

# AMUSEMENTS

## "Royal Burlesques" at Kernan's.

Manager James L. Kernan, of Kernan's Lyceum, announces for the week commencing tomorrow matinee, "New Royal Burlesques" attractions that visit Washington there is none more popular than this company. Manager Peter S. Clark is a well-known showman. He has endeavored to gather together for the present season a company of entertainers that would be second to none, and with this end in view visited Europe during the summer, where he engaged the present season's attractions, and he is said to be the best of his kind. Manager Clark also engaged the well-known London music hall singer, Lillie English, described as a very beautiful woman, who will present a singing specialty in addition to appearing in important roles in the burlesques. The native talent includes Fields and Woolsey, a popular team of German dialect comedians; Coulter and Starr, called the dancing wonders; the Trolley Car Trio, eccentric acrobats; Leslie and Ellerton, comedy sketch artists.

The burlesque, "Off to Buffalo," will present a chorus of twenty-five, together with the variety entertainers. The musical numbers, it is said, are the very latest, the comedy situations new, the costumes and scenery of the highest obtainable. There will be the usual daily matinee.

## Opening of the Academy.

In "The Road to Ruin," which will come to the Academy of Music August 28, the public will have an opportunity to witness something out of the ordinary run of sensational melodramas. The play is from the pen of Theo. Kramer and deals with real happenings in the metropolis. The plot of the drama has been taken from incidents that occurred in connection with the Payne Moore badger game in New York some years ago. The scenic effects introduced throughout the play are said to be exceptionally fine. The performance, notable among them is a mechanical scene of a revolving stage, and two men suspended in mid-air holding on to the sides of the window in a terrible death struggle. The play is an enjoyable performance can be expected. The company is a strong and carefully selected one.

## THE PASSING SHOW.

E. D. Starr has secured Whitman Osgood, of this city, as resident manager of the Academy of Music for the coming season. Mr. Osgood was formerly press agent of Chase's and not a little of the prosperity of that house was directed to his efforts. Starr is a man who has attracted the amusement lovers of the Capital with the excellence of the attractions booked by Manager Chase. He will bring to his new position an experience extending over a term of years and will endeavor to make the Academy a typical family theatre. He will introduce a number of innovations, all of which should tend to make this theatre one of the most popular in the city.

The policy of the Academy will continue the same as last year, as regards the matter of attractions, although Mr. Starr promises that many productions of much pretentiousness will occupy the Academy stage during the coming year.

R. P. Jettie, who managed the Academy last season, has been placed in charge of Mr. Jettie's new theatre in Chicago. Otto Sellhausen, the former treasurer of the Academy, will occupy a similar position at the new theatre in Buffalo, N. Y. Ridge Waller, the well-known treasurer of Kernan's Lyceum, has been placed in charge of the latter as personal representative of Manager Kernan of the Lafayette.

The season at the Columbia Theatre is announced to open September 21, with "The Liberty Bells," a new musical comedy. This is a new musical comedy that Klaw & Erlanger will send out with a cast of unusual merit. The book of "The Liberty Bells" is the work of Harry B. Smith, while a number of composers have contributed to the score. The piece will have its first presentation at Philadelphia September 2, and after the local engagement will be taken to the Madison Square Theatre, New York, where it is expected to be an extended run.

Following "The Liberty Bells" the Columbia will present "The Burlesque" for a week and the third attraction will be Frank Daniels in his new piece, "Miss Maudie," which will be presented at an amateur hearing by the Bankers Association, a popular Boston organization, and has been written by the author, Daniel's talents. Managers Luckett and Danvers state that their theatre will present more important and more interesting attractions this season than during any previous year.

The National Theatre will be opened September 22—the same night as the Columbia—with "The Last Appeal," a new play by Leo Ditrichstein, a playwright who, during his somewhat brief career in this country as an actor and writer, has turned out some exceedingly clever pieces. Contrary to popular statement, "The Last Appeal" will not appear in his new play, but will be a member of the "Are You a Mason?" company, which will be at the head of the local theatre in the year.

"The Last Appeal" will be produced by Henry B. Harris, who has been his first effort as producing manager. Mr. Harris writes to the Times that he has engaged a strong and well-selected company that will present the play in a manner that will be of considerably more than ordinary merit.

Walter Stetson, a Washington comedian who has become well known on the theatre circuit, has been engaged for the stock burlesque company that will occupy the Bijou stage during the season.

Morris S. Schlesinger, the general manager of G. A. West's amusement enterprise, of which the Bijou Theatre, of this city, is a part, will be the resident manager of the Bijou this season. Mr. Schlesinger is well versed in the art of conducting a theatre along the lines that lead to popular success, and there is no doubt but that under his progressive management the Bijou will enjoy a season of much prosperity.

