

The Theaters THE BONDMAN PROVES A CLUMSY MELODRAMA

"THE BONDMAN," a melodrama in four acts, dramatized by Hall Caine from his novel of like name, presented last night on the stage of the Mason opera house for the first time in Los Angeles by Wilton Lackaye and his company.

THE CAST Jason... Mr. Lackaye Michael Sunlocks... Sidney Ayres Mrs. Fairbrother... Mrs. H. D. Byers Adam Fairbrother... Mr. Byers Grella... Miss Elsie Ferguson Mona... Miss Beatrice Ferguson Danny... Master Rowland Wallace Father Ferrati... Ethebert Hales Grandfather... Hal de Forrest Christian Anne... Miss Blanche Nepling John Robert... James Keller John James... H. A. Merriam Dora Callow... Miss Elsie Ferguson Lucy Callow... Miss Sue Danvers Lykens... Nevin Clark Thomas... Fred Hester Lisa... Miss May Evans Susie... Miss Katherine Wallace Marshall of Ustica... James A. Boshell Doctor Bond... Charles C. Brandt Housekeeper... Ellen Gibson Captain Campese... Elsworth Ellis Lucia... Miss Minnie Hendricks

BY SIDLE LAWRENCE WILTON LACKAYE, whose last visit to Los Angeles was, I believe, in "The Pit," and who now returns as Jason in "The Bondman," appears to be wasting his abilities upon a play that is by no means worthy of him. "The Bondman" is a sensational melodrama, faulty in construction and not to be regarded seriously. Not having read the book I was at a loss, last night, to conjecture what it was all about, for the story is presented, as it were, through a fog which lifts and falls, obscuring much that might make understandable its incidents.

In the third act, for instance, the playwright has failed to explain the most melodramatic climax of his play. Something happens in the sulphur mines. There are a number of explosions. Everybody runs away, leaving Jason and his blinded half-brother behind them. Then Jason picks up his brother and carries him off the stage. Evidently they are supposed to be in dire peril, but from what I do not know. Perhaps there had been a cave-in; or perhaps the peril is one which confronts only those unfortunates who mine for sulphur and is something calamitous of which we have never heard. Personally I am still in ignorance.

The Isle of Man "The Bondman" opens in the Isle of Man and the melodramatic note is sounded early in the play. It is mild melodrama, however, when compared with what is to follow. In the first act Mr. Lackaye enters attired in the uncouth garb of a Sicilian sailor. He has deserted from his ship to fulfill a vow of vengeance which obligates him to commit a murder. The coast guards are after him, but he is hidden away from the betrothed of his half brother, the very man whom he has sworn to kill.

There follows an entire act lapse of three years and when again rises we see a rehabilitated Jason, reckless of his oath and much in love with the woman whom his half brother has deserted. To the girl he proposes marriage and she, persuaded by her family and believing herself cast off by the man she loves, promises to become his wife. Jason hurries away to procure the license, but while he is gone letters arrive from Sicily, announcing his half brother's death, whence the brother's accession to the presidency of the island and begging his sweetheart to come to him. This she prepares to do and the curtain falls upon Jason on his knees again swearing to prosecute his old oath.

Scene Shifts to Sicily Jason follows the girl to Sicily and through the aid of political conspirators secures a place as servant in the president's home. There he is discovered and is denounced by the woman he loves and who is now his half brother's wife. He is sent to the sulphur mines where the president soon follows him, having been exposed from office and sentenced as a political prisoner.

Here the brothers meet for the first time as fellow prisoners and allow themselves to be rescued by the president, now blind, is recaptured somewhere between the third and last acts and is transported to Lonely Island. His wife follows and finding her husband a prisoner in the home of a priest, secures service there as a housekeeper, her identity being kept secret. Later Jason arrives, bringing with him a knowledge of his brother's fate. The former president, it seems, is to be executed, but Jason gets him and the woman away, remaining behind as bondman for the prisoner's safe return.

