. ticular line of work. Hebes run the whole gamut of acting, starting in at the bottom and working by gradual stages to the top. le is one of a very limited number of the school of light comedy, and his reputation is sufficient to insure him respectful conideration in his new venture.
OCTAVUS COHEN.

The Lilliputians are booked for a long run in New York next season. They will appear in a new play, entitled "A Trip to Mars," which Carl Rosenfeld is now preparing for them.

CONSENT.

"If I would ask you to be mine, Would you say yes or no?"
"Neither," she said and hung her head.
How could she treat love so?

"Then you don't love me, do you, dear?"
He asked the pretty miss.
She shook her head first up, then down,
And gave to him a kiss.

"Then, darling, when you neither said, Pray tell me what you meant?"
She said. "My dear, I'd silent be,
And silence gives consent."
—Chicago Dispatch.

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Wall Paper at Cost.

UPS AND DOWNS OF BASEBALL LIFE

TOM LOVETT'S CHANGE OF HEART.

Hornung and Burdock Owned Boston One Upon a Time - A Noted Auction Sale Retrespective Thoughts of Trophies of Victory-Great Luck of Joe Quest.



not think so. He waited an entire 83,800 for the Brooklyn officials to come into his presence, bow themselves in the presence, bow themselves in the dust at his feet and beg him to go to their aid at his own terms. They came not, however. He suffered and perspired in private one whole summer and meditated and shivered one entire winter, and then he saw a great light. The light led him on and on till it brought him to the gates of Eastern park, the home of the Brocklyn club. To his knock came the invitation, "Enter." So the prodigal had returned. But they killed no fatted calf. They did not even open a keg of beer. All that greeted the penitent was a cold "Hello, Tomay." An hour later he had signed a contract calling for just \$600 less than was offered him last spring and \$900 less than he demanded.

age? The

itcher

player, Tommy

spring and \$900 less than he demanded.

The case of Lovett was a prod to drive many of the holdbacks of this spring into camp, and they are all there except about camp, and they are all there except about as many as you can count upon the fingers of one hand without going over the row twice. This, too, in spite of all the volume of threats from players who several months ago declared they would quit playing ball and "go into business" before they would accept a reduction in salary to fit the receipts of the game. Some of the boys were bluffing, but some were in "dead earnest."

Each one of the latter class seemed to be one of the latter class seemed to be lieve that there was an empty niche in the business or commercial temple waiting for him to step into and fill. He expected that "going into business" was as easy as going in and out of the rain, but somehow the tide of trade would not catch him up in its mad swirl, and when baseball salary days began to run he concluded wisely that a two-thirds loaf was better than none, and he hastened to get in touch with the club

he hastened to get in touch with the club paymester.

A reminder comes along here that baseball has none of the heroes now it had in the past. Last week Charley Jones was appointed an Bassern league ampire. And if there be one man en cash who has more enemies than may other that man is an umpire. But Jones is glad to accept the berth. For what it pays him he agrees to "bear the proud man's contumely" and take his chances of eccaping with his life from the vengeance of the cranks.

Yet this is the same Jones whose popularity in the early eighties was sometimes amoying to him. I have seen him during those days take refuge from the worshipful throng of boys and men who followed him along the street until he became annoyed

Rather he has not yet attained his majority.

Kester commenced writing plays a few years ago. His first work was called "Countess Roudine." It was submitted to Mme. Modjeska, who accepted it. Kester immediately began work on another play, which he has named "The Earl of Grammont."

Meanwhile Modjeska had produced "Countess Roudine" in New York, but the young author was so busy with his new plees that he did not come east to see the premier of his first play. At the time Kester was living in Detroit. When he had finished "The Earl of Grammont," he sent it to Alexander Salvini, who liked it and requested Kester to meet him in Chicago. Salvini then engaged him at a large salary to travel with him and write plays especially adapted to his abilities.

Next season, besides "The Earl of Grammont," the besides, both immensely popular before that day, could have had the keys of be described. Suffice it to say that Hornung and Burdock, both immensely popular before that day, could have had the keys of the city for the asking that night. Their names were on the fips of half the people of Boston. Longleibowand Dr. Holmes could have been spared more easily just then then Hornung and Eurdock. That was less than ten years ago. Today Joe could not borrow a pleastine from any of the thousand Bostonians who that night sang his praise, and Burdock last week was sent to the workburger ten days on conviction of drunksuness and lottering.

Since the proposition was made to bring the old Cincinnati Red Stockings and their conquerers—the Atlantics—together at Chicago en June 14 there has been uncarthed a newspaper account of an auction sale

cago en June 14 there has been uncarthed a newspaper account of an auction sale which took place at the Union grounds—the Red Stockings' home in Cincinnati—in April fallowing the celebrated game in Brocklyn inentioned in my last letter. Among the effects sold on that occasion were a pitcher and goblet won in a tournament in 1867, a gold medal won in 1866 and the different balls won in the celebrated year of unbrokers victories. These hells year of unbroken victories. These balls sold for from \$1 to \$10. The latter price was paid for the 24 Mutual ball of 1869. Thus in less than nine months after the culmination of the Red Stockings' fame in their defeat on the Capitoline grounds the

team was dispersed, the club had disbanded and all the trophics of victories were sold. Since that day the fame of those Red Stockings has had a resurrection, and it will live as long as the game lives. The which sold in 1871 for mere songs, would, if put up at auction now, fetch many times as much money.

