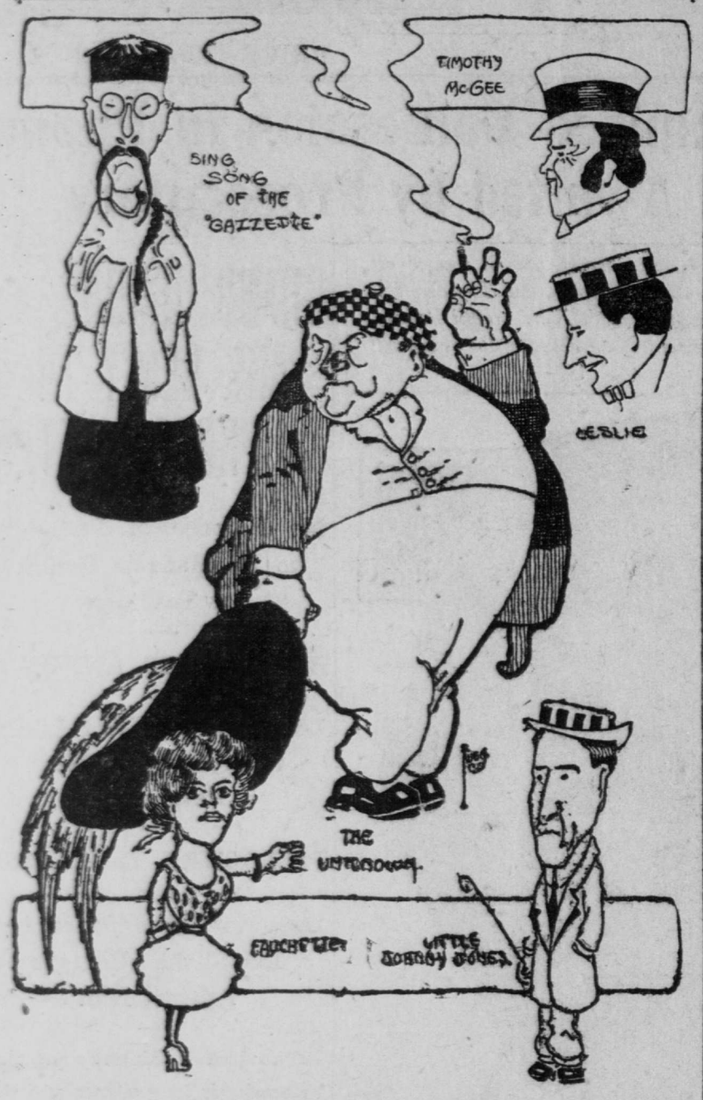
"Little Johnny Jones" and "Comedy of Errors" Please the Lovers of Farce



IMPRESSIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS IN "LITTLE JOHNNIE JONES," AT THE AMERICAN THEATER. SKETCHED BY CARTOONIST EWER OF THE CALL'S ART DEPARTMENT.

By James Crawford

"Little Johnny Jones," with its rattling songs, dashing dances and sometimes dreary dialogue, was the medium of reopening the American theater yesterday afternoon, and the numerical strength of the attendance presaged a profitable fall and winter season for the cozy Market street playhouse.

Every seat was occupied at the scheduled time of curtain rise, 2:15 o'clock, but not until an hour later did the performance begin, because of the Southern Pacific's tardiness in transporting the scenery and costumes from Sacramento, where the company appeared Saturday night. When the cause of the delay became known, there was a striking exhibition of the patience that this community has been forced to cultivate by the irregular running of the streetcars. Nobody left the theater, nor was there any demonstration of dissatisfaction. The people just sat and waited, their temper restrained by the same philosophy that enables them to stand calmly and wait for Mr. Calhoun's vehicles.

