Gossip About Plays and Playhouses



PENING a winter season in mid- tracted much attention around the circuit. Sunday, September 2, at the Orpheum, will of open air plays, including appearances at summer presents an anomalous Ahern and Baxter, comedy acrobats, have start tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Dur-condition, but it doesn't seem to also a reputation to sustain and come well ing the last fortnight numerous orders for John Drew has returned from Europe fease the theatrical man. He recommended. The Great Lloyd, the Aus- reservations for the season have been remiles amid the beady sweat and trailan tenor, will sing a number of new ceived. Most of the old regulars are re-

plug out to its limit and then have gone another. Fred Truesdell and Miss Bertie weeks past. The improvements made this away and forgotten it. But Omaha is not May have exquisite roles. The usual feature summer in the way of making the popunique in this condition. Theaters all matines will be given on Wednesday, when ular theater more commodious and attracover the country have been opening during a souvenir box of chocolates will be given tive are the most extensive and thorough the last forinight, and each has experi- away to each lady holding a "Oc" seat undertaken since the house was first enced the same extremely warm weather, coupon. The other usual matinees will also opened. On next Saturday night Man-Strangest of all, the business has been such be given. as justified the managerial enterprise From all over come the stories of crowded houses and of much enthusiasm. This is what gives the cue to the box office, and as long as the people will go to see the show the theater will be kept open, even it takes one to the extreme reached Chicago this season, where the houses ran right through the summer without any salon on account of the heated term.

Three of the local theaters are now under full sail for the coming season, and the other two will go into commission very The opening for the Orpheum is set for September 2, while that of the Boyd is a trifle vague. The work of repair and a cyclone, laying death and destruction in renovation has not progressed as rapidly its wake; while the sensational and more as was expected, and Manager Burgess is serious science have received careful attanlittle chary about announcing the opening date or attraction. Several companies have asked for time early in September, but no exact time for the first play of the senson is yet fixed. Something definite may be known during the week. Since his return from Europe Mr. Burgess has been very busy getting affairs at Omaha and Sloux City in readiness for the coming sea-His list of bookings for the Boyd son. are of the best, and promise much more in Krus started off to capacity business, although the weather conditions were such as would seem to preclude anyone's going good start, and the Bijou has held its own so far. "Business enough for all," is the expression of the managers.

The general outlook for the season is good. It is one of the best evidences of two hours nd a half of uninterrupted the very senith of their attractiveness, and are drawing great crowds, but the demand for more amusement is such as shows how sager the people are for divertisement. Although the week was one of excessive ing week which starts with a matines on heat, the days being torrid and the nights oppressive, the attendance at the Krug and the Bijou was big and the advance salefor the opening at the Burwood was the heaviest recorded at that house, being even greater than at the opening last fall. This means that the public has money and is willing to spend it at the theaters.

William & Brady has made an announcement that will do more to bring him fame from a New York paper gives the public a racy inside view of the workings of than anything he has yet undertaken, if it be carried out in the spirit in which it grand opera in the metropolis for 1906-7: is conceived. He proposes to give a series This winter will see the greatest social war New York has ever known. The whole complexion of the Fifth avenue banquet tables may be changed and Newport next season may have an influx of new inhabof author's matinees at his New York theater. As soon as Grace George is well theater. As soon is run, Mr. Brady in-started on her season's run, Mr. Brady in-tends to give a new play by a new author on each Thursday afternoon, with a special cast and all scenery needed for a satis-tor the will afford a would invade it will have to put aside splendid opportunity for making actual working tests of the merits of the plays offered, and ought to determine the value of them for acting purposes. It is a well known fact that a play may read well and still prove comparatively useless for acting purposes. Also, a play may act well, and still lack the essential but undetermined elements of success. By Mr. Brady's plan the test will be made in such a way as to indicate if the play experimented with has any element of success. This ought to be the means of discovering a number of new plays, a thing that would be very desirable right now, when almost every star is looking about for a suitable vehicle. At any rate, it will satisfy a number of aspiring authors, who are now despairing of ever getting a chance. Even the most astute manager cannot tell in advance if the play he is spending his money on will succeed. Most of them can give a good guess as to the literary merits and histrionic possibilities of the play while in its manuscript form, but after this they must walt for the verdict of the public. That they have been taught saution is shown by the fact that the succens of last season, "The Lion and the Mouse," was turned down by four different managers, each presumed to be wise and astute in the matter of selecting plays for production. The fifth manager took it on venture, and the result is that two companies have been engaged continually in its presentation since the first week of its production, and four companies are to be seen in it during the coming season. This instance can be multiplied many times. On the other hand, many plays that promised well have been staged with lavishness, only to fail miserably. A notable instance of this was the Klaw & Erlanger production of last season, "The Prince of ndia, which was put on at Chicago on a magnificent scale, with a splendid acting sompany, only to score a failure to the extent that it is to be sent on the road season with an inferior company in the hope of partially recouping the loss of last season. The Brady experiment will do much to remove this uncertainty. If it can stand the test of the special performance, it may have a chance of coming through the fire of general production.

