Gossip About Plays, Players and Playhouses

the case, it proved to be one of the best. talent. All of the theaters had good business and the crowds that swarmed to see Williams and Walker at the Boyd proved to be alhas such attractions as ought to again fill the theaters and send the hoodoo of the ante-holklay period hustling to a more favorable locality than Omaha.

Mary Shaw was seen at the Boyd in a play that is unworthy the attention given The thought embodied is hackneyed, him to do a man's work in the world. He might at least have proven his love for her by undertaking to help her bear her sorrow and to repay her in a measure by his comfort and support. The lesson taught is not made any the more effective because of the terror of its conclusion, and for his own sake the hope may be expressed that when Rev. Mr. Knott gives us the second of his promised trilogy he will not only amend it as to literary style and dramatic construction, but he will relieve it of some of its triteness of conclusion.

Bert Williams easily maintains bimself at the top of the list of comedians. His comedy is of the low type, to be sure, and his foolery that of the uneducated darky, but his methods are those of the artist and his results are art in its truest sense. Williums does not caricature but produces his darkey type with photographic fidelity. It is not the ignorant, but rather the uneducated one that he has made us familiar with, for the Williams' darky has always been a man of natural shrewdness and hard common sense, as opposed to the preternatural "smartness" shown by Walker. It is this contrast of types that makes the combination so genuinely effective. And experience has been of service to both, for their work is smoother and more enjoyable in every way than on the occasion of their last visit. That they are popular was more than attested by the great pressure to hear them. It was really the most successful engagement of the season at the Boyd from a box office viewpoint.

The new Garden theater in Chicago is proving a tremendous hit with the people of that city, and is also becoming popular with strangers as fast as it is becoming known. It is the newest expression of thought in the way of theater comfort, with the very latest ideas embodied in its construction. One of the attractive features is the presence of an indoor garden whose arrangement suggests the verandah of a country club, this being carried out on three sides, while the fourth is arranged for the stage. Here the spectator sits at comfort with his coffee or his cordial. smokes if he cares to, and enjoys the performance on the stage to the limit. Just now a musical travesty, "A Winning Miss," is being presented and is being enthusiastically praised by all. The Garden is the one thing to do in Chicago just now.

ARBITERS OF THE ENGLISH STAGE Children Rule from Now Until Next

Easter in Many of the Theaters. LONDON, Dec. 19 .- (Special Correspondence.)-Whatever aspect London may present to others, to the children at Christmas time it is a place of pure delight. At first glance it would appear to the uninitiated that most of the English managers were possessed of soft hearts and had quite determined upon giving the little ones the time of their lives. Assured successes, some of them playing to record receipts, are to be ruthlessly torn from the boards of certain theaters and sent into temporary retirement to make way for shows that will tickle the fancy of the children. Staid, serious-minded managers like Beerbohm Tree and Charles Frohman become children for the moment and plead almost pathetically for the approval and applause of boys in short trousers and girls in shorter

But upon closer examination one will find that there is a sound business basis for these strange actions. The various pantomimes which make their appearance in England at this time of the year and extend up to Easter are gold mines, and it is sound financial considerations that have induced Frohman and Tree and their class to enter the field with plays primarily designed for juvenile consumption.

Thus it is that we hear that "Peter Pan" is to make its reappearance for a season at the duke of York's beginning December 10. Pauline Chase will, of course, be Peter | work, but who are not "shrewd enough" and Hilda Trevelyan will play the part of Wendy, a part she has made an enduring possession of the heart of every child who has seen the play. Thus also Tree will produce "Pinkle and the Fairies" at His Maj- the difficulties surrounding the class of esty's with Ellen Terry in the chief role and Stella Campbell, daughter of Mrs. "Pat," in the cast. And at the Court theater there will be a revival of "Little Lord Fauntleroy." These are but signs that the youth of England are insatiable in the matfor of entertainment and that they are no nger entirely satisfied with pantomime. They form, too, a good and promising sign of higher taste in the young, for, after all, the pantomimes, almost without exception, are very poor productions made up of a conglomerate of cheap humor and horse-

the children no one can deny. Take the great Drury Lane production. No less than 650 performers have been engaged in addition to the cast of principals, all of whom command enormous sataries. In the handling of the big stage and the theater back stage Me people are needed, and in front of the house 160 more will be busy. The run of the pantomime extends from Boxing night to about Easter, and in these three months this house-and it is but an example of the hundreds throughout the country-manages to return a handsome profit on the enormous original outlay and the weekly salary list. As an index to the profits that are to be obtained it is only

blg company. make up the casts of the hundreds of com-

nished the headliner in Omaha's | would like to close for the three months, amusement program for the but dare not do so. With the return of week. The experience of the Easter the stars are released from their local managers was unique in a pantomime engagements and come flocking Julia Sanderson back to the United States it is called, for the present at least, "Gar- anything in drams, "Camille's" descripway, for instead of its being the back to the halls in such numbers that in "Kitty Grey," in which G. P. Huntley worst week in the season, as is generally the bills are often over weighted with

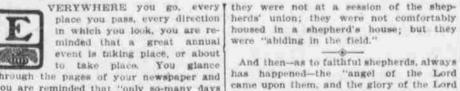
the management of Henry R. Smith has don some years ago. The present inten-Although "The Antelope" yields many Adrian Ross, took exception in the press one. Hence her return to the United States. There is enough plot in "The Antelope" to brought back to London at the first opporand its treatment was amateurish. More- make an interesting half hour and out of tunity, as Frohman thinks she is bound to over, its denouement is theatric and illog- it Ross has attempted to make an even-Ical, and does not produce the result the ing's entertainment. This would not have reverend author evidently desired. The sui- proved so disastrons from the viewpoint pide of the son just at the time when his of the average playgoer were the plot relemother needed him most and when he was gated to the background by the interpolaloudest in his protestations of his love for tion of some excellent "business" and songs. her, seems a bit trite if not really silly. It Instead, however, the obviously inadequate and natural to have had the young man and results in a sense of dissatisfaction in Edwardes in a new play, the music of tiently through all the years to prepare much to say. In spots it was protty, ex- course, the husband of Gertie Miller, Gertie

woefully lacking in variety.

Charles Frohman nas decided to send which Evie Greene made such a hit when laid. The opening of the Waldorf theater under the play was originally produced in Lonnot proved as auspicious as it might have. tion is to open at the Broadway theater for a run, but it is possible that some other aughs, as a whole it is extremely weak house may be substituted before the openand uninteresting. What it needs, in my ing. Frohman for some time hoped to be opinion, is a whole lot of the collaboration able to provide a part for Julia on this of other minds to which the author of it, sde, but was unable to unearth a suitable some time ago, apropos of another play. It is certain, however, that she will be make a big hit eventually,

"Havana," which has been running at the Gaiety, will soon be withdrawn and a return made in January to the old traditions of the house. The famous company which became associated with the house

Music and Musical Notes



to take place. You glance through the pages of your newspaper and you are reminded that "only so-many days of Christmas "hopping" remain. You buy your favorite magazine, and again your attention is drawn to the imminence of a commemorative event. You meet your friends, and unusual-looking bundles are in their hands, bundles which you never see them carrying during any other period of the year. You go into your grocer's shop, or your dry goods store, or your book shop, or your department commercial mart, and you see signs which seem characteristic of just this period of the year. What does it all mean?

What does it all mean? You ask the optimist and he replies that it is the one grand time of the year when all men are brothers, when the spirit of brotherly love, and geniality, and altruism is absolutely prevalent.

You ask the pessimist what it means and he replies, in words of a modern satirist, "Oh, it is nothing but the "annual swap! You ask the pleased-looking business man and he says, "It is our harvest." You ask the tired shop girl and she tells you that it is the time of late hours, hard work, nervous exasperation and little rest.

You ask the church and it says, "The season of the Nativity." You ask the children and they reply, "It is the time of Santa Claus." You ask the spiritually inclined people and they say, "It is the Manger of Bethlehem, and the Shepherds, and the Star." And you ask the physical folk and they tell you, "It is the Christmas tree, and the plum pudding, and the pres-

What does it all mean?

Musicians are busy preparing the best musical expression of the thought of this angel's message, "Fear not?"
particular time. Choirs are giving their After all, it is not the angel that best efforts and their most constant thought to rehearsing the music which will most fittingly represent the occasion. Choiristers and solo singers and the players upon instruments, choirmasters, priests and preachers are ransacking the shelves of musical literature in order to bring forth something which will do honor to the time and season.

Bells will chime and chants will hanted, and offerings will be made, carols will be carolled, hymns will be hymned, and sermons will be preached, anthems will be sung, prayers will be prayed, gifts will be given, but what does it all mean?

It surely does not mean that we worship the Babe of Bethlehem in his full stature. For He, when he grew up to manhood, said baby. some very unpleasant things, and brought home many unwelcome truths which finally succeeded in bringing about his overthrow, his false condemnation, his absurd alleged "trial," (the greatest mockery of legal procedure in the annals of history), His disgracefully unjust condemnation, and his utterly ignominious death, and Truth is on the Cross today as then.

This Babe of Bethlehem, when he hecame a man, arraigned in the most scathing terms those who built temples of stone as memorials and monuments of their own greatness, out of the very life-forces of the poorer people, the workingmen, who in reality were their own brothers. And yet we of today hend the worshipping knee and bow the respectful head to the men who made themselves rich by the clever manipulation of the honest and earnest work of those who are only "honest" enough to

to get along without working. When this Babe grew to man's estate He spoke in no uncertain terms about the sins of selfishness, and greed, and rapacity, and persons who would "bind heavy burdens" upon their fellowmen; and yet we, who live today in this grand and giorlous home of liberty, encourage by our acquiescence here very things which, however, we proest against when the Fourth of July comes. Pity it is, but the truth, that we are satisfled to have our protest end in fireworks.

No. We do not "stand for" the grown-up deas of this Babe of Bethlehem, and there fore we must go back to the infant cradle and the adoring shepherds and a lonely manger outside the inn at Bethlehem. where there was no room for the "True Yet that they are immensely popular with Light that Lighteneth every man that cometh into the world," namely, the Light

of Intelligence. Intelligence was just dawning at that orlb. It was just the beginning. And then we get the answer to our ques tion, "What does it all mean?"

It means this, that we like the scenery and the costumes and the story. Even if we cannot tolerate the tragedy and the outcome.

And who shall say that the story is not

beautiful? There are the rustic shepherds sitting quietly in the Judaean fields, and like all careful shepherds-not merely content necessary to mention that a year ago the with seeing that their sheep have been led directors of Drury Lane were contemplat- to streams during the day which were fresh ing engaging Harry Lauder at a salary of and clean, and not polluted by any poison-\$4,000 a week, and the popular Scotch ous connection; not merely content that comedian would have been only one of the the sheep in their charge had not been attacked by wolves, ne, But while pantomime has its advantages merely content that they had good herit also has its disadvantages. In order to bage during the day-they had folded them, had taken care of them, had bade

were "abiding in the field."

And then-as to faithful shepherds, always has happened-the "angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them." (In musical fields, is not the same thing true? When you are abiding in the field out there, in your little Nebraska, Iowa or Missouri field, watching over your musical flocks, by night, the night of discouragement, the night of antagonism, the night of despair, the night of "what's-the-use," the night of "who-cares-anyhow," "the angel of the Lord" always seems to appear at the right moment; the right thought comes to you, the right impulse seems to guide you, the right path seems open to you, and yet, and yet-)

And yet-the narative tells us-"They were sore afraid!" Yes! When the new truth dawns upon any soul, after the first radiance of the truth has been borne into the receptive soul, it

Has not this fact been proven really true, oven and over again? We are afraid. Examine yourself, as to the receptivity of any truth along your musical educational lines.

You have not "shied" at a "method," or a "trick" or a "scheme" whereby you could do things, (as you thought), for the time. But when a real truth has been offered to you, you have been "sore afraid" to Is it not so? Then if not, you have never

experienced the incoming of a true prin-

ciple of working. But the angel had not quite finished. The utterance was realy more important

than the presence. And that utterance was, "Fear not!" We are always ready to worship the angel, but what heed do we pay to the

no, indeed; it is the message of the angel; the angel made the shepherds afraid.

It was the message that made them Do you think, for a moment, that w sufficiently emphasize this fact, at this ime of the year? It was the message and not the angel,

that made the shepherds get up and determine to go to Bethlehem. Nay, vertly! We always have a hymn about the angels, but mightly little about the "Fear not!"

And the reason was given for the "Fear in a lowly manger, in swaddling clothes. It was yet in its infancy. It was a mere

But it was Truth, Light, Intelligence. And when Truth, Light, Intelligence are incarnated there is always the hymn of "Glory to God in the Highest!" for there is nothing higher than that,

And when Truth, Light, Intelligence are supreme there will be Peace on Earth, and there will be nothing but "Good Will Toward Men." for Truth will show the rich man that he can own nothing of himself, and that he can carry no monuments away with him.

Light will show the ignorant man and the wicked one (if such there be) that he is working against himself, and against himself only.

And Intelligence will proclaim that the greatest slave of the race is nonintelligence, or ignorance, and that "we are all children of one Father," and that we are intended to be sons of Light, and that we must one and all rise early and claim our birthright, and in that way reach the full meaning of the story of the Christmastide, so that we will not have to ask, one of another, "What does it all mean?" THOMAS J. KELLY.

> -3-Musical Notes.

The following program was given at the Sacred Heart academy Thursday evening: Carneval—Op. No. 9.........R. Schumann Preambule, Pierret. Arlequin. Valse noble. Eusebius. Florestan. Coquette and Replique. Fapillons. Lettres dansantes. Chlarina. Chopin. Estrella. Reconnaissance. Pantaion et Colombiae. Valse allemande. Paganini. Aveu. Promenade. Pause et Marche des Davidsbundler contre les Philisins.

Mr. Landow.

Songs:

ongs:
| Italian—Caromio ben. Giordani (1743-98)
| German — Einneues Andaechtiges Kindelwiegen. Corneer (1849)
| English—Have You Seen But a Whyte Lillie Grow? (words by Ben Jenson, 1610). Anon

Old Irish-Gramachree Molly. Mr. Kelly.F. Liszt

Mr. Kelly.
Accompanist, Mr. Martin Bush. Accompanist, Mr. Martin Bush. Three of the Jeannette M. Thurber scholarships for singing, plane and violin, now vacant, will be open for competition at the twenty-fourth semi-annual entrance examination of the National Conservatory of Music of America (formerly of 47 West Twenty-fifth street), now at 128 West Seventy-ninth street, New York City, Monday, January 4, from 19 to 12 and 2 to 4 p. m., and orchestra from 2 to 6 p. m. The scholarships will be given to students who have no means, but whose talent promises distinction as artists. One of the most entrance singers now before the pubmake up the casts of the hurdreds of companies throughout the country it is necessary to draw upon the music halls and that class of houses is drained almost dry of talent at this time of the year. The attural consequence is that the managers of the monoless night, they still kept guard over their precious charge.

Mark you, they were not off somewhere, attending a convention of sheep herders; Tork City.

you, and Edmund Payne, who has been on should be seen to great advantage in this rod's Stores," which is an obvious play on will make his bow early in January in New | the name of one of London's largest de-York. Julia will play the name part. in partment stores, in which the first act is JOHN EVA CARPENTER.

At the Omaha Theaters. Henry W. Pavage's sole-authorized production of the comedy of that name, first achieved footlight fame in the character of the Spider in the famous London production of "The Silver King." This was on the occasion of the remarkable run of laurels in the coming week's production. the play when it was presented continously Mr. Grew has been cast for Armand, for in the British metropolis for two entire egasons.

Afterwards Mr. Abingdon played the

made at the Adelphia theater, London,

during the long incumbency of that house by the notable company headed by the would have been much more impressive plot has been pushed to the foreground will be brought together again by George unfortunate William Terriss-perhaps the most popular actor the British stage has struggle bravely on in an effort to provide the minds of the audience. Of the music, which is being written by Ivan Caryll and known. Mr. Abingdon frequently achieved for the mother who had wrought so pa- which is by Dr. Hugo Fellx, there is not Lionel Monckton, the latter of whom is, of that most complete triumph that a stage "villian" may have in being hissed from the stage. Olga Nethersole was also a member of the Terriss company at the time, as were a number of other players of particular note. In this country Mr. Abingdon has since won fine success in leading roles, coming here to be the leading man with Amelia Bingham, and remaining to perform like services for Mrs Langtry and other actresses of the upper in which you look, you are re- housed in a shepherd's house; but they flight. The Devil of Franz Moinar's sensational and witty comedy is the third Satan Mr. Abingdon has portrayed. In the spectacular presentation made in London a few seasons ago of "Pilgrim's Progress" he was cast as Apollyon, while later ne appeared in that city as the Prince Lucius in the dramatization of the Marie Corelli romance, "The Sorrows of Satan." In Mr. Savage's notable production of 'The Devil", Mr. Abingdon will be seen at the Boyd tonight and Monday.

> For the first time in the history of the American stage, a first-class dramatic profuction is on tour with a number of celeon's big production, "Polly of the Circus," Circus" deals with a girl bareback rider, who is injured during a performance in a some of the village preacher, with whom she falls in love. Later, for reasons explained in the play, she returns to the circus, which makes it necessary to present a tent show in full operation on the stage of the theater. To give the necessary touch of realism, Mr. Thompson has engaged a number of the most famous circus folks in the world of white tops The play will be seen at Boyd Thursday Friday and Saturday, with matinee Christ-

At the Boyd on Sunday and Monday next week, Edwin A. Relkin's Yiddish comsuccessful plays, "Mirele Efmost (the Jewish Queen Lear), and "The Orphan," from the pen of at one of the leading theaters of New greatest financial and artistic successes ever known.

mas and Saturday.

Charles Frohman will present Miss and sparkling comedy in four acts, by the in their late success, "Who Do You Love" authors of "My Wife," at Boyd's theater for two nights, December 29 and 30. "The Richest Girl" was given its first presentation at the Park theater, Boston, on September 21, and it scored quite as emnot?" Namely, that Truth had been born stellar debut at the same theater a year Giri" is a charming creation and characterization, and the part flis this quaint little actress perfectly. For this engagement Mr. Orrin Johnson has been especially engaged for the part of "Paul Normand," the leading male role.

The Burwood company, after having had fined amusement in the city.

tour, all of whom belong to the Galety old play. It is written in beautiful language. tion of her name flower-"a strange flower pale, scentless, cold; sensitive as purity itself. Cherish it and its beauty will excel the lovellest flower that grows, but wound it with but a single touch, you could never recall its bloom or wipe away its stain, W. L. Abingdon, who has won so marked is but one of the beautiful speeches that success in the role of the Devil, in predominate in the play. It is well known that in Omaha Miss Elliott attained much success in her previous portrayal of this difficult role during her engagement at the Burwood two seasons ago, and it is expected that she will add to her former being one of his favorite rotes. Mr. Todd will be Count De Varville; Mr. Connor, Gaston; Mr. Ingraham, the elder Duval, polished villians in the productions and Miss Jeffery, Madam Prudence, Aside from the matinees today, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, there will be a special matince on Friday, Christmas Day.

George Sidney and his big company of comedians, dancers and singers is announced for an appearance at the Krug theater for two days, starting matinee today, in "Busy Izzy's Boodle," This year the cast embraces some of the leading artists of musical comedy. The chorus is a marvel of beauty and training, the costumes expensive, new and novel in design, and the scenery appropriate and artistic.

Lincoln J. Carter's powerful problem play, "A Good Woman Will Win," appears at the Krug theater for two days, starting Tuesday night next.

How a young mining engineer fresh from college rehabilitated his father's fortune is told in the big melodramatic success, "Lucky Jim," which Joseph Santley is presenting this season. Supported by an exceptionally strong company, Mr. Santley will present "Lucky Jim" at the Krug theater for three days, starting Thursday night. There will be a special matinee on Christmas day.

"Planophiends" is the title of the headline act at the Orpheum for the week beginning matinee today. This act is prebrated circus acrobats and clowns playing sented by four women and five men, all eading parts. The play is Frederic Thomp- piano players of ability. Five planes are used in the act and one number rendered by Margaret Mayo, with Edith Taliaferro by these entertainers consists of nine playplaying the leading part. "Polly of the ers pefc-ming on five planes at the same time. An octet number is one of the features of the act. The bill includes Edna small town and is left behind to recuperate. Phillips in her new sketch, "Lost, a Kiss Her period of convalescence is spent in the in Central Park." Miss Phillips is accompanied by a little company of competent entertainers. The sketch is farce, pure and simple. Frank and Joe Wilson have a German comedy skit entitled "A Padded Cell." The Wilsons are comedians with a variety of ways for evoking a laugh. They have a bunch of new parodies and sing coon songs in German dialect. Tony Wilson and Mile. Heloise are experts with the horizontal bar and bounding mat. Mile. Heloise introduces her dancing. The Grassys have devised some strange instruments on which they play all sorts of tunes. Their act is an unique combinatoin of mystery and melody. Bisset and Scott pany, headed by one of the most distin- have the dancing number of the bill. They guished Yiddish actresses, Mme. Kenny present several oddities in steps never seen Lipzin, will present some of the here before, New kinodrome views. Daily matinees.

A program of unusual merit and interest Mr. Jacob Gordin. The plays have to will be shown at the Camerophone theater, their credit a consecutive run of 200 nights 1403 Douglas street, beginning Sunday. Alice Lloyd, the Great English comed York City and have proven some of the appear in camerophone talking pictures in her daintiest repertoire. "Over the Hills and Far Away" and "Splash Me" are among the songs she will sing. This will be followed by Arthur Collins and Byron Marie Doro in "The Richest Girl," a new G. Harlan, famous black-faced comedians, from "Shoo Fly Regiment." These two ac tors for years made records for the Edison company. Lesides the talking pictures there will be several very interesting silent pictures, depicting history, remance and comphatic a success as did "The Morals of edy. Among the most interesting of these Marcus," In which Miss Doro made her silent pictures is a story of a New York wharf rat. It illustrates conditions as they ago. Miss Doro's role in "The Richest exist there today, only woven into a clever little romance. These silent pictures will be followed by an illustrated song by Mrs. Alma Huntly, late sololst at Kountze Memorial church. The Camerophone theater is an ideal place for entertainment while resting from fatigue of Christmas shopping. There is no pleasanter, cleaner place of re-

of The PLAYS

THIS WEEK'S ATTRACTIONS

Boyd's T	heater					Polly of the Circus"
7.7.7.7.7	******	*****	RAPASA.			FOITA OF PUR CITCUM.
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4.4 9.6 8	*****	*****	****			the state of the s
Burwood	Theater.					
Orpheum	Theater.			*******		
Dalm Th	enter					Moving Pictures
Camerani	none					Talking Pictures

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N. B .- Mr. Henry W. Savage's original New York production of "THE DEVIL" excels the numerous imitations of this play, which are masquerading under the same title, as Paderewski's rendition of the "Spring Song" excels the whang-whang-bang of a ragtime planist.

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