

ANECDOTES OF MODJESKA

Reminiscences of a Distinguished Career on the Stage.

START WITH JOHN McCULLOUGH

The Spirit of "Portia" Reflected in a Rare Interview—An Experience with Some Dublin Enthusiasts.

The long, successful dramatic career of Madame Modjeska reflects alike the charms of artistic individuality, and is flecked with anecdotes and incidents which her recent death recalls.

Most interesting is the story of her first attempt to secure a footing on the American stage. In February, 1877, she went to San Francisco, put herself under a tutor, and by hard study was able in six months to speak with some fluency.

She then applied to John McCullough, who was manager of the California theater, for an engagement. Barton Hill, then the stage manager for Mr. McCullough, preserved the letter which Modjeska wrote, and which reads as follows: "Mr. John McCullough: Dear Sir—Pardon the liberty I take in addressing you, but being a stranger here I know of no other way of approaching you.

I have been introduced to you, but do not know whether you remember me or not. I came from Europe last year, and met you at the Occidental hotel. You were even so kind as to offer to play Hamlet with me, but I could not decide to appear in a foreign language, and I determined to learn English. Now I am almost ready to go on the American stage, and knowing you to be so obliging, and being quite alone in this wide foreign world, I turn to you for advice.

Please let me know when and where I can meet you. I know very well that you are very much engaged, but perhaps you can find some time to give to me, an artist and a stranger. Believe me, yours truly, Helena Modjeska." Mr. McCullough made an appointment with her, but pleaded sickness, and sent Mr. Barton Hill to hear the timid applicant about whose ability so little was then known.

Carefulness of Detail.

Mme. Modjeska was a great reader, and she spent years of her life, taking it altogether in libraries, studying up the details of her costumes. There is only one class of literature that she did not read, and that is the newspaper. She read only such fragments as her husband and friends thought would be of special interest to her.

One of the latter, an intimate woman friend, took her one morning an enormous clipping from a paper, the advertisement of a patent medicine. In the center of it was a picture of the actress and beneath it in large words, "Mme. Modjeska is never without 'Boanerges' Chikory Extract."

Mme. Modjeska was not up when it was taken to her. A look of deep amusement stole over her face as she lay among her pillows and gazed at her picture in the paper and the emphatic words below. "They are right," she said finally. "Mme. Modjeska is never without it. They sent me a bottle once, and to my certain knowledge it never was opened, so I must have it still."

Mme. Modjeska's regard to detail in her costumes was the cause of an amusing experience that she had in London when she was playing there at one time, a friend of the actress said while talking reminiscences the other night. The Order of the Golden Fleece, which Mary Stuart wore and which the prince of Wales wears, Mme. Modjeska also wore when she played the part of the Scottish queen, her order being, of course, a reproduction, though a very perfect one. It was lying on her dressing table, when the prince of Wales, now the king of England, came to the

room to call upon her. He saw it immediately.

"Hello," he said, "what have we here?" His first thought was that it was the real order. Mme. Modjeska bequeathed her copy to the British Museum.

A Rare Interview.

Interviews with Modjeska are not very abundant, and this one from the New York Sun is especially interesting to those who only saw her with Booth in the character of Portia. I loved her from the first. "I learn the lines first, but they are nothing. My task is to learn to feel the woman who would speak those lines. The words are the work of another. My part must be to sink Helena Modjeska's personality into that of the woman who would spontaneously emanate naturally under the circumstances indicated in the play, speak these lines which already I have acquired. If I cannot feel that under these conditions this woman's words would spontaneously come to me, I know I am far away from what my impersonation must grow to be."

"For this reason it is impossible for me to play a part which I cannot learn to sympathize with. I was years and years in learning to be able to play Lady Macbeth. I could not feel her. I could not possibly have any sympathy for her. On the other hand, take Portia, for example. I loved her from the first. I felt that she was a woman of extraordinary sweetness, of brilliant wit, splendid generosity, feminine piquancy and great intellectual power. She belonged to a century noted for its brilliant women—a veritable golden age of feminine mentality.

