

In the Realms of the Mimic World

It sounds very much like a truism to say that the potent ingredient of a successful play is its "acting" quality. "Examples gross as earth," testify to this.

A drama of the commonest, most conventional order, if plentifully supplied with that essential known as "action" claims attention and maintains interest, not of a cultured character perhaps, but nevertheless human. On the other hand, let a play be ever so carefully wrought, its diction ever so poetic or lofty, and its sentiments ever so pure and exalted, it will fail to attract humanity if it be deficient in action.

flagration which consume the crumbling palace on the final act, was a thrilling spectacle! But what of the play? What of Byron's magnificent resounding lines, aglow with the poet's bold imagery and fine frenzy? The recollection of their delivery did not linger an hour. Not a single dramatic situation apart from the final catastrophe, left its impression upon the mind, as is the case with the Shakespearean drama. The characters of Sardanapalus as in Byron's other dramas, talk—just plain talk. They tell what they are going to do, what they ought to do, or what they would do, but the vitality of action is absent.

GRACE CAMERON



In "A Normandy Wedding" at the Metropolitan.

the scenes, teeming with incident and dialogue calculated to display human nature in its varied aspects.

These thoughts and many of a kindred nature are suggested by a contemplation of the romantic drama "Lazare," presented here last week by that most worthy young actor, Otis Skinner. The play is the work of Mr. Skinner and Aubrey Boucault, a fellow player and son of that highly prolific dramatist, and exponent of the theater, the late Dion Boucault.

True, it is but a dramatization of a novel, that imposed limitations upon the playwrights. But Shakespeare founded his immortal dramas upon the fictions of romantic writers, the traditions of his ancestors, or the histories of nations. But he humanized every character that he transferred to his pages.

The story of "Lazare" does not, seemingly, lend itself happily to stage representation. It opens with Lazare, an untutored son of the forest. It presents him at the close in the garb, person and embodiment of a civilized, educated and noble man.

Reference to the lack of action in this play suggests the vast number of dramas, some of them by the world's most famous men of letters, that are today dead to the stage for the same reason. Take for instance any of Lord Byron's somber tragedies, such as "Manfred," "Werner," "The Two Thoscari" or "Sardanapalus."

ing historical theme, for the poet-dramatist, and, as a play, a glorious pageant! Woven into it was the romantic legend of the fair Rosamond, and her lover to which her sovereign, King Henry II, was guided by a silken thread. Tennyson's poetic genius revealed in depicting this beautiful episode, but "Becket" does not live as a great tragedy. Not even the producing and histrionic genius of an Irving could give it more than a brief span of life.

Why? Because its dialogue lacked the responsiveness, the directness, the humanity that impregnates and vivifies the conversations and speeches of the immortal Bard of Avon, and the drama itself, in form and moving, was deficient in that subtle, vitalizing quality—action.

"A NORMANDY WEDDING."

Grace Cameron in a New Comic Opera the Attraction at the Metropolitan.

For the first half of the week, beginning this evening and including a Wednesday matinee, the Grace Cameron Opera company will be the attraction at the Metropolitan opera house, presenting the new comic opera by J. Cheever Goodwin and William Furst, entitled "A Normandy Wedding."

It has been said of Miss Cameron and her opera that she is a star who can sing and act and that the opera has a plot, two unusual things that can rarely be predicted of the modern musical pieces.

Miss Cameron is said to be a young and pretty girl who was for a season one of the prima donnas of the Bostonians and for the last two years was the leading woman with Jerome Sykes in "Foxy Quiller." She is a Western girl, having been born at Storm Lake, Iowa, and is proud of the fact. She is said to have a remarkable dramatic ability as well as a voice of exceptional power and sweetness.

