

AT THE THEATERS THIS WEEK.

THE event of the week among the playhouses has been the production of "Fort Frayne" at the Columbia. While it is classified with well-known military dramas, and contains fine dramatic situations, it is confined largely to the illustration of the social life of the Western garrisons of the United States.

Taken as a whole, General King's initial contribution to the growing list of military plays is novel and will be accepted with thanks by play-goers. It is to be hoped that his success in this effort will lead him to further and more ambitious labors.

That the latter-day efforts of Gilbert and Sullivan to produce successful comic operas have been dismal failures is proven by the fact that managers have to avoid such productions as "The Mikado," etc., and resort to the old favorites with their unique jingling rhymes and seductive music.

The field of mimic war is rapidly spreading as we are to have Gillette's "Held by the Enemy" at the Grand Opera-house during the week, while the Columbia is in preparation for its first production of Edward Kilder's new drama based on the late Civil War, entitled "A Gallant Surrender."

piece. This is Edwards' best work here thus far. John T. Burke and Theodore Roberts handle their thankless parts with ability. The great fault with Roberts' Indian is that he is killed too soon to find out just what kind of an Indian he is. In the part covers the woes of the husband who gets side-tracked on a spree, and later tries to adjust matters with his wife.

The Baldwin. This is the last day to see "The Pas-

two performances will be given this afternoon and evening.

Morosco's. Patrons of Morosco's Grand Opera-house are much pleased over the return of one of their greatest favorites, James M. Brophy, better known to them as "our California boy."

original Japanese opera the "Mikado" will be revived at the Tivoli Opera House to-morrow night. For this special production new scenery, costumes and accessories have been prepared.

The Alcazar. A Fourth of July matinee will be given at the Alcazar to-morrow afternoon, and with that performance "Frederick the

role he finds full scope in which to display his wide versatility as an actor of the old school. Around his star part the author has created for the minor characters such important business which calls for capable people to handle it.

The Orpheum. This famous amusement place still continues to do a great business by maintaining its long established standard of excellence.

The Chutes. The Chutes has arranged for a great occasion to-morrow, not alone on account of the celebration of Independence day, but because the theater will celebrate its second anniversary.

The California. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," with an excellent cast, will be continued at the California Theater until Sunday, July 10.

The Olympia. Tony Ryan, "the mad musician," will be the leading attraction at this house during the coming week.

Theatrical Notes. "East Lynne" and "Richelleu" are among the pieces which Mr. Morrison will be seen in during his engagement at the Alcazar.

Brophy will have the finest of Manager Morosco's plays during his engagement.

Great." will enter upon its second and last week. The attendance has been large and included the best class of theater goers in the city.

"Frederick the Great" was specially written for Mr. Morrison and in the title

is one of his brightest, liveliest and well-drawn comedy efforts. The production of "A Gallant Surrender" at the Columbia will be the first ever given the war drama on any stage.

WHAT PORTO RICANS THINK OF THE WAR. THE following information was obtained from a French gentleman who returned from a visit to Porto Rico and the neighboring islands at the beginning of the war.

In reply to the question of how the people of Porto Rico would like annexation to the United States, I was told that they regarded it as the most practical solution of their difficulties.

Public opinion, however, since the commencement of the war, has leaned to the hope that the island will fall into hands of the Americans, as not only would it have the protection of a tried and stable government, but American capital would develop the marvelous resources of the country.

With this end in view the President of the Porto Rican Junta, which, like that of Cuba, has its headquarters in New York, has had several interviews with President McKinley, and has probably given the American Government some valuable information.

Autonomy in Porto Rico does not seem to have brought the blessings that were predicted for it. The Porto Ricans are good business men, energetic and progressive in their various industries, but as they have never had any experience in self-governing they are inclined to ask of autonomy what a British subject did when the king knighted him.

The interpretation of autonomy by some of the lower classes is extremely amusing. They consider that law and order is at an end and that they are at liberty to do practically as they like.

The vigilance of the police has had to be increased in consequence. The people are not, on the whole, anxious for self-government, and if justice—a thing unknown in Spanish courts—reduction of taxation and import duties can be assured them, they would willingly leave the government to others.

The island is self-supporting, not in debt, and last year a surplus of \$1,000,000 was taken out of the treasury by Spain and added to the Cuban war fund.