News comes from Chicago that Joe Quest,

News comes from Chicago that Joe Quest, who at one time some years ago was a famous second baseman, is one of the heirs to an estate of \$40,000,000 located somewhere beyond the Atiantic. To anybody but a ball player such news would be interesting. With hell players of experience, however, a little matter like that has no powers of excitement. Mr. Quest will probably fall into his millions (when he gets them) as necessarily as a drok goes swimming and naturally as a duck goes swimming and will not make helf the noise about it which

will not make helf the noise about it which some of the players produced this spring when they were offered not more than \$10 an hour for playing ball.

As a rule, more ball players fall heir to immoderate sized fortunes than any other class of citizens, and yet they manage somehow to keep in a state of financial solicitude. There are not many of the Orest tude. There are not many of the Quest family living, however, and if Joe gets a fair section of that \$40,000,000 he should be able to keep up appearances among the playing princes of the National league, and now that the los has been broken, as it were, we may expect to hear of many other retired players who expect to he luxiriously the remainder of their days on the wealth from over the sea to which they are heirs.

O. P. CAYLOR.

Seventy-Five Convulsions.

A THRILLING EXPERIENCE.—There is no one but at some period in life has an experience that stands out prominoutly beyond all others, Such is the case of John B. Collins of Romeo, Mich., who says: "From September to January, before using Nervine, I had at least.75 convulsions. After three months' use I have no more attacks. Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine also cures nervous prostration, headache, poor memory, dizziness, sleeplessness, neuralgia, etc., and builds up the body. Mrs. J. R. Miler of Valparaiso, Ind., and J. R. Taylor of Logansport, Ind., each gained 20 pounds of flesh by taking it. Sold by C. H. Hance, 177 North Spring, on a guarantee. Get the doctor's book, free. Seventy-Five Convulsions.

Wm. F. Brown, Jeweler, 353 South Spring st., 4 doors north of Fourth. THE WHEELING WORLD.

From Boston to Chicago in Ninety

The great relay bicycle race from Bo 10 Chicago scheduled for April 30 and May 1, 2, 3 and 4 promises to be the most re-markable event of the kind ever run. The swiftest and hardiest wheelmen between Boston and Chicago compose the respective relays, and they are pledged to cover the distance in 90 hours. Each relay will con-sist of two wheelmen, one carrying a pouch hing a message from Governor I of Massachusetts to Governor Altgeld of Illinois, and the other holding himself in The kicking

readiness to hurry the message ahead in ease the regular carrier is disabled.

From the instant the message leaves Boston until it arrives in Chicago not a moment will be lost. Night and day without pause two riders will be pedaling toward the World's fair city at the best speed they are capable of. The distance is about 1,264 miles, and if the message is delivered in 90 hours every relay rider must overed in 90 hours every relay rider must cover his small section of the course at the speed of 14 miles an hour. With good roads this would be comparatively easy for the swift wheelmen who participate in the race, but if our naturally bad roads are under water most of the way, as they were during the Chicago-New York relay bicycle race last year, the message will hardly be delivered in the prescribed 90 hours.



ROUTE OF THE RELAY RACE. The riders in the Chicago-New York race, although confronted by as unfavorable weather as was possible, covered the 1,000-mile course in about 109 hours, or at the mile course in about 109 hours, or at the average rate of over nine miles an hour, although many of the riders who had relays of 10 miles or more performed their work at a speed of 20 miles an hour. It will thus be seen that the weather must be auspicious, the roads in good condition and the riders the very flower of American manhood if they succeed in making the 1984. riders the very flower of American man-hood if they succeed in making the 1,264-mile run from Boston to Chicago in 90 or even 100 hours. The route followed from New York to Chicago will be the same as that of last May, and among the cities through which the riders will pass are Worcester and Springfield in Massachu-setts; New York, Albany, Rochester and Buffalo in New York state; North East and Buffalo description of the same and springfield in New York state; North East and Pennsylvania; Ashtabula, Painesville and Cleveland in Ohio; Goshen and South Bend in Indiana, and Chicago in Illinois.