"A Normandy Wedding" is the combined effort of J. Cheever Goodwin and William Furst. The former wrote the libretto of "Wang," "Evangeline" and other successful pieces and Mr. Furst composed the music of "The Isle of Champagne." It is described as a genuine comic opera, and not a musical comedy and has had the unanimous praise of critics wherever it has been presented by Miss Cameron.

looks. The principal comedians are Joseph W. Standish, Stephen B. French, Sylvan Langren, Dallas King, Genevieve Reynolds, Clarence Coldren and Minnie Fanning.

"HERRMANN THE GREAT"

Prestidigitator Will Mystify Patrons of the Metropolitan.

The engagement of "Herrmann the Great" at the Metropolitan Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, will be interesting to all lovers of the mysterious and occult. Herrmann long ago came to the conclusion that his audiences desired something new on each of his succeeding visits, and that no matter how mysterious a trick or illusion may be, that once seen, it must be shied for something else, some new trick must be substituted or his popularity would begin to wane.

Convinced that the public demand was for novelty, Herrmann has been indefatigable in his pursuit of it. Of an inventive turn of mind he has been able to convey his impressions to his assistants and from them evolve some sensational phenomena. Mr. Herrmann has in his employ clever builders of magical paraphernalia. Many of the most famous tricks of magicians have been built by them, and their ability is counted by Herrmann as his most valuable asset.

During his present engagement in this city it is announced that an entirely new programme of magic will be presented and that every trick and illusion on the long programme, with the exception of two, will be absolutely new. Among the larger and more showy tricks to be presented are "The Hindoo Mango Tree," "The Enchanted Cabinet," the aerial mystery "The Princess Mahomeda," "The Hand of Balaemo," "La Fete des Fleurs," "The Tambourine of Seville," "The Santos Dumont," "The Chinese Washee Washee" and the sensation of Pekin entitled "Voyage Instantaneous."

The musical Goolmans will furnish popular selections on various instruments from grand opera to rag time.

BEN HUR SALE OPENS TUESDAY.

Impressive Spectacle to be Presented at Metropolitan Christmas Week.

St. Paul seems to be on the qui vive regarding the forthcoming engagement at the Metropolitan opera house of Messrs. Klaw & Erlanger's big production of "Ben Hur," which will be seen here for a single week, commencing Monday, Dec. 22. The sale of seats for this engagement, which is limited to nine performances (Sunday being omitted) will open on Tuesday of this week and judging from the large number of mail orders already received and the general interest manifested it is safe to predict a most successful local engagement—a condition which has been true wherever "Ben Hur" has been presented.

The theater-going public generally, of course, cares very little as to the business an attraction plays to, only so far as it is indicative of success or failure. From the point of view that "Ben Hur" has drawn more money and more people than any production brought forth either in America or Europe, the conclusion is inevitable that it is beyond all question the greatest and most meritorious theatrical effort that has yet been attempted in this country.

It will be of interest, as well, to know that "Ben Hur" will be presented here by the same company that appeared in Chicago, New York, Boston and Philadelphia, and that it will be mounted with all the elaborate scenery and opulence of stage accessories and effects which have characterized its presentation since the reign of the Roman empire.

It has often been stated by dramatic

SISTERS DE GRAFF,



Of the Dainty Duchess Company, at the Star.

writers that "Ben Hur" is the most faithful translation of a book story to the stage that has ever been made, as Mr. William Young, the dramatist, has preserved all the more important and salient points of Gen. Wallace's masterpiece.

The spectacle opens with a tableau of the three wise men in the desert, showing the star of Bethlehem rising in the east. Every detail of the picture that the written words created in the

mind is said to be brought to the eye in this prelude with remarkable accuracy and impressiveness. From this scene quickly changes to the house of Hur, showing the housetops of Jerusalem; the quarrel between "Ben Hur" and "Messala" and the other incidents so familiar to readers of the book.

The great chariot race is a most realistic stage picture. The illusion of speed is produced with treadmills and a moving panorama, encircling the entire stage, showing the interior of the circus of Antioch. Apparently the audience moves with the riders, so that no detail of the contest (including the exciting incident of the smashing of Messala's wheel) is left to the imagination.