The deception is discovered and Jason himself is about to be shot when the melodramatic secret of his birth is revealed by the priest to the official who has ordered the execution and who is really Jason's grandfather and who stays the execution and the melodrama is done.

The play is a conventional thriller, remarkable only for the reason that it is better played than it is with such productions. Mr. Lackaye is too expert an actor to do anything badly and it is his achievement in this melodrama that almost makes the thing real. Of the supporting company Miss Elsie Ferguson as the wife, Ethebert Hales as the priest and Hal de Forrest as grandfather are in good work. Miss Ferguson is a comely young woman of obvious possibilities. She should, however, devote some time to studying voice culture.

"Patinitza" is the tabloid opera at the Unique this week, several naval numbers being interpolated for the entertainment of sea visitors. Maude Beatty sings "Stars and Stripes and You" in rousing fashion and George Rehn offers "The Girls of the U. S. A." Kate Carlson sings "Little Tom, Kim" and is seen also in a dance number.

The current farce is "Cummings' Colt," an absurdity by Richard Cummings, who is himself cast as a rube just returned from her vacation, is seen in the bill for the first time in several weeks. Two big audiences last night found both "Patinitza" and "Cummings' Colt" much to their liking.

James P. Lee is under engagement at the Unique, to open next month. He will produce one act comedies, succeeding Mr. Cummings as stage director.

"FLORODORA" IS WELL DONE AT AUDITORIUM

"FLORODORA," a musical comedy in two acts and three scenes, book by Owen Hall, lyrics by Ernest Boyd-Jones and Paul Rubens and music by Leslie Stuart, presented last night at the Auditorium theater by the Edgar Temple opera company.

THE CAST Cyrus W. Gilfillan... Harry Cashman Captain Arthur Donegal... Alfred MacGahan Frank Berce... Miss Edna Maison Leandro... Elliott Beamer Anthony Tweedle... Fritz Fields Dolores... Miss Edna Maison Lady Holyrod... Miss Laura Wallace Angela Gilfillan... Miss Edna Maison Valleda... Miss Grace Vance Consuelita... Miss Lillian Leighton William... Phil Brook Tenyson Sims... Robert Leonard Paul Crogan... Will McLaughlin Ernest Fym... Charles Dudley John Scott... Arthur K. Wyatt Miss Appelbaum... George J. Lantz Reginald Langdale... Con Forbes Clare Fitzlance... Suzanne Boyd Lucy Ling... Bess Taylor Daisy Chain... Eldrie Gilmore Cynthia Belmont... Martha Mershon Frankie Howe... Ellen Gibson Lottie Chalmers... Marjorie English

BY FLORENCE BOSARD LAWRENCE I WANT to be a U. S. naval man; I want to be a U. S. naval man. These words set to the music of "The Military Man" formed an appropriate and effective finale to the production of "Florodora," as sung by the Edgar Temple opera company Monday night at the Auditorium.

The entire opera was interspersed with lines, songs and dances which bore complimentary witness to the presence here of the great feet. A large proportion of the audience was made up of men and officers from the ships now in the various ports of Los Angeles and they testified by frequent applause to their appreciation of the situations.

Costumes Are Picturesque Mr. Temple has supplied novel and picturesque costumes for this opera, and the book, with its store of epigrams, offers all the characters an opportunity for getting a laugh. Musically "Florodora" gives better showing to several of the principals than they had in the company's first offering here, and the choruses, with their swing and lilt, are familiar and welcome to all listeners.

Eleanor Kent in the role of Dolores has rather less singing than her admirers will like, but she partly atones for that by some extremely fetching costumes. The character is one in which her pronounced brunette style is most effective. In her entrance solo, sung partially behind the scenes, her voice showed excellent control and great strength, and later in the solo, "Queen of the Philippine Islands," she was gorgeous in total effect, as well as in the dramatic interpretation of her song.

Willard Clawston as Abercree had splendid songs to sing, and his fine baritone voice delighted his audience. In the duet with Miss Kent, "Somebody," both were deservedly encored. In "The Shade of the Palm," that favorite solo for solos of his range, he really scored quite a triumph, although he had to contend with an orchestra which either through malice or ignorance refused to follow his gradations in tempo.