John Greives, who is well known locally in connection with burlesque organizations, will have charge of the stage work of the stock company that will be at the Bijou during the coming theatrical year. The Bijou season will be inaugurated early in September.

Otis Skinner has secured three very capable players who were seen in Washington last season with Viola Allen for his forthcoming production of "Francesca de Rimini." They are William Norris, whose work as Adonis in the court jester in "The Palace of the King," was one of the emphatic hits of the performance, Gerardo Norman, who played the part of the king, and Marcia Van Dresser, one of the most beautiful as well as talented actresses of the native city.

"The Road to Ruin" will be at the Academy of Music August 28, when the theatre will be opened for the season. The piece is said to be one of the best illustrations of the modern melodrama that will come to Washington during the year, and will be presented in a manner that will present a very attractive appearance when the lights are turned on for the first time a week from tomorrow night.

With "The Topsy Turvy" burlesque, Manager Kernan employed one of the most successful engagements of recent years last week. This organization is the first product of the new methods inaugurated by the Empire Theatre, and is regarded as a fair specimen, the association of managers will be a decided advantage to everybody connected with the burlesque business, while the audiences that patronize this type of performance will find the entertainments of a much better grade than heretofore.

Minnie Palmer is playing in "My Sweetheart" through the British provinces. She was one of the numerous actresses who undertook to duplicate the vogue of Lotu when the latter was at the height of her fame, and, assisted by her audacious and venturesome husband, John H. Rogers, she was successful. Her popularity was largely won during the summer, but she went to London, where she had already made a very successful professional visit, and found no trouble in drawing crowds for several years afterward. She was the most popular player of her time in the early days of "My Sweetheart," and owed her popularity less to talent than to the bizarre methods of advertising resorted to by Rogers, whose "Yours, merrily," invariably prefixed to his name, was one of the trademarks of the most popular players of the time. She was quite as bad as any of the numerous very bad ones used by Lotu, herself.

It is a matter of common belief among those who observe closely the economic and manufacturing conditions that every possible effort has been made to rush "A Royal Rival" into view in New York City tomorrow night in order to forestall "Don Caesar's Return." Both plays are direct versions of the original by Maurice and Victor Mapes, respectively, of the familiar romance concerning Don Caesar de Bazan and Maritana. William Faverham is to become a star in "A Royal Rival" by the name of James K. Hackett.

A year ago, no conflict of the kind would have been possible, for both actors were in the employ of virtually the same management. Hackett, it seems, had been promised the management of "Richard Carvel," which, when no suitable new play of foreign make was forthcoming for John Hackett, he turned to the latter actor, Hackett being turned again in "The Pride of Jennico," a play which was written by the management and was directed by the manager, and was completed by the management to continue in it. Hackett and the manager had a quarrel, and the latter, who had been in the employ of the manager for less than three years, manufactured a quarrel with the manager, and his rebellion was based on artistic grounds, a measure of sympathy being shown to him, and the manager, "Richard Carvel," impossible as it may seem, was quite as bad a play as "The Pride of Jennico," and the manager and Hackett had a quarrel, and the manager, who had real cause to complain, in his production of the Mapes play will be more successful than any other play that he has produced, and it seems to fear the result of the attempt to get "A Royal Rival" on the stage before "Don Caesar's Return."

Hobart Chittell, Chittell-Taylor, who has a Chicago reputation as a dialect actor, and who has written a number of plays, in collaboration with Reginald de Koven, the composer. Just what means he adopted to get it staged is not known, but it is probable that he has had and declined it can regard himself as sufficiently rebuffed for his lack of appreciation.

George Ade's comic opera will have a happy title, at least—"The Sultan of Suez," which will be presented in an alliteration and applicability to recent events of general interest. Ade's style of humor, as exemplified in his "Fables from Slang," is not the kind that carries effectively from the stage to the audience, but it is the kind that carries the audience to the stage. However, few of the men who win success as newspaper humorists find fortune in the theatre.

of Miles Standish," and is founded on Longfellow's beautiful poem. Additional interest centres around the production, for the fact that the author, P. Easton, is responsible for the book, is a direct descendant of the minister of state who was killed by the British during the Revolution.

Col. William Thompson has secured the opera, the professional debut of Rose Cecilia Shay, a new grand opera prima donna, Miss Shay, who is from Cincinnati. She underwent a course of vocal training in America and has just been engaged by the management of the theatre for the past two years putting the finishing touches to her musical education. She has a strong soprano voice, and will be made up in strong company, which will be made up of American singers.

The production of the opera will be given in this city on November 4, and will be under the personal direction of Prof. Fancutt.

Announcements of the advent of new stars are now being made by the theatre managers, but it is questioned if any will be more welcome than Arthur Byron, who will bid for stellar honors under the guidance of Messrs. Waghenals and Kemper, the well-known managers.

