

IN THE STAGE VILLAIN BECOMES A RESPONSIBLE HUMAN BEING

WOES OF A HEAVY AS HE SEES THEM

HARRY VON METER AND HIS VIEWS OF HIS ART

The Tank of Brains and the Realistic. A Little Girl in San Francisco. Personality and Art, with the Stage Director Thrown In

BY WILLIAM HAMILTON CLINE TO REACH Harry von Meter in his dressing room at the Grand opera house one threads a labyrinth of scenery and props, and ascends a "limited edition" of the Angels' flight. Entering hesitatingly I found the man of many murders holding a bottle of Listerine in one hand while he pleasantly extended the other in welcome.

"Ah, a Listerine fiend," I said. "Is the habit one of the actor's curses, or—"

"Not at all," he replied, "though I drink about a pint a week of it. It seems to be the surest preventive of the sore throat bugbear."

"Are bighears very prevalent in the profession, then?"

"Not at all. They are the least of my troubles."

I scented his tack at once and followed it with the comment:

"All is not pleasure in the life of the actor who plays heavies?"

"Indeed, it is not! There is scarcely a performance that is not given almost at the risk of the player's life. It is a trying position at the best, and at the worst it's—"

He broke off with a laugh that was not at all like the villainous chuckle which has nightly floated across the footlights at the Grand opera house during the past few months.

"I have to laugh when I recall the 'tank' in 'How Baxter Butted In.' For two weeks I was thrown into the 'tank' nightly and at matinees, and the people who saw me said: 'That must be pretty cold, judging from the way he shivers.' To tell the truth, I wore an extra suit of underwear, and the warm water scarcely touched my skin. But on the night of the last performance I found that some one had stolen all my underwear, and I had to take my ducking without any. There was a strange 'guilt' in the air that night and I wondered why every one on the stage was gathered about the entrances. When I struck the water I found the reason fast enough. I was almost paralyzed with cold, for, as I afterward learned, the water had been chilled with 300 pounds of ice and salt. But, strangely enough, I am told by friends that I did not 'act' cold at all that night."

"Will you always look forward with horror to being thrown into tanks, hanged or shot?"

"No, for one gets accustomed to it. But there are times when I am weary of 'heavy' roles, and yearn for leading business. In my experience the leading man has a much easier and pleasanter time than the 'heavy.' The villain works up the plot with the adventures, gets the heroine into his clutches, drags her around the stage or threatens violence, and after he has worked hard for fifteen minutes or more and matters have reached a climax the heroine screams 'Help!' and the hero enters with a gun and a shout and gets all the glory."

"Likewise the salary?" I suggested.

"Likewise the salary," replied Mr. von Meter. "Yes, as I say, when I get tired, physically, I mean, then I long for leading roles. But after all, this has its compensations. Behind all the fuss and fury—"

von Meter stopped short, and I had not the least idea what he was intending to say. "So I waited."

"I was about to say that even the villain is rewarded with an occasional friend. One's personality—"

"But," I said, "you surely do not descend to play over the footlights. I have never seen you act out of your part for an instant."

"Oh, never," he replied, seriously. "That would be unpardonable from a professional point of view. The villain, if he is to be at all convincing, must act the part with the utmost intensity. But in spite of all there will be an occasional gleam of the real man through the red paint and the recognition of that momentary flash is al-



HARRY VON METER

most the sole compensation the 'heavy' receives."

I could see a story coming, so I asked:

"Then the public is ready to fraternize with the villain outside the theater?"

"Oh, yes. One meets the best and the worst of them. I shall not soon forget one little girl who called to see me at the Alcazar in San Francisco, just before the fire. Of course she wanted to go on the stage. I believe all girls have that desire at certain ages. Of course I persuaded her not to try until she was older, and she promised. I met her after the 'quake. She was in the bread line in Golden Gate park. She told me that her father, who had been a wealthy man, had lost everything. But she smiled as she said: 'I am glad I took your advice. Think of all those expensive wardrobes I had planned. They would have all been lost in the theater! I met her next day—'

"Pros!" rasped a voice outside the door and a red-haired boy entered with a double armful of daggers, guns, and other instruments of death. Looking at them, Van Meter blushed under his make-up.

