



"The Little Duchess," says the programme—and a little further on, it adds, "owing to the length of the performance, the plot has been eliminated."

THREE OF THE PRINCIPALS.



MARION IVELL. Castle Square Opera Company.



JOSEPH SHEEHAN. Castle Square Opera Company.



NORMA ROMANO. Castle Square Opera Company.

man who would presume to criticize the show because he could find no plot. Yet there are such malcontents. For it is a beauty show primarily and secondarily. This is not to say that its whole virtue ends in the display of female loveliness, for it does not by any means. Miss Held has also surrounded herself with clever comedians, who are provided with ludicrous situations and diverting songs and specialties which they execute in original and entertaining fashion. Never think for a moment that when the girls are not on the stage time lags. Every second is profitably and honestly employed in amusing the beholder.

whose grotesque caricature of an impossible swimming teacher actually grows funny, after the first act, Knox Wilson, whose concertina and saxophone specialties provoke insistent encores, and the diminutive Franz Ebert, who is an artist in his littlest finger tips. Marion is an actor, a fact amply demonstrated when he assumes the disguise of an Italian organ grinder. This specialty, in which he is strenuously and gracefully assisted by the terpsichorean accompaniment furnished by Marguerite Favart, is one of the most enjoyable of all. He never did think that the art of being funny was indigenous to Joe Herbert, but he comes nearer to it than ever before in this vehicle. It is refreshing to hear the English language spoken as he speaks it with a fervid, distinct enunciation which indicates that he can "spell all the words that he uses," an accomplishment for which some of "these, our actors," are not distinguished.

thrustingly received in all of the cities thus far visited by the organization. It is under the able direction of Mr. N. B. Emanuel, one of the best known American opera conductors. As to the productions themselves, nothing could better indicate the conscientious endeavor of the management to give the music-loving public the greatest possible values at prices that are reasonable in the extreme, than the lengths it has gone in providing mountings and stage investiture for all the operas. For the coming week at the Metropolitan two favorite works have been selected for presentation. They are Wagner's "Lohengrin" and Balfe's "Bohemian Girl." "Lohengrin" will be presented on Monday, Thursday and Saturday evenings and at the Wednesday matinee, and "The Bohemian Girl" on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, and at the Saturday matinee. In the cast of the Wagner opera will be found the names of Mr. Sheehan or Mr. Gerhardt in the title role, Miss Kenyon as Elsa, Miss De Vere as Ortrud and Mr. Goff as Terminus. Miss Norwood is to sing all of the Airlines in the "Bohemian Girl." Miss Ivell all of the Queen of the Gypsies, and Mr. Carrier all of the Countess. The tenor role will be divided between Mr. D'Aubigne and Mr. Sheehan, each of whom will sing it twice. The second week in Minneapolis, the week of March 29, is to open with a grand sacred concert, which enlists the services of the entire company and which includes Rossini's beautiful "L'Inno," "Stabat Mater." The operas for the second week in Minneapolis will be Bizet's "Carmen" and Wagner's "Tannhauser." The second week in St. Paul is to open with a sacred concert April 5, and like the concert of the previous Sunday in Minneapolis, will enlist the services of the entire company and is to include Gounod's delightful "The St. Cecilia," and the operas for that week will be Verdi's "Aida" and Plotow's "Martha." This engagement should be a most important one to the music lovers, for the repertoire is such that it appeals to all classes.

THE GRAND.

The Grand offers for its attraction this week one of last season's melodramas entitled "A Ragged Hero." The story is founded on occurrences in the daily routine life in a New England village. Most of the characters are real-life figures, and the drama contains a number of thrills and climaxes. The central figure of the play is an outcast whose life has been wrecked by a villain's perfidy. While he is the typical tramp and indulges in no end of antics, the serious side of the story is never lost sight of. He has a faculty for bobbing up at the right moment, and his heroic deeds are an important factor in the development of the plot. He is not the comic paper type of "hobo," whose domestic troubles are his only concern, but an unfortunate fellow who first to drink and then to the road. He is a genial character, notwithstanding his villainous faults. This character will be portrayed by Hal Brown. The story of the play is as follows: A wealthy farmer's profligate son robs the bank in which he is employed and then implores his father to save him from the disgrace and imprisonment. The parent refuses and a quarrel ensues which culminates in the murder of the old man. At this juncture the profligate's stepbrother, who

has always lived on the farm and who is a sort of an emigrant from the house, walking in his sleep. The murderer slips the knife with which the crime was committed into the hand of the sleeping youth, who a moment later stumbles over the prostrate form of the farmer, awakes, and thinks he has killed his step-father in a dream. He is forthwith accused by his stepbrother and conviction follows, but is saved by his sweetheart who discovers evidence against the real murderer. The characters of the play have been entrusted to what is said to be a competent company, the leading members of which are Hal Brown, Miss Gertrude Swiggert and Miss Julia West. The engagement will be for one week with the usual matinees.

THE STAR.

Tom Miner will present his Bohemian Burlesquers at the Star today. The performance is a spectacular musical extravaganza, in three acts, the cast headed by the comedian, Charles Burke, the comedian, is well known in this city, and in the character of Ketchum Nix has amused the public for many years. The play shows the interior of an up-to-date drug store, and from the rise of the curtain the fun commences, and bright and brilliant in its nature, it runs in rapid succession. The costuming and action of these numbers are praiseworthy. During the action of the play specialties are introduced by Johnson and Hilliard, in a clever travesty entitled "Fifth Avenue to the Bowery." Miss Grace La Rue and her musical pickaninies present an entertaining act; Campbell and Matthews do a very funny take-off on "Virginus" and Edna Davenport is a phenomenal back dancer, the best ever seen in this theater. Master Nichols-Wright will sing beautiful illustrated songs. The young man has a great deal of ability, and, as a dancer, the boy of mischief, has things all his own way in the second act, the dressing room of a circus tent, in which a headless horse is introduced. Act third is the Diamond Palace hotel, and here is where the fun is continuous. Mr. Miner and his Bohemian Burlesquers will doubtless find a capacity business at every performance throughout the week.