Arthur Byron, who is associated with John Drew for eight successive seasons, which speaks well for his work and Charles Frohman's opinion of the young actor. Byron is a student of the late Byron, author of "Across the Continent," which old theatregoers will remember as one of the most popular plays of his time. He is also a nephew of Ada Rehan. It was in his father's play that young Byron made his debut, after which he filled engagements with Sol Smith Russell, Stockwell's theatre company, in San Francisco, making a new name for himself. He then joined F. W. Morris, and his long engagement with John Drew, who followed, during which he originated and with marked success, played the roles of "The Butterflies," "Christopher, Jr.," "Rosalind," "Tyranny of John," and lastly, the role of "Comyn" in "Richard Carvel."

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Clarence Fleming will direct the tour of H. Reeves Smith in "A Brace of Partisans," which will bring early next month.

May Ward, daughter of Frederick Ward, will play the juvenile role in the play which her father will produce next season.

Edwin Ogden Clark's play, "The Game," which will be produced by Charles Gallatin, who will give it an elaborate production.

The title role in "Champagne Charlie," Augustus Thomas' play, in which Peter F. Daley will star next season, will be played by Arthur Byron, who becomes a star.

Jessamine Rogers and not Lillian Lawrence will be the leading woman of the new theatre stock company, New York, this fall.

Ida Compost will continue as leading woman with John Drew next season. Guy Standing has replaced Arthur Byron, who becomes a star.

"The Winding of Priscilla" will open its tour in Boston, where it will bring a light of day, September 2, with Edie Egan in the leading role.

The title role in "The Telephone Girl" will be assumed by Edna Floyde, who was seen last season in "The Cabot Girl" and "The Thoroughbred."

Joseph Johnson will build a handsome residence at Buzzard's Bay for his son, William Johnson, and his bride, Christine McDonald.

John de Roques is in Paris, where he is staging the title role in Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman," and is to be given in the French capital.

It is said that an orchestra of thirty players will be engaged for the production of "The Thoroughbred" in Italy and will be under the leadership of Senor Scanti, a well-known Italian director. These players will be engaged for the course under the famous Scanti, but was induced to remain in this country for a season, as he is a well-known musician and will be a member of the Perley company during the coming season.

When Dan Daly becomes a star this season he will be equipped with a musical comedy, the book of which is the united efforts of George V. Hobart and Glen Edwards. The play, itself, is a long engagement with John Drew, who followed, during which he originated and with marked success, played the roles of "The Butterflies," "Christopher, Jr.," "Rosalind," "Tyranny of John," and lastly, the role of "Comyn" in "Richard Carvel."

Mr. Byron has many things in his favor to ensure success. He has an attractive stage presence, is a thorough, intelligent, and hard worker, and is well equipped for the repose and repression with which he imbues his characterization. His manner is dignified, and his future, and in looking about for a new star they have selected him as being the most promising of the new actors now in the profession. The contract between managers and actor covers a long term, and the actor is to be under consideration for production this season, though as yet no selection has been made. However, in a few days, together with a more detailed account of the policy which the management is pursuing in presenting their new star to the public.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rogers (Louise Mackintosh) are in New York after a sojourn at Block Island, L. I., where they were counted among the very select theatrical colony of the summer. They have received offers from nearly every stock company in the country, but having been associated with the organization for the past few years, which has entailed unending study and work, they have concluded to accept an engagement with a new organization, and to take a rest from stock work. Very few first-class companies are to be seen in their class as yet, and the services of these talented people will undoubtedly be in demand.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers have been specially engaged for the opening week of the Columbia stock company, which will occur September 2, for the roles of Judge Knox and Mrs. DeLafayette in "The Charles of New York," which will constitute one of the chief features of the new musical comedy.

Madame Januschek is seventy-one years old.

"King Dodo" will remain in Chicago until October.

Beaumont Smith is said to be dangerously ill.

Helen Redmond has retired from the Frank Daniels company.

Edna Wallace Hodder has returned to the cast of "The Old Jed Prouty" in a play the largest cities in Maine.

Corinne will tour through England in the "Lovers Lane" on August 23.

Marie George has obtained a divorce from her husband, William George Brown.

Clarence M. Brune will manage the business affairs of Howard Kyle this season.

Joachim, the famous German violinist, has just celebrated his seventeenth birthday.

Samuel McKee has been engaged as business manager for "Are You a Mason?"

Nora Dunblane has been engaged for the role of Mrs. Woodbridge in "Lovers Lane."

John C. Rice and Sallie Cohen will be in the cast of "Are You a Mason?"

Fanny Rice has returned from London and will appear in a New York production.

A play called "Uncle Sam's Cabin" was copyrighted at the Library of Congress recently.

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