And the entertainment was worth waiting for. George M. Cohan, who constructed both the book and the music, has all the other builders of musical comedy hopelessly distanced in the matter of giving the admirers of that class of stageware the kind of stuff they best like. If he could write epigrams as cleverly as he can plagiarize other people's jingles and improve them in the process, he would be even more of a wonder than he is, for he has the art of stagecraft at his fingers' ends and he knows something about the value of contrasts, as witness the bits of melodrama with which his comedy is so effectively relieved. That climax of the first act, where the jockey tears up the check and hurls its fragments in the face of the dishonest horse owner, is a fitting finale for a scene in "Ruled Off the Turf," the drama that thrilled another Market street theater last week.

The company now interpreting "Little Johnny Jones" is better in some spots and worse in others than the organization that presented it here two years ago, when Columbia theater prices were charged for the privilege of witnessing it. Mr. Cohan was not in evidence then, nor is he now. The title part was played by a Mr. Barry, who was neither as agile a dancer nor as imperfect a singer as his successor, Mr. Seymour. Vaudeville has given us many better imitators of the Cohan method than either of the comedians named. Mr. Seymour does not attempt the Cohan snuffle at all. His best qualifications for the role are his nimbleness and his hair.

By long odds the best work in the cast is done by Mr. Keogh as "The Unknown." He is a funmaker of the Peter B. Dailey type, with an unctuous humor all his own. His part is a very "fat" one, of course, but his personality does as much to help it as it does to help him.

Also big-lettered on the playbill is Helen Dexter as Rosario Fauchette, and she proves true title to the distinction. She is of winsome manner and can sing. Ada Gifford makes the best of a character that is not an undiluted compliment to the American women engaged in journalism. That role represents one of Mr. Cohan's mistakes. It shows that his acquaintance with newspaper workers of the gentler sex was as limited as his knowledge of turfy men and methods was extensive.

However seriously, to disparage any feature of "Little Johnny Jones" would be wasted endeavor, for the piece is of long standing and apparently is good for a dozen years more of undiminished popularity. Besides the locale of the third act, San Francisco's old Chinatown, and the allusions to California so frequently incidental to the other acts, suffice to assure hearty greeting every time it comes this way.

* * *

From the ephemeral fun of "Little Johnny Jones" to the eternal humor of "The Comedy of Errors," is a wide flight of criticism. It shows that actors are not the only folk whose vocation demands versatility. To play two radically variant characters in one day is, perhaps, no more of an intellectual tax than is levied by reviewing a musical comedy in the afternoon and commenting on a Shakespearean comedy in the evening.

There were fewer people in the Novelty theater to witness Louis James as the two Dromios than the merit of his performance deserved. Aside from his well earned popularity as a Shakespearean actor the fact that "The Comedy of Errors" was the bill should have served to attract more patrons of the lighter drama. For no other work of the immortal bard has been more freely "borrowed" from than this prototype of all comedies based upon mistaken identity. Just think of the number of them that has been produced since Shakespeare ceased writing, and you may then be able to form an idea of how heavily the comic stage is indebted to him for inspiration.

Mr. James in the two roles is a convincing jibe at the doctrine of Oslerism. Leaving his artistry out of the question because it cannot be questioned—the physical side of his performance remains to upset the theory that the arrival of a man at his sixtieth birthday means the departure of his earthly usefulness. In the sixty-sixth year of his age, and with more than two score years of stenuous stage work to his credit, this actor displays the agility of a college athlete.

His work necessitates many exits and entrances, and when he vanishes at one side and reappears at the other the period of some of his absences is so brief as to make one wonder how in the name of rapid transit he crosses the stage so quickly. He does it by sprinting. But such sprinting! Short distance track records have been broken with less show of speed. Abas, Osler

We still hear of the performance of the two Dromios given by Stuart Robson and William H. Crane, and I remember it—also that not once was I puzzled to identify either of the actors. That was because Mr. Robson's natural lisping squeak could neither be entirely relinquished by him nor accurately imitated by Mr. Crane, and because the contour of Mr. Crane's legs was no less inimitable.

Mr. James retains a single physical ensemble throughout the play and bewilders by his acting. His airiness of manner and lightness of limb as Dromio of Syracuse is not remotely discernible in his melancholic demeanor and slovenliness of gait as Dromio of Ephesus. The quality of his voice is the same in both roles, but the author did not intend that it should be changed. If it were, the visual sense only of the people in the play would be deceived and there would be less reason for their blunders.