insists that now is the accepted songs, while Pauline Courtney, with her porting and numerous new ones are sub-Of course, he had to make his dates illustrated ballads, will be as popular as soribing for certain seats on a particular away ahead, and there was really no way ever. The Bijou motion pictures, new and night of each week. As in former seasons of telling last June just how hot it would interesting, will be as clear and steady as seats may be secured a week in advance be at this time in August. It was not science can make them. The Bijou Stock either by 'phone or at the window and expected that the frost would have tinged company in "The Fortune of War" should orders will be held until 2 o'clock on week the grass with brown, of have turned the be seen by far to better advantage than day evenings and 7 o'clock on Sunday. leaves, but it was not anticipated that the ever before. The playette is a story of the The finishing touches are being applied weather man would have pulled the hot civil war, denoting one man's sacrifice for to the work that has been under way for

Lincoln J. Carter's recent scenic success,

"The Eye Witness," will be the offering at the Krug theater for four nights, starting with a matinee today. It fairly efferveses and bubbles over with novel characterssensations that are clean in tone and stratling in conception, and situations that hold the auditor spellbound and amazed. They include a terrific fire scene, an attempted drowning, showing both the victim and aft-

erward the rescuer from the time they plunge into the water and as they sink to the bottom, then their rise to the surface and to safety; the hair-raising leap of an automobile across an open drawbridge and tion, the comedy has not been overlooked and is more than usually strong. A fine cast will interpret the play.

Those who attend the performance of the "Confessions of a Wife," by Owen Davis, which is slated to hold the boards at the Krug theater for three nights and Saturday matinee, starting Thursday night, August 30, will not suffer from ennui. It tells the tale of a woman who gives her heart to an the way of genuine attractions than have unscrupulous villain, but finds it again been seen here for several seasons. The when she meets another man, honest, worthy and good, who loves her for her own sake. The secrets which the poor wife confesses are pardonable. She has erred, to the theater. The Burwood made a it is true, but she is only a woman who thought she was a wife in all the sacredness of the name, but who was deceived. There is plenty of comedy, little touches of human nature, pathos, excellent scenery and a cast in this play to insure a capital

the continued prosperity of the country pleasure. A. H. Woods, the owner of this that the people are turning with apparent play, has given especial attention to "The engerness to the theater again. Base ball Confessions of a Wife." which is an assurand other outdoor amusements are still at ance that those who attend the performance the very senith of their attractiveness, and of this entertaining and withal instructive

housed

ager Reiter assisted by his staff will hold a reception. The theater will be opened for public inspection. The Orpheum orchestra, under direction of Albin Huster, will be in attendance and render a fine

program of music. General Manager Beck promises a fine line of bookings including most of the American hits and European importations that promise to please, and the same change for the better average shown for each of the past two seasons is calculated for, but to a more marked degree for the coming season.