The final act, a fitting finale to a most interesting production, is a representation of the healing of the lepers on Mount Olivet. Here hundreds of

rons of the Star theater will next week enjoy one of the most refreshing programmes given at this popular house. The entertainment is to be provided by the "Dainty Duchess" Burlesque company, an organization that is no stranger here, yet which has been materially strengthened, it is said, for the forthcoming engagement. Added to a host of pretty and vivacious young women, there will also be a coterie of comedians guaranteed to tell new jokes. It is promised that the burlesquers will be staged with due attention to scenic and electrical details and that the costumes will be new and fetching. The attraction will present Tenley and Simonds, comedians, the Four Silvanis, acrobats; Washburn and Topack, in "The Sporting Editor"; Lester and Anger, the Herman philosophers; Sisters DeGraff, Joelson and Moore, and others closing the entertainment with a forty minute farce entitled "Marum Scarum."

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Next week's attraction at the Grand opera house will be George Sidney, the funny little man recently associated with Ward and Vokes. Manager E. D. Stair

MISS MAUDE POWELL,



With "Happy Hooligan" at the Grand.

people bearing palms are seen, singing "Hosannas," but there is no presentation of the Nazarene. Still His presence is felt, indicated by a shaft of light of purest white, reflected from the halo over his head. The incident is handled with exquisite delicacy and is considered the most impressive effect ever produced in a theater.

Those who intend witnessing the production here are advised to secure seats early on Tuesday, as the demand is sure to be large, and no favoritism will be shown to anyone in advance during this engagement.

HAPPY HOOLIGAN AT THE GRAND

Oppor's Funny Caricatures Will Come to Life This Week.

"Happy Hooligan," which will be presented for the first time in this city at the Grand Opera house tonight, is, to borrow the vocabulary of the press agent, "a roystering torrent of all that is gorgeous, amusing, magnificent, merry and melodious in farce comedy. It reigns supreme; yet you find time to satisfy the eye with beauty of the scenery and the kaleidoscopic color in the costumes and wardrobe. 'Happy Hooligan' is bursting with animated action, bristling with effervescent humor, bubbling with undiluted mirth, permeated with startling and catchy music."

Nearly everyone has seen Fred Oppor's funny caricatures in the New York and Chicago Sunday papers, which have gained for him a marked reputation as a cartoonist and his work every week causes the readers of these papers much amusement. The funny situations Happy Hooligan finds himself in have been, it is said, adroitly and neatly worked into this play and form a most effective background for the introduction of numerous vaudeville and specialty features. The piece is said to be alive with new, bright and catchy musical numbers and ensembles and the chorus is promised to be a large capable one. The company comprises a number of well known entertainers including Ross Snow, Haliday and Quinn, Ed. Begley, Belle Darling, Maggie Weston, Whelan and Otto, The Pan-American troupe, and an augmented chorus of thirty young women.

In costuming and staging the piece, Mr. Hill is said to have "gone the limit," and several scenes of unusual beauty and some decidedly novel electric effects are produced. The engagement will be for one week with the usual Wednesday and Saturday matinees.

DAINTY DUCHESS BURLESQUERS.

They Will Provide Entertainment at the Star This Week. From the indications and the promises of the management, the pat-

has provided Sidney with a musical skit bearing the euphonious title of "Busy Izzy." One need not worry about a plot. Fred Wyckoff, Florence Ackley, Lisle Bloodgood, Edward Clark, Daniel Sullivan, Grace Dare, Frank Gibbons, Evelyn Granger, Thomson and Andrews, Vesta Garcia and the juggling Normans (five in number), and a chorus of attractive young women.

Henry W. Savage's latest musical success, "The Prince of Pilsen," is announced as the New Year's week attraction at the Metropolitan opera house, the engagement beginning Sunday, Dec. 23.

