

## INTERVIEWED BY PHONE

MISS ALICE NIELSEN TALKS TO THE JOURNAL FROM ST. LOUIS.

The Prima Donna Happy Over the Prospect of Singing as a Star in Her Own Town—May Soon Sing in London.

In view of the quite extraordinary interest manifested in the coming of Miss Alice Nielsen to the Coates theater next week, The Journal yesterday called up the prima donna at the Southern hotel, St. Louis, by telephone, and had an interesting chat with her about her present success and some of her past experiences.

Arrangements for the interview were made through Mr. George Bowles, representative of the Nielsen opera company, who says he knows of only one other instance where a stage celebrity has been interviewed at such long range, and what Mr. Bowles doesn't know about this sort of thing wouldn't make anybody top-heavy.



MISS ALICE NIELSEN.

Miss Nielsen is naturally very happy over the prospect of appearing in her own city as a star, and as the most successful comic opera star in the country at that. She entered into the trans-Atlantic conversation with manifold delight and enthusiasm. She was at the telephone at the appointed time, and the call for her met with an almost immediate response.

"Yes, how do you do, Miss Nielsen?" "Very well, thank you. How strange that you can ask that question and I have never been 'reached'."

"I am very delighted of course, especially as I know that if too much is expected of me there can be no disappointment in the company and the opera."

"How do you like the experiences of a popular star?"

"Oh, it is all very lovely, in its way; but the work is the same, and the responsibility is greater. I am a singer, and I need that what all earnest singers aim to do, you know, and I am very grateful for whatever success I have attained. You know, I began very young."

"When did you first sing in opera?"

"I do not remember the exact date, but my first part was a small one in 'Patience,' when that opera was put on in Kansas City by Addison Macleod. I began to sing in 'Chanticleer,' so far as I know, the part I 'created' in the opera has never been 'reached.'"

"Had you ever appeared in public before as a singer?"

"Yes, in school, occasionally. My very first appearance was at St. Teresa's academy in Kansas City, when in the familiar old schoolroom I appeared with dirty face, disheveled hair, unbuttoned dress and unlaced shoes, and sang 'The Topsy Turvy School.' Do you remember 'The Topsy Turvy School'?"

"No, I do not recall it. How does it go?"

"I see you want to test my memory. Well, I haven't such a bad memory. It opens like this:

"I am soiled every day,  
Why I can't say,  
'Remember me more,'  
Yes, here's the chorus:  
'Topsy turvy is your name,  
You are soiled; who's to blame,  
Always sleeping till the clock strikes eight,  
Sneezing to the school and slapping the head.'

Here The Journal man applauded loud and long, and when she had acknowledged the applause she was asked to sing the old school song, but this invitation was laughingly declined.

"You see," said Miss Nielsen, "I do not want my singing to be judged at such long range. Besides I have my doubts about the accuracy of the lyrics of the song. The old school song is full of echoes."

Miss Nielsen referred to her early choir and concert experience. She began to sing after her stage ambitions had taken hold of her. The only real hardship she ever endured was with a concert company that went as far west as Denver. The organization was stranded several times.

"My first professional engagement in opera was with a stock company in San Francisco," continued the well-known 'Fortune Teller.' "I sang for several seasons with that company, my role ranging all the way from Yum Yum to Lucia. You



THE BISMARCK MAUSOLEUM AT FRIEDRICHSRUH.

With singular foresight the late Prince Bismarck arranged, years before his death, every detail in connection with his last resting place. Amid the stress and excitement of his stormy life he seemed to dwell with real pleasure on the time when he would be at peace amid the whispering trees of his much loved Siedeburg. He had the mausoleum which will soon receive his remains, and he watched its progress with as much interest as he had formerly watched the growth and completion of the German empire. The mausoleum is a building of modest dimensions, and without any imposing architectural attributes. The architect has tried to realize the restful

ness of some out of the way country church, and he has completely succeeded. When one leaves the gateway of the prince's home at Friedrichsruh and crosses the road one sees in front two small hills. One is surrounded by the well-known chancellor on his birth birthday. The other is the site of the mausoleum. A winding path leads up to the building, which consists of a round tower and short nave. The graves of the prince and princess are situated in the tower, while the remainder of the building is reserved for the general family vault. The style of the whole edifice is exceedingly simple.

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THE "STANLAWS" FACE.

A Great Rival to the "Gibson" Face in Popular Favor Among the Girls.

