

The Play's the Thing

A Breezy Review of New York Stage

Written Especially for Bee Readers

By ZAYDA GLOVER.
New York, May 31.—A new "matinee idol" is setting hearts aflutter here.

"matinee idol" with whom both men and women have fallen in love. This "idol" is not a handsome, romantic actor, as you'd be led to think. "This 'idol' is a girl—a pretty, wholesome, winsome young girl. She's not a prodigy, she's not precocious. She's just a clever, unspoiled maiden of undoubted histrionic talent, and with a charm in her method and an appeal in manner that warms one's heart and electrifies one's fancy. You feel strangely elevated through the sight of her during one short act—the only act in which she appears. You go away from the playhouse with the memory of her sweet face, her dulcet voice and her plaintive farewell impressed deeply upon you.

This new "idol" is little Helen Hayes, appearing with William Gillette in Barrie's remarkable comedy, "Dear Brutus," at the Empire Theater. She enacts the part of a dream child in the beautiful, enchanted forest of might-have-been. She plays up to Gillette in the role of Mr. Dearth, the artist, in one of the sweetest and quaintest scenes the talented Barrie has ever written for the stage. Your heart grows warm at the sight of the wonderful affection between them. You laugh at her amusing vagaries. And your eyes moisten when, at the end, she is left alone in the darkening wood, and you hear her frightened appeal: "Come back, come back, daddy! I don't want to be a might-have-been!"

And who is little Helen Hayes? Well, there isn't so very much to tell about her, for she is still in her teens. She comes from Washington, D. C., and her old friends and neighbors down there call her Helen Brown, for her real name is Helen Hayes Brown. Of course, she dropped the Brown when she went on the stage. And how did she come to go on the stage? Now that is a story. When Helen was just a wee tot she had an ingrowing toe, and the doctor said that maybe if she danced a great deal she'd get over it. So her mother sent her to a dancing class and little Helen soon became the teacher's pet pupil—the one who was always put in the place of honor on the program when the class gave an exhibition. They used to give those exhibitions at the Belasco theater, in Washington, and Lew Fields, who was playing at the Belasco, dropped in to see one of them. Little Helen caught his fancy at once, and he went back and had a talk with Mrs. Brown.

The next season she made her debut with Fields' "Old Dutch." She appeared with Fields, too, in "The Summer Widowers" and in "The Never Homes." Then Charles Frohman gave her the part of the little girl in "The Prodigal Husband," in which John Drew was the star. Next she played in stock in Washington for a couple of seasons and learned a lot, and so was quite ready to take the job when George C. Tyler was looking for someone to play "Pollyanna" in a company he was sending to the Pacific coast. The theater-goers of California and Oregon fell in love with her at once and when the box office statements began to come in Mr. Tyler pricked up his ears and said, "Here's a find." So he had a contract drawn up and sent it out to Mrs. Brown and "it" fell for a term of years, promising that he and Klaw and Erlanger would "star" her just as soon as they could find the right play.

Early this season Mr. Tyler put her into "Penrod" at the Globe theater as the "flapper" sister of the boy hero of the Tarkington comedy. That reminded Alf Hayman of her.

Alf Hayman is the managing director of Charles Frohman, Inc., and he wanted just such a little girl for "Dear Brutus." He called up Mr. Tyler and told him so. "Nothing doing," replied Mr. Tyler. "I want her myself." Then Hayman, who is persistent, sent Tyler the manuscript of "Dear Brutus" to read. "You can have her," said Tyler. "It would be a crime not to let her play that part."

And so Helen arrived. "I wish I could go on playing Margaret with Mr. Gillette forever," the girl said the other night. "He's lots of fun. I was afraid of him at first, but now I'm not. He lets me tease him. And isn't it great to be in a Barrie play? It's clever and beautiful, isn't it?" Then Helen was asked if she liked being a "matinee idol." "Oh, it's just grand!" said she.

Oh, but can't a woman keep a secret though! Mrs. Otis Skinner had a signed contract, and promise of advance royalties from Alfred Hayman, general manager of Charles Frohman, Inc., before her husband was aware that she had even written a play for him. Evidently Mrs. Skinner knew just what her husband ought to have so she wrote him a play that suited him right down to the ground and sent it without any name or address in evidence to the Globe theater, where he was playing Captain Brideau in "The Honor of the Family." Mr. Skinner read it and hastened to submit the play to Mr. Hayman, with whom it found instant favor. Mr. Hayman announced that if the author would come forward a contract and advance royalties would be forthcoming.

