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DRAMA FOR THE MASSES

New Plays Turned Out by the Author of "On the Bowery."

HACK WORK FOR ONE PURPOSE.

How R. N. Stephens, Once a Dramatic Critic, Brings Forth "Popular" Pieces to Order to Enable Himself Some Day to Produce Ambitious Ones.

Most of the leading managers who produce plays keep a playwright or two on the premises. Palmer has Paul Potter; Charles Frohman retains several in commission; Mansfield has two for his Garrick theater, New York. It is a play is to be written for some special purpose or on some special subject, or if a play is to be altered or adapted, the work falls to this regularly attached dramatist.

There is hardly a manager or firm of managers having more enterprises than are conducted by Davis & Keogh. Their attractions are of the "popular" character. They are just as expensive as any other, but they are made to please the multitude. Some are melodramas, some comedy dramas, some farce comedies. One of the busiest people in the busy Broadway offices of this firm is R. N. Stephens, the young man who wrote "On the Bowery" for them and Steve Brodie, and who has finished three more pieces for production next season.

Stephens used to be a newspaper man, dramatic editor of the Philadelphia Press. He had high ideals of the possibilities and requirements of the drama, and he doubt-



less still has them. He became a writer of "popular" plays for revenue only. Tom Davis had to use a great deal of persuasion to induce him to write "On the Bowery." Having made the plunge, he followed it with another by booming Davis' general agent. "On the Bowery" was so great a popular success that Davis immediately commissioned Stephens to write a farce comedy for Frank Bush to appear in at the head of a company of funmakers. Stephens had already taken Bush's measure, and after some weeks of industry he turned out a farce comedy which will be brought out next season, the title to be perhaps "The Real Thing," perhaps something else.

Meanwhile it had occurred to Davis that an odd and striking title for a play would be "The White Rat." The Frank Bush piece being finished, Davis said to Stephens one day, "You'd better start in and write a play to fit the title 'The White Rat.'" "What kind of a play do you want?" asked Stephens. "Better make it a New York melodrama," said Davis, adding, "Put plenty of comedy into it." Here was a nice order. A New York melodrama about a white rat! But Stephens soon saw that a dramatic plot could easily be made dependent on just such a specimen of the rodent family as Mr. Davis had named. Exactly what melodramatic purpose a white rat can fill is to be left to the imagination until the story of Mr. Stephens' play is made known. Doubtless people who have never read two of Booth's best tales wonder what sort of a thrilling story could be written about a "Black Cat" or a "Gold Bug." It is said that "The White Rat" deals excitingly and amusingly with lower New York life at night and contains much that is novel to the stage.

"The White Rat" having been completed, Stephens thought he might take a rest from playwriting for Davis & Keogh for awhile. But Davis had formed the intention of putting John Kernell in a new piece next season, and there was nothing to do but to set Stephens at work again. A few weeks' steady labor resulted in the manuscript of "The Alderman," in which Kernell is, of course, expected to make the "hit of his life." Davis & Keogh will thus have four of Mr. Stephens' plays in presentation the coming season—"On the Bowery," "The White Rat," the Frank Bush farce comedy and "The Alderman."

Having become a playwright by sheer force of circumstances, Stephens accepted the situation and intends to remain one. But he aspires. While he has been turning out popular farce comedy and melodrama during office hours he has been working nights and Sundays in his little flat up town on a play of a kind such as would have been expected from him by those acquainted with his journalistic work and his personal inclinations. It is a prose romantic drama, its scene laid in France in the sixteenth century, the period being not far from that of Stanley J. Weyman's novel, "A Gentleman of France." Stephens thinks that the romantic play of incident and character, availing itself of picturesque circumstances of more romantic times, should have as prompt acceptance from the public as the new romantic novel has found. He has not allowed himself to be trammelled by historical fact, nor has he bothered much about archeology. The main thing in his play is the story. He has not yet offered the piece to anybody, and he has read it to nobody but his wife. She was a most enthusiastic audience. As she is a constant theater goer and as good a judge of the popular qualities of a play as of its artistic merit, and moreover, as the successful plays are the plays that please women, Stephens has the utmost confidence in his new drama.

One might not expect a romantic drama of the sixteenth century to come from the author of "On the Bowery," but then neither would one have expected "On the Bowery" to come from the writer of such verses and stories by Stephens as have been published now and then.

