

PLAY UNWORTHY OF MANSFIELD

"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" a Drama Whose Merit Largely Rested in Its Novelty

STORY IS BUT A FREAK Scene in Last Act Saves Production and Will Be Remembered as a Triumph

The play founded upon Robert Louis Stevenson's story, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," is not likely to be counted even by the most ardent of its admirers as a permanent contribution to the American and British stage.

Despite the very obvious moral, so often and so persistently insisted upon, the story at best is but a freak, dependent for its success solely upon the literary skill of the gifted man who wrote it.

By reason of that treatment of the play, Mr. Mansfield avoided the need of attempting any change in the make-up of the two parts.

That much Mr. Mansfield achieved; the remainder of the illusion was due wholly to the imaginations of the audience upon which his genius played.

The first appearance of Mr. Hyde appearing as a murderer, the home in which a short time before he had been welcomed as the betrothed of a beautiful girl, was almost oppressive in its intensity, and the startled feeling of the audience was manifested by a genuine shudder.

The parts played by the minor characters of the drama were small. In every case each was done with sufficient force to sustain the interest in the development of the plot, and yet in no instance did either of them make a distinct impression, the fault, of course, being due more to the defects of the parts assigned them than to anything else.

The audience did its best to be enthusiastic, but failed to get further than to make one perfunctory curtain call. The evening will doubtless be remembered as a brilliant effort on the part of a great actor to rouse the imagination of a large audience as to make every one of them form some intelligent conception of the inner meaning and moral of Stevenson's story, but the effort failed. It was a fine piece of acting, but it is probable that very few of the audience would ask to see it again if they had a choice of seeing Mr. Mansfield in any other role with which his name is associated.

Police Chief Violates Ordinance. SAN JOSE, May 27.—Chief of Police Carroll was summoned into the Police Court today for violating a city ordinance, in that he had left his horse unattended in the street. The complainant is W. H. Brown, who formerly was city jailer. Chief Carroll drove up in front of the store of S. E. Smith, the chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners, and went into the place, leaving his horse standing unattended in front. Brown, who saw the act, went before City Justice Davison and swore to a complaint charging the Chief with violating the hitching ordinance.

GRAPE-NUTS

A SURE STRAIGHT ROAD to Mental Health and Power Grape-Nuts BRAIN FOOD

Get the little book, "The Road to Well-Being," in each package.

FIRE IN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME TERRORIZES MANY INMATES

Blaze Starts in Attic of Crocker Institute and Before Flames Are Controlled Several of the Aged Occupants Collapse From Excitement and Fright—Damage Confined to Roof of West Wing



RESCUING THE AGED INMATES OF THE CROCKER OLD PEOPLE'S HOME AT PINE AND PIERCE STREETS WHICH WAS DAMAGED BY FIRE YESTERDAY MORNING. FORTUNATELY NO ONE WAS INJURED.

CHURCH RULES ARE SUSTAINED

No Change Will Be Made in Discipline in Matter of Prohibited Amusements

LOS ANGELES, May 27.—By the decisive vote of 41 to 18, the Methodist General Conference this afternoon declined to make any change in the church discipline in the matter of prohibited amusements. The question is one which has agitated the minds of the delegates to the present General Conference perhaps more than any other single problem that has been before it.

The conference limited the speeches upon the question to five minutes. Nearly a score of speeches were made on both sides before the vote was taken. Among those who spoke were J. T. Bartholomew, Willimantic, Conn.; C. T. Winchester, Middletown, Conn.; Delos Fall, Albion, Mich.; Charles P. Rice, Springfield, Mass.; Dr. Thomas N. Boyle, Crafton, Pa.; David G. Downey, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dr. A. B. Leonard, Cincinnati, O.; Dr. L. W. Munnell, Philadelphia; A. C. Eversley, Springfield, Ill.; John Weir, Buckhannon, W. Va.; G. E. Hills, Louisville, Ky.; W. W. Van Orsdel, Great Falls, Mont.; Mrs. F. Richards, Leipsic, O.; and Mrs. P. H. Bodkin, Los Angeles, Cal.

An aye and no vote was demanded for the first time during the present conference. This same subject was the only question precipitating an aye and no vote in the General Conference of four years ago at Chicago. The calling of the roll occupied the remainder of the afternoon session.