Zimmerman and Sanger. W. C. Sanger of Wisconsin and A. A. Zimmerman of New Jersey are soon to meet the best riders on the other side of the Atlantic. Although each is a representative American wheelman, and although both have covered a mile in time few men have equaled, they go separately and in a sense as rivals. Zimmerman has covered a mile with flying start in 2 minutes 64-5 seconds and is probably the swiftest amateur in the world at distances under a mile. San-



is very fast at any distance up to 10 or 15 miles and claims to have beaten Zimmerman in a half-mile race in Canada last year. Sanger expects to get back by June 27, in time for the Canadian and World's fair championships. If the two men meet abroad, a lively race will undoubtedly be the result. Zimmerman has alread and Sanger goes in a short time. esult. Zimmerman has already sailed,

A One-legged Wheelman's Tour. Frank S. Beedleson, the one legged bicy-clist of Syracuse, will leave San Francisco May 22 on his wheel and endeavor to cross the continent from Frisco to New York in 100 days or less. Beedleson will follow the line of the Union Pacific railroad to Omaha, thence the Chicago and Northwestern to Chicago. From the latter city he will follow the route of the relay ride through Cleveland and Buffalo. He is a hardy rider of four years' experience, who has done his five miles in 18 minutes and 90 miles in the day without much discomfort. He lost his leg in a railway accident when 11 years of age. Beedleson is in his twenty-fifth year, is a telegrapher and a member of the Century Cycling club of Syracuse. He will ride a safety and carry about 50 pounds of luggage in addition to an extra set of tires and a pair of crutches.

The International Championships. Chicago wheelmen are predicting that the aggregation of foreign and domestic bicycling talent which will race at the in-ternational championships in the World's fair city in August will succeed in lowering the world's record for a mile to 1 minute 50 seconds, and that at least 30,000 people will attend the races daily. The great meeting will open Aug. 7 and close Aug. 12. John S. Johnson's alleged mile in 1 minute 56 seconds was not accepted by the L. A. W., and the world's record for the distance is held by W. W. Windle, whose last trial against time gave him a mark of 2 minutes 5 2-5 seconds. There was wonderful record breaking last year, but it seems hardly probable that the record the coming season will be lowered 15 seconds.

Schofield May Meet Zimmerman. British wheelmen believe that if any one lowers the colors of A. A. Zimmermen during his English tour. J. W. Schofield, a comparatively new comer, will be the man. Many British wheelmen think that Schofield is the fastest man in England today.

Tom Roe's Long Jaunt. On May 14 Tom Roe leaves New York equipped with the conventional number of legs and will endeavor to reach San Francisco in 65 days. EARLE H. EATON.

Getting Over It.

Lady-I suppose you're convalescent now, Ethel-No, thank you. I have been, but I'm better now.-Judy.

STUDENT SLOSSON RETIRES.

The Great Billiardist Will No Longer Play Publicly

With George F. Slosson in retirement and Jacob Schaefer crippled with a recent fall, billiards seems to be in a bad way in America. The atagment condition of affairs was well illustrated a few days ago when it was announced that Al Smith's offer of \$5,000 in cash prizes for a grand international bil-



flards tournament had finally been with-drawn because the American and foreign

drawn because the American and foreign experts had refused to compete. By the retirement of Slosson America loses one of its greatest billiardists. He is now 39 years of age and has been prominent in the world of billiards for over 20 years.

Slosson played his first public match at Springfield, Mass., in 1870, when he was a lad of 16, and was beaten by B. F. Dennison, then champion of Massachusetts. His first notable victory occurred at Indianapolis in October, 1873, when he defeated Wizard Jacob Schaefer. This victory and others soon placed Slosson in the first rank, and today Slosson, Schaefer and their young rival champion, Frank Ives, compose the rival champion, Frank Ives, compose the great billiards trio of America. In the course of his long career Slosson has defeated Ives, William Sexton, Maurice Vignaux, Maurice Daly, Joseph Dion and Albert Garnier.

DAHLEN OF CHICAGO'S TEAM.

He Is One of America's Best All Round Players.

One of Captain Anson's most valuable players in the Chicago club is William F. Dahlen. He is 22 years old, was born at Fort Plain, N. Y., and developed from a very promising amateur to a talented professional when still in his teens. He began playing ball for revenue only in 1890, and after a meteoric career in the New York state league he was secured for the Chicago club. In 1891 Dahlen played third base, left field and short stop, and in 185 championship pionship games demonstrated the

fact that he was an all around player of great shifty.

As a third baseman he particularly shone and closed the season ranking very well in batting and fielding. Dahlen was

Dahlen was promptly signed by Chicago for 1893 and played at the third bag for 68 games. He was W.F. DAMLEN. the best third baseman of the year carding high grade or excusence. He also led the Chicago club in batting, and on Sept. 19 at Baltimore he made four consecutive base hits, including a 3-bagger and a home run. Dahlen is now considered one of the best men on the diamond, and his reputation has all been won in about two years.

From Chicago to 'Frisco A. G. Bennett and C. S. Thomas will A. G. Bennett and C. S. Thomas will start from Chicago on June 1 and travel by train to El Paso, Tex., whence they will proceed on their bicycles across a very torrid stretch of country. They expect to reach San Francisco in 75 days. At this rate they will have to average 50 miles a day. These two riders are well known in Chicago. Bennett is one of the most prominent members of the Ravenswood Cycling club and one of the eight who rode in the first Pullman road race. Thomas is one of first Pullman road race. Thomas is one of the speedy riders of the Lake View club.

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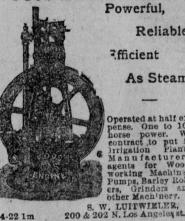
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