

At the Theaters

MUSIC



ROBERT EDESON
At the Brandeis



SCENE FROM "CLIMAX" At the Brandeis



EVA DENISON
with Robert Edeson At the Brandeis



EVA LANG
in "PETER PAN" At the Boyd



MRS. ERWIN CONNELLY
At the Orpheum



HARRY DE BEAUMONT in "CHECKERS" At the Krug



GERTRUDE RYAN
At the Krug



MAUDE FULTON - At the Orpheum



SAM HOWE, ROBERT SCOTT AND LIBBIE BLOWDELL - At the Gayety

A PPEARING for the first time as star and playwright, Robert Edeson will be presented by Henry B. Harris for six performances at the Brandeis, commencing tonight and including a Wednesday matinee, and a special Christmas matinee on Monday, in his own play, "Where the Trail Divides." Taking as his basis Will Lillibridge's novel of the same name, Mr. Edeson has written a play of the great west and the Indian race. Mr. Edeson will play How Lander, a Sioux of fine education, who has been brought up in a white family and has absorbed the best traits of the race without acquiring the meaner vices. The opening of the play finds him engaged to marry a white girl, who loves him thoroughly with never a thought of the fact of his red skin making any difference. A white man loves her also, and in his desire to prevent her marriage to the Indian, he brings to bear upon her all the old arguments against inter-racial marriage. Falling in love with the white man's friend, she tries to stop the marriage by force, but it is foiled by How. The ceremony takes place and the girl is immediately shunned by all her white friends and leads a lonely life, while the white man remains on the scene, and they see entirely too much of each other until How finally discovers his wife in the white man's arms. Events move rapidly from this climax to the final curtain, which generally comes as a great surprise to the audience. Mr. Edeson has a splendid role in How Lander and in the final scene is at his best, giving a wonderful characterization of the Indian under the stress of emotion. The scenes of the play are laid in South Dakota and the piece has been given a magnificent mounting. Mr. Edeson's leading woman this year will be Miss Eva Denison. Others in Mr. Edeson's support are Cordelia McDonald, George V. Barnum, A. H. Van Horn, Joseph Hawley, Charles Chapelle, Ship Camp, John Prescott and E. M. Dresser.

In "The Fortune Hunter," which will be seen at the Brandeis theater for the week beginning Sunday evening, January 1, Winchell Smith has succeeded in transferring to the stage one of the breeziest, most whimsical and altogether charming stories of American life evolved by any author of the present day. The play met with instantaneous success in both New York and Chicago, where two companies presented the piece in all-season runs. The company, which will be seen here is headed by Fred Nible, one of America's most popular young actors. His interpretation of the title role, conveys perfectly the spirit of the play and each subordinate role has been entrusted to players with national reputations.

At the Boyd the holiday week will be celebrated by a great revival of "Peter Pan," the beautiful fantasy by James M. Barrie. Miss Lang has played the piece here before, and with such success that its revival is warranted. She is seen at her very best in the part of the boy who would not grow up, leading his band of boys who were parentless in Never-Never Land. It is a story that appeals to every heart, and is presented with much force. The incidents of the play from the time the Darling children leave home to follow Peter Pan until they return again, are those that bring back to all the dear illusions of youth, or confirm the young in their fixed belief in the unreal. It is a play for grownups and for the children as well. Manager Woodward has prepared elaborately for the mounting of the play, and will equip it with a splendid set of scenery, as he did on former occasions. It will be presented at a matinee this afternoon, and daily at matinee and evening performances throughout the week, except on Monday evening, when the house will be given over to the Cornell Glee and Mandolin clubs. The piece will remain the same.

Something quite out of the ordinary in the way of eccentric and character dancing is promised for William Rock and Maude Fulton, who will appear at the Orpheum for the week starting this afternoon in their original dance creations. This act embraces comedy, tragedy and melodrama. A comedy bit consists of a melodramatic extract given with close-step accompaniment, the villain playing the leading lady to the time of the double-shuffle, while the hero makes the discovery and voices his grief in howl the same tempo. Eugene and Willie Howard, popular entertainers, present their new skit, "The

Porter and the Salesman," which abounds in mirth-provoking situations. Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Barry come with their rural comedy skit, "At Henfoot Corner," which gives ample opportunity to make glad the heart of those who sit out in front. "Witt's School of Kildare," consists of Misses Wilt, Miller, Schaefer and Stevens, two sopranos and two contraltos, who sing Irish melodies and recent song hits in a pleasing way. Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Connelly offer Mr. W. S. Gilbert's "Sweetheart," this being a story of a beautiful youth and rebellious maiden, who are reunited after a separation of forty years. News and Eldred are grotesque acrobats who have devised a skit they call "Yaphank National Guardsmen." Goff Phillips is a minstrel, who blacks his face before appearing on the stage. "Almost a Hero," and "A Jar of Cranberry Sauce," will be the new melodrama views. Director Huster of the Orpheum concert orchestra is rehearsing some new tunes for next week.

"Checkers" is the offering at the Krug four days, starting matinee today; special Monday matinee. For the benefit of those who may possibly not have heard the story it may be briefly described as that of a manly, sporty young American with a nimble wit and a clean record, unblemished even by the slightest streak of "yellow."