"If I have sinned in writing burrah plays for the masses," said Stephens to me the other day, "I may atone some day by producing more ambitious plays for the classes. I am doing the one thing in order to get the means to do the other. Did I

mind having 'On the Bowery' slated by the critics? Not at all. It is one of those attractions whose prosperity is aided by critical disapprobation. There are many theater goers who know that as a rule what pleases them does not please the critics, and vice versa. I often wonder what I would have said about 'On the Bowery' had someone else written it and had I still been a dramatic reviewer on a newspaper when it was produced. But I would have had to admit its power to draw large audiences and to please them immensely. 'It's a rattling good show,' said a Chicago critic to me as he left the theater to go and 'roast' it from the lofty point of view that it was his custom to take in his newspaper." OCTAVUS COHEN.

New York.

SPORTS OF ALL SORTS.

The Suburban will be run on June 15.

The world's champion pacer, Robert J., has added 125 pounds to his weight and is fit to race for his life.

A Frenchman recently cabled Monroe Salisbury an offer of \$30,000 for Alix, 2:03 3/4, queen of trotters. The offer was refused.

Jack Curry says that Fantasy is the grandest and noblest looking horse on the turf today, and that she will surely reach the 2-02 goal this season.

"The richest soil makes the best track," C. J. Hamlin is reported to have said. "An onion bed from wire to wire would be an ideal race course if kept in proper condition."

Lipschutz states that a second match between J. W. Showalter and himself is likely to take place next fall, after the conclusion of the Hastings international chess congress.

Sheldon of Yale recently broke the intercollegiate record for the running broad jump held by Victor Mapes of Columbia. Mapes' record was 22 feet 11 1/2 inches. Sheldon cleared 23 feet.

Tommy Conneff, the famous runner, will meet any amateur in the world at the Decoration day games of the New Jersey Athletic club. His record is 4 minutes 17 seconds for the mile, the world's record for an amateur.

It is alleged that C. G. Stuart, who is training for the intercollegiate meet at Chicago next month, has run 100 yards in 9 3/5 seconds. But one athlete, John Owon, Jr., of Detroit, has been officially credited with less than ten seconds for this event.

John L. Brewer, the expert professional wing shot, recently performed the unusual feat of killing 100 pigeons straight. E. D. Fulford, J. A. R. Elliott, A. H. Bogardus and Al Bandle are the only men besides Brewer who have killed 100 in succession.

How Corbett Was Once Knocked Out.

"It was in the Olympic club in San Francisco," James J. Corbett said to a St. Louis Globe-Democrat reporter recently, "that I first put on a boxing glove. It was about the noon hour, and I left my desk in the bank to go to luncheon. On my way back I met some friends who were members of the great club. They proposed that we go in for a moment, and we did. I was delighted with what I saw, and Professor Gorinski, who was then boxing instructor to the club, noticing my interested eagerness, asked me if I would like to put the gloves on. I assented gladly, never stopping to think of the whipping I was sure to get. The opponent selected to initiate me was Mr. Barney, a well known insurance agent of San Francisco. He was a strong, well grown athlete, while I was a tall, gangling, ill developed boy, quite as raw as I am now, but weighing only 140 pounds.

"Barney was not much of a boxer, but he was big and strong as an ox. Then I did not know a left lead from a right upper cut. I did the best I could, however, but after a few minutes of ding-dong battle I was knocked stiff and cold—dead to the world and everything it contained. I was knocked out for the first and only time in my life."

How It Feels to Win \$100,000.

"A good many persons would like to know how it feels to win \$100,000 on a race," said Fred Foster recently while referring to the victory of his horse, Dr. Rice, in last year's Brooklyn Handicap. "I went up to the head of the stretch," he said, "after giving final orders to Taral and climbed up on a tallyho there. I could not see either the field at the post or anything but the thousands of people about me. A confused murmur is all I know about the start. Then everything seemed to oppress me for a minute, and I knew nothing of what was going on about me. Suddenly a horse in McClelland's colors rushed past me. A length back was another, which I did not know. Only a head away I saw the Doctor. Taral was sitting perfectly still, and I could see him steady my horse. He was just galloping. A strange feeling, one of joy, came over me. I saw Taral bend over in his saddle and say something. The Doctor pricked up his ears and extended himself. He shot past the second horse, and it seemed but a jump till he was at the flank of McClelland's colt. I cried, 'Boys, I've won the Brooklyn!' and fell off the top of that tallyho. I don't remember anything of the next half hour, or, in fact, very clearly of the rest of the racing. I found out afterward that I saw the Doctor put away all right and attended to getting Elroy out for the last race and betting all the money I had on him, but I was so excited that I forgot to cash the tickets I had when he completed my day's triumphs."