As much can not be said in favor of the closeness of resemblance mutually attempted by Mr. Young as Antipholus of Ephesus and Mr. Paulding as Antipholus of Syracuse. Mr. Young maintained a strident note that Mr. Paulding apparently was unable to strike, and how Adriana could have been in error as to which of them was her husband was not clear to the audience. Mr. Andrews as the duke of Ephesus and later as Dr. Pinch was doubly satisfying, and Mr. Peters as Aegeon read his long speech in the opening scene with true elocutionary art.

As the semishrewish and ever loving wife Aphie James was distinctly good, and Miss Webb as her sister again delivered a forceful appeal by her beauty and dramatic worth. Miss Schaefer played the abbess pleasingly.

The staging and costuming were correct in detail and some anachronistic incidental music—in which Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" was largely drawn upon—enhanced the atmosphere, if it did not delight the sticklers for Shakespeare as it was written.

NEW ACTS AT ORPHEUM

Many good acts not seen here before are presented at the Orpheum this week, two of which are gymnastic turns. Mason and Bart are funny when they are not on the horizontal bars; then they are thrilling. Their turn is an effective mixture of daring acrobatics and clown work. The four Arconis, German gymnasts, have some new stunts to thrill and the audience took to them with enthusiasm. The duettists, Les Aubin Lenol, are graceful dancers and interesting entertainers. Murphy and Francis, a negro team, add variety and spice to the program. The Vassar girls, Lucy and Lucier, Madame Bartholdi's cockatoos, and Minnie Seligman and William Bramwell in a "Dakota Widow," are the attractions of last week which were held over this week.

JAMES IS CLEVER DROMIO

As Dromio in the "Comedy of Errors," which had its first production last night at the Novelty in the present short season of classic comedy, Louis James, veteran tragedian, was pure clown—not a modern circus clown, of course, but an unctuous and obvious, droll and delightfully funny clown. His fun was as spontaneous as a child's laugh and almost as refreshing. The tangle of Dromios and masters was unravelled only after the large audience had laughed itself hoarse.

That James' sense of humor could have endured through 40 years of uncompromisingly tragic roles is one of the seven wonders of the mimic world, but his impersonation of Dromio, the mixed and duplicated, was proof added to his Falstaff delineation that he has found the fountain of unending fun, and the pity remains he did not find it sooner. The play was well cast throughout. J. Arthur Young, the Ephesus Antipholus, and Frederick Paulding, who played the double from Syracuse, read their lines with conviction and intellignce. Dr. Pinch was made up by W. C. Andrews, who looked the part and acted it also. Aphie James, who played Adriana, wife of one of the victims of mistaken identity, was well received for her insight into Shakespearian lines. The play is well staged and effectively managed. It should go well with those who enjoy pure fun and humor well directed and well played, even if it is done in blank verse.

Holidays at San Jose

Southern Pacific sells Saturday to Monday round trip tickets to San Jose at $7.50 to those wishing to enjoy the week end holidays among the fruit orchards of the Santa Clara valley. Tickets include board and lodging at Hotel Vendome

HALSEY'S PROMISED CONFESSION IS AWAITED

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his kinsman, Louis Glass—and the break between Pillsbury and the telephone company has widened to a breach that cannot be bridged, as is evidenced by his being forced out of his position as director.

While Halsey hopes that his statement will secure immunity for himself, should he survive his present critical illness, and that it will react in favor of his brother in law, no promises are to be asked of the prosecution. Halsey will freely tell all he knows and will then depend on the prosecution's policy of granting immunity to the hireling in order to reach the man above, as the factor which will save him from prison. However successfull Halsey might be in this respect, it is far from being an assured fact that his confession would in any way affect Glass. Glass has already been convicted on a chain of the strongest kind of evidence, and the implication of Pillsbury would not necessarily mean his elimination from the case in any sense. Had he been innocent he could have saved himself by taking the witness stand at his trial and throwing the responsibility for the bribery where it belonged, or he could have called Halsey as a witness in his behalf. So positive is the case against Glass that Halsey's detailed account of the actual transactions between himself and Pillsbury it not likely to eliminate Glass.