Besides these a large business is carried on with the neighboring islands in cattle and lumber. All these products are capable of being greatly increased.

As there are heavy duties on Porto Rican goods entering Spain, the United States are found to be a better market for the island's products, while Spain protects its own goods in Porto Rico with a duty that, on some articles, reaches 90 per cent.

Porto Rico was settled by Juan Ponce de Leon, whose connection with Florida is well known, and who founded Ponce, the town being named after him.

The island is about 100 miles long and forty miles wide. The population is nearly 1,000,000, 25 per cent of which is black.

The capital is San Juan, which was recently bombarded, situated on a small island, and connected with the larger one by a bridge. The only fortifications are at San Juan and consist of two forts—Morro and San Cristobal—which are 200 years old.

The battery consists of about sixteen breach-loading guns of Spanish make, and the Spaniards boast that they make the finest guns in the world.

Recent events have proved the contrary and my informant seemed to think that some exceptions might be taken to the sweeping assertion among the European nations as well. The garrison at Porto Rico numbers about 7000 men, who are armed with Mauser rifles and are stationed along the coast.

The highroads are kept in excellent condition and compare most favorably with the English roads, which to the American cyclist seem little short of Paradise.

There are also several lines of railroads between the most important towns, but they are more remarkable for the eccentricity of their timetables than anything else.

San Juan is a town of about 35,000 inhabitants and is well cared for by the authorities. The paving of the streets is particularly excellent being superior to that of either London or Paris.

The people of the island are strong and healthy, the climate being far better than that of Cuba. Yellow fever is not very prevalent and could probably be almost eradicated if more attention were given to the sanitary conditions.

London, June 15, 1898. G. B.



CORA TINNIE AT THE COLUMBIA



ELVIA CROX SEABROOK AT THE TIVOLI



JAS. M. BROPHY AT MOROSCO'S



MABEL LLOYD AT THE CHUTES

AMUSEMENTS. COLUMBIA THEATER. THERE WILL BE A Second Week of the FRAWLEY COMPANY'S... FORT FRAYNE. As the Demand for Seats is Enormous.

AMUSEMENTS. ALCAZAR THEATER. TO-NIGHT, SUNDAY. MATINEE TO-MORROW. "ENOUGH SAID!" The Public Knows a Good Thing. Lewis Morrison. And the Alcazar Stock are Crowding the Theater With FREDERICK THE GREAT! Poster Platt's Historical Comedy.

AMUSEMENTS. CALIFORNIA THEATER. EIGHT NIGHTS MORE! APPLAUD TO THE ECHO! STOCKWELL'S REVIVAL OF UNCLE TOM'S CABIN! ALL-STAR CAST, INCLUDING RHYNS THOMAS, L. R. STOCKWELL, JEFFREYS D. WILLIAMS, EDITH HALL, JESSIE SHIRLEY, PHOENIX McALLISTER and Many Others.

AMUSEMENTS. MOROSCO'S GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Walter Morosco, Sole Lessee and Manager. Last Two Performances of CARROLL JOHNSON. Week of July 4. Commencing with EXTRA HOLIDAY MATINEE, MONDAY AT 2. "OUR CALIFORNIA BOY."

AMUSEMENTS. TIVOLI OPERA-HOUSE. Mrs. Ernestine Kreling, Proprietor and Manager. TO-NIGHT—LAST TIME OF THE Charming Opera, BOCCACCIO! Splendid Cast! Superb Ensemble! TO-MORROW EVENING Gilbert and Sullivan's favorite work, "THE MIKADO."

AMUSEMENTS. THE ORPHEUM. This famous amusement place still continues to do a great business by maintaining its long established standard of excellence. The star feature for the coming week will be the world-famous whistler, Mrs. Alice J. Shaw, who has appeared before Europe's most exclusive society.

AMUSEMENTS. EXCURSION! The Safe and Fast Sailing Pilot Boat, THOS. S. NEGUS. Will Sail From Folsom Street Wharf, MONDAY, 10 A. M. FOR AN EXCURSION AROUND THE BAY, returning at 4 p. m. Full view of the regatta. Tickets to be had of the captain at Smith's Cash Store, 25-27 Market st., up to 9 p. m. Monday, and at the office, 1000 Market, children under 12, half-price.