Applause followed the announcement of the vote and while Bishop Spellmeyer in vain rapped for order, the conference arose and sang "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow."

The conference voted to extend aid to seven partially self-supporting church papers, the amounts voted ranging from \$2000 to \$250 each per annum.

FAVORS UNION OF CHURCHES

Presbyterian General Assembly Acts in the Matter of the Cumberland Branch

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 27.—The Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States today declared in favor of a union with the Cumberland Presbyterian church by a vote so nearly unanimous that it was not counted.

Resolutions adopted recommend certain other steps to be taken to secure the union of the churches and to make plain the position of the church. The question of the proposed basis of union will now go to the presbyteries of the General Assembly. If it is approved by a vote of two thirds of them, the necessary steps will be taken at the next General Assembly to effect the union.

S. LOUIS, May 27.—After two days' discussion of the matter the Episcopal Diocesan Convention of Missouri by a good majority voted against the use of the revised version of the Bible in the prescribed service of the church.

Laymen were stronger than the clergy in making the vote decisive. The clergy vote was 12 for the revised version and 19 against and that of the laity 9 for and 28 against.

DECORATION DAY HOLIDAYS.

Special Excursion Rates.

For the three holidays, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 28, 29 and 30, the California Northwestern Ry., the picturesque route of California, will make one fare for the round trip from San Francisco to all points on the road, except suburban. These tickets will be good going Saturday, Sunday or Monday, with the return limit Tuesday, May 31.

Wreder Is Seated.

At the regular weekly meeting of the Fire Commissioners yesterday retiring Commissioner Frank Maestretti introduced his successor, H. M. Wreder, to the other members of the board. The usual felicitations were exchanged. The commission then took up its regular work. Alexander Lafferty, who had been assigned to duty at the Cinegraph Theater, pleaded guilty to being absent from his post without leave. He was fined ten days' pay. Captain Russell was transferred from Engine Company No. 8 to No. 27, and Lieutenant Cappalle was promoted and assigned to Engine Company No. 7. Bids for the ensuing fiscal year were opened and examined by the Commissioners. The \$3000 automobile for the use of the Chief Engineer was finally accepted by the Commissioners.

The overworked eye, the faded eye, the red and inflamed eye, the eye that needs care, relieved by Murine Eye Remedy. No smarting.

What was feared would prove a disastrous fire damaged the Crocker Old People's Home at Pine and Pierce streets yesterday noon to the extent of \$1000. Many of the inmates were badly frightened and are suffering from nervous shock. No serious results are expected, as prompt treatment was given the inmates that were affected by the excitement.

About 10 o'clock in the morning one of the janitors discovered a smoldering fire near the chimney on the west side of the building. He extinguished the fire, as he supposed, and reported the matter to Superintendent Charles McKelvey. Two hours later smoke began pouring into the upper halls and escaping from the roof. An alarm was turned in at once and as quickly as the department reached the scene a second alarm was sounded.

By the time water could be played on the roof dense clouds of smoke were escaping from every portion on the upper floor. Employees of the home made hurried trips through the various rooms and assisted the more feeble to wait and pack up their effects and in one or two instances it was necessary to use force to get them from the building, which appeared to be doomed.

As rapidly as the inmates were taken to the street they were given shelter in the residences of the neighborhood. Dr. Runwell, physician in charge at the home, with the assistance of Dr. Perry, visited each one and where quieting lotions were necessary administered them.

When the fire broke out and the cry of "fire" was raised a panic almost ensued. There are 131 inmates and of that number forty-five are women. The average age is 68, though there are several who have passed the 80 mark. Superintendent McKelvey, assisted by the employees, did all that was possible to allay the fears of the old people and get them to places of safety.

The damage to the structure is confined to the west wing of the roof and by water. The fire was a blind one, making it extremely difficult to fight. It was necessary to chop into the roof to get at the burning interior.

Wants Permit for Awnings.

George D. Collins, representing P. Vincent, yesterday applied to the Board of Works for permission to install four machinery awnings in the rear of the premises at 1123 Dupont street for a distance of 150 feet. The awnings are designed to prevent police officers from making observations that might result in the arrest of the inmates. The application was referred to the City Architect.