Miss Wallace is Piquant Clara Wallace played Lady Holyrod with all the piquancy which the part demands. "When Love Comes to Town," and "Tact," her assumption of the affected airs of the society widow was excellent, and the trio, "I Want to Marry a Man, I Do," with Harry Cashman and Fritz Fields included an amusing dance.

Alfred MacGahan was hardly at home in the part of Arthur, but his songs were all enthusiastically received and it is evident that he has already won the approval of his audience. He sang the solo to the finale, "The Military Man," using the revised naval wording, and in officer's blouse and cap gave the song with a zest and spirit which left it ringing in the ears and caused it to be whistled and hummed on all sides as the audience left the house.

Fields is Funny Fritz Fields—if I only could present you with his photograph—was funny all through the piece in the part of Tweedlepunk, but he was even funnier as himself in the last act, when he tried to remove his disguise and got his makeup wig off too, thus giving Harry Cashman a chance to offer him hairpins. His comedy is always clean and its apparent spontaneity is a most enjoyable feature. He has a necktie which is a joy to behold and his manipulation of the so-called musical instruments in the duet with Dolores is a convulsing satire upon the freak musical bands of vaudeville.

Harry Cashman as the rich perfume maker with social ambitions, gave an admirable performance and his song, "The Millionaire," won round after round of applause, even though he was a little indefinite in some of his lines.

Edna Maison was a sprightly and pretty Angela, and went through the usual "Gee whang," with apparently tireless vivacity and unperturbed vocalization.

The "Pretty Maiden" sextet bids fair to quite rival the famous original sextet in prettiness and chic. Bruce Gordon Kingsley played the "Poet and Peasant" overture upon the grand organ between the first and second acts, and his latest composition, the playlet, "The Hill Sisters sing Joe Montrose's 'My Yankee Sailor Boy,'" last night accorded triple encore by the opening house, and Franks, imitating a droll as an Irish-American sailor, had talks "Yankee Doodle Dandy" humorously as ever George Cohan did, though Franks can't sink a note. Eugene Topping, cast as the sultan does a good bit of character acting and his makeup is exceedingly realistic. John Zimmer with some juggling and ball bouncing stunts, motion pictures and the Hill sisters in their usual allotment of songs, complete a satisfactory bill.

Headquarters for Silks and Dress Goods. Both Phones Exchange 337. The Broadway Department Store Broadway, Cor. 4th.; Los Angeles. Arthur Letts.

After-Easter Clearance Spring Suits

Great Price Sweep at \$10, \$15 and \$20

Word comes from our buyer in the east—"Make way for new goods arriving; thousands of dollars worth of the prettiest sort of summer garments coming forward in express shipments." That means clearance of spring lines now in stock. A broad, sweeping movement—three great price lots, \$10, \$15 and \$20. It's to be an after Easter Clearance of four days, beginning today. In every instance prices are so decidedly reduced that buying will be on the sensational order. We've planned for the biggest event of the season. Extra salespeople and extra facilities for quick service. Remember values are just exactly as we state them to be. Note the wonderful values. Come early if you can, but by all means be here, if only for comparison.

Lot 1—Women's Suits \$10 \$17.50 to \$20 Values, Price

Half fitting, panama and voile suits in blue, brown, black and mixtures; also beautiful checks and stripes. Not a garment worth less than \$17.50, and the values range to \$20. It's an Easter clearance price; \$10 each will create a stir. Come with the crowds to the second floor. Plenty of salespeople to assist you.

Lot 2—Women's Suits \$15 \$22.50 to \$30.00 Values

Three and 4-button cutaway coat styles, fancy buttons, collar and cuff, Rajah silk, also short tight fitting coat styles with fancy cuff and collar, edged with piping of velvet and semi-fitting coats; suitable for misses' wear. Skirts are in the latest pleated and gored styles. These suits are of serge mixtures and panamas; not a one you could buy in the regular way under \$22.50; and they range in value up to \$30. For this clearance sale \$15 each.



