

# TIME HAS MADE NANCE O'NEIL HER ART MELLOW IN ONE YEAR

## "The Fires of St. John" Is Strong Play.

### Grand Opera-House Audience Enjoys Production.

The glove is down—Nance O'Neill came back last night. This strange disturbing personality that has had Boston by the ears, New York in arms, city against city, returned to her birthplace last night to set it wondering, questioning, challenging, adoring once again. She brought the O'Neill kind of play, the big thing, a modern this time, "The Fires of St. John," by the dramatist who gave her one of her finest opportunities—Sudermann and "Magda." The Grand Opera-house despite Christmas shopping was handsomely filled, fashion straining the house, and friends leading a willing applause.

"The Fires of St. John" is hardly another "Magda." It lacks of that much in clearness, strength and originality. Yet originality it has, vividness, and that queer accent of truth that makes one feel its story too strange not to be true. Heredity is the central thought with a girl who plays the Mrs. Alving to her own "ghosts." There is a strong tang of Mastertrick clear in the play, in the fatal symbolism that weaves through it. But Sudermann's gospel here is distinctly more hopeful than that of Ibsen's great drama of heredity. "At least," he preaches with the newer biologists, "if you are the sum of your ancestors, you also have at least the privilege of making a few, new, absolutely home-grown ghosts of your own."

Marie, adopted child of the Brauers, is the heroine of the play. Marie's mother (of whom she has been kept in ignorance) is a gypsy, supposed to be dead, really at the opening of the story just released from a five-year term of imprisonment for theft. Marie is found, a proud drudge in the home of the Brauers who are good, usual folk, quite sensible of their charity to her. Her foster-sister, Gertrude, is to be married in four days, and Marie, to satisfy her fanatical pride, is overworking herself on the wedding preparations. We learn, in a not too clear fashion, and rather late, that she is in love with Gertrude's lover, he with her, neither knowing of the other's love.

But Marie learns of her mother's existence. She asks George (her lover) to bring the gypsy to the house. Just before she has told him of a poem she has found among his books written to her betraying his love. She lies fluently about it, repeats it, the mother comes. The daughter dies many deaths. Marie, fainting, the creature asks clothes of her, wine, and at last pliers some linen and lies, lies. Shuddering the girl drives her away. To the man she says: "I, too, am a thief. Like my mother, a Stronger thing than this even is where she was the pastor, usual folk, quite sensible of their charity to her. Her foster-sister, Gertrude, is to be married in four days, and Marie, to satisfy her fanatical pride, is overworking herself on the wedding preparations. We learn, in a not too clear fashion, and rather late, that she is in love with Gertrude's lover, he with her, neither knowing of the other's love.

Hopeless confession follows. It is the eve of St. John's, fires flaming from every hill to freedom, happiness. She will be free, will be happy. The third act curtain leaves the lovers in each other's arms, and George in the next says that "they are man and wife in the sight of heaven." But the last curtain goes down on Marie, alone, watching her lover and her foster-sister leaving to go to church. Miss O'Neill interests powerfully, as always, as Marie. Pale, pale-eyed, black-haired, she is singularly in the picture as a picture and most eloquently gets into it the morbidity, the nobility, the pride, the romanticism of the figure. Repression, Miss O'Neill has learned in large measure.

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**NANCE O'NEIL**  
GIFTED CALIFORNIAN, WHO WAS WELCOMED LAST EVENING IN NEW SUDERMANN DRAMA.

since she was here. The difficult art of doing nothing she has learned. There is a mellowed strength about the work, more fitness, yet with never a hairsbreadth loss of vividness or grip. It is a rare and notable piece of work and the poses and Christmas-berries that went over the footlights fitly symbolized the audience's admiration.

McKee Rankin has, to its advantage when he does not chew his lines, the role of the father, and John Glendinning is a charming pastor. Then there is an ingenue in Jane Marbury that for winsomeness, naturalness and sincerity one could go far without matching. The rest help. **BLANCHE PARTINGTON.**

**Majestic.** "Charley's Aunt." What happened to Jones and "A Trip to Chinatown" will fall into one or not nearly so funny as "Christopher Jr.," which Bishop's outfit is producing at the Majestic this week. The large audience that was present last night was convulsed with laughter from start to finish. Of all the uproarious, hilarious, side-splitting farces and comedies that ever drove away the blues "Christopher Jr." is the best. Every one in the cast entered into the piece with a perfect appreciation of its spirit. Robert Wayne and Leonard in the leading roles were execrably funny. Frank Bacon, whose lines consist simply of "hurrah," brought down the house. The others furnished splendid support.

**Alcazar.** After a year's absence from California George Osborne made his first professional reappearance at the Alcazar last night in his star part of Monsieur Juvenal in Pierre Wolf's comedy, "The Secret of Polichinelle."

It seemed rather a housewarming than a home greeting for the house rose at him with handclapping that would not stop and delayed the progress of the play for some time. He came into the eyes of the veteran actor when, accompanied by cries of "Fresno!" an immense floral horseshoe with the motto "Welcome Home to Fresno" was flung across the footlights. Many of his friends had come 200 miles from Fresno, where George owns a vineyard, where in moments of relaxation he resides under his own vine and fig tree and spends the most of his salary in "improvements."