"A Prince for a Day," which will be presented by the Edith Spencer stock company at the Gayety next Saturday night only (New Year's eve) is a farce comedy in three acts. The action takes place in the London home of Daniel Truckerman, a wealthy retired soap maker, who is anxious to break into society. There are good parts for Miss Spencer, Mr. Bennett and the other members of the company.

The New American theater opens on New Year's day. The name has been changed from the American Music Hall, and it will have as its manager and owner Mr. D. J. Bondy, formerly owner of playhouses in St. Paul and elsewhere. The Sullivan and Conditine attractions will be exclusively booked by the New American theater. Each performance will consist of seven acts, all features and the best of their kind. Three performances will be given daily, a matinee at 2:15 and evening performances at 7:15 and 9:30. Attractions will change every

Sunday and run the full week. An idea of the class of attractions coming to the New American theater can be obtained when it is said that among the features of the opening week will be Madam Benoit's trained Arabian horses, and the second week will include Anna Eva Fay, while the third week will find the venerable Bob Fitzsimmons before the footlights.

This most momentous amusement event of the early year will be the appearance of the New York Hippodrome company at the Auditorium here, where it will play an engagement, beginning January 8. The undertaking is the most colossal ever attempted in the way of a theatrical tour. Six hundred performers, half a hundred horses, a tribe of Indians, a complete Lilliputian circus and fifteen cars of scenic devices are some of the staggering figures. The Shuberts, who direct the destinies of the New York Hippodrome, assure theatergoers that the production they are sending to Omaha will come intact and unchanged from the New York presentation. The three spectacles which they have selected from the Hippodrome's repertoire were the crowning achievements of the world's greatest play house. A festival of spectacle, melodrama, circus and ballet is provided, the principals being those who originally won public favor in New York. Marceline, Master of Mirth, leading clown at the New York Hippodrome since it was opened, will have a conspicuous part. Nellie Melville, premier danseuse, and Miss Manette Flack, prima donna, are other features loaned to Omaha.

"Pioneer Days," "The Ballet of Jewels" and "A Trip to Japan," remembered by all familiar with the history of the Hippodrome will comprise the entertainment. The curtain will rise first upon "Pioneer Days," Cowboys, cowgirls and fifty Indians are saluted. The sun dance, performed by the real men, is the greatest religious ceremony of the Sioux nation, and is executed with all the impressive significance involved at the council of the tribes. "A Trip to Japan" was last year's masterpiece at the Hippodrome. It was

AND opening their treasures, they offered into his gold and frankincense and myrrh. This is recorded in the Wise Men from the east who journeyed to Bethlehem. It was the first Christmas, and these were the first Christmas presents. Valuable beyond measure were they. My gold was gold in those days, just as now. But frankincense and myrrh do not mean so much to our modern ears. Let us see if we can find what made them so valuable. It is recorded in the Music law that frankincense was one of the principal ingredients of the "most holy" perfume for the Lord. Instructions were very specific for its composition, as witness the following: "And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy." * * * And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof. * * * Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people."

And the pure myrrh was one of the principal spices in the "oil of holy ointment." "An ointment compounded after the art of the apothecary." The laws concerning this were also direct and positive: "Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it; it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you. Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people."

To be outcast and ostracized for daring to make other compounds or concoctions after a given form, was certainly a very severe penalty; and as frankincense and myrrh were principal parts of those compounds, the law gives a very high standing among spices and things, to these two particular ingredients.

So frankincense and myrrh were valuable Christmas presents. And, together with gold, they were offered by Wise Men as first tribute to the spirit of Christmas, to the Christmas Spirit which permeated the little town of Bethlehem.

And ever since that time wise men of all ages have given their money, their gold, the holy oil of their worship and the sweet perfume of their good wishes, in honor of the Spirit of Christmas.

To-day in hundreds and thousands of churches, subjects like these will be discussed. "The Mystery of the Incarnation," "The Human Birth of Divinity," "The Arrival of the Messiah," Some will affirm, and some will deny, and some will say little on one side or the other. Some will say that the Messiah has not come, others will say that the Messiah has come, and others will say that there is no Messiah at all.

But whatever the differences theological, there will be a unity of spirit, and perhaps unity of spirit is greater than unity of belief; at least it would seem to be more potent in its influence.

And that seems to be the whole trend and trend of Christmas. Unity of Spirit. Men and women of the most varying shades of belief unite in celebrating the Christmas spirit. The most earnest Trinitarian, the most positive Unitarian, the most absolute Judaean, all agree on one point, namely, the celebration of the Christmas Spirit. Whether the belief is in the Christ that is, or in the Christ that is to be, the relation towards Christmas is the same in spirit.

And what is this spirit of Christmas? It is the spirit of Giving, instead of getting. All day long we may be spending our time in planning how we can get more. But Christmas is entirely different; now we are planning how we can give best, and we spend much anxious care over the problem of how and what to give.

Speaking of gifts, two items appeared in the newspapers last week which were very suggestive, and which may point a Christmas lesson.