Lot 3—Women's Suits \$20 \$30 to \$50 Values, Reduced to

Beautiful suits of panama and serge, in plain and fancy weaves. The season's leading shades of blue, brown, champagne. Coat suits that are smartly tailored, trimmed with straps and buttons. Many with the new sleeves and vest effects. Skirts are new values. They'll all be in this one lot at \$20, beginning today.

A Great \$1 Waist Sale Is Attracting Crowds \$1.00 The Values are Matchless

"They are the finest waists I ever saw at such a price, and there are more of them than you usually find in a sale." These are expressions we hear frequently. Why, there isn't a one in the lot you could choose that isn't wonderful value at \$1. The most of them worth two and three times the price we are asking. The finest of lawn and lingerie, daintily trimmed with lace and embroidery. Sale price \$1.

Short Challie Kimonos, Real \$1.00 Values 69c This is a Wednesday flyer. Japanese and Persian patterns, good variety and colors.



singing comedienne." One of her songs concludes: "I want to be a U. S. naval man. But it's getting me the money. So I don't care."

Really she isn't as bad as that, though her colloquy with the trap man in the orchestra might well be omitted. It is painfully unfunny and it is somewhat coarse.

Ida O'Day sings a little and plays the banjo a little. She has a winsome personality, which seems to be her most valuable stage asset.

The hoodlums are Rosaire and Doretto, Fred Sosman, Brown and Navarro and the three Sisters Macarte.

There's no questioning the hit made by the Five Musical Hawaiians at Fischer's last night, for the way they were encored was so sincere and insistent that it was almost impossible to go on with the rest of the show.

The dusky sons and daughters of the new island territory sang their native songs, played their native instruments and generally made themselves popular.

Then some fight pictures delighted the sailor players in "The Queen's Dilemma," a comedy well staged and replete with musical numbers.

The prettiest number of the show, and for the matter of it, the best thing she has offered in weeks, is "Under the Jungle Moon," presented by Miss Bessie Tannehill and the chorus. Miss Jardine's "Merry Merry" provided a fitting pictorial accompaniment for the beautifully sung love tale of the tropics. Other songs of moment were "I Want to Be a Sailor Boy" by Nellie Montgomery and chorus, "All You Get from the Ice-man" by George Morrell and chorus, and "I Love You So" by Evan Baldwin.

"Everybody laughs" is the motto at the Empire this week. The start of the "laugh" comes when Charles Morrell, banjoist and old-time minstrel man, presents his stunts. Byron and May with their "Matrimonial Swaps in Family Jew" continue it, and "The Sultan and the Sailor," a nonsensical burletta which gives Al Franks a star part and introduces the feminine cast in the bifurcated garments of the harem, completes the job. Incident to the playlet, the Hill sisters sing Joe Montrose's "My Yankee Sailor Boy," last night accorded triple encore by the opening house, and Franks, imitating a droll as an Irish-American sailor, had talks "Yankee Doodle Dandy" humorously as ever George Cohan did, though Franks can't sink a note. Eugene Topping, cast as the sultan does a good bit of character acting and his makeup is exceedingly realistic. John Zimmer with some juggling and ball bouncing stunts, motion pictures and the Hill sisters in their usual allotment of songs, complete a satisfactory bill.

MEXICAN SHOT BY RIVAL FOR GIRL'S AFFECTIONS Jose B. Carrasco, a Mexican laborer, was taken to the receiving hospital last night from 2416 1/2 Porter street for treatment for a gunshot wound in the fleshy part of the upper left arm.

Carrasco accuses Gregoria Guerrero, a rival for the affections of the Westlake chapter, of having fired the shot which wounded him. He was calling on Senorita Vasquez at her home last night and just as he was leaving a man stepped from the darkness and placing the muzzle of a pistol against his breast, fired. Carrasco twisted to one side and the bullet went through the muscles of his arm.