A gentleman is a man made right and improved with age. Apply that test to a whiskey and you have "Old Gilt Edge Whiskey."

GOODRICH ASKS FOR A SHARE

New Yorker Lays Claim to Portion of the Williams Estate Through His Wife ALLEGES CONCEALMENT

Wants U. S. Circuit Judge Morrow to Order Heirs to Render an Accounting

In a complaint containing about 30,000 words, filed yesterday in the United States Circuit Court, George G. Goodrich of New York alleges that he is entitled to a share in the estate of Thomas H. Williams deceased, and that he has been defrauded out of it. He asks that the court restrain the defendants from disposing of transferring or incurring the estate and that they be required to render to the court an accounting of the rents, issues and profits thereof. Johnson & Johnson are his attorneys.

The defendants are John W. Ferris, individually and as a trustee, Frank Hansford Johnson an infant, Frank S. Johnson, as guardian of the estate of said infant, Thomas H. Williams Jr., Thomas H. Williams (second), an infant; George E. Williams, daughter, and Jennie E. Williams, widow of and heirs at law of George E. Williams, deceased.

The complaint recites that Thomas H. Williams of San Francisco died on February 28, 1886, leaving Sherron Williams, Thomas H. Williams Jr., Mary Bryant Williams (who intermarried with Frank S. Johnson), Percy Williams and Bryant Williams as his heirs, each to one-fifth of his estate. It is recited that on December 23, 1888, Mary B. Johnson was divorced in the Marin County Superior Court and on December 7, 1889, was married to the complainant. She died in New York October 3, 1893, leaving a son, Frank Hansford Johnson, who is alleged to be entitled to one-half her estate, her husband claiming heirship to the remaining half.

The following are the contents of the complaint:

The trust attempted to be created by the will of Thomas H. Williams, deceased, was and is void; that the absolute power of alienation of the property of Thomas H. Williams, testator, included in said attempted trust was by said will and by the terms of the trust attempted to be created, suspended for the term of three years and not for a period measured by the continuance of lives in being, and that as to the property included in said attempted trust, Thomas H. Williams died intestate, and that at his death said property passed to and vested in his said heirs at law in the proportions before mentioned.

The complaint further recites that on August 1, 1896, the Infant Frank Hansford Johnson, in the Superior Court of Marin County, asked for leave to consent to a decree of distribution of the estate of Thomas H. Williams, deceased, and recites as follows:

That in said petition the facts of your orator's existence and of the marriage of your orator to Mary B. Johnson and his interest in said estate were fraudulently concealed from the said court of Marin County, although the existence of your orator and his said marriage and his said interest in the estate of said deceased were well known to the petitioner, Frank Hansford Johnson and said Frank S. Johnson, his guardian, and to the other parties to said agreement, viz., Thomas H. Williams Jr. and said George E. Williams.

And your orator shows further that before the said petition to said court of Marin County was filed an agreement had been made between said Thomas H. Williams Jr. and said Frank S. Johnson, and consented to by George E. Williams, that said questions of law and fact should be concealed and kept from said court.

It is recited that a decree was entered on August 1, 1896, allowing the minor to give his consent as prayed for; that on August 12, 1896, the estate was appraised as of the value of \$1,465,800.88; that on December 15, 1896, Thomas H. Williams Jr. filed a petition for final distribution, and that on January 5, 1897, the court entered a decree of final distribution in the following proportions: Forty per cent to the infant Frank Hansford Johnson; 25.23 per cent to Thomas H. Williams Jr. in fee, and 33.13 per cent to remain in the hands of the testamentary trustee under the trust for the benefit of Thomas H. Williams Jr. during his life time.

Goodrich alleges that he had no notice of any of these proceedings. He further avers that after he arrived in San Francisco with the remains of his deceased wife he was informed by George E. Williams that complainant's wife had no interest in the estate of her deceased father, or property of any kind or character whatever, and that she herself left no estate. The complainant asks for an accounting of the rents and profits; that the defendants be enjoined from incurring or transferring any of the property, and that the court ascertain the portion of the estate due to him.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALESROOM OF SHAINWALD, BUCKBEE & CO. Thursday, June 9th, At 12 O'Clock, Noon BUSINESS PROPERTIES OF THE JOSE GUARDIOLA ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE

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