"The Suburban," Jacob Litt's big racing melodrama, is underlined at the Metropolitan for an engagement early in January. Blanche Walsh, in "The Daughter of Hamelin," is also announced for an early appearance at the Metropolitan.

The old saw, "A little nonsense now and then," etc., is applicable to Charles F. Yale and Sidney E. Ellis' production of "The Evil Eye," which comes to the Grand shortly, for the attraction is a combination of nonsense, both natural and mechanical, a potpourri of music and mirth, of fun and frolic. It is a dispenser of laughter—foe to frowns.

Early in January Robert Mantell is scheduled to play his annual engagement in this city at the Grand opera house. Mr. Mantell will present his romantic comedy, "The Dagger and the Cross."

"The Heart of Maryland," David Belasco's war drama, comes to the Grand opera house in January for a week's engagement.

Williams and Walker, in their operatic production entitled "In Dahomey," are scheduled to appear at the Grand in February.

The premier exponent of high class vaudeville among traveling organizations, "The Orpheum Show," will be seen here at the Grand during the month of February.

AMUSEMENTS.

STAR MATINEES DAILY.

THEATRE EVENINGS at 8:15

Matinee Today—All Week

DAINTY DUCHESS BURLESQUERS.

First Time in the West

Next Week

Sam Devero's Company

SEATS:

10c

20c

30c

AMUSEMENTS

METROPOLITAN

TO-NIGHT, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY MATINEE

F. C. WHITNEY PRESENTS THE

Grace Cameron Opera Co.

In the popular Comic Opera Success by J. Cheever Goodwin, author of "Wang" and William First, composer of "The Isle of Champagne."

A NORMANDY WEDDING

IN COMPANY

50 Pretty Girls—Catching Music—Handsome Costumes—Clever Comedians—Witty Lines—Superb Scenery

—AND—

The Youngest, Cleverest and Prattiest

COMIC OPERA PRIMA DONNA IN AMERICA.

HIGHER PRICES—25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50. Matinee—25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00.

THURSDAY THREE NIGHTS—

SATURDAY MATINEE

THE WORLD-FAMOUS

HERRMANN THE GREAT

IN NOVEL AND STARTLING

MAGIC PRESTIDIGITATION AND ILLUSIONS

Accompanied by

THE MUSICAL GOOLMANS

NIGHT PRICES—25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00. MATINEE—25c and 50c

EXTRA—METROPOLITAN

L. N. SCOTT, Lessee and Manager

CHRISTMAS WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY DEC. 22

MATINEES—Wednesday, Christmas and Saturday.

Klaw & Erlanger's Stupendous Production of Gen. Lew Wallace's

BEN HUR

Dramatized by WILLIAM YOUNG. Music by EDWIN STILLMAN KELLY. Staged by BEN TEAL.

The Most Impressive and Successful Dramatic Spectacle Ever Produced.

350 PEOPLE 350

PRICES Lower Floor—\$1.50 and \$2.00. Balcony, \$1.00, \$1.50, Gallery, 50 and 75c.

SALE OF SEATS OPENS TUESDAY

GRAND TONIGHT

JACOB LITT, PROP. THE L. HATS, MGR. ALL THIS WEEK!

THAT HILARIOUS COMEDY—F. OPPER'S

Happy Hooligan.

50 PEOPLE. Ross Snow as UNCLE HAPPY

Haliday & Quinn Whelan & Otto Maggie Weston

Bella Darling Ed Begley and the Pan American Four

"A CHORUS OF 20 GIRLS." THE COMEDY SUCCESS OF THE SEASON

ALL CHRISTMAS WEEK

E. D. STAIR INTRODUCES

THE FUNNIEST OF FUNNY FELLOWS

GEORGE SIDNEY

IN THE NEW MUSICAL FUN BARGAIN

BUSY IZZY.



HERRMANN, THE GREAT, ILLUSTRATING THE ART OF PALMING AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE.