

NEWS OF THE THEATERS

YOUNG ACTRESS WITH A FUTURE



Miss Margaret Illington has the leading female role in "If I were King" with which E. H. Sothern is now delighting New Yorkers. The young actress has great dramatic powers and being only 22 years of age may be heard from later.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The liveliest inspiration in theatrical matters this week is the appearance of James T. Powers in "The Jewel of Asia," who leaves us suddenly at the end of the month owing to a previous engagement at the Criterion theatre, by which Charles Hawtrey takes his place. James T. Powers has long been a popular favorite in the presentation of Broadway fun. He is one of the cleverest farce comedy men who has ever delineated it. He is the natural complement to Bert Williams, the leading man of the negro company at the New York theatre, who has naturally made a big hit there.

It was nature that made Mr. Powers grotesque, but it is art that has conquered the question for merriment. He is a wonderfully expressive comedian. Joseph Jefferson is no more adept than he at cracking a joke without a hammer. Rachel Booth, who will play the star female role with him on the road, has made quite a success.

Charles Hawtrey came to the Criterion on Monday, March 13th, and presented his famous two seasons' success, "A Message from Mars."

At the Victoria Blanche Walsh plays her part well in serious drama. "Resurrection" in the Bataille drama is what Tolstol meant it to be in his book, a dreadful exposure of degradation in a woman, not for entertainment, but for evangelism; and there has not been much dissent from Miss Walsh's view of the unfortunate Maslova as the ugliest conceivable sordid and drab, designed by the author to enforce a lesson by means of a most terrible example. Looked at from that standpoint, Miss Walsh's achievement deserves all of the ample consideration it has received from the reviewers. Prior to this I had regarded Elita Proctor Otis's Nancy Sikes as the vilest creature in womankind that I had ever seen outside of a police court; but when Blanche Walsh's Maslova, an equally sodden inebriate, changed her hateful scowl to an amorous leer, I shudderingly moved Miss Walsh ahead of Miss Otis as a demonstrator in feminine depravity.

Annie Russell began her tenth week in "Mice and Men" at the Garrick theatre. The remarkable business which started with the first week of her metropolitan engagement shows not the slightest falling off, even though Lent is here.

"The Girl With the Green Eyes" is nearing the close of its successful run at the Savoy theatre. Although it is still in the height of this prosperity Charles Frohman finds it impossible to delay any longer its Boston engagement which is booked for March 30th. On this date the full company and complete production will be taken to that city for the rest of the season. Mr. Fitch's latest comedy has scored heavily in New York with its cleverness and brightness.

At the Manhattan "The Bishop's Move" has proved a success. Naturally, for he is a veteran and in his time has played many parts. One can scarcely recall a dozen of the chief Frohman successes of the last ten years without recalling that Mr. Thompson had a role in the production that he played well. He recalls the fact that he has played his part well and has the privilege to become a star if the public is willing to accept him as such, under the management of J. K. Hackett. His part is certainly a charming one. Mrs. Craigie deals with a pretty love story in which the Bishop's nephew hesitates between a simple and charming young girl, Barbara, and a fascinating young duchess, whose beauty and brilliancy have blinded the young fellow's eyes. The bishop, a genial and lovable character, moves through the play with a kind and governing hand, eventually saving Barbara and his nephew from what threatened to be great unhappiness for them both and finally bringing them together.

The forthcoming engagement for one week beginning March 23d, of "King Dodo" at the Montauk theatre, Brooklyn, marks the first appearance in Greater New York of the popular Pixley & Luders comedy opera since its memorable run at Daly's theatre last spring. With "The Sultan of Sulu" at Wallack's and "The Prince of Pilsen" at the Broadway, Mr. Henry W. Savage will have three musical comedy attractions running in New York this month. Raymond Hitchcock, Cheridah Simpson, Flora Zabelle and the rest of the cast of principals and pretty chorus that appeared at Daly's will be brought to the Montauk with the exception of Miss McKinney, whose role in "King Dodo" owing to Miss McKinney's accident in Washington recently, is now being interpreted by Miss Celeste Wynne. "King Dodo" closes its second engagement in

Boston to receipts that surpassed the record of any week of its former visit.

At Mrs. Osborne's playhouse Mr. Fawcett's plans include a long run of Ibsen's Ghosts previously played at the Manhattan theatre. Miss Mary Shaw enacts the leading role very cleverly. She succeeds herself from the Manhattan theatre. It is the purpose of Mr. Fawcett to continue Ibsen plays at this attractive little theatre, he having a strong belief in problem plays.

George Ace is planning to furnish an attractive and novel souvenir for the 100th performance of "The Sultan of Sulu" at Wallack's theatre in New York. This merry musical satire will round out its first century run on Broadway shortly and the popular demand for the many lyric hits has led the author to show his appreciation by publishing a handsome illustrated edition of the book of "The Sultan of Sulu," containing illustrations in colors of the scenes and characters in the opera.

"The Dangers of Paris" by the well-known English authors, B. H. Mitchellson and Charles H. Longdon, had its first metropolitan production at the American theatre on Monday night. The play is of the melodramatic order, full of startling and sensational incidents and will be put on with elaborate scenic effects. It ran for six years in England and has proved a gigantic success.

There is no discounting the bill at Keith's Union Square theatre this week. It is one of the best that liberal "Napoleon of the Continuous" has ever put into his vaudeville house in New York.

The Nobles head the bill and their work in comedy sketches is distinctively high class. Tom Nawn and company presenting "Pat and Geni," which is even more laughable than "One Touch of Nature"; the Marvellous Merrills in their acrobatic feats; Josephine Sable, the well-known vocalist; La Petite Adelaide, without doubt the showiest toe dancer in vaudeville, and her costumes are rich and appropriate; Quaker City Quartette, in popular songs; Waterbury Bros. and Tenny in a musical act; Raymond and Caverly, well named the "Roger Brothers of Vaudeville"; Kennedy and James, in a rapid-firing talking act, and many other clever performers, will help in the entertainment.

HERBERT E. CLAMP.

Mighty Animals

Mr. Lydekker, a leading British naturalist, recently discussed the comparative size of the largest animals of the present day and those of the far past, and made out a fairly strong case for the former. Claims have been made that the extinct elephant, whose remains have been found in Norfolk, England, was the biggest of its tribe, but Mr. Lydekker believes that it was no larger than the living African elephant. Though he doesn't say so explicitly, it is probable that he intended to convey the impression that the mastodon and mammoth, which have become extinct only in recent times, were really no bulkier. He declares that the hippopotamus is scarcely inferior in size to the most formidable of its ancestors, that the white rhinoceros was probably never surpassed by any of his relatives, while the giraffe, which is reputed to attain a height of twenty feet, is the tallest quadruped of which man has any knowledge. The ostrich is unquestionably smaller than the moa of New Zealand; but since the latter was exterminated only a few centuries ago it may properly be counted as modern, as distinguished from those animals which are represented only by fossils.

As for those repulsive yet interesting caricatures of humanity, the apes, Mr. Lydekker remarks that no fossil specimen ever approached in size the full grown male gorilla of today. Moreover, in spite of the legends about giants, he is confident that man is now "a taller and finer animal than he ever was before."

It is when one contemplates marine life, though, that he is most strongly impressed with the strength of the argument. It is conceded that the extinct "atlas" tortoise of northern India was bigger than the species which haunts the Galapagos Islands now, but if one takes a broad survey of the case he finds striking testimony. There are clams whose shells are more than a yard long, and which were never equalled by earlier mollusks. Cuttlefish today are bigger than their ancestors. If the sharks whose bones strew the Pacific were superior to the white sharks which survive, they are nevertheless entitled to be regarded, like the moa, as representatives of modern life, while the basking shark has probably never been matched by its kind of any period. The same may be said of the blue porpoise whale, which is 80 or 90 feet long, and weighs many tons.

Mr. Lydekker, whose interesting paper on this subject may be found in "Knowledge" for February, devotes a good deal of space to the elephant seal of the South Seas. One of his purposes is to protest against the rapid extermination of this huge mammal. That, however, is "another story." In text books on zoology, the length of the elephant seal is put at about twenty feet. The testimony of those who hunted them twenty or thirty years ago indicates that this is an underestimate. After discounting such tales on account of the proverbial exaggeration of sailors there is reason to believe that twenty-five feet is a fairer estimate for the length of an adult male, and it is not improbable that close upon thirty feet may have been reached in some cases.

DAUGHTER OF EARL TO VISIT AMERICA



When Lord Roberts fulfils his promise to visit the United States, which he is expected to do in the near future, his beautiful daughter will probably accompany him. Miss Roberts has always had a great admiration for America and is anxious to visit the land of the Stars and Stripes.

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