Pillsbury's testimony at the second Glass trial was that of the innocent director, suffering from a sense of injury that officials of the company could have committed such an act without the knowledge of the directors. He testified that Glass was the active executive head of the company after Sabin's death; that Glass authorized the payments of large amounts to crush opposition without submitting the matters to the approval of the executive commitee; that Glass was cognizant of the payment of funds not authorized by the executive committee to Abe Ruef and other attorneys for services in opposing competing companies, and that Glass was active in forming fake opposition companies. All these things, Pillsbury testified, he himself had no knowledge of, and, moreover, he asserted that he had been a strong opponent of the policy of combating opposition through the formation of bogus companies. Asked the direct question if he had any knowledge of the payment of bribes to the supervisors, he said that he had not. He also told of his threat to resign when he learned that Ruef had been employed as special counsel, and of going to Glass when the charges of bribery were first made public with the demand to know if they were true. Throughout his testimony Pillsbury conveyed the impression that he had half suspected crookedness but had never been able to find that any had occurred.

GRAND JURY TO GO AFTER FORD JURORS

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been running around trying to get some person to stand for some sort of a statement reflecting in some way on me. Since this case has been on they've dug up my record from the cradle to the present day and apparently they have not been able to find anything. An effort of this kind has been made in every important investigation I have been connected with, for the guilty ones are always trying to find some motive they can impute to those who are showing them in their true light. Well, I haven't any motive except to do my duty as I see it. Rogers refers to me as a foreigner. I'm now a citizen of California, I'm registered here in San Francisco and I expect to vote here at the next election.

"These fellows are in a frenzy because they have been thwarted in every crooked deal they have attempted, except in the spiriting away of the witness, Alec Lathan, and we didn't care much about him, for his evidence was unimportant. To show the methods they have used, a few days ago I found a chauffeur by the name of Cranford who worked for Calhoun for a time after the fire. I got a statement as to what he knew, which didn't reflect credit either on himself or on some of the defendants. I employed him to hunt up some other chauffeurs, and he was immediately captured by Calhoun or his agents. When I discovered the situation I dismissed him at once."

BELIEVES STRANGE HONEST

"How about Rogers' charges against Juror Edward Strange?" Burns was asked.

"I won't discuss the Ford jury," he answered, "except that I believe Strange to be absolutely honest. Rogers seemed to forget that Strange said at the time of his examination that he was a friend of William Abbott, and it was very apparent at the time that the defense was anxious to have him on the jury for that very reason, while he himself was just as unwilling to serve. Strange's relationship to Jim Rea is certainly nothing new or startling, for Strange was allowed during the Glass trial, in which he served as a juror, to go to the deathbed of his father in law, and his relationship was made very plain at that time."

Advertised goods are the best—that is why substitutes are offered in place of them. Insist on having the best and you will get it.

PLEADS UNWRITTEN LAW

AUBURN, Oct. 6.—Sheriff George McAulay arrived here this afternoon from Lincoln Neb., having in custody John Spera, who murdered Nomas Mastakoras, a Greek, in Lincoln two months ago. Spera has made and signed a full voluntry confession. He claims Mastakoras ruined his daughter.

NOTED IRISHMAN COMING

LONDON, Oct. 6.—Sir Anthony Patrick MacDonnell, permanent secretary to the lord lieutenant of Ireland, will sail October 19 for the United States, where he will visit James Bryce, British ambassador at Washington.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c.

WOULD TAKE BACK MEN

TONOPAH, Nev., Oct. 6.—The Tonopah and Goldfield railroad company made a proposition to its former employes through the board of trade today that it would take all men back at their old standing with the exception of Conductor Cowan, who was discharged for insubordination.