"Do you use all those tonight?" I asked.

"Some are for use—some for show," he replied, "but they all go into the next twenty minutes' work. Imagine if you can the youngster coming from a dramatic school and having that armful of junk thrown down on his dressing table. Would he have heart to follow the profession after the experience?"

"How about yourself?"

"Oh, as for me, I have no illusions. It is not play for me. It is my life work. It's business."

"Then you don't indulge in dreams of 'starring' the country?"

"Decidedly no," and his jaw snapped in a manner that indicated the decisiveness of his opinions. I started professionally at Elitch's gardens in Denver under Walter Clark Bellevue. The summer productions there are the finest in the country, for all the 'stars' appear there. I mean the real stars like David Warfield, Wilton Lackaye, John Drew, Maude Adams and others of the same rank in the profession. But there are no stellar roles; each member of the company does his best to make the performance a perfect and properly balanced production. A 'star' in a stock company is the death of all concerted work. One man or woman shines at the expense of the whole company, and the public soon tires of seeing a vainglorious mummer surrounded by a company of mere puppets."

"Do you originate your own business or are the business and temperament supplied by the director?"

"Well, now, that is another case of 'star.' The director must be a consummate actor, that he may realize the

value of every detail of the play. But in stock work he cannot give the player his personality. That belongs solely to the actor, and the director who tries to make the actor force his personality into every character makes a fatal mistake. There must be sympathy and confidence between actor and player, but the director who endeavors to dictate every step, every gesture and inflection, may as well attempt to put on a play with a company of mechanical toys. The director is the captain of the ship, but—"

"Overture!"

It was the red-haired boy again.

"I must go down now," said Mr. Van Meter. "I open the act."

"Wait," I said. "What about that girl in 'Frisco'?"

He was half way down the flight, and as he turned and looked up at me over his shoulder, he was far from the villain that one sees over the footlights.

"Ah, she was one out of many! God bless them all."

SHORTAGE IN OIL SUPPLY

Board of Public Works Finds Big Advance in Cost of Product for Streets

The contract for 33,000 barrels of oil to be used for street improvements during the year has not yet been let by the board of public works and will not until the board is thoroughly satisfied that the prices demanded by the

only two bidders, John Ott and Harris & Co., are as cheap as can be secured.

Yesterday the board of public works and the board will have a conference to decide the letting of the contract.

Yesterday both Ott and Harris appeared before the board and explained that their bids were as cheap as the city could expect to buy oil. The lowest bid submitted was for 94 cents a barrel. As the last lot bought by the

barrel cost only 65 cents a barrel, they are at a loss to account for the great increase in price.

The big oil companies have refused to submit bids at all, claiming that they can get more than \$1.00 a barrel for their product and that they would not consider a city contract for any price. The oil producers say that the price has gone up because of a shortage. The demand has increased so much over the supply that all commands a big price. It rose seven cents in Texas Tuesday.

PORK CHOP CAUSES TRAGEDY

Italian Gets It Instead of Steak and Tries to Slay the Waiter

Special to The Herald. MILWAUKEE, Oct. 17.—Because when he wanted a hamburger steak he was served with a pork chop Vespo Rocco, an Italian who came here from Carigo two days ago, tried to kill Jasper Carigo, a waiter, and today was arraigned in the district court on a charge of assault with intent to commit murder. The testimony showed that Rocco came into a restaurant in the Italian quarter and called for chopped meat, meaning a hamburger. The waiter brought him pork chops. Rocco flew into a rage and refused to accept the order. Then he quieted down and offered to buy drinks, asking Caro to drink with him. When the waiter approached Rocco drew a knife and struck him in the breast, inflicting a serious but not dangerous wound. Caro is in the hospital. Rocco fled, but was captured.

