

OPEN-AIR PAGEANTS and PLAYS



THE American people, ever keen for something new, have during the past year or two been indulging their fancy to an ever-increasing extent for a new form of amusement,—that is it is new to the United States although it has had great vogue from time out of mind, in all the leading European countries. The open-air pageant or play is the object of this new fad,—if fad it may be called,—and the new style out-door entertainments are by no means confined to some people might suppose to the summer months. Indeed the spring is a favorite time for this form of "return to nature" whereas many such spectacles are held in the autumn and finally we are coming to find such productions provided as among the leading mid-winter attractions of such favored regions as Florida and Southern California.

The people who do catering of amusements as a business were sort of caught unawares by this sudden popularity of the open-air pageant or play. It spread suddenly and of its own accord so to speak and thus we see an explanation of the fact that nearly all of these big spectacles are promoted by artistic or public-spirited private citizens who have no thought of gain in the matter. Similarly almost all the parts in such open-air dramas are enacted by amateurs rather than by professional actors and dancers. And finally the proceeds of almost every one of these undertakings have been devoted to some worthy cause.



A CHILD ACTRESS IN AN OPEN-AIR DRAMA



SCENE IN AN OPEN-AIR PAGEANT



A PARTICIPANT IN AN OPEN-AIR PLAY



MRS. ALBERT CLIFFORD BARNEY IN GREEK PLAY

—If not to charity at least to some philanthropic purpose or to some form of municipal betterment for the community in which this latest style of moving picture is presented. As has been said, open-air plays and pageants that tell a story have been annual events in Europe from time out of mind. The best-known of these, of course, is the world-famous Passion Play which is held once every ten years and which thousands upon thousands of Americans witnessed during the last past presentation. There are many Americans, however, who claim that the idea of the distinctively American pageant as developed during the past few years in this country has not been transplanted bodily from the Old World as many persons suppose. Certain it is that New World influences have had a part in the evolution of this novel class of drama. For instance, the Indians conducted in their palmy days some of the most wonderful spectacles the world has ever known and a remnant of those picturesque rites may yet be witnessed among the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest. Consequently, if the original Americans handed down to us some of the ideas for our modern open-air

our cities,—as for instance, the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the frontier fetes held annually in many western cities, the Veiled Prophet parades and the midwinter Carnivals of Roses in Southern California. Yet another factor that has undoubtedly helped to bring this whole broad subject to public attention is the penchant which many of our schools and colleges have shown for this form of entertainment. Particularly has the open-air spectacle entrenched itself at the colleges for wo-

men and the big preparatory schools for girls and there is scarce one of these institutions throughout the length and breadth of the land that does not now boast at least one elaborate play or pageant on the campus each year.

Companies of amateurs and organizations of professionals have presented Shakespeare's plays in sylvan surroundings in various parts of the country,—as for instance has annual event of this kind on the White House lawn at Washington,—but for the most part these events introduce original productions and in most instances not only is the dialogue original but the music has been specially composed and the dances specially arranged for that particular event. At the most notable pageant of 1910,—that held at the home of the late Edward MacDowell in New Hampshire,—the musical masterpieces of America's most famous composer were specially arranged to form a musical setting for the open-air drama.

Many of the spectacles which have been presented by local talent in various American communities are historical in theme, being designed to recount the events of the most stirring periods in the history of the respective regions where they are presented. However, the latest leaning seems to be toward Greek plays, original or otherwise. Undoubtedly the flowing costumes of the Grecian mode lend themselves to graceful posing and the current popularity of classical dancing has helped some. Among the women prominent in the production of Greek spectacles,—and almost all the projects for open-air theatricals are in the hands of women,—is Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney of Cincinnati and Washington, D. C., who has great wealth to allow the indulgence of her penchant for the artistic and the dramatic in new guise.

OLD VAN LEW HOUSE

Noted Virginia Mansion Gives Way to a School.

Home of the Famous Woman Spy is to Be Torn Down and Replaced by Educational Institution.

Richmond, Va.—The purchase of the Van Lew house by the city of Richmond as the site of a public school building seals its fate, and the Richmond home of Elizabeth Van Lew, "the woman who more than any other aided the United States government during the Civil War" will soon exist only as a memory and a tradition.

In 1824 Lafayette was the house guest of Dr. Adams, a former mayor of Richmond, who built the house while Chief Justice Marshall, Governor Smith—one of the victims of the burning of the Richmond theater in 1811—with the like were frequent visitors there. In 1843 it was bought by John Van Lew of New York, then a successful Richmond hardware merchant.