Pure Food Show at Fiesta Park a Success



THE Pure Food show, beginning Monday night at Fiesta park, is a decided success. Yesterday there were fully 5000 people in attendance at the grand display of eatables, and the free vaudeville show, to the success of which the ventriloquist, Lee C. Barrow, Wiley's brass band and the Hawaiian sextet, contribute largely.

All the booths were fitted up in good order last night and the large attendance included many sailor boys who were much amazed with the display. A street parade of fifty wagons laden with pure food displays will be made Monday afternoon.

A baby show will be held next Tuesday afternoon, and the infantile winner will be awarded a trophy cup.

The exhibitors are urging that the show be an annual affair instead of biennial, and that Los Angeles be selected as headquarters.

Encouraging features thus far prompt the management of the show to hold it three instead of two weeks, as originally planned.

President Castro of Venezuela Issues Decree Stating That Shipping Will Be Handled Only at Puerto Cabello

P. E. O. SOCIETY WILL BEGIN WORK TODAY

CONVENTION TO START THIS MORNING

Sessions Will Close with Brilliant Reception Friday Night. Fine Program Is Arranged

The fifth annual convention of the California grand chapter of the P. E. O. sorority will open this evening at the Ebel, continuing morning, afternoon and evening sessions today, Thursday and Friday. The convention will close with a brilliant reception to be given Friday evening.

The P. E. O., which have four chapters in the city and fifteen in the state, will be entertained by the Westlake chapter, of which Mrs. Lou H. Francis is president. Among the many towns represented are Glendale, Hollywood, Long Beach, Redondo, Santa Ana, Riverside, Pomona, Berkeley, Alhambra.

Mrs. Carry M. Peterson of Aurora, Neb., supreme president, and Mrs. Lillian Parmele of Plattsmouth, Neb., chairman of the department of education, are the house guests of Mrs. George P. Brown of Westmore avenue, who entertained with a reception Saturday afternoon for members of the California chapters.

PLAGUE CAUSES CLOSING OF PORT OF LA GUAYRA

President Castro of Venezuela Issues Decree Stating That Shipping Will Be Handled Only at Puerto Cabello

By Associated Press. CARACAS, via Willemstad, Island of Curacao, April 21.—President Castro issued a decree yesterday to the following effect: "The port of La Guayra will be closed for fifteen days pending a report of the sanitary board there because there have been three deaths and twelve cases of an unknown tubercular fever."

"Importation and exportation will be allowed only through Puerto Cabello. Nine of the present cases, with their families, have been removed to the Cabo Blanco hospital. The governor has ordered that measures of sanitation be applied to La Guayra."

Although Minister Russell had intended to sail for New York on April 27 on his annual leave of absence, long since granted by the state department, it is now possible that the exigencies of the present very delicate diplomatic situation make his going inadvisable until congress makes some definite decision as to what it is going to do with the Venezuelan question.

MAN FROM BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY IS VICTIM

Fred Johansson, Sailmaker's Mate, Struck by Santa Fe Locomotive Near First Street Viaduct and Soon Expires

Fred Johansson, a sailmaker's mate aboard the battleship New Jersey, now anchored off Long Beach, was run over and fatally injured shortly before 4 o'clock yesterday morning by a Santa Fe switch engine at the First street viaduct.

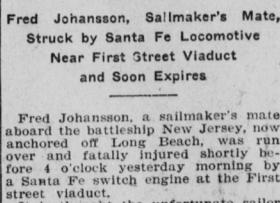
It is thought the unfortunate sailor had lost his way and was wandering about the railroad yards endeavoring to reach the street, when he was run down.

Engineer Robert Hart of engine No. 2026 heard a shriek of agony. He quickly shut off the steam and brought the ponderous locomotive to a stop, and together with his fireman, W. L. Price, went back to make an investigation.

They found the unfortunate man, his body terribly mangled and almost cut in two. He was still alive and was muttering, but his words were unintelligible. He was taken from beneath the wheels and died shortly afterward.

SICK HEADACHE

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