



## AMUSEMENTS

In one of the new plays in which Richard Mansfield will appear next season he will assume the character of Francis Villion, the vagabond poet and thief, born in Paris, France, in 1431 and stands unique in the annals of bad men. Robert Louis Stevenson, the well known author has written what is considered the best sketch of this notorious man. It appears in his work known as "The New American Knights," and bears the title, "A Lodging for the Night."

Thomas Keene begins his next season at New York, Sept. 10.

Marie Burress is to be James O'Neill's leading lady the coming season.

Debs, done in wax, is being exhibited at one of the museums in New York City.

W. C. Coup, the well-known circus man, is to be connected with the indoor circus enterprise to be started in Chicago.

Marie Burroughs, who is to star the coming season, is to appear in a play by A. W. Pinero, entitled, "The Money Spinner."

"Mosswood," is the name of a play written by Addison D. Crabtree, of Boston, which is to be presented near the advent of the new season.

Wilson Barrett, the English actor is to present two new plays during his coming American season. They are "The Manxman" and "The Sign of the Cross."

M. B. Curtis appears to have returned to the stage for a season at least, it being announced that he will open August 20, in his old success, "Sam'l of Posen."

William F. Hoey is rehearsing in his new comedy, "The Flams," in which he is to star the coming season. He will make his first public appearance in it at Chicago, Aug. 19.

The latter part of next month the "Crossroads of Life" is to be brought out at New York City by Edmund Collier. A feature of the performance will be a steamer sailing on real water.

"A Back Number," by Edward F. Kidder, is the play in which William Collier will appear next season. He will undertake the interpretation of a character in this play the opposite to anything that he has done in the past.

Annie Thompson is to resume next season her old part of Ricketty Ann in "The Homestead," the play her father has made famous. The son, Frank, is to leave the stage and will manage the company. The production this year will be on a more elaborate scale than ever before.

Miss Lenora D. Braley, leading woman of the stock company at the New Peoples Theater and later of the William Morris stock company at St. Paul, has left the latter company and will open some time at a resort on the St. Lawrence river, taking a much needed rest.

Austen's Scenograph, or panorama of the World's Fair, now on exhibition at Madison Square Garden, New York City, is said to be one of the cleverest things of the sort ever put before the public. The view is from over the lake and the moving shipping and the passing trains on land add greatly to the effect of the illusion.

Lillian Russell was born in Clinton, Ia., December 7th, 1861, and was educated at the convent of the Sacred Heart in Chicago, her general education being rounded off with a thorough course in vocal culture. She became a member of a church choir and in 1879 procured an engagement from E. E. Rice to play in "Pinafore." Later she was engaged to sing ballads in Tony Pastor's Theater, New York, since which time her life and actions are familiar to the news-paper reading public.

M. Jules Massenet, the composer of "Manon," "Le Cid," "Esclarmonde," and a mass of works for orchestra, solo instruments

and voice, has just written to Anton Seidi a complimentary letter. It is expected, says the New York Herald, that the famous French musician will visit America in the near future and that while here he will conduct during the Abby and Grau seasons some of his own operas, in which Miss Sybil Sanderson is to appear.

Miss Rosabel Morrison, the well known and popular young actress, who will be the feature of Morrison's (Western) Faust Company next season, has been presented with some very valuable and rare old costume plates, which probably have no duplicates in existence. Consequent on her good fortune Miss Morrison claims with confidence that she will be enabled to dress the part of Marguerite correctly for the first time. Miss Morrison is resting at her pretty home on the Hudson river at Irvington.

Professor Alexander Herrman is having columns in the New York papers on a trick he is going to perform on the stage of the Madison Square Theater tomorrow night. Six soldiers will aim six rifles loaded with bullets, at him and fire. He professes to catch the bullets and return them to each of the gentlemen who fired them, the bullets having been previously marked in some way so as to lead to their identification. This feature is going to be given for the benefit of the New York Herald's free ice fund. The house is already entirely sold out, of course.

Eddie Foy, Louise Montague, Madeline Morando, Harry Barnes, the ballet master, and other members of the American Travesty Company arrived in this country a week ago yesterday on the Cunard steamer Lucania. The chorus and specialty performers of the organization reached Chicago the past week and were at once sent to Milwaukee, where the first production of the travesty "Off the Earth" will occur. It is reported that the scenery, which has been designed and is being painted by Messrs. Gaites and Morange, of Chicago, is now well under way. Rehearsals of the play will commence in a few weeks under the direction of Gerard Coventry. "Off the Earth" will be presented for the first time in Chicago at the Columbia theatre early in the fall.

One of the novelty organizations which will tour the country the coming season will be the Lottie Collins Troubadours, with Lottie as the bright particular star. The medium of her reintroduction will be the principal role in a farcical operatta entitled, "The Devil Bird," written expressly to exploit Miss Collins' ability as a comedienne, singer and dancer. The piece is from the pen of Mr. Fred K. Bowyer of London, and the music was composed by John L. Baker, also of the English metropolis. The operetta will be the closing feature or second part of the program, the first part of which will be devoted to vaudeville specialties, among which will be those of Wood and Shepherd, the popular musical comedians; Ward and Curran, formerly of the Clipper Quartette, Marion, Hayes and Marion, the agile dancing trio, who, in addition to their specialties, will also produce some dancing novelties in "The Devil Bird," Miss Anna Wilmouth, singer, and Dolan and Lenherr sketch artists. Arrangements have also been perfected for the first American appearance of the O'Meers, who are the reigning sensation at present in London. They do a sensational act of wire walking, both walking on the wire at one and the same time, passing and repassing each other and performing numerous seemingly impossible feats with ease and grace. The company is under the management of Messrs. Cooney & Harris, and their route has been booked in the leading theatres in the principal cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast.

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