Gossip From Stageland. Hattie Williams and "The Little Cherub" are the first winners of the season. Charles Frohman will have fifteen com-panies on tour through England the com-

Ing season. Paul Potter and George Horace Lorimer are writing a play for William H. Crane, entitled "Old Gorgon Graham." Jessie Millward will have a prominent part in "The Hypocrites," the Henry Ar-thur Jones play which will be produced in New York this month. Besides their repertoire Sir Charles Wyndham and Mary Moore and their Lon-don company will be seen in this country in "Captain Drew on Leave." Fay Davis will be seen this season in a

"Fay Davis will be seen this season in a stage version of Edith Wharton's novel, "The House of Mirth," which has been made by Clyde Fitch and the novelist. Captain Robert Marshall, author of "The Second in Command," "The Duke of Killi-orankie" and other successes, is com-pleting a new comedy for Charles Froh-

Ellen Terry's repertoire for her farewell tour in America will include "Captain Brassbound's Conversion," by Bernard Shaw, "Nance Oldfield," and "The Good

When Eilen Terry makes her farewell tour of the United States she will appear here as Lady Cecily Waynfiete in Ber-nard Shaw's "Captain Brassbound's Con-version." J. E. Dodson will play a character part in the new play Civde Fitch hac written and in which Clara Bloodgood will have the leading role. It will be produced in Cleveland.

John Drew has returned from Europe and started rehearsals of "His House in Order," the new play by A. W. Pinero, in which he opens the season at the Empire early in September.

Rose Stahl, in writing to a friend from a small town in Scotland, to which she was paying a short visit, said "I am writing you a postal card, as the postoffice here is too small to hold a letter."

Clyde Flich has retter. bringing with him the finished manuscript of a four-act comedy which Charles Fron-man will produce in October with Clara Bloodgood in the leading part.

The new theater which is being erected for Charles Frohman on Shaftesbury ave-nue, London, will be ready for opening at Christmas. It is being built after the design of Mr. Frohman's Empire theater, New York.

Henry Arthur Jones is writing a new comedy for Francis Wilson in which he will appear after he finishes with his prea-ent great success, "The Mountain Climber." William Collier has made a hit in Aus-tralia in "The Dictator."

William H. Crane is among the home comers after spending the summer in Europe. Mr. Crane will be seen this sea-son in a play by Alfred Sutro entitled "The Price of Money." He opens the Garrick theater, New York, the last of August.

theater, New York, the last of August. Herbert Kelcey and Effic Shannon, who have been presenting a repertoire of their former successful plays in St. Louis, have returned to New York to begin rehearsals in "The Daughters of Men," Charles Klein's latest play, which Henry E. Harris will present in Boston September 24. Wagenhals & Kemper announce that the company to support Eugenie Blair in Clyde Fitch's "The Woman in the Case" this sea-son will be a particularly strong one. They have already engaged Alice Braham for Claire Foster, Edwin Maynard for Mr. Thompson and Frank Connelly for Julian Rolfe.

Rolfe. Charles Frohman will make a big pro-duction at Wallack's theater, New York, of "The Judge and the Jury," the western play written by Harry D. Cottrell and Oli-ver Morosco. Ida Conquest will play the role of Maquita. The scenes of the play are laid at Dos Bravos, New Mexico.

Mexico. The always entertaining comedian, Ar-thur Dunn, will visit Omaha during the season in an original musical comedy, "The Little Joker." Mr. Dunn will be supported by an exceptional company of artist-cially adapted to musical comedy ind the

play is far above the average, being work of Herbert Hall Winslow.

work of Herbert Hall Winslow. A. W. Pinero's latest play, "His House in Order," which proved to be the big-gest dramatic succass of the London sea-son, will run all summer at the St. James theater in that city. John Drew opens in this play in New York at the Empire the-ater on September 3. Margaret Hington will be his leading woman.

will be his leading woman. Charles Frohman has arranged with Charles McLellan, author of "The Belle of New York" and "Leah Kleschna," to write for him a musical comedy for New York and London, called "Nellie Nell." The music will be by Ivan Caryll, composer of "The Girl from Kay's," "The Little Cherub," and many other popular pieces. Otis Skinner schlaved the triumph of his Cherub," and many other popular pieces. Otis Skinner achieved the triumph of his carear last season when he created the part of the priest in Lavedan's brilliant and powerful pisy, "The Duel." It was only presented in New York and no play in a decade made so deep an impression or was more widely discussed. Mr. Skinner goes on tour in "The Duel" this season. Next spring he will return to New York, when Charles Frohman will present him in a new play.

Mr. Greet's company last season gave mir. Greet's company last season gave Bilsabethan performances at Yale, Dart-mouth, Oberlin, Princeton and the Univer-sities of Pennsylvania, Michigan, To-ronto, Ilihols, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Viginia, West Virginia and Ver-mont. "Macbeth" proved the most pop-ular play last year, with "The Merchant of Venice," "Julius Caesar" and "Twelfth Night" closely following This winter Mr. Notes F ALL the winters to go to New inner circle of the Four Hundred with their York on a musical pilgrimage wives, intend to build up another exclusive set. next season will be the most in-teresting. Something besides a Friends of Madame Borgium will be

Night" closely following. This winter Mr. Great intends to revive "All's Well That Ends Well" and both parts of "Henry IV." passion for art has entered into grieved to hear of the death of her mother, Madame Vignal, at her home at

Ends Well" and both parts of "Henry IV." Blanche Walsh, who is just now enjoy-ing herself at her summer home on Long Island, recently wrote to her managers, Wagenhals & Kemper, saying: "If you see a story in any paper about my going to star in a tank drama don't be sur-prised. It happened this way. I'm de-voted to swimming and I'm out in the bay overy morning just after 4 o'clook. A news-paper man down here heard about it and he has interviewed me. Well, I'm satis-fied. Press agents and writers invent ab-suff things about me all season. So I told him a fine story. I told him I was to Rue Ernest Renau, Paris, on the 22d day of July. Madame Vignal was 76 years old, and for a long time had been an invalid. It is a comfort to know that madame Borgium was with her mother when prised. the end came. Much affection and sym-

told him a fine story. I told him I was to star in a dramatization of one of Tenny-son's poems and in one scene there was to be a lake of real water and that I would to be a lake of real water and that I would be compelled to remain under water for six minutes; that the lake was enclosed in a glass case, so that the audience could see that I was really submerged. He though it was fine. Was he really imposed on, do you suppose? It's my first venture at being untruthful." There's something true in Miss Walsh's story, after all. There's no glass case in her play, but there is a case, nevertheless-"The Woman in the Case." One of the most important theatrical en-ragements that has been made for the com-ing season was consummated in New York a few days ago, when Manager Will J. Blook secured Miss Elfie Fay to appear in the high musical commits production. "Commit-Blook secured Miss Elfis Fay to appear in his big musical comedy production. "Com-ing Thro' the Rye." There is probably no cemedienne on the American stage today who has achieved such enviable distinction in her special line of work as has Miss Fay. Last season she starred in "The Belle of Avenue A" and made a tremendous success in the unique character. With Miss Fay playing the part of Mrs. Kobb, the wealthy widow, and Frank Lalor in his original creation of Mr. McNut, the tailor, and the entire organization which appeared in the song play last season, the Will J. Block Amusement company will go before the public with an attraction which cannot fail to be rated at the top of the list of important American musical productions. As presented last season, "Coming Thro' the Rye" was generally regarded as an entertainment of the highest possible char-agaged for next season it cannot fail to make an even greater impression.



their social ambitions for some

Music and Musical

plans. The following comment

pathy extend to Madame Borglum in her sorrow. On August 28, at Mandel hall, Chi university, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Kelly give their "Shamrock" recital. If it had not been so fearfully hot I should like to have staid in Chicago to hear it. I believe, very sincerely, that the concert means a step toward bigger things. It would have been interesting to alip in and watch the trend of opinion. The kind of good luck to them! beat

Coming Events.

The formal opening of the Burwood theater for its season of forty weeks was under such conditions as indicate that its popularity has in nowise waned. The sale of seats for the first week was very large and interest of all the patrons was just what might have been locked for. The return of the company from its summer vacation was greated by a genuine ovation for each of the members, and the newcomers, specially Miss Efflicit, were given such welcome as convinced them they had landed among friends. "The Charity Ball" is the all for the opening week and will be seen each evening during the coming week, with on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The cast is a very strong with Miss Elliott in the role of Ann Eruger and Mr. Morrison as John Van Buren. Harry Long is directing the peros. a guarantee that all things are well provided for. The success of the Burfor the season is already assured.