POLICE BY TELEPHONE HEAR A WOMAN BEATEN

Special to The Herald. DENVER, Oct. 17.—Capt. Dooley answered a telephone call at the police station this afternoon. From the other end of the line came a succession of shrieks of "Save me!" and the sound of blows. Then the telephone was disconnected.

The captain learned that the call came from 1320 South Tremont street and Policeman Hoyt was hustled to that address. He found that Robert Nell, a plumber, had quarreled with his wife, and that while she was attempting to telephone he had attacked her.

Nell saw the policeman coming and fled from the back door. Hoyt chased him ten blocks before he got him. The wife, although covered with the marks of her beating, refused to appear against her husband.

SOCIALISTS TO MEET AND DISCUSS ISSUES OF THE CAMPAIGN

Socialists will gather in Simpson auditorium tonight.

Resident candidates on the state ticket and the candidates on the county ticket will be on the platform to deliver five-minute speeches on the issues and the conduct of the campaign.

Among the speakers will be Frank L. Wheat, candidate for lieutenant-governor; Claude Riddle, candidate for congress; G. W. Downing, candidate for attorney general, and E. W. Tuttle, candidate for presiding justice of appellate court.

Arrest Land Promoter

By Associated Press. NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 17.—Rev. A. M. Kelly, promoter of the Beulah religious land settlement in Dickson county, Tenn., was arrested, charged with using the mails to defraud.

BELL STARTS ON HIS AUTO TOUR

TEN BIG MACHINES WILL CARRY PARTY

Candidate Will Make Speeches at Covina, Monrovia, El Monte, Puente, and Finish the Day at Pomona

Bright and early this morning Theodore A. Bell will begin his two days' automobile tour of Los Angeles county.

All arrangements for the event were completed yesterday by Chairman Schwamm and Secretary Garvin of the Democratic county central committee.

At 7:30 this morning ten automobiles, containing Democratic committeemen and friends of Mr. Bell, will gather on Third street, between Main and Spring, and leave at once for Monrovia.

In the front machine, which will be that of Joseph Simons, will be placed the immense bell which Mr. Simons brought from Pasadena and used as a noise producer at the recent Democratic county convention, and which on this occasion will be used to proclaim the approach to the various towns along the route of the next governor of California.

Mr. Bell will reach Monrovia from Ontario at 8:30 this morning, and it is the intention of Chairman Schwamm to have the automobiles there in readiness for the day's run.

The trip today will be up the San Gabriel valley as far as Pomona. Stops will be made at Covina, El Monte, Puente and other points during the morning and afternoon.

Pomona will be reached late in the afternoon, and a public reception probably will be held before the speech making at that point.

Tomorrow another automobile tour will be made up the San Fernando valley. Stops will be made at Glendale, Burbank and other towns. In the evening Mr. Bell will speak at Pasadena.

Chairman Schwamm has devoted considerable time to the meeting at Pasadena, as it will mark the close of Mr. Bell's campaign in Southern California. The meeting will be held in a tent, and it is expected that an overflow meeting will be necessary.

Committees representing the county central committee, which will have charge of the great demonstration planned for November 3, were busily engaged yesterday in mapping out their plans for the event, which promises to be the greatest political affair that has ever occurred in Los Angeles county.

BELL DRAWS BIG CROWDS AT MEETINGS HELD AT UPLAND AND ONTARIO

Special to The Herald. SAN BERNARDINO, Oct. 17.—Theodore A. Bell, the Democratic nominee for governor, today continued his successful tour in this district.

Yesterday he held in San Bernardino one of the most successful political gatherings that have ever occurred here, and today he captured both Upland and Ontario.

At each of these places he was greeted by large and enthusiastic crowds. Mr. Bell dwelt particularly upon the manner in which the fruit and grain growers are placed at the mercy of the railroad companies, and his denunciation of the methods employed by the Southern Pacific bosses at Santa Cruz was heartily cheered.