The "Stanlaw" face is rapidly gaining a renown before which the "Gibson" face is obliged to retreat in good order. There was a time when every maid in the country imitated the Gibson style, with the fond hope that if she parted her hair and put on a back comb, and held up her chin and cultivated a look of sweet, if haughty seriousness, she might grow to be like the damsel that haunts the pages of "A Soldier of Fortune" and the "Princess Aline" and be recognized as of that class. Nine out

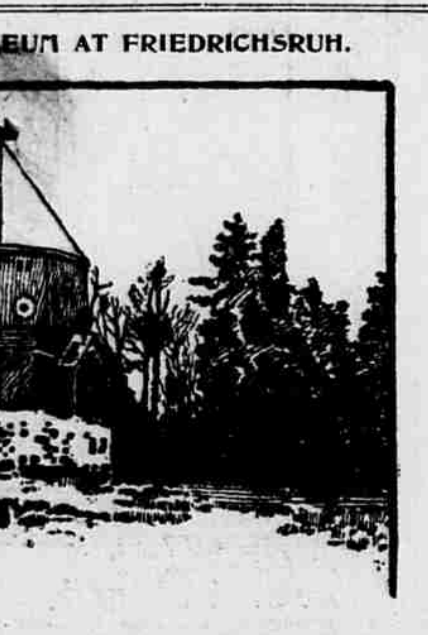


of ten of those who worked to this end never received the slightest recognition for their efforts and were forced to come down from their pedestals after awhile and go back to their former estate of ordinary American girls.

The Stanlaw girl is less ideal, but more vivacious and jolly and gay than the "Gibson" model. She hasn't one highly arched brow, but a more level one, and her hair is parted to be scornful would result in dire disaster. She is a wholesome, healthy, and a little plump, if she chose, her pointed chin and tip-tipped nose show that. Beyond everything else she is a wholehearted, full of life and spirit and several thousand degrees removed from severe. We meet the girl with the Stanlaw face every now and then on the street, and we never do so without a feeling of genuine admiration for her animated and mobile countenance. When we meet her in a magazine we feel under obligations to the artist for his dainty creation.

Up-to-Date.

"This is outrageous; it ought to be hissed off the stage," cried the well-known 'Fortune Teller.' "Why, this 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' with two Cyranes in it."



THE "STANLAWS" FACE.

## HOMES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN.



The Mission Children's Home-Finding Society has ample work to keep its district superintendents busy. Not only are there many deserted little ones to be put in good homes, but there is a large number of desolate homes where the sound of childish laughter and prattle will be warmly welcomed. In the last six weeks taken from Kansas City and given a new lease of life, among surroundings more conducive to their better development. Most have been received into farmers' families; others have gone to the smaller towns in this Western district of Missouri. All have experienced for the first time absolute physical comfort. Sleeping coverlets upon bare floors, making the most of one meal a day, and dragging out a miserable existence in rags and filth, have been wiped from their memories. It is surprising how many applications are sent in for the little waifs. Every few days a new list must be made out. Each list contains about thirty applications. Of those who are sent in more than one, the majority are occupants of childless homes, or parents whose sons and daughters have grown to manhood and womanhood and severed the home ties. A fairly large percentage of the children have reached middle life, the latter part of the being the times when the strongest inclination to assume new responsibilities is felt. Strange as it may seem, girls are more in demand than boys. Out of twenty-six applications received this morning, twenty-six ask for girls. When one recalls the enthusiasm with which the birth of a boy baby is usually greeted, this unusual fact would seem to demand explanation. There are two reasons which might be supposed to influence the preference in this case. First, the strange thing is that in their homes always run the risk of encountering in their undesirable characteristics. The other reason lies in the fact that homes are more frequently offered on farms. Farmers' wives, who are lonely if the long days must be spent without company. A girl would naturally fill the want in such cases.

An Application for a Child.

Applicants for a child must be investigated and their moral and financial standing approved by the local committee. They must promise to legally adopt the child within reasonable time, treat it as their own child, and send it to school and Sunday school. They must promise to keep the child thirty days after giving notice if it is unsatisfactory. The committee is allowed to visit their children after giving them through the society.

Rev. J. Milnes is the superintendent of the Kansas City district. When he finds a child whose parents are dead or unable to care for it properly, he takes it to the Children's home to be kept until the future home is decided. The consent of the child's parents and a legal surrender of all further right to the child is always obtained. The general description of the child desired is given by each applicant. These suggestions are looked over by the committee and are in placing the little one. Prospective foster mothers sometimes have very particular ideas as to the appearance of their new charges.

The children generally are glad to go, but when the time comes for parting with their mothers, a tearful scene is inevitable. The children are usually very homesick, and their separations and he does not find them especially enlightening. Neither is the children's behavior in the street cars an unmixed joy, he declares.

"I wouldn't mind it once in a while," he smiles, but the next day he is labeled—or the children were."

Some of the Rescued.

Not long ago Rev. Mr. Milnes rescued two little girls from the poorhouse. They had come there as orphans. Idiots and lunatics were their associates. Arrangements were made for the transportation of these children. They are now in good homes.

In another instance a father and mother separated, and unable to agree as to who should have their only child, a daughter, the little one was turned over to the children's home. Contrary to the rules, it was placed in the hands of a man who was to care for the child, and he was to be paid for his services. The child was placed in the hands of a man who was to care for the child, and he was to be paid for his services. The child was placed in the hands of a man who was to care for the child, and he was to be paid for his services.

The society publishes a little paper in which are printed letters from both the adopted children and their new caretakers. All of them express the keenest satisfaction.

A letter from a woman who had adopted a boy only a week when he died was as pitiful a wail as ever came from a heartbroken mother. In almost every instance the children who are adopted are as much as though they were our own. It is a short time for the heartstrings to grow about the little dependents.