Mrs. Skinner was it. Wife-like she was afraid to hand it to Mr. Skinner for fear he would, husband-like, smile indulgently and that would be the end of the matter—which was not her intention at all. "But," Mr. Hayman wanted to know, "when you found out that Otis liked the play, why didn't you tell him you had written it?" "A woman's reason," replied Mrs. Skinner. "When he seemed so pleased with it and talked so much about it, I lost my nerve completely and I didn't dare tell him I was the author."

"Dangerous Years," a new three-act play by Edward Locke, has been accepted by the Messrs. Shubert for immediate production. Alms! Tell has been placed under contract to play the leading role.

"Miss Nelly of N'Orleans" will not greet New York audiences in her fascinating way any longer, as Mrs. Fiske has closed her engagement in that play at the Henry Miller theater. Next season she will tour in this, her favorite of all roles.

Because she was born under a lucky star and had the great fortune to achieve a remarkable success in her very first "speaking" part, Constance Binney, the young star in "39 East," at the Broadhurst, has offered to personally advise all stage-struck girls who write to her explaining their qualifications and ambitions. All letters addressed to her at the Broadhurst theater (if the mail does not swamp her dressing room) will be carefully read and answered by Miss Binney. After making the offer Miss Binney commented as follows:

"If I were able to make my way in the theatrical world without the assistance of so-called 'pull,' without the backing of long experience and without the assistance of anybody but myself, then surely there are hundreds—perhaps thousands—of other girls with similar ability and similar desires who, with a little friendly advice, can repeat the performance by stepping from obscurity to fame. To all these girls I offer my counsel and hope that they will not hesitate in writing to me."

Ancient Chinese Treasures That Berlin Must Return

Paris, May 31.—The threads of history, running far into the beginnings of the world, are invisible to most of the generations who see nothing but their own problems. They have a way, however, of appearing now and then with a startling reality and guiding contemporary affairs. Long before there was any such thing as modern society, with all its wars and intrigues, long before Christ lived, there was an ancient civilization rich in culture and invention. That was China who, with the Chaldeans in the west, made the first astronomical observations. They were the first to attempt to plot the sky, and they made the first instruments by which they could read the stars. At Potsdam today there stand five bronze treasures of ancient China, five of the most exquisite examples of the art and science of the east, harking back to this civilization which had grown old when European civilization was just beginning. Their surroundings are not congenial. They seem to dream of other worlds. And so the threads of history, tugging, are restoring them to their ancient seat.

This is what happened: In 1900 Baron von Ketteler was murdered in the Boxer rebellion in China. The German government, greatly outraged, demanded reparation and indemnity for the insult. Under the protocol of 1901 the German government was given special privileges in China, some buildings, wharves and barracks for the munitions of warships and several objects of art which they took from the ancient observatory of Peking. Among these objects were five of the most beautiful astronomical instruments ever made. They were wrought in bronze and dated back to studies made as early as 2000 B. C. One of these instruments is a large device resembling an equilateral which was constructed in the 13th century by Ko-Chou-Kung, astronomer to the emperor of the first Tartar dynasty and founder of Peking. It was Ko-Chou-Kung who determined with accuracy the obliquity of the ecliptic and made attempts to estimate the distance of the sun from

the earth. In this latter calculation he failed, because he assumed the earth to be flat. One of the most ancient chronicles in existence, the "Tshun-King," relates how the emperor's two chief astronomers, Hi and Ho, suffered death because they neglected to proclaim the eclipse of October 22, 2137 B. C.

Another instrument is a huge bronze quadrant which was sent to the Emperor Kank Hi by Louis XIV, and a huge brown amillary sphere, of the 17th century. The most beautiful of all, however, is the celestial globe made of bronze, seven feet in diameter. It was constructed in 1647 by one of the Jesuit missionaries, Pere Verbiest, who had charge of the observatory of Peking between 1661 and 1721.

These monuments of the ancient glory and scholarship of China were taken by the Germans who refused to return them after the looting of Peking, when the armies of Germany, France, Russia, Great Britain and the United States entered the city to put it in order. The troops of the different nations were commanded by Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, who was chosen in defiance to the kaiser.

The observatory, from which these instruments were taken 18 years ago, is a massive tower of medium height, situated in the southwest corner of the inner city. Its architecture is of feudal character, resembling more the old gates of the fortified city of the middle ages than a Chinese structure. Here under a kind of shed that juts out from the left of the tower the instruments were kept.

By some of those mounted on the ramparts of the observatory it appears that the Chinese anticipated by three centuries many important inventions. Ever since 611 B. C. they have had trustworthy cometary records and very early attempts were made to proclaim the eclipses of the sun. The Germans took their pick of the instruments and sent them to Potsdam, where they were erected for public inspection and adoration.