PUNCTURES A FALLACY.

James O'Neill Says No Good Play is Over Heads of People. "There is a common saying," says James O'Neill, "which is often used in our business, when a good play does not make money, that it is over the heads of the people; this, to my thinking, is a fallacy. Nothing that is good is over the heads of the people, for the average American is very bright. An evidence of this fact may be observed in the newsboys; he certainly has very little education, but if anyone thinks that he is dense I must fall out with his judgment. Few people enjoy Shakespeare more than the street gamins, hence I say nothing is over the heads of the people. But there is a great deal in custom and it takes a little while to acquire a liking for olives, or to get out of the habit of eating with your knife. There is a very thrifty town on the northwestern coast of this country, which, on account of its isolation seldom sees a classic performance. "Crimes' Call Day" and "McDonnell's Wedding" are big shows in this town and can easily draw a \$500 house. No railroad runs into Castoria, but the traffic day-hoist and ocean traders is wonderful. The town is rich, industrious and peaceful. I was once induced to go there and selected for performance a Shakespeare play; my advance agent sent back some queer stories favor if written in scholarly language as the sensational rot which is now called the plays for the masses. Good authors and good actors will always be appreciated."

METROPOLITAN GRAND OPERA IN ENGLISH. Beginning Tomorrow Night... GRAND OPERA POPULAR MAT. WED. 50c, 75c, \$1.00. Lohengrin... Bohemian Girl... Aida; Martha... St. Cecilia Mass... Marguerita... The Strollers. Sylva.

COMING ATTRACTIONS. The attraction at the Grand opera house following the engagement of "A Ragged Hero" will be "The Florodora," a musical farce comedy in three acts, written by George Totten Smith around the famous character, Fitzey Bolivar. Billy Van, assisted by Nellie O'Neill and a score of actors singers and dancers will appear in the piece. "The Strollers" with Marguerita Sylva in the title role will be the medium of entertainment all next week at the Metropolitan theater. Miss Sylva has been received with much favor on her two previous tours in a stellar capacity in "The Cuckoo on the Heath" and "The Music of the Spheres" and her natural charm and delightful personality have made her many friends. She is supposed to be an exponent of romantic roles, but she has a strong comedy vein, and is said to form a very pleasing picture in the part of Bertha. The music perhaps is not as pretentious as that which she has heard in before, but it is tunefully pretty and has a swing

GERTRUDE SWIGGETT



With "A Ragged Hero," at the Grand.

of the way in which he was received. The manager of the opera house was also a teacher of dancing, and wore a full dress suit in the street at noonday. He asked the agent what play we would put up and was told "As You Like It." "Not as I like," replied the manager. We will be pleased with anything you wish to give up." The agent tried to explain that it was a Shakespearean comedy, but the information fell flat, for the dancing master allowed that Shakespeare had never been to the town in his recollection. "One special point was, 'is it funny?' "The manager replied: "If you saw an old woman fall down upon the ice you would laugh would you not?" The manager replied that he would. "Well, I would not, replied my man, I would think it was very pitiful. No, Shakespeare is not funny." "Well, we went to the town. They did not laugh, they were overawed and dare not, 'til I don't think a comedy was ever received with more respect; they would have kept us there for a week if possible. One aged native told me it was the best play he had ever seen, but, of course, I was anxious to know what comedy could possibly rank above this masterpiece. He admitted to 'Middon's Pleas,' he allowed that the picnic scene in the Forest of Arden was quite as good as 'Middon's.' "If we make a long story narrow, it ever we go to the coast again they swear that they will bring us to Castoria if they have to send a fleet of ships to San Francisco to get up the coast." "High art is not over the heads of the people if the play has a good sentiment, and I protest that a good drama will be accepted with just as much

GRAND TONIGHT AND ALL THIS WEEK. LAST SEASON'S FAVORITE MELODRAMA. Presented By An Excellent Company. Embellished By Magnificent Scenery. A RAGGED HERO. All New Effects. SEE The Witness In the Balloon. SEE The Soul Stirring Slide for Life. Week of THE HILARIOUS MUSICAL COMEDY. March 29 Bolivar's Busy Day.

STAR THEATRE. Matinee Daily. Events at 8:15. Tom Miner's Bohemians 10c AND Vaudeville 20c Ladies' Matinee Fridays 30c. NEXT WEEK - Jolly Grass Widows.

Richard Harding Davis is not going to see the town of Marion uses a whole winter without high-class theatrical entertainment. During the next two weeks Henry Miller will be playing at the Park theater, in Boston, in Davis' new comedy, "The Thinking of Holes," so Davis had arranged for a special train to leave that

CHAS. BURKE. With the Bohemians at the Star. The structure will be ten stories high, or 200 feet from the sidewalk to the apex of the dome. The dome will tower 200 feet above the building and furnishings, including the ground, will represent an investment of nearly \$2,000,000. It will have a seating capacity of 1,800, and will really be on Forty-first street, although the main entrance will be on the corner of Broadway and Forty-second. Arrangements have been completed whereby Klav & Pfleger are to install in their New Amsterdam theater, now