

# BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS

A PERSPECTIVE OF THE STAGE AND STAGE PEOPLE—LOCAL THEATRICALS

## MAN OF HOUR MAKES A HIT

A Crowded House Witnesses Splendid Play Finely Presented at the Grand.

A large number of theatre-goers saw one of the best plays that has ever been presented at the Grand opera house in William A. Brady's and Joseph R. Grismer's "The Man of the Hour," a thoroughly entertaining and exciting modern society drama. All were loud in their praise of the play and the exceedingly clever and artistic manner in which it was presented by a strong company.

The political graft system is again brought before us in this play, and it is said in a very forceful way, the scene may be considered to be in a large city that has had an honest mayor nominated by the political machine of either party.

The story of "The Man of the Hour" involves the fortune of both the heroine and her brother, and the fact is held over the head of the mayor by way of forcing him to the will of his party's boss. Many other powerful influences are brought to bear, but the mayor resists them all. The fact of his resistance is then used to show the heroine that he is opposing the railway franchise for the purpose of personal gain, even at the cost of the fortune of herself and all her friends. This has the effect of breaking the engagement between the mayor and the heroine, and influencing her to accept the advances of Mr. Gibbs, one of the promoters of the franchise graft.

At The Grand Tonight



MISS MINNIE WHITTAKER, IN "THE GOVERNOR'S PARDON."

### WITH MANSFIELD

Was Manager Vernon and the Experience Helped Him to Succeed.

Benjamin B. Vernon, manager of the Vernon Stock Company, which comes to the Grand opera house next week, claims that his success in the amusement world has largely been due to the three years he was associated on the business staff of the late Richard Mansfield.

While Mr. Vernon has played a great many parts, he has never considered himself an actor as his talents have proved more successful in the managerial line, but it is amusing to hear him relate his experiences with the eccentric Mr. Mansfield, and he authoritatively states that constant association with an artistic man as Mr. Mansfield watching him in his careful and constant study of parts would make any man in commercial life an actor.

### ADDED TO SUCCESSES

Corinne has added to her many stage successes in the title role of "Lola from Berlin," under the management of Klaw & Erlanger.

### THREE LOSE LIVES.

VALLEGO, Calif., Sept. 19.—It is believed three men lost their lives in a gasoline fire in the navy yard yesterday. Theo. May, chief machinist, was burned to death, and a gunboat boy and an Italian laborer are missing and are believed to be dead. The fire caused a loss of \$20,000.

### NO COURT TODAY.

The county court did not hold a session today but will reconvene Monday morning upon the arrival of all the members in the city.

A marriage license was issued Friday to Walter Hickman and Gatha M. Nutum.

## WHAT SOUSA'S BAND WILL PLAY MONDAY

Following is the program of the concert that will be rendered by John Philip Sousa's band at the Grand opera house Monday afternoon:

John Philip Sousa.....Conductor  
Miss Lucy Allen.....Soprano  
Miss Rose Rose Reichard.....Violinist  
Mr. Herbert L. Clark.....Cornetist

Overture—"Poet and Peasant." Suppe  
Cornet Solo—"Rondo Caprice" (new)  
Clarke Suite—"Looking Upward" (New).....Sousa  
(a) By the Light of the Polar Star.  
(b) Under the Southern Cross.  
(c) Mars and Venus.  
Aria for Soprano—"Roberto".....Meyerbeer

Miss Lucy Allen.  
Plantation Songs and Dances.....Chambers  
Intermission.  
Valse—"On the Banks of the Beautiful Danube".....Strauss  
(a) Humoreske (new).....Dvorak  
(b) March—"The Fairest of the Fair" (new).....Sousa  
(Written especially for the 1908 Boston Food Fair.)  
Violin Solo—"Souvenir de Haydn".....Mendelssohn  
"Ride of the Valkyries" from "Die Walkure".....Wagner

Following is the program for the night concert:  
Second Polonaise.....Liszt  
Cornet Solo—"Caprice Brillante".....Meyerbeer

Mr. Herbert L. Clarke.  
Suite—"The Last Days of Pompeii".....Sousa  
Soprano—"Card Song" from "The Bride-Elect".....Sousa  
Miss Lucy Allen.  
Kammermel Ostraw.....Rubenstein  
Intermission.  
Scherzo from "Midsummer Night's Dream".....Mendelssohn  
(a) Scherzino.....Mozzkowski  
(b) March—"The Fairest of the Fair" (new).....Sousa  
(Written especially for the Boston Food Fair.)  
Violin Solo—"Zapatando".....Sarasate  
Miss Rose Reichard.  
Airs from "The Merry Widow".....Lehar

## ALL BUT ONE HAD TO BARK

Interesting Story About John Philip Sousa and a Mountaineer Band.

(John Philip Sousa in "Town Topics" (New York) of December 12.)

"Finding myself at the close of a tour rather run down, I thought I would go to a mountain resort not a thousand miles away from Washington to find rest and quiet. I had not been in the hotel over an hour when I was waited on by a young mountaineer who opened on me thus: "Mr. Sousa, of course we know you are at the head of a great band, and we also know you are very fond of shooting, and I have come to make a proposition to you. Our band here in the mountains is going to give a concert next Monday night and our big piece, the one we have been working on for a long while, is Bucalossi's Hunting Scene. We can't make the thing go. It seems to be too much for us. But the boys want to do it, and we want to ask you if you won't come around and give us a lesson. If you will consent I will promise to give a day in the mountains, shooting pheasants and squirrels, as you ever had in your life."

"That shooting proposition was too much for me, and I agreed to be with the mountain musicians that night.

"So I went to their little boom. I found a band of eighteen or twenty pieces, and proceeded to give them a lesson. I found in going over the big piece, the Hunting Scene, that before the final movement was made, a combination of chaos and pandemonium was reigning. No man seemed to be able to play the notes, read his part, or understand the composition, and the weird and attempt at anything musically harmonious I have never heard in my life. I remarked that I thought it very foolish for them to attempt the composition. They mildly insisted that they had bought the score, wanted to play it, and knew there would be great disappointment among the folks if they didn't. They begged me to do the best for them I could.

"Those familiar with the piece will remember that it contains suggestions

of the eager barking of the hunting dogs and winds up with a quick movement representing the chase. I found, mentally canvassing from leader down to the bass drummer, that it would be impossible for me to play it, so I struck on an expedient. "Gentlemen," I said, "you know that one of the features of this composition is the realistic effect simulating the barking of fox-hounds. I have noticed that each of you proceeded one, two, three or four bars or more, then gets helplessly lost, and the sounds coming from your horns are horrible in the extreme. Now I would suggest that each of you gentlemen (this in my most persuasive and conciliatory manner) when he breaks down in his part sets up a barking, and bark until the end of the piece. At the concert I will play bass drum, and so long as I strike the drum you keep on barking." On the night of the concert the leader rapped for attention, and the first movement of the Hunting Scene began, which, as everybody knows, represents morning. Morning kept dawdling for about five bars, when in the direction of fourth horn came "Bow-wow-wow," and a second later there was another "bow-wow" from the second trombone. By the time the last movement was reached, only one of the players was left; he soon ceased, the leader had lost his place and he was bow-wowing while I was whacking the drum as loudly as I could.

"The local paper the next morning said it was a very realistic performance.

### THE MARCH KING

One of the cleverest caricaturists of New York, Frank Mostyn Kelley, has sketched celebrities that come and go and exist, always with clear point and emphatic import. His caricature of the "March King," John Philip Sousa, in crown and royal robe, created many a merry round table smile in New York. All literary and club groups, large and small, of metropolitan life laughed over Kelley's idea of His Imperial Highness of the Baton.

### AL. H. WILSON, IN HIS LATEST PLAY, "WHEN OLD NEW YORK WAS DUTCH."



Not since J. K. Emmett has America had a singer that has become as popular as Al. Wilson. In his new play, it is said that he has found the best vehicle that he has ever had. It is one of the early bookings at the Grand.

### "GOVERNOR'S PARDON" AT THE GRAND TONIGHT

"The Governor's Pardon," a stirring melodrama, was presented at the Grand opera house in a matinee performance this afternoon. The same play will be presented at the Grand tonight and a big house is predicted. The cast is a carefully selected one and there are numerous thrilling situations, keen satire and amusing comedy throughout the piece. Prices of tickets for the night performance are 25, 35 and 50 cents.

### NOW EN TOUR.

"Mary's Lamb," with Richard Carle and the company which gamboled in it all summer in New York, is now on tour.

### AT HARTFORD FIRST.

Robert Edeson's new play, "The Offenders," by Elmer B. Harris, will be produced first in Hartford, Ct.

## UNWRITTEN LAW IN PLAY

It Is the Theme of a Drama That Will Be Presented by Vernon Company.

The Vernon Stock Company which comes to the Grand opera house for five nights and matinees, September 22, will include in its repertoire plays several of the highest merit and two of special interest at this time. The first being "The Unwritten Law," a powerful play written and produced by the author, Mark Swan. Mr. Swan has written many plays, but it is conceded by critics and the public that his "The Unwritten Law," in point of dramatic power, brilliant dialogue and artistic merit, this play takes the lead.

The story of the play is based on the subject that is constantly before the public's mind, as at the present time we have several legal battles going on in our higher courts to determine this question of the unwritten law in which there seems to be such a diversified opinion.

"The other play, "Slaves of Opium," is of emotional character and based on the sale and the use of the drug, opium.

As a production, "Slaves of Opium," is most picturesque, as the scenes are laid in Chinatown of New York City, and the exteriors and interiors of the different scenes have given the artist opportunities for beautiful stage pictures.

The street scene in Chinatown is most interesting. The gambling palace of Fung Low, the rich Chinaman, is beautiful, and the opium den, the last act of the play, which is the scene of stage craft, is most wonderful and fascinating with its dim lights, scented atmosphere and brilliant surroundings.

The Vernon Stock Company carry two cars of scenery, properties, draperies, decorations and furnishings to give these productions a complete performance.

At The Grand Next Week



BERTHA LAMB WITH THE VERNON STOCK COMPANY.

## JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



At The Grand Monday



### PLAYS IN WHEELING.

A new version of "Bizzy Izzy" is being presented at the Virginia theater in Wheeling. George Sidney is in the leading role and is convulsing his audiences with his wit and clever acting. Garrier Webber is till at the head of his supporting company.

The version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," interpreted by Stetson's Uncle Tom Company is the bill at the Court Theater there this afternoon and evening.

### ONLY SOUSA COULD DO THIS

"Only Sousa could do this—certainly no other band in the world could crowd the arena as he did yesterday evening, when every available seat was taken, people stood all over the promenades and compelled the bringing in of hundreds of extra chairs to the front of the floor." This is the Montreal Daily Herald's description of Sousa's last concert in that city, and there are hundreds more of strutting declarations like this one.

### ROYCE ENGAGED

Mr. Bingham Royce, well known in the stock company at Alsbough's has been engaged to play Black Michael in James K. Hackett's revival of "The Prisoner of Zenda."

### NOTABLE SINGERS

"Hugo's Honeymoon," with a notable company of singers, will be produced in this country by Henry Savage. This popular opera has a tremendous European vogue.