The first item was as follows: "John D. Rockefeller has completed the task he set himself in the founding of the University of Chicago. Today public announcement was made of a single and final gift of \$10,000,000, which includes all the contributions Mr. Rockefeller had planned. This sum, to be paid in ten annual installments, beginning January 1, will make, approximately, \$50,000,000 he has donated to the University."

The second item is this: "Lincoln, Dec. 20. (Special Telegram.) Mrs. L. C. Keck, the wife of a prominent business man of this city, owes her life to the heroism of John Goodhouse, a university student, whose home is in Chadron. Mrs. Keck was suffering from an acute attack of blood

poisoning and had been despatched to Monday evening. As a last resort Goodhouse consented to give the woman a quart of his blood. Goodhouse was sorely in need of money with which to continue his university work, and received \$100 for his blood. The operation was performed Monday night and the woman is now on the road to recovery. Goodhouse is now in a weakened condition, but will pull through."

It does not seem as though those two items could be printed in the same vicinity, much less on the same day. In the same newspaper, does it?

The last ten million dollars of a thirty-five-million-dollar donation to one university; and in another university a student buys a little hundred dollars' worth of education by his actual and literal heart's blood!

Now that five million dollars is beyond an ordinary man's comprehension. But let us have it this way: One thousand dollars is within our comprehension (even if not within our grasp). Thirty-five of those thousand-dollar bills would be only thirty-five thousand dollars (which is getting beyond most of us, even in thought). Thirty-five hundred of those thousand-dollar bills is being offered, and amounts to only three million five hundred thousand dollars, and it will take actually thirty-five thousand of those thousand-dollar bills to make thirty-five million dollars. (But one's head grows dizzy and he's lost in the financial heights.)

Three hundred and fifty thousand bills of one hundred dollars each to a university for educational purposes; and a night's journey away from the place which received that donation, the student gives a quart of his own best life's blood for a paltry little hundred-dollar bill's worth of education!

What's the answer? One knows not, and yet such a condition of things makes one pause and think at this Christmas time! The problem is interesting and you may enjoy working it out.

Another Christmas item—Mr. Carnegie has Ten million dollars, (again an inconceivable sum), for the promotion of Peace. Just how it will be distributed, and just how it will go about the accomplishment of its mission remains yet to be seen, but it is a suggestion of tangible realization of the old, old English message "Hory to God in the Highest, and on earth Peace, Good-will to men."

With Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Carnegie offering gold; and young Goodhouse, the student, offering frankincense and myrrh, and his own life-blood, the signs of the times are not discouraging, as regards the Spirit of Christmas. For the Spirit of Christmas lives always, not only around the month of December, but all through the year. At the Christmas season it shows itself more materially, and its manifestation is the Epiphany.

Today we have the holy and the mistletoe. The green of the holly-leaf indicates the immortality of the Christmas Spirit. The red of the holly-berry indicates the love which that spirit pours forth from the hearts of men; the white berry of the mistletoe suggests the peace which the Spirit of Christmas sheds abroad.

They are priceless gems, the Emerald, the Ruby and the Pearl. And we find them all in the emblems of Christmas. The Emerald, of the Holly-Leaf; the Ruby, of the Holly-Berry; and the Pearl of the Mistletoe, the Pearl of Peace, the Ruby of Love, the Emerald of Immortality.

Immortality, Love, and Peace. These are the priceless gems of the Christmas season. These are the great gifts. And the Spirit of Christmas will never die.

—THOMAS J. KELLY.

Musical Notes.

More than one critic in commenting recently on Miss Semblich's contemplated retirement from professional life has declared that the art of pure singing is dying out; that with the death of the little prima donna for her well-learned rest there will be left no great exponent of the "bel canto."

Speaking of the changes that have come about in singing methods, has said: "Modern methods have made it so that composers bother little about the voice. They rely upon the dramatic, the upon artistic personalities, upon crashing orchestral effects. Singing pure and simple is losing vogue, and a pity it is."

When I was a girl, while we were taught to sing, while personally was always a valuable asset, the great art was forced to cultivate was singing, singing, singing; first, last and all the time. There were great singers all about us. There were glorious traditions behind us. There were teachers who knew what was necessary for us to do to achieve good singing.

Miss Semblich will have the assistance of Frank La Forge, pianist, on the occasion of her concert at the Brandeis theater Tuesday afternoon, January 3, 1911.

Imaginary wrong. Hence, suffering between love for Tommas and duty to her aged parents and her Jewish faith, at length weakens and meets Nicolsky by appointment, who, on threatening to commit suicide, succeeds in persuading her to elope with him at the very time when in her home the family is celebrating the feast of Pentecost. Her only brother, Mendele, a soldier on furlough, rushed out to stop the conversion and marriage of his sister. Mendele, disguised as an old man, attracts the attention of the heroine and threatens to kill both herself and her lover if she does not return to her parents. Hence, is forcibly dragged into the church and is baptised. Mendele rushed into the church and states, "Tommas! The wedding is a sermon against intermarriage. 'The Storm of Life,' by Count Leo Tolstoy, will be the bill on Sunday night.

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