While the Federal army hovered about Richmond Miss Van Lew was in close touch with its commanders and flowers cut from the beautiful garden in the morning adorned Grant's table at the evening meal. She spied upon the Confederate agents, civil and military, establishing her deputies as servants in the household of Jefferson Davis, and through them acquainting herself with his cabinet conferences. This information, put in cipher and concealed between an outer and inner shoe sole, was smuggled through the lines by a negro employed on a farm below the town. She was in constant communication with the inmates of Libby prison, supplying them with implements with which to work their



Miss Van Lew and Her Home.

way out, and harboring them until an opportunity offered to elude the Confederate pickets, and aided Colonel Straight, the noted raider, who tunneled an underground passage, and with 100 men escaped.

Suspected throughout of disloyalty, her intrigues were not fully known until after her death, when ex-Federal officers whom she had harbored came to the house and disclosed the receptacles of her correspondence with Grant and the chamber beneath the eaves, entered through an opening cut in the partition and concealed by a piece of furniture.

When Richmond was evacuated Grant sent his aide-de-camp, Colonel Parke, to protect her property.

After the death of Miss Van Lew's mother in 1870, a brother with his two daughters lived with her, but the brother with one of these died, leaving a single niece to share her solitude. After a lingering illness from tuberculosis, she, too, passed away in September, 1900.

She was a suffragist, and on the plea that taxation without representation is tyranny, refused to pay the assessment on the property, the arrears at the settling up of the estate amounting to \$5,000. She fell into great poverty and the showy garden and silent house with its solitary taper were spooky places at night.

The house, covered with mortgages, was bought by the Virginia club, and the club continued a popular rendezvous until the expense of its maintenance necessitated the closing of the doors. The house next assumed the role of a sanitarium. The general interest in the place by tourists necessitated the display of prohibitive signs.

ONE CENTURY FOR CHURCH

Deposed Clergyman Says It is Intellectually Bankrupt—60,000,000 Non-Churchgoers.

Boston, Mass.—In an address before the Free Religious Association of America here Dr. Algernon S. Crapsey deposed Episcopal clergyman, declared the Protestant church will be dead by the end of this century. He also said that the Protestant church is bankrupt intellectually and cannot get decent men to serve it. Some of his statements were:

"The tendency today is out of all churches into the great company of non-churchgoers. There is no need of carrying religion to Chinese, who will soon be showing that we are barbarians in our methods. The doctrine of evolution has taken the place of the doctrine of creation. There are 60,000,000 persons in America who do not go to church."

Dr. Crapsey is the Episcopal clergyman who was deposed by Bishop Walker, of the Central New York diocese, because of his alleged heretical views.

LOST 61 POUNDS.

Another Terrible Case of Gravel Cured by Doan's Kidney Pills.

Charles Understein, 50 W. 44th St., Chicago, Ill., says: "Kidney trouble ran me down from 195 to 135 pounds and I was a shadow of my former self."



Oh! how I suffered. I became so bad the doctors said my left side was paralyzed. I could not walk without assistance. I grew worse and went to a hospital, but was not helped. My friends all thought I would die. Three weeks after I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills I passed a gravel stone as big as a pea. At intervals the stones kept passing from me. I passed eleven in one day. Doan's Kidney Pills finally cured me. My health returned and I have had no kidney trouble since."

Remember the name—Doan's. For sale by druggists and general storekeepers everywhere. Price 50c. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

HADN'T SEEN IT SINCE.



She—You ought to see that man in evening clothes.
He—I'd like to; he borrowed my dress suit three months ago.

BABY'S HAIR ALL CAME OUT

"When my first baby was six months old he broke out on his head with little bumps. They would dry up and leave a scale. Then it would break out again and it spread all over his head. All the hair came out and his head was scaly all over. Then his face broke out all over in red bumps and it kept spreading until it was on his hands and arms. I bought several boxes of ointment, gave him blood medicine, and had two doctors to treat him, but he got worse all the time. He had it about six months when a friend told me about Cuticura. I sent and got a bottle of Cuticura Resolvent, a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment. In three days after using them he began to improve. He began to take long naps and to stop scratching his head. After taking two bottles of Resolvent, two boxes of Ointment and three cakes of Soap he was sound and well, and never had any breaking out of any kind. His hair came out in little curls all over his head. I don't think anything else would have cured him except Cuticura. I have bought Cuticura Ointment and Soap several times since to use for cuts and sores and have never known them to fail to cure what I put them on. I think Cuticura is a great remedy and would advise any one to use it. 'Cuticura Soap is the best that I have ever used for toilet purposes.' (Signed) Mrs. F. E. Harmon, R. F. D. 2, Atoka, Tenn., Sept. 10, 1910.

Religion, which was once an institution of the state, is becoming more and more the faith and ideal of the individual soul.

Smokers find Lewis' Single Binder 5c cigar better quality than most 10c cigars.

If a girl is in love with a young man she can't see any one else in a crowd.

Manoeuvres of the Humorists.

HAD NO FEARS.
At the height of Washington's fame there were those who carped and criticized to some extent, warning him that being a celebrity was a precarious thing and that he should be most careful, lest he do or say something that would turn the tide of popular favor against him. To these admonitions Washington merely smiled.
"There is just one thing that might be done," he said, "and that is something that will be done until long after I am dead. By that time my fame will be so solidified that nothing can make it. If we were sufficiently advanced in commerce for this one thing to happen, then, indeed, I should be careful."
"What is that one thing?" inquired the others. "Put you in a historical novel!"
"No; name a five-cent cigar for me."
WILBUR D. NESBIT.

Trials of Life in a Small Town.
"I suppose you find it a little difficult to become accustomed to life in a small town, after having lived so long in a large city."
"Oh, dear, yes; it is very hard. I fear I never shall be able to feel at home here. When my little boy caught the whooping cough every woman living in our block knew about it and recommended something."

The Opportunist.
"Geewhilkins, Skillington," said Blabworth, meeting his Chicago friend in the corridor of a New York hotel, "you must be prosperous! I see you and Mrs. Skillington out motoring in the park every blessed morning and afternoon. What does it cost you?"
"Nothing at all, Blab," said Skillington. "The madam and I are enjoying a few demonstrations, that's all. With sixty first-class cars on the market one can motor around New York twice a day for a whole month at the cost of a blue veil and a pair of goggles."—Harper's Weekly.

Playing the Game.
After having a good dinner at a cookshop Tim was leaving, when the landlord called for payment; but Tim was penniless.
The landlord, after thinking for a few minutes, promised to let him off on condition that he did the same at a rival's, opposite.
"Sorry," said Tim. "I went there yesterday and they let me off if I came over here today."—Ideas.

A False Charge.
"I hear, Miss Anna, that your young friend from college uses quite a sesquipedalian language."
"That ain't true! He talks like a perfect gentleman!"

The Seven Wonders.
I wonder if my wife will stand for that "night-work-at-the-office" gas again?
I wonder who I can touch for a loan?
I wonder if he will come again tonight.
I wonder whether he's holding a good hand or only bluffing.
I wonder how she keeps from showing her age?
I wonder if that's her last year's hat made over?
I wonder how they keep up appearances on his salary?—Puck.

She Saw Too Much.
She (after marriage)—You told me that I was your first love, but I have found a whole trunkful of letters from all sorts of girls, just bursting with tenderness."
He—I said you were the first I ever loved. I didn't say you were the only one who ever loved me. See?

Cause and Effect.
"See that man over there? Ever hear of the romance in his life?"
"No. Who is he and what was it?"
"He is Winner Looze, and he won his wife by a game of cards."
"What does he do?"
"Lectures on the 'Evils of Gambling.'"
WILBUR D. NESBIT.

ADVANCED INSURANCE POLICY.
"No," says the man who is being solicited to take out a policy. "I guess I've got about all the insurance I can carry. Looks like a waste of money anyhow to keep sinking it into this game, and have to wait so long for even an endowment policy to mature."
"But we have a new form now," argues the agent.
"What is that?"
"By paying four years' premiums at once you become entitled to an invitation to our fancy dress dinners. Pre-paying the whole term of premiums gives you a season ticket for the speakers' table, also."
WILBUR D. NESBIT.

Crowded.
The microphone conductor clung desperately to a thread on the trailing skirt of the street dress.
To the angry germs who waited for a ride, he shouted:
"Can't hold any more! Take the next train!"
WILBUR D. NESBIT.

A Splendid Part.
"What sort of a part has your daughter in the new play?"
"Splendid. She doesn't have much to say, but she wears six different gowns."

A POOR APPETITE QUICKLY REGULATED

Loss of Appetite always means—stomach weakness—and this requires

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