The new bill at the Bijou theater for the week commencing this afternoon promises to be one of the best of the season. In securing the Couley Sisters for beadliners Bijou management guined a feature undoubtedly exceeds any of the big they have as yet booked. As singers and dancers these two comediantes rank with the foremost in the country. Beaty and Price, in their character comedy sketch, "Her Troubissome Boardars," have at-

least. The real battle is between Senator W. A. Clark and Charles M. Schwab and their wives on the one hand and a large part of the Four Hundred on the other. And ar-rayed behind Clark and Schwab are dozens of others of great wealth, who for several years have been smarting under the suave inscience of the set that is satisfied to get along without them.

along without them. When the opera season opens J. Pierpont Morgan will sit in the Metropolitan, in the center parterre box, flanked by J. J. Astor, Perry Belmont, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderblit, Adrian Iselin and all the other old line social powers. At about the same time, when the Man-hattan opens, and in the very center of the grand tier that corresponds with the Metropolitan's parterre boxes, will be W.

Clark and Charles M. Schwab and their

A. Clark and Charles M. Schwab and their wives. It is these men who are said, because of pique, to have made it possible for Oscar Hammerstein to become at one stride the head of the new opera house that is do-signed to rival the Metropolitan. With a parterre box one always had a chance to be invited to join in box to box visiting. Knowing this fully, the directors always have exercised the greatest vig-ilance, and a hint from the boxholders always has been sufficient to prevent an invasion.

Invasion. Above the parterre boxes is the Metro-politan's grand tier, where Senator Clark found himself after he came bounding out of the west to face the Four Hundred's cold smile. If one is to be relegated to the grand tier, one might as well stay away from the Metropolitan, for it is the unwritten is.w that there is no visiting between the two iters.

Matropolitan, for it is the unwritten law that there is no visiting between the two thers. Bohwab also wanted a box at the opera, but he could not get into the grand tier, so he smiled and waited as he did a few years back when he entered into conflict with Henry C. Frick. There is irony in the fact that each owns a house worth more than the Metropolitan. The measure, Schwab has been in society, but he distinctly has not been a part of it, and Clark has been out of it altogether. Young Mrs. Clark tas feit this. So, with their combined wealth of more than \$150,-600,00, these two feit much the same emotions that a newsboy would feel on waking through Bherry's on a stormy That he insurance scandais smirched by the distinctly his that a presson on the Metropolitan's parterre diagram, the two multionaires feit still more tagreived that they could not set in. If was about this time that Herr Con-ferent a boy this time that Herr Con-ferent autoes that a true, but no ferent autoes that still end of the fermed a "business basis." The de Reschee, Melba and their colleagues had given place to new singers, good, it is true, but no the Metropolitan was not what it had the Metropolitan was not what it had the Metropolitan was not what it had

been. The wily Hammerstein conceived the idea of building his Manhattan Opera house. After several months Mr. Hammerstein decided that he could not get quite enough money out of the house at popular prices and he determined to chilst the sympathy of some wealthy men who would subscribe for boxes at such large prices that he still could sell most of the seats at popular prices.

"The wealthy persons I talked with did not favor my idea," he said. "They were perfectly willing to support the opera and money was no object to them, but, if they were to have opera, they wanted the

best. "I also found that some of the artists with whom I had negotiated had heard that my audiences were not to be of the best and they did not care to play to second-class houses. "So I determined to have a finer opera-house, finer productions and the very best singers, singers of a calibre that were not at the Metropolitan." Senator Clark and Charles M. Schwab seized their opportunity. They told Ham-merstein that they would back him to the limit.

merstela that they would back him to the limit. When his first curtain goes up, the Hammerstein opera house will represent a cash expenditure of \$1000,000, and, with the millions of Schwab and Clark behind him, it is hard to see how he can fall. But it remains to be seen what will happen to Schwab and Clark. They and the others who stand behind Hammerstein purpose to exercise the same care over the list of box holders that the Metropoli-tan directors have done. If they succeed in getting a list of names in some measure equaling that of the Metropolitan, minus, of course, Morgan. Mirz Goelet and Mirz Vanderbilt, they will be in a position the following season to stampede the Metropoli-tan's parterre hox holders. This is regarded as indicating that Clark and Schwab, unless accepted by the

Mr. Will Manchester, so well known for beautiful baritone voice, has decided give up his position with the Union Pacific railroad and open a studio for the teaching of singing here in Omaha. Mr. Manchester is genuinely musical, and his for the art has led him to underthis new venture. His success is take almost a foregone conclusion. He has had good training, and with his whole time devoted to study and teaching he will With his intelligence there is "grow." no reason why he should not make a last. ing place for himself.