"On the whole they are practically as good as the perfect pieces and only those of experience can detect the imperfection. There are thousands of yards and hundreds of Rugs in this big sale and all must be closed out this week. If you appreciate a bargain this is a special opportunity to beautify your home. SANFORD'S AXMINSTER RUGS—Size 12x9, the very best grade of goods Sanford's mills produce, your choice of 11 designs, "some slightly mismatched," worth \$40, during this sale . . . \$21.50 EXTRA SPECIAL—Axminster Rugs—Extra heavy quality, very closely woven, bright rich oriental colorings, size 27x54 inches, worth \$2.25, reduced during this sale . . . 98c INGRAIN ART SQUARES—Size 12x9 feet, can be used on either side, bright, strong coloring, worth \$6.50, reduced during this sale . . . \$3.98

"I discovered that just as today many women are legally well informed, so in a century which respects our own in various lines it would not have been strange for a young woman of Portia's caliber to be legally learned. Gradually I felt the color of the time in which Portia lived, the atmosphere of the woman herself, the noble love which makes her so adorable, the charming daintiness and sweetness of her innocent gaiety. What this Portia woman of 300 years ago had dominated the nineteenth century Helena Modjeska, I felt that I had caught her, intellectually. Then it became my delightful task to make her physically as lovely a picture as I possibly could. I do not know how I succeeded, but from the very beginning I have tried to make my other selves harmonious. In fact, I believe the key to my whole existence is my dependence on the artist. As a little girl I could not bear a discord—not a discord alone in music, but in anything. If colors were discorded, I hated to look upon them. I wanted everything in my home harmonious, and as a tiny little girl this peculiar distaste for anything out of tune was looked upon merely as an absurd idiosyncrasy. As I grew older, my mother recognized that this so-called eccentricity was one I could not conquer. She saw in me the temperament of the artist. In my work I felt that there must be a perfect harmony. A Portia must have the soul of a Portia. She must have the figure of a Portia, and, above all, she must have the voice of a Portia. A Portia in her wonderful speech, 'the quality of mercy,' with the voice of a Lady Macbeth—and I see that you smile, but, indeed, I have heard Julietts with voices so mature and heavy that they were only suitable for the old-fashioned tragedienne in her most blood-curdling declamations—would be out of harmony, and, in studying this role I should make an special point of having my voice the right key, right quality. In fact, the very reflection of the character of the woman."

An Experience in Dublin.

Mme. Modjeska delighted to play to the warm-hearted Irish people, and they delighted to see her, particularly in "Mary Stuart." On one occasion of which she was wont to tell the play was produced in Dublin. Whenever the imprisoned queen in the play spoke of rebellion against Elizabeth, the audience applauded. When she cried defiantly, "Shall I bow to this rule?" or words to that effect, the audience evidenced great sympathy, and she was obliged to wait until the excitement subsided before going on. "Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!" they cried. Then, when it was quiet, she would go on, only to be stopped again. This was exciting enough, but the real fun—she did not think was fun, though, until some time after—came when the play was over. Then, when Modjeska was ready to go to her carriage, there was the chief of police waiting for her. He escorted her and her maid to a carriage, not her own, they were put in quickly, a policeman mounted the box, and they were off. The carriage seemed to go miles and miles through dark and deserted streets, and poor Mme. Modjeska had no idea what was in store for her. But it was nothing serious. She had stirred up too much enthusiasm; the men who had been roused by the play had unharnessed the horses from her carriage and were going to give her a great ovation and taking the places of the horses, draw her themselves to the hotel. But that the authorities could never allow, hence the actress had been taken in a roundabout way and driven privately, at the city's expense to her hotel. When the impersonator of the unfortunate Mary Stuart did not appear, her admirers were not slow to guess the reason and they betook themselves to her hotel. They were there ready for her when she arrived, and she was obliged to go out and make a little speech before they would depart quietly.

