

MORNING APPEAL.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

BERNHARDT AS THE VIRGIN MARY.

The announcement, that Bernhardt is about to essay the role of the Virgin Mary, has set all the cheap newspaper wits swapping their little jokes at her expense.

It seems to strike them as something very funny that she should attempt the character. Yet, according to the APPEAL's way of thinking, she is about the only woman on the stage of the world today capable of delineating it.

The press has for years felt itself licensed to sneer at Bernhardt's morals, none of these thoughtless writers ever pausing to reflect how small was the license they hold to cast the first stone, even at the commonest woman of the town.

There is no way to judge such a woman, except by her genius. When omnipotence gave her the brain that the world has worshipped, and kindled in it the divine fire of genius, a mortal was created not of the common mould.

She stands in her day and generation the grandest impersonator of human creation that lives, and perchance the greatest who has ever lived. Hers is one of the most exquisitely moulded intellects ever given to woman. Would the critics of Bernhardt's morals insist that only women as pure as snow and chaste as ice, should essay such a role? If so, they would probably fasten on Mary Anderson, the vestal of the stage; but Miss Anderson, if she ever attempted it, would only make a ridiculous mess of it.

MISDIRECTED ENDEAVOR.

The names have been given to the public of certain misguided but earnest women who have gone to the Sandwich Islands and New Caledonia to nurse lepers. The press is almost unanimous in praising these women for their bravery and self-sacrifice. They are brave, self-sacrificing women actuated by the purest motives, but never the less the law should take a firm hold of such foolish business and prevent it. It is impossible to cure leprosy, and the attempts to cure it simply results in the spread of the disease. Dr. Morrell McKenzie has recently published some startling facts connected with the terrible increase of this loathsome and deadly disease. Unless something is done to eradicate it from the world, a few centuries hence will see whole nations suffering from this dreadful heritage of misery and rottenness.

The women who go to nurse the lepers will not help them in the least, and they may come back to civilization and help spread the disease. There is a great deal of sentiment in their action, but not one particle of sense.

It would be infinitely better for future generations if all governments united in exterminating the lepers within their borders. If this course had been taken a hundred years ago there would not be any leprosy in the world now.

For the sake of future generations all the lepers in the world should be exterminated instead of nursed.

The question naturally arises, whether the Paris escapade of young Philippe of Orleans has any connection with Boulangerism. His desire to enlist in the French Army taken by itself is rather thin. If his father abdicates he is heir to the throne, according to the ideas of both branches of the French Bourbons. The alliance between Monarchists and Boulanger has been pretty well established, and this young man might become a dangerous character in an army recently devoted to Boulanger.

It is hardly likely that the Russian Government will permit George Kennan to bring witnesses from Siberia to prove his charges of cruelty before the Prison Congress. If any were brought they would be those upon whose evidence the Government could depend for a whitewash.

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