If it happens, however, that the child is not satisfactory, a month's notice is given and the child is removed. An application for another child is not made until the first child has been adopted. One failure does not bring discouragement. A second child is given a trial, and even a third or more if necessary. When children of criminal parentage are given away nothing is said about their direct ancestry. The direct question is not asked. Prejudice against them would result and the innocent child would suffer in consequence.

The Missouri Children's Home Society is the branch of the national society. Among the noted men who have given their liberal patronage to the institution are: Frank, who is president of the board of directors of Ohio; Lyman Gage, who is vice president of the national board of directors; and Alvin member of the state board of Michigan; Rev. Mr. Washington Gladden, a member of the Ohio board, and the Rev. Dr. Daniel S. Tuttle, member of the state board of Missouri. Captain Ellison, of this city, is a member of the Missouri board.

In the seven years of the existence of Missouri's Home-Finding Society nearly 1,000 children have been permanently cared for. The superintendents are tireless in their devotion to the cause. Their pay amounts to only \$400 a year, for the society is supported by donations. A sense of duty well done is their further recompense.

THE EXTREME OF UNCONVENTIONAL.

From the Detroit Journal.

All night the red wine flowed: Wassail! Wassail!

Morning dawned upon a wild scene of revelry.

Some were singing bacchanalian songs, others danced grotesquely; while still others, who were drunk of all, picked their teeth.

## WINTER MERMAIDS.

Two Charming Asbury Park Maidens Take a Plunge in the January Surf.

From Exchange.

Miss Josie Ten Broeck and Miss Mabel Clowe, two venturesome Asbury Park, N. J., girls, took a winter dip in the ocean last Saturday. Miss Ten Broeck is a blonde of imposing figure, vivacious manners and addicted to athletics. She wore in the surf a light-brown suit, cut low, with bare arms and silk stockings, with large black stripes. Miss Clowe is a brunette. She had on a low-neck bodice, with red lace trimmings, short black skirt and black silk stockings.

The feat of the two girls plunged Captain



MISS MABEL CLOWE.

Abraham Baker, who for years has had the distinction of being the first to take a winter swim, into deep despair. The captain is a wealthy resident. He is over 50 years of age, but prides himself on his sturdiness. He wears light clothing even in midwinter.

Toward noon he walked slowly to the water's edge and took a favorite seat on the boardwalk at the foot of Asbury avenue, near the pavilion.

He was roused by the chatter of voices, and two girls stepped beside him.

"Is the water warm to-day?" said Miss Clowe, with an affectionate seriousness.

"It looks tempting," said Miss Ten Broeck.

The captain gasped and looked dubiously at the chilly surf.

Then the girls ran down the beach to the water's edge, while the captain stared.

Quickly they threw hats, skirts and shoes, reached middle life, the latter part of the being the times when the strongest inclination to assume new responsibilities is felt.

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## AMERICAN PITCHERS.

SOME NOVEL AND ATTRACTIVE PIECES RECENTLY EXHIBITED.

Developments in Pottery Since the Time of Dutch Settlers—Bits of History of the Pitcher-Making Industry.

Chicago recently had a very interesting pottery exhibit, or, more particularly, a pitcher exhibit. It was given under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. and a hundred of pieces were displayed. As the entertainment committee of this organization has an idea of making the exhibition popular from one end of the country to the other, a similar scheme may be before long given in Kansas City.

The display has aroused interest in the study of pottery and something regarding the part that America has taken in the history of pitcher making may be a timely bit of history.

Leaving aside the work of the aboriginals, the history of American pottery began with the Dutch settlers of Pennsylvania. As the first attempts at pottery making were made by the Dutch, the manufacture of "slip" ware in Montgomery and Bucks counties began about 1750. While this crude, plain style of pottery is rare, not a few of the old Dutch families in the East have excellent specimens of the work.

The latter followed their vocation in a small and humble way, their kilns generally being situated in the back of the house. The material used by them was the ordinary red clay, decorated with overlays of "liquid" colors.

The device used in this decorative work was called a "quill box," and to all practical purposes the quill was the mouth of which was gathered about a quill. Gentle pressure on the bag was sufficient to force the clay into the quill.

By using the quill as a pencil with which to trace the design, and the list of his pupils embraced one-third of the people. Lord Byron was an enthusiastic follower of Jackson. All will remember the author of "Don Juan" referring to the great professor in a note to the Canto of that famous work.

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Prior to passing over the championship to Belcher, Jackson had met and defeated the champion of the world, and was a household word, not only for his athletic ability, but for his many virtues. Indeed, in those days it was not unusual for a pupil of John Jackson to be a member of the universities of England were taught the art of self-defense as a matter almost compulsory.

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## "GENTLEMAN" JOHN JACKSON.

Attended a King at His Coronation—Memory Perpetuated in Stone and Verse.

From the New York Herald.

What a vast difference between the pupils of to-day and the masters of the eighteenth century! Where is the man living at this writing on whom the populace would bestow a monument to mark his grave in Old Trinity? The deeds of "Gentleman" John Jackson are bright and so decisive that it was Jackson's last fight. Though for three years afterward he was open to challenge, but none was forthcoming, and the championship was presented to one James Belcher.

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