Lillian Russell's Mortgage.

Ever since the news that Lillian Russell had mortgaged her residence for \$19,000 was published in the newspapers the curious have been clamoring to know how it happened that Miss Russell could be so impoverished.

It is pretty thoroughly understood that our first light opera prima donna is not lavish in the matter of expenditure, and it is equally well known that she has for the last eight years been receiving a very large income.

The only answer to the apparent paradox presented by the juxtaposition of income, expenditure and mortgage is that Miss Russell is not "broke," and that her placing of the \$19,000 mortgage at 5 per cent simply means that she has paid off an old \$22,000 mortgage which drew 6 per cent.

Patsy's Arm Was Strong.

Old Pat Nolan, in the course of the construction of his residence at Sheephead Bay, the result of his frugality and business capacity while he was a steeplechase jockey, says The Horseman, was accosted by a fellow countryman:

"Aye, Patsy, it's myny's the toime, Patsy, ye want over the water jump to get the money to build that house."

"Yes," responded Pat knowingly, "and it's myny's the toime, Moike, Oi didn't go over the water jump to git the money to build that house."

FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

New York Stock Market.

New York, May 17.—The stock market opened irregular and continued unsettled the greater part of the morning on active trading. London was a seller and then became a buyer and there was considerable local selling in liquidation of long accounts which showed profits. The fluctuations in the active grangers were slight but some of the specialties made wide changes. Before noon the market had steadied itself but the buying movement had become more pronounced and prices began to move upward. The general list with some few unimportant exceptions shared in the improvement and the market, with an occasional reaction, continues to advance to the close, the final dealings being strong in tone.

Closing stocks were as follows. Atchison, 8 1/2; Adams Express, 144; Baltimore and Ohio, 64 1/2; Chesapeake and Ohio, 23 1/2; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 80 1/2; Chicago Gas, 74 1/2; C. C. C. and St. Louis, 44 1/2; Del. Lackawanna and Western, 162 1/2; Distillers and Cattle Feeders Co., 23 1/2; Erie, 13 1/2; Erie preferred, 28; Great Northern preferred, 128; Lake Shore, 147; Lead Trust, 35; Louisville and Nashville, 59 1/2; National Cordage, 5; National Cordage preferred, 7 1/2; N. J. Central, 99 1/2; Norfolk and Western preferred, 16 1/2; Northern Pacific preferred, 23 1/2; Northwestern, 99 1/2; Northwestern preferred, 144; N. Y. Central, 102 1/2; N. Y. and New England, 42 1/2; Pacific Mail, 27 1/2; Pullman Palace, 174; Reading, 20 1/2; Rock Island, 69 1/2; St. Paul, 67 1/2; St. Paul and Omaha, 31; Southern Pacific, 20 1/2; Sugar Refinery, 118 1/2; Union Pacific, 15 1/2; Western Union, 92 1/2; General Electric, 34 1/2; Southern, 14 1/2; Southern preferred, 40 1/2; Tobacco, 106 1/2; Tobacco preferred, 111.

Chicago Market.

Chicago, May 17.—Wheat climbed above 70 cents to-day, July closing at 70 1/2@70 3/4, almost 2 cents higher than yesterday. Crop damage reports were the main factor in the bulge. July corn lost 1/4¢, September oats lost 1/4¢, and provisions finished with but little change.

The leading futures ranged to-day as follows:

Wheat, No. 2—May, opening, 68 1/2, closing 69 1/2; July, opening, 69 1/2@69 3/4, closing 70 1/2@70 3/4; September, opening, 69 1/2@69 3/4, closing, 70 1/2. Corn No. 2—May, opening, 51 1/2, closing, 51 1/2; July, opening, 51 1/2@52, closing, 51 1/2@51 3/4; September, opening, 52 1/2@52 3/4, closing, 52 1/2@52 3/4. Oats No. 2—May, opening, 28 1/2, closing, 28 1/2; June, opening, 28 1/2, closing, 28 1/2; July, opening, 28 1/2, closing, 28 1/2. Mess pork, per bbl.—July, opening, 12.25, closing 12.15; September, opening, 12.50, closing, 12.42 1/2. Lard, per 100 lbs.—July, opening, 6.70, closing, 6.70; September, opening, 6.87 1/2, closing, 6.85. Short ribs, per 100 lbs.—July, opening, 6.20, closing, 6.17 1/2; September, opening, 6.35, closing, 6.32 1/2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour firm; winter patents, 3.10@3.40; winter straights, 2.90@3.15; spring patents, 3.20@3.75; spring straights, 2.40@3.25; Bakers, 1.85@2.40; No. 2 spring wheat, 73 1/2@73 3/4; No. 3 spring wheat, nominal; No. 2 red, 69 1/2@69 3/4; No. 2 corn, 51 1/2@51 3/4; No. 3 yellow, 50 1/2@50 3/4; No. 3 oats, 28 1/2; No. 2 white, 32 1/2@33 1/2; No. 3 white, 31 1/2@32; No. 2 rye, 65; No. 2 barley, 51@51 1/2; No. 3, 48 1/2@51; No. 4, 48; No. 1 flaxseed, 1.48 1/2; prime timothy seed, 5.00; mess pork, per bbl., 12.10@12.20; lard, per 100 lbs. 6.57@6.60; short ribs sides, (loose), 6.10@6.15; dry salted shoulders (boxed), 5 1/2@5 3/4; short clear sides, (boxed), 6 1/2@6 3/4; whiskey, distillers' finished goods per gallon, 1; sugars, cut loaf, 5.13; granulated, 4.69; standard A, 4.56.

Cincinnati Produce Market

CINCINNATI, O., May 17.—Flour firm; wheat strong; No. 2 red, 73 1/2@74. Corn firm; No. 2 mixed, 53 1/2. Oats fairly active; No. 2 mixed, 30 1/2@31. Rye stronger; No. 2, 67. Pork quiet, steady; 12.25. Lard easier, 6.52 1/2. Bulk meats steady, 6.12 1/2. Bacon fair demand, steady, 7.00. Whiskey steady; sales, 433 barrels, 1.23. Butter steady. Cheese steady. Sugar fair demand. Eggs strong, 10.

New York Money Market.

New York, May 17.—Money on call easy at 1@1 1/4; last loan 1; closed 1. Prime mercantile paper 3/4@4/4. Sterling exchange dull and easy with actual business in bankers' bills at 4.87 1/2@4.87 3/4 for demand, and 4.88@4.88 1/2 for sixty days; posted rates, 4.86 1/2@4.87 and 4.88. Commercial bills, 4.85 1/4. Silver certificates, 67@67 1/2.

WHILE in Stockton, Cal., some time ago Thos. F. Langan, of Los Banos, that State, was taken very severely with cramps and diarrhoea. He chanced to meet Mr. C. M. Carter, who was similarly afflicted. He says: "I told him of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and we went to the Holden drug store and procured a bottle of it. It gave Mr. Carter prompt relief and I can vouch for its having cured me." For sale by the Chas. Lyle Drug Company.

Go to Donaldson's new stores for cheap oak suits.

R. M. Sutton & Co.

CAPT. D. C. BOOTH, agent of R. M. Sutton & Co., of Baltimore, wholesale dealers in dry goods and notions, who has been occupying rooms over the E. H. Stewart furniture store, will on the first day of May remove his large stock of samples to Hotel Lee, corner of Commerce street and Salem avenue, and in future will be pleased to see his patrons in his new quarters.

ANOTHER lot of beautiful chamber suits just received by The E. H. Stewart Furniture Company.

Go to Donaldson's new stores for carpets and matings.

Whooping Cough.

THERE is no danger from this disease when Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is freely given. It liquefies the tough mucus and aids its expectoration. It also lessens the severity and frequency of paroxysms of coughing and insures a speedy recovery. There is not the least danger in giving the remedy to children or babies, as it contains no injurious substances. For sale by the Chas. Lyle Drug Company.

Chamberlain's Eye and Skin Ointment is a certain cure for Chronic Sore Eyes, Granulated Eye Lids, Sore Nipples, Piles, Eczema, Tetter, Salt Rheum and Scald Head. 25 cents per box. For sale by druggists.

You Will never need another dose of Dyspepsia Medicine after a meal, if your food is cooked with Cottolene, the new vegetable shortening, instead of lard. Cottolene aids the digestive powers—lard destroys them, which will you choose? The genuine Cottolene is identified by this trade mark—steer's head in cotton-plant wreath—on every pail. Made only by The N. K. Fairbank Company, ST. LOUIS and CHICAGO.

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