The Mendelssohn Glee club of New York is hard at work raising a fund for the support of Edward MacDowell and also to perpetuate his name in some fitting It is a long while since such a pathetic story as this great American composer's has come to pass. Gentus, a super-sensitive nature and criticism form a fearsome trio. If MacDowell could

only have died like Keats, but, alas, he must live on, maybe for years, the very husk of his former self. We who love his music can surely spare a fittle from our prosperity for this brother spirit in trouble. Mr. Allen Robinson, 69 Wall street, New York, is the secretary of the helping movement and will gratefully receive all moneys.

Are we really to have a municipal band? It is too good to be true. Of course we need one. Our out-door summer life is growing to mammoth proportions. Omaha before long become an ideal summer resort. The open country is very beautiful; our system of boulevards and parks will shortly be completed and perfected. Hanscom park is the crown jowel of all parks. A fine band permanently stationed there would do a world of good and be an over increasing source of delight. Good luck to this project! MARY LEARNED to this project! MARY LEARNED.

Notes and Personals.

Ossip Gabrilowitsch will tour in America. a series of concerts at Waterloo, Ia., The

In September. Bt. Paul has a Symphony orchestra. The public supports it. Mr. J. J. Hill headed the list of railroad subscriptions with a check for \$1,000. (That's something like it!) A special from Los Angeles says that Eilen Beach Yaw of high note fame scored a great success in that diy on June 24. According to reports, she has buckled her-self down to isglitimate work and has aban-doned her former attempts at doing stunts with her high e's and fa.-Louisville Her-ald.

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gaged for next season it cannot fail to make an even greater impression. "A Woman's Way" is the title of a new drama by Edward Peple, author of "The Prince Chap," which will open at the Gartick theater, Chicago, on August 22 and later play the independent circuit un-der the direction of F. Ray Comstock. This is the play that had the tentative title of "The Hornet's Nest." Mr. Constock has engaged a very strong company for the drama. It will be headed by Gdette Tyler. The Hornet's Nest." Mr. Constock has engaged a very strong company for the drama. It will be headed by Gdette Tyler. The leading man will be William Courte-nay. Others prominent if the company are Olive May, H. S. Northrop, James Mar-lowe, Fred G. Hearne, George Woodward and Herbert Ayling. "A Woman's Way" is in four acts, the first of which is repre-sented as taking place in the office of a rallroad president in New Tork City. The other three are on a cattle ränch in Texas. Mrs. Rida Johnson, Young, author ef "Brown at Harvard," has almost com-pleted a new college play, the scenes of which are laid at a girls school. Only two of the characters will be of the masculine persuasion. Mrs. Young began this play as soon as "Brown of Harvard," had been pro-nounced a success at the Princess theater. New York. In it she plans to deplet the intimate life of a girls" school in contrast to that of a college for young men, which theme she so cleverly handled in Henry Woodruff's production. The Messrs. Shu-bert have an option on the play.

woordff oppoduction. The Meissra, Shubert have an option on the play. No more interesting engagement than for how mines the state of the state and Albert Chevaller, which begins October far as the dramatic world is socretered in many years. These two artists, each su-have been combined by George C. Tyler the executive head of Liebler & Co, and which they will visit every city of impor-ting the dramatic weight is oncerned in some state of the series of the states of or an eight only. Forty-two segarate is non-segarate to be played, and when it is considered that Bundays will not be holded in this list, it will be readily on erstood that the limited extent of the on-sagements are to be played, and when it is considered that Bundays will not be holded in this list, it will be readily on erstood that the limited extent of the on-sagements are to be played, and when it is considered that shows that Madam of the second that the limited extent of the on-sagements are the organized the states of of one of the details of the on-sagement will be necessary is enormous. A best will be necessary is enormous, for the entire country from Maine to California border. Bome of the details of the on-matines in and the will be spread over the entire country from Maine to California border. Bome of the details of the on-matines that has yet been sent forth is four may not be uninteresting. The best will be omprise but five presents of the smallest that has yet been sent forth is the induced artitist in the will be spread of the details of the out will be smallest that has yet been sent for the smallest that has the been sent to the state artist that is five times greater that the will be omprise but for those two art is a failer of the sected the details of the out will be the thas anever