What Will The Harvest Be? Watchman What of The Night?

In one way or another these questions are being asked and pondered over by thoughtful men and women, with heads in hands all over the world. What about capital? What about labor? What about the high cost of living? Are prices to be higher or lower? Volumes might be written in addition to those already in print about it, and after all, like the Persian Philosopher, we would find ourselves going in at the door that we came out. What we all want, NOW, is plenty of light, and not too much heat.

On Monday, June 2, We will Start a Very Interesting Sale

We received a letter a day or two ago from a Conservative man, who stands high in the Eastern Markets, who represents a large number of responsible business institutions scattered throughout the country and in it he wrote: "The New York market is absolutely panicky." Not a panicky condition which means smashing of the stock market and tumbling of prices helter skelter, but a panic upward, prices soaring, jumping upwards daily and hourly. Now, how long will it last? Is on everybody's mind, if not on everybody's tongue. Manufacturers, Commission Merchants, Jobbers, say they see no possibility of lower prices for a year, and some say two.

A few years ago we saw a picture of a Sage looking individual with the words under the picture, "SELL AND REPENT." And this is to be our motto for this sale.

We own the goods much below present market prices and will sell on same basis. You, therefore, have nothing to lose, but everything to gain by buying NOW!

Basement First

36-inch Lonsdale Cambric at	29c	63x99 Pequot Sheets, each, at	\$1.75	36-inch Fine Nainsook, at	22½c	81x99 Rugby Sheets, each, at	\$1.75
36-inch Lingerie Cloth	29c	100 dozen Wash Cloths, at	5c	42-inch Longcloth, at	37½c	72x99 Rugby Sheets, each, at	\$1.85
42-inch Longcloth, Superior	45c	100 dozen Bath Towels, at	19c	81-inch Pepperell Sheeting, at	59c	100 Heavy Crochet Bed Spreads, at	\$1.98
81-inch Pequot Sheeting, at	75c	100 dozen Ribbed Towels, at	29c	42x36 Snowflake Pillow Cases, each, at	25c	37 Whole Pieces Fancy White Waistings and Skirtings, at	39c
45x36 Old Colony Cases, each, at	45c	100 dozen extra large Towels, at	39c	45x36 Embroidered Cases, each, at	\$1.49	Cannot Replace at These Prices	
72x90 Belfast Sheets, each, at	\$1.39	100 dozen Huck Towels, red border, at	15c	72x99 Belfast Sheets, each, at	\$1.49		
81x90 Belfast Sheets, each, at	\$1.49	100 dozen Union Towels, white, at	25c	63x99 Rugby Sheets, each, at	\$1.55		
72x99 Rugley Sheets, each, at	\$1.65						

39c for Flaxons and Dimities. Should be 50c.	39c for 36-inch Voile. Should be 50c.	45c for 42-inch Longcloth. Should be 65c.	\$13.75 for English Spread. Value \$15.00.
59c for Fancy Waistings. Should be 75c.	49c for 45-inch Voile. Should be 75c.	\$3.45 for Crochet Spreads. Instead of \$4.50.	These are Satin, 90x100.
79c for Fancy Waistings. Should be \$1.00.	79c for 36-inch Irish Poplin. Should be \$1.00.	These are Scalloped and Cut Corners.	\$15.00 for English Spread. Value \$17.50.
59c for Heavy Skirtings. Should be 75c.	59c for 36-inch Mercerized Batiste. Should be 75c.	\$5.75 for Satin Spreads, 88x98. Value \$6.50.	\$20.00 for English Spread. Value \$22.50.
98c for Heavy Skirtings. Should be \$1.25.	\$3.95 for 12-yard bolt of Nainsook. Should be \$4.95.	\$6.75 for Satin Spreads, 88x98. Value \$7.50.	\$22.50 for English Spread. Value \$25.00.
39c for Fancy Poplins. Should be 50c.	\$4.95 for 12-yard bolt of Nainsook. Should be \$5.50.	\$7.75 for Satin Spreads, 88x98. Value \$8.50.	After this it is likely to be a long, long time ere you see such values again
25c for 36-inch Voile. Should be 35c.	37½c for 42-inch Longcloth. Should be 55c.	\$8.75 for Satin Spreads, 88x98. Value \$10.00.	