Time has mellowed Mr. Osborne's acting. Granter Juvenal fits him as well as if he were him; and the comedy is good, glided with human nature, and betrays its French origin only in spots, where some risky things are said. Apart from Mr. Osborne the rest of the play is made by John R. Mabier (Monsieur Trevoux), Neva Duna, the match-making mamma, and Lenora Kiran, her daughter. Genevieve. They kept the audience on the laugh all the evening.

**Tivoli.** The last week of "Rob Roy" at the Tivoli opens last evening. The performance was in all respects a duplication of the earlier ones, with the exception of a few cuts. The applause was frequent and well deserved.

**Alhambra.** Tolstoy's famous Russian drama, "Resurrection" was presented at the Alhambra Theater last evening by Belasco & Mayer's stock company. The story of the cruel treatment of the peasant classes at the hands of the aristocracy was cleverly told and the interest of the audience was held strongly from the beginning to the end of the play. Especially clever was the acting of Edna Blumiere, Herschel Mayall, James Corriean and Henry Shumer. Edwin T. Emery was given a hearty reception on his appearance with the company, while True Borden, Lillian Elliott, Clare Sinclair, George P. Webster, Charles and Billy Noble are good in their own songs. The concluding piece, "Doctor She," has a few good songs and a march of the guards that is well executed.

**California.** Miner's "Merry Burlesques" drew a fair-sized audience to the California Theater last night. There is plenty of variety to please or displease. The opening piece, "A Night on the Bowery," is not only distinguished only by the ancient character of the so-called jokes. There are a few "stunts" in the olio that deserve praise, especially the actor's feats of La Toy brothers and the singing and dancing of Higgins and Bergman. Mildred Groves and Billy Noble are good in their own songs. The concluding piece, "Doctor She," has a few good songs and a march of the guards that is well executed.

Try the United States Laundry, 1004 Market street. Telephone South 410.

# OKLAHOMA NOTES

## Oklahoma City Miss Sings for Cause of Statehood at the National Capital

### WINS WARM APPROVAL

#### Delegation From Territories Meets With Very Cordial Reception in Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Joint statehood for Oklahoma and Indian Territory was furthered to-day in one of the most novel performances ever enacted in the National Capitol building. A delegation, 16 in number, from these Territories called to pay its respects to Senator Beveridge, chairman of the Committee on Territories. The committee room could not accommodate all of the visitors and the Senator received them in the corridor and addressed them there. The overflow occupied the stairs leading to the marble room, one of the semi-sacred precincts of the Senate. Those stationed in this elevated position, observing from the gallery, complimented the people of the Territories and promised they should not be disappointed in their desire for statehood.

The prettiest scene of the entire proceedings was at the close, when Helen Renstrom, a 15-year-old girl from Oklahoma City, sang three verses from "Oklahoma," the joint statehood song. By this time it seemed that half of the hundreds of Senators, including a number of Senators, had been attracted by the gathering. When the girl had finished, Senator Beveridge shook her hand and complimented her, as did other Senators.

Statehood bloomers from Oklahoma and Indian Territory received such encouragement to-day from Representatives called. Representative John Sharp Williams, the minority leader, in addressing the delegation, said he would do all in his power to have Oklahoma and Indian Territory admitted as one State, providing their admission is not coupled with the admission of New Mexico and Arizona.

Representative Hamilton, chairman of the House Committee on Territories, assured the delegation that statehood would doubtless be granted at this session. The delegation called on Speaker Cannon.

After Miss Renstrom had finished "Oklahoma" for Speaker Cannon, he congratulated her on her beautiful voice and said: "You must go over to the Senate and sing for the sinners; you can win them over."

# FAIR SINGER HAS NO LIKING FOR HOBIERY

**SANTA ROSA, Dec. 11.**—Mrs. Drucilla Medow, 94 years of age, died to-day. Her death breaks up a home in this city in which five generations have been residing for several years. Besides Mrs. Medow there resided at the family home her daughter, Mrs. A. J. Hall; her granddaughter, Mrs. M. H. Henry; her great-granddaughter, Mrs. Rosalie Lynch; and her great-great-grandson, Lorenzo Boido. Mrs. Medow was born in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, in 1812. At the age of nine she moved to Kentucky with her parents. Later she went to Texas, where she married. In 1871, at the death of her husband, she came to this State. She resided here with her daughter for many years, and retained her bodily strength and mental vigor to a remarkable extent up to within a few weeks of her death.

**PITTSBURG, Dec. 11.**—Mme. Sandal-Bramsen, concert singer and wife of the first cellist of the Pittsburgh orchestra, has the temerity and moral courage to defy fashion and society by discarding conventional attire to wear "bare-footed" Grecian sandals. Mme. Bramsen, since she came to Pittsburgh with her husband from Norway a few weeks ago, has been the cause of comment and gossip in musical circles. Her attire is the most interesting character before the Pittsburgh public to-day. She has shocked certain persons because she does not wear stockings in the house and because she has never worn corsets, either on the stage or in the concert platform or in her home.