Tomorrow Mr. Bell will make an automobile trip through the San Gabriel valley and speak at Pomona in the evening.

DISGUSTED WITH BOSSES, OLD LINE REPUBLICAN WILL VOTE FOR BELL

Another Republican has come out squarely against the Southern Pacific machine ticket and in favor of Theodore A. Bell.

James W. Merrill, who has been a straight-out Republican since the organization of the party, has declared his intention of casting his vote for Bell.

Merrill, who is 84 years old, now lives at 1210 Iolo street. For years he was a resident of Maine. He was an old-time friend of James G. Blaine and served with Blaine in the legislature before the Plumed Knight began his national political career.

More the Republican party was organized Mr. Merrill was a Whig. He declares that he is thoroughly disgusted with machine politics in California and that he will cast his first Democratic vote for Bell.

NON-PARTISANS ANNOUNCE MUCH ENTHUSIASM AT EDENDALE

One of the best meetings thus far held by the non-partisan county candidates was that at Edendale Tuesday night.

The hall was packed almost to suffocation, and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed.

Dr. W. A. Lamb, candidate for superior judge of the Third district; Ben E. Ward, for assessor; J. B. Millard, for superintendent of schools, and Marshall Stinson, for the legislature from the Seventy-fourth district, were the speakers.

Mr. Ward spoke for an hour, and he presented facts which the machine cannot refute. Mr. Ward is being supported by the Pasadena News, published at the home of Cal Hartwell, Mr. Ward's opponent.

CHICAGO'S REGISTRATION

By Associated Press. CHICAGO, Oct. 17.—The second and last day of registration in Chicago put 138,550 names on the enrollment books, bringing the total of voters entitled to vote the county, municipal and sanitary tickets November 6 up to 347,074. This is a decrease of 55,899 from two years ago.

Advertisement for Allegretti's Chocolates. You Can Buy Allegretti's Chocolates Here—Fresh From the Factory; 75c a Pound. Crinkled Seersuckers 12 1/2c Yd.

Advertisement for Crinkled Seersuckers. Suits or waists to make for the children? A housegown or petticoat for yourself? Buy crinkled seersucker—the real old-fashioned sort, that wears splendidly, and needs only to be shaken out after washing to be ready for use.

Advertisement for Toilet Soaps. Sale of Toilet Soaps Unless otherwise stated, all boxes contain three cakes, separately wrapped. Palm Olive Soap, made from pure California olives; regularly at 15c a cake; now 20c box of three.

Advertisement for Paper. 25c Paper 15c Box Many of our customers have learned to depend upon us as implicitly for their better stationery supplies as for silks or dress goods. To them, and to others who may not know our resources, we make this special offer: Linen finish correspondence paper (white only), with new long flap square envelopes; Coulter Dry Goods Company's special brand, at 15c for the usual 25c box. Displayed in an entrance window today.

Advertisement for PAVING WANTED ON EAST SIDE. PROPERTY OWNERS ANXIOUS FOR IMPROVEMENT. Increased Number of Building Permits Granted—Paving Adds to Value of Frontage—Recent Realty Deals

Table showing permits issued from the building superintendent's office Wednesday, classified according to wards. Ward, Permits, Value. First 1, \$1,530; Second 1, \$8,900; Third 2, \$3,250; Fourth 2, \$12,993; Fifth 2, \$7,765; Sixth 2, \$50; Seventh 6, \$390; Eighth 3, \$2,875; Ninth 3, \$2,875; Totals 29, \$33,940.

Advertisement for Want Hooper Avenue Paved. Rapid progress in the paving of Central avenue south from Twelfth street has been made by the contractor during the past ten days, and already property owners in the enhanced value of property fronting on the avenue and along the side streets. Central will be paved to the southern limits of the city, and when the work is completed the avenue will be the longest paved thoroughfare in Los Angeles. It is one of the main arteries within the limits of the city, and as the southeast industrial district develops traffic along the avenue becomes heavier. Much of the teaming is done on Hooper avenue, several blocks east of Central avenue, and many property owners are anxious to have that thoroughfare paved at the earliest possible date.