The committee adopted the following resolution naming the four party nominees: "Whereas, The recent democratic legislature, has, by enacting a new city charter, made it necessary to fill, at the coming election, four additional offices, namely, four members of the Board of Fire and Police commissioners, and, "Whereas, The said charter amendment act did not become law in time to permit of candidates presenting themselves for nomination of these officers at the republican primary, and, "Whereas, By reason of this fact there are vacancies on the republican ticket for the offices of four members of the Board of Fire and Police commissioners, and, "Whereas, This committee is made up of members elected by the republican voters of the City of Omaha, at the primary election held in April, 1908, and no other committee has been duly and properly elected to succeed it; therefore be it enacted, That the persons named at this meeting be, and are hereby nominated to fill the vacancies for the offices of Fire and Police commissioners on the city ticket, to be voted for May 4, 1909; William J. Hunter, Fred H. Hoye, Charles J. Karbach and William F. Wappich."

Preacher is for Parental Rod

Dr. Loveland Suggests to Father in Juvenile Court Efficiency of Its Application. Great is the hickory switch and long may she wave. Rev. F. L. Loveland voiced this doctrine by implication, at least, in Juvenile court Saturday morning when he administered a verbal "lashing" to Michael Crawford. "What would people have thought of your father?" demanded the clergyman, "if when you were a boy of 8 he had come into court and stated that he could not control

SANFORD CARPETS & RUGS HALF PRICE

The Big Sale of Sanford's Carpets and Rugs at Half Price Continues This Week

This stirring Carpet Event has created a great deal of enthusiasm among Omaha's housewives. \$55,000 worth of Carpets and Rugs from the big Rug and Carpet Mills of S. Sanford and Sons is offered at half price. These goods are slightly mismatched and in some there is occasionally a "missed stitch," but on the whole they are practically as good as the perfect pieces and only those of experience can detect the imperfection. There are thousands of yards and hundreds of Rugs in this big sale and all must be closed out this week. If you appreciate a bargain this is a special opportunity to beautify your home.

- SANFORD'S BRUSSELS RUGS—Size 9x6 feet, appropriate for hall or small bedrooms, worth \$10.00, during this sale . . . \$5.75
SANFORD'S ROYAL RUGS—Size 8 feet 3 inches by 10 feet 6 inches, slightly mismatched, worth \$18.00, during this sale . . . \$11.50
SANFORD'S IMPERIAL BRUSSELS RUGS—Size 11x9, closely woven, floral and oriental design, worth \$21.00, during this sale . . . \$11.95
SANFORD'S VELVET RUG—Size 12x9, rich floral and oriental design, slightly imperfect, worth \$29.00, during this sale . . . \$17.95

Three Rooms Furnished Complete for \$48.50
Four Rooms Furnished Complete for \$63.50
\$12.50 BUYS A GUARANTEED GAS RANGE
\$5.95 For this Colapsible Gas Cart—Complete with Hood

FREE-A 52-Piece Decorated Dinner Set—FREE
The Greatest Free Gift Offer Ever Made. Read Offer Below
A beautiful and handsomely decorated 52 piece Dinner Set will be GIVEN AWAY ABSOLUTELY FREE with every cash or credit purchase amounting to \$100.00, or will be sold outright for . . . \$6.75

THE PEOPLES STORE
LEADERS OF LOW PRICES
16th & FARNAM STREETS, OMAHA.