And now a little heart-to-heart talk on Linens. Before me as I write lies a letter from a very large firm in Belfast, Ireland. This concern is not only one of the best known internationally, but they stand at the head of the procession as Flax Spinners—Linen Manufacturers—Bleachers and Merchants with houses in every important country. May we give you a few excerpts just to give you the gist of the linen situation? "During the whole of 1918 the use of linen yarns was prohibited by the government—except for purposes of national defense. 1917 Crop all used by government. 1918 crop cost much more. All bought by the government. Total visible supply much below one year's requirements. 95 per cent of spinners signed an agreement not to sell below a certain list price. List price will hold for some time and even though there should be a reduction then, which seems most improbable, the yarns would have to be delivered, prepared, woven into cloth, and the cloth then bleached or otherwise finished. Enormously enhanced cost of production, and recent heavy advances in wages will still further materially affect the situation. Supplies, therefore, at reduced prices cannot possibly be available at the very soonest before the end of 1919. Buyers who hold off expecting lower prices during 1919 will miss the opportunity of securing from present stocks, and will be forced to buy later at top market value."

At the risk of tiring you we have quoted from this most reliable authority. AND NOW—You will be interested in the Special Offerings of Linens, starting also on Monday. We think it only fair to you to quote the reductions and to inform you that we never mark up to mark down. If able to make such reductions in a January Sale it would pack the store. We make these prices now rather than put the goods in storage. Reductions apply to cotton, union and all Linen goods in this offering.

18-inch Mercerized Napkins, from \$1.75 per dozen to	\$1.25	72-inch Mercerized Cloths, from \$6.00 to	\$4.95	72-inch Union Damask, from \$2.50 to	\$1.98	\$1.25 Dresser Scarfs, for	98c
18-inch Mercerized Napkins, from \$2.00 per dozen to	\$1.65	58-inch Mercerized Damask, from 75c to	59c	72-inch Silver Bleached, from \$2.00 to	\$1.37½	\$2.50 Dresser Scarfs, for	\$1.79
72-inch Mercerized Cloths, from \$2.50 each to	\$1.98	64-inch Mercerized Damask, from \$1.00 to	79c	50c Dresser Scarfs, for	39c	Madeira Dollies, Scarfs, Centers, Cloths, etc., at very low prices.	
72-inch Mercerized Cloths, from \$3.50 to	\$2.75	72-inch Mercerized Damask, from \$1.25 to	98c	75c Dresser Scarfs, for	59c	Scores of items which we haven't space to enumerate.	
72-inch Mercerized Cloths, from \$5.00 to	\$3.95	72-inch Mercerized Damask, from \$1.50 to	\$1.15	1.00 Dresser Scarfs, for	79c		

And please note the reductions in Odd Cloths and Dropped Patterns, also on a few odd sets. If you look, you will buy.

25 Only—Cloths, all linen, 72x90, at	\$8.75	2 Only—Cloths, all linen, 72x126, at	\$15.00	2 Only—Cloths, all linen, 90x108, at	\$13.75
Instead of \$10.00.		Instead of \$19.50.		Instead of \$20.00.	
25 Only—Cloths, all linen, 72x198, at	\$10.00	2 Only—Cloths, all linen, 72x144, at	\$16.75	1 Only—Cloth, all linen, 90x126, at	\$15.75
Instead of \$12.00.		Instead of \$22.00.		Instead of \$22.00.	
3 Only—Cloths, all linen, 72x108, at	\$13.75	2 Only—Cloths, all linen, 81x81, at	\$12.50	1 Only—Cloth, all linen, 90x144, at	\$17.75
Instead of \$17.00.		Instead of \$16.00.		Instead of \$24.00.	

100 pairs hemstitched Marquisette Curtains, 2½ yards, at	\$1.79	50 pairs hemstitched Voile Curtains, 2½ yards, at	\$1.49	2,000 yards Checked Marquisette, 36 inches, at	39c	100 Rag Rugs, 27x54, at	\$1.29
Instead of \$2.25.		Instead of \$2.00.		Instead of 50c.		Instead of \$1.75.	

At Needlework Section on Monday, also starting at 9 A. M., 100 pairs Pequot Stamped Pillow Cases, 42x36 and 45x36, at

\$2.25

1 lot of Stamped Gowns at 98c, value \$1.50.

A lot of Sealed Packages, containing Tie Racks, Collar Bags, Scarfs, Baby Caps, Lunch Sets and Bridge Sets, to be embroidered; these have a value of 50c to \$1.50; will go, at

39c and 98c

And now, if you have the time, it won't be amiss to read this ad through again and pick out just what you need, so that you can make a bee line in the morning early—for this is one sale where it won't pay to procrastinate—when these are gone THERE WILL BE NO MORE.

Thomas McPatrick Co