But it is not only in unconventionalities of dress that the singer is conspicuous. She is one of a very few women who ever made a trip to Lapland, the northernmost inhabited part of Europe, and sang before an audience of enthusiastic Lapps. This, by the way, was on her wedding trip, just after she was married to M. Bramsen several years ago.

Speaking about her methods of dress, the singer explained that she thought corsets abominable and was greatly shocked at seeing so many American women wearing them. As to hosiery, she wears it rarely indoors. She craves just as much care of her feet as of her hands. Instead of shoes indoors, she at times wears sandals. She makes all her own clothing. In the house she wears the most comfortable dress of the better class of inhabitants of that country, but she never adopts the picturesque comic opera style of peasant attire.

**STANDARD OIL GETS CONTROL.**  
**Peabody Will Be Elected President of the Mutual Company.**

**NEW YORK, Dec. 11.**—The Mutual Life Insurance Company passed into the control of the Standard Oil to-day by an agreement to elect Charles A. Peabody president of the company at Wednesday's meeting of the board of trustees. This makes the second of the "big three" that has passed into hands of the Rockefeller-Morgan-Ryan combination since the upheaval in the insurance business. When the time is here for sweeping out the McCall crowd from the New York life it is expected that the same combination, through George W. Perkins, head of the Morgan forces in the board, and James Stillman, head of the Rockefeller forces among the trustees, will also get control of the company into the hands of the triumvirate.

**NORTH AGAIN NAMED.**  
**Will Continue as Commissioner of Immigration.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate: Receiver of public moneys, T. N. Allen, Okla. Wash.; commissioner of immigration, Hart H. North, port of San Francisco.

The finest sermon is the one that makes the fur fly on the other fello.

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# SONOMA WOMAN DIES AT AGE OF NINETY-FOUR

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# INTOXICATED MAN MAKES HIS COUCH IN A COFFIN

**SIoux CITY, Iowa, Dec. 11.**—When N. Nelson, undertaker, arrived at his shop to-day he was transfixed by terror at seeing the form of a man turning over in a coffin in his establishment. Convinced that one of his corpses had come to life, he ran into the street and found a policeman, having a vague idea that the blue-coat could arrest the man for committing resurrection.

When the policeman investigated he found that Walter A. Van Netta, a stranger in the city, had become intoxicated, gained entrance to the shop and gone to sleep in the coffin.

**RECTOR FOR ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.**  
A dispatch from Cleveland, Ohio, received last night, announced the Rev. Gay L. Wallis, rector of St. James Church of that city, had resigned to accept a call to the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, San Francisco. Mr. Wallis succeeds the Rev. Mr. Clark and will leave for his new charge on January 1.

**DEATH CALLS PIONEER WHO HAD LIVED NEARLY A CENTURY.**  
NAPA, Dec. 11.—David Lawson, one of the oldest residents of Napa County and one of the earliest pioneers of this State, passed away here this morning. Death was due to advanced age. Lawson was born in England when he was 64 years of age. When a young man he left England for America in a sailing vessel and came around Cape Horn. He landed in San Francisco when that city was a town of only a few cabins. In 1838 he came to Napa. He resided in Napa and vicinity for sixty-seven years and had seen well nigh throughout the county. His funeral will be held in Napa on Tuesday morning.

**BOY'S LEGS CRUSHED BY A LOCOMOTIVE**  
**Shocking Accident Makes Cripple of Son of Prominent Suisun People.**

**SUISUN, Dec. 11.**—Fabian Reeves, aged 18, and fourth son of Justice of the Peace and Mrs. W. W. R. Reeves, fell under the wheels of an engine at the Suisun depot this morning and lost both of his legs. The wheels passed over his legs at the ankles. One leg was amputated soon after the accident by Dr. W. G. Downing. Young Reeves was taken to the railroad hospital at Sacramento on the noon train, and upon his arrival the other leg was cut off just above the ankle. The unfortunate young man had been appointed to a position at the Suisun station just a week ago.

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# PERSONAL

**J. W. Ragsdale,** a mining man of Mexico, is at the Lick House.

**Fred S. Morris,** owner of the Portland and Oregon City electric lines, is at the St. Francis. He is accompanied by his mother and sister, Frank E. Sherwood, who has prominent mining interests on the coast, is at the Palace. He will leave to-night for Parlati, Mexico.

**Fred H. Gilman,** manager of the Pacific Coast department of the American Lumberman, who makes his headquarters at Seattle, is at the Palace.

**Captain Charles M. Leavy** received a cablegram from Auckland yesterday informing him that his son-in-law, Frederick Baume, had been elected to the New Zealand Parliament.

**Frederick J. Swift,** prominent in Wall street affairs, will arrive from Portland, Or., on Thursday morning. He is making a tour of the coast, and is accompanied by two friends, Mr. and Mrs. Graef.

**PARIS, Dec. 11.**—Mrs. A. J. and Miss Florence Parker of Oakland are visiting in Paris.

# CLOCKS

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