Advertisement for Realty Deals Closed. W. H. Parkhurst has sold to Mrs. Ida Hoff, through the agency of Black Bros., a lot 62x117 feet on the south side of Orange street, beginning eighty feet east of Union avenue. Consideration, \$6,600. The property is improved with an eight-room frame dwelling, well rented. A local syndicate has paid W. R. Arnold \$38,000 for the lot on the southeast corner of Eleventh and Olive streets. The lot is 45x120 feet, and is improved with a flat building. The Eliza Bonnell residence at 315 West Adams street has been purchased for a permanent home by George H. Peck, president of the Bank of San Pedro. The consideration was \$18,000.

Advertisement for DYING, SHE GOES INTO TRANCE; AWAKES WELL. Special to The Herald. NAZARETH, Pa., Oct. 17.—A case that has aroused considerable comment among the public and medical men is that of Mrs. William Moser of Altoona, who fell into a trance when at the point of death and came out of it a healthy woman. For four years Mrs. Moser was sickly. She could hardly do any work, and her condition grew so serious that three months ago she took to her bed. All that medical aid could do had no im-

Advertisement for BRAZILIAN RIVAL OF BURBANK GETS PATENT ON A PLANT. Special to The Herald. CHICAGO, Oct. 17.—Burbank, the California "plant wizard," has a rival in V. A. de Perina of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who has just secured an American patent, through the agency of Chicago attorneys, upon a plant which he claims to have "invented." The grant of such a patent is said to be unprecedented.

Advertisement for WHITE HOUSE IN NEW DRESS. Washington's Historic Pile Has Been Renovated From Attic to Basement. Special to The Herald. WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—Since the president and his family returned to the capitol from Oyster Bay they found it in a state of decay. A constant watch was kept over her, and within an hour of the three days mentioned she awoke. Without help she arose, dressed, started to walk around and eat. The next day she began doing her own household work.

Advertisement for BRIDGE WHIST STIRS UP ROW. Society Players Who Fail to Pay Their Losses Are Ostracized in Ohio Towns. Special to The Herald. ZANESVILLE, O., Oct. 12.—Bridge whist has torn this otherwise peaceful and law-abiding city from end to end. So fierce has the commercial spirit of the game become that women who do not pay their debts are ostracized. They are dunned for the debt with more firmness than the grocer or the butcher would dare to use, and refusals to settle are direful.

Advertisement for Law of Compensation. Lady—Oh, those awful automobiles. It's simply terrible to read how an aged woman was killed by a car near Trouville yesterday. Chauffeur—My dear madam, if you read on a little further you will see that an automobile was killed near Chateau Thierry. That makes things even.—Rire.

Advertisement for Perfection Oil Heater. What You Can Do With This Oil Heater. With a Perfection Oil Heater you can heat a cold bed-room, make a sick-room more comfortable, warm a chilly hallway, heat water quickly, and do many things better than can be done with any other stove no matter what fuel it burns. The superiority of the PERFECTION Oil Heater (Equipped with Smokeless Device) is in the fact that it generates intense heat without smoke or smell. The oil found in the wick or burner is made of brass throughout, which insures durability. Gives great heat at small cost. Fuel has oil indicator and handle. Heater is light and portable. Absolutely safe and simple—wick cannot be turned too high or too low. Operated as easily as a lamp. All parts easily cleaned. Two fuel-burners—nickel and brass. Every heater warranted. If not at your dealer's write nearest agency if you cannot get it from your dealer. The Rayo Lamp can be used in any room and is the best all-around house lamp made. Gives a steady light and is the safest lamp you can buy. Brass throughout and nickel plated. Re-equipped with the latest improved burner. Handsome—simple—factory. Every lamp warranted. Write to nearest agency if you cannot get it from your dealer. STANDARD OIL COMPANY