KICK BRINGS DEATH

PORTAGE, Pa., Oct. 6.—Thomas Bertram, 20 years old, of Altoona, Pa., suffered injuries during a football game today that caused his death tonight. He was kicked on the head during a scrimmage

Caught Stealing

A few days ago we had a dealer arrested and are now prosecuting him for putting another—cheaper—beer into our bottles and selling it as Schlitz.

Substitution robs you as well as us.

Our yeast is distinctive; no other brewery's is the same. It is developed from an original mother cell brought to this country by one of the founders of our business.

Our grain and our hops are selected from the best that is grown. We pay more than our "just as good" imitator to get a quality better than he thinks is "good enough" for his beer.

The theft of our name—giving you another beer when you think you are getting Schlitz—is what robs us.

You think you have had Schlitz—are disappointed and may not ask for it again—therefore, we are most anxious that you get our beer and not a substitute. So we say

Schlitz

Ask for the Brewery Bottling.
See that the cork or crown is branded Schlitz.

Sherwood & Sherwood
54 Pine Street, San Francisco

The Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous.

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BRODERICK'S NAME ON ONLY ONE OF TICKETS

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Wehr and R. Emmerton. The club claims a membership of 280.

The Mission Dolores independent political club was organized Saturday night at a meeting held in O'Leary's hall, Eighteenth and Dolores streets. Officers were elected as follows: President, J. J. Keough; vice president, Benjamin Jackson; secretary, M. J. Hogan; treasurer, D. J. O'Leary; sergeants at arms, John Gilchrist and James Decoursey. The secretary reports that 85 voters signed the roll. Candidates are to be indorsed in the near future.

A canvassing committee representing the Italian-American league is now at work preparing a list of candidates to be recommended for indorsement. This committee, composed of V. Garibaldi, republican; J. Cuneo, republican; F. Spiro, democrat; J. Rocca, democrat, and Joseph Marconi, union labor, will make its report next Friday evening.

WILLIAM CHILDERS STABS SON DURING QUARREL

BERKELEY, Oct. 6.—Edward Childers, 24 years old, of 2923½ Adeline street, South Berkeley, is in the Roosevelt hospital suffering from a stab wound in the shoulder inflicted tonight by his father, William, for whom the police are looking. The young man will recover.

William Childers is alleged to have struck his son with the knife during the course of an altercation which started over the son's refusal to admit his father into their home because of the latter's drunken condition. The elder man, according to the story told to the police by Edward, had come back to the house early in the evening so drunk that he could hardly stand. He was in a frenzy over some fancied slight which he accused his son of putting upon him several days ago.

Fearing for his personal safety the young man declined to allow his father to enter. The old man went away, but returned later.

The son stated that on his father's return, believing the old man had had a chance to grow sober in the interval, he opened the door. He insists that not a word was spoken by his father but that the latter drew a knife and plunged it into his shoulder.

SHIPPERS ORGANIZE FOR FIGHT AGAINST S. P.

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means are being utilized by the men who are determined to make the road refund part at least of the losses they have suffered.

DEVLIN NOT WANTED

Inquiry into the general sentiment among the smaller shippers in the city has revealed one significant fact. There is an almost universal opposition to the idea of having United States District Attorney Devlin handle the cases against the railroad for the government.

Yet another peculiar statement made by representatives of this committee who were questioned yesterday developed the fact that, owing largely to the illegal discrimination practiced by the Southern Pacific and ignored by the state board of railroad commissioners, the city of San Francisco is actually losing the trade with the interior, which for years it held as its own. Los Angeles has been favored by the road and many concessions have been made to prominent merchants and manufacturers of that city. As a result the business of many interior towns has been weened gradually away from San Francisco. This fact if no other would force the smaller shipper, dependent on his state trade and that alone, to act promptly.

CARRIES DEAD BABY IN ARMS TO ITS BURIAL

Father Brings Child's Body From Sausalito to Oakland for Interment in Cemetery

OAKLAND, Oct. 6.—Carrying his dead baby in his arms, W. M. Woodward of Sausalito accosted Policeman Smith on Seventeenth street near San Pablo avenue tonight and inquired for an undertaker. The patrolman elicited the information that Mr. and Mrs. Woodward had taken the child from Sausalito, where it died early today, after receiving a burial permit.

Having a lot in Mountain View cemetery, the couple brought their dead baby in their arms to this city for burial. They were directed to the undertaking establishment of Cuna, Caporno & Wohrden. The Oakland police investigated the case and found that the death certificate and burial permit were legal.

WAVES BUFFET UMBRIA

QUEENSTOWN, Oct. 6.—The Cunard liner Umbria, which sailed from New York September 26, arrived here today. The vessel experienced terrific weather from Sunday until Wednesday. Tuesday afternoon a huge wave struck her and badly damaged her unoccupied forward bridge. No one was injured.

Cash Registers, $35, $45, $55, easy payments. Pac. Coast Cash Register Co., 16 City Hall Sq.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

BUSINESSMEN IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY BUY NEW SAFES

It's the Biggest Safe Sale, Without a Doubt, Ever Held in San Francisco

New Safes From the R. L. Wood Safe Co. Stock Is Being Sold at About Half by Richardson Bros., 948-950-952 Mission Street

One Thing Certain—A Like Opportunity Seldom Presents Itself.

Last Friday was the first day of the **big money-saving sale of safes** at Richardson Bros., and you should have seen the crowd. Businessmen from all parts of the city and in every line of business were buying. Buying because they needed safes and because they knew that such an opportunity seldom presents itself. Every one was pleased and bought quickly, for the values really exceeded their greatest expectations.

New safes from the stock of R. L. Wood Safe Co. sold at almost half.

Did you ever hear tell of such bargains? Never. It's certainly the chance of a lifetime. Every businessman needs a safe for protection, be his business great or small. There are all sizes here, from the tiny one to one the size of a room, and every one selling at nearly half what they would ordinarily cost you. We bought the R. L. Wood safe stock, formerly the United Security Co., at about half the factory cost, and in turn are offering to the businessmen around the bay counties the biggest safe bargains they ever saw in their life.

New safes that have never been used are cheaper than you could buy second-hand ones for. Whether you are a doctor, lawyer, real estate man or merchant, great or small, there is a safe for you at almost half what it usually sells for.

Resolve yourself into a committee of one and come here tomorow expecting to get the grandest safe bargains you ever saw. You will find every one of them fully up to and beyond what you anticipated.

As, for instance, we offer an absolutely new safe, which every businessman knows should sell for $500. It stands over 6 feet high and nearly 5 feet wide, with double folding outside and inside doors, has a Yale Bank Combination Lock and is very roomy—**money-saving sale price $265.**

Then we have a safe for $205 that stands 6½ feet high by 3 feet 4 inches wide, with double outside and inside door. This safe is usually sold for $400, and a dealer buying in carload lots would consider it a splendid buy at $205.

Then we are showing safes that measure outside 47 inches high, 36 inches wide and 26 inches deep; on the inside they measure 30 inches high, 26 inches wide and 15 inches deep. They have large double outside and inside doors, with the best 4 tumbler Bank Combination Lock. The regular price is $225, but our **money-saving price is $133.**

Single door safes, with an inside door measuring outside 50 inches high, 31½ inches wide and 30 inches deep—a regular $170—**money-saving sale price, $100.**

A single door safe, with inside door measuring inside 32 inches high, 23 inches wide and 15 inches deep—regular price $160. During this **money-saving sale, $102.**

The businessman who wants a good safe suitable for a small business will find in this money-saving sale many good bargains, ranging from $54 down to $39.

Don't forget this sale, but postpone all previous engagements and be here at 9 a. m., or as soon thereafter as possible, for this is positively the greatest opportunity ever to buy new safes at almost half. Remember the place—**RICHARDSON BROS., 948-950-952 Mission street,** between Fifth and Sixth. Largest Exclusive Safe Dealers in the west.

Weekly Call, $1 per Year