FIVE ROOMS Furnished Complete for \$85.00
SIX ROOMS Furnished Complete for \$104.00
\$6.50 BUYS A GUARANTEED REFRIGERATOR
\$12.50 FOR THIS MASSIVE DRESSER

Candidates Are Picked for Fire and Police Board

Republicans Choose W. J. Hunter, Fred H. Hoye, Charles J. Karbach and William F. Wappich. William J. Hunter, Fred H. Hoye, Charles J. Karbach and William F. Wappich were last night selected by the republican city committee as the party's candidates for the Board of Fire and Police commissioners. The selection was made to fill vacancies on the ticket caused by the passage of that section of the city charter making the ex-cise board elective, the power of filling vacancies on a party's ticket being delegated to the party's committee.

SENATOR McCARRON ASKED TO EXPLAIN

Brooklyn Democratic Boss Said to Be Heavily Indebted to Bankrupt Brokers. NEW YORK, April 17.—A senator was created today by the announcement that Receiver Lindsay Russell of the failed brokerage firm of Ennis & Stoppard had obtained an order from Judge Holt summoning Senator Patrick H. McCarron, the well known democratic leader, to testify next Tuesday at the bankruptcy hearing and produce such books, records and documents as may be required. The summons was based on the alleged discovery of expert accountants that one of several "blind" accounts, entered as "No. 23," was that of Senator McCarron, who had for years past been a close personal friend of both members of the firm. Account "No. 23," it is stated, was very active, and it also showed that the man operating it was indebted to the firm over \$100,000. The fact that members of several New York Stock exchange firms have also been subpoenaed to appear at the bankruptcy proceedings caused a stir in the financial district.

SALE OPENS TOMORROW

\$3.00 RAZORS
2,000 DRUMMERS SAMPLES OF \$2.00 \$2.50 \$3.00 VALUES AT 97c
"Westholm Pipe," "Westholm I X L," "Sheffield," "Wade & Butcher," "Williams," "Bair," "William Elliott," genuine "Stockholm" (Swedish), and "Ward." Imported Razors. Choice of them all, 97c. Every Razor guaranteed and subject to exchange or return of money if not satisfactory. Every Razor honed and set ready for use. 1,000 Genuine "Bair" Razor Stropps . . . 97c

Shaving Materials
SHAVING POWDERS
25c Pond's Extract Talcum Powder for . . . 20c
25c Colgate's Talcum Powder, Violet or Cashmere Bouquet, sale price . . . 15c
25c Squibb's Talcum Powder 20c
15c Cradick's Blue, special value, this week . . . 5c
1-lb. Cass Violet Talcum Powder, sale price . . . 25c
1-lb. Cass Borated Talcum Powder sale price . . . 25c
SHAVING BRUSHES
We have just received a shipment of 5 gross assorted Shavers, worth 75c and upwards. All go on sale this week at . . . 50c
SHAVING SPONGES
Sale of 500 Silk Sponges, worth 15c to 25c, on sale this week, at, each . . . 10c
SHAVING SOAP AND STICKS
10c William's Barber Bar, 2c for . . . 15c
10c William's Quick and Easy Shave, for . . . 5c
25c William's Shaving Stick 20c (The new kind, hinged top.)
SHAVING CREAM
25c Santol Shaving Cream 20c
25c J. & J. Shaving Cream 20c
50c Lloyd's Euxesis . . . 38c This week only.
SHAVING MUGS
3 gross assorted Shaving Mugs, regular price 25c, sale price this week . . . 15c
This will be a week to save money on all of the above articles, also including Shaving Mirrors, Face Lotions, Toilet Waters, Razor Stropps, Razors of all descriptions, etc., etc.

Myers-Dillon Drug Co., 16th and Farnam Sts., Omaha, Neb.
SPECIAL THIS WEEK ON DAGGETT & RAMSDALL'S COLD CREAM
For one week we will give with each 50c box of Daggett & Ramsdell's Cold Cream a 25c cake of Daggett & Ramsdell's Cold Cream Soap, 75c worth of a well known merchandise for . . . 50c

STANDS FOR THE BEST
J. C. WOOD & CO. DYEERS AND CLEANERS
152 HOWARD ST. MILLER GRAND BLDG.
WE KNOW HOW