

CASTRO AND HIS CORPS OF ADVISORS



The man holding the paper in the rear of the group is President Castro of Venezuela. Around him are the chief diplomatists of Venezuela, Castro's cabinet officers, who are the chief advisers of the czarlike president. These are the men who are now considering the latest phase of the Venezuelan crisis. The situation is largely in their hands. This halftone is made from an authentic original flashlight photograph never before published.

THEATRES.

(Continued from page two.)

"Audrey," at the Madison Square, in which Eleanor Robson has the title role, is proving an exceptionally strong production, and has continued to draw large houses from the start.

Mabelle Gilman is making such a distinct hit at the Bijou in "The Mocking Bird," that she expects to remain in New York indefinitely.

The two other musical shows, "The Silver Slipper," at the Broadway, and "Sally in Our Alley," at the New York, are both enjoying great popularity.

Aubrey Boucicault, with "Heidelberg," will soon succeed Weedon Grossmith at the Princess, where "The Night of the Party" has been a charming attraction for the past three months.

J. K. Hackett's "Crisis" is proving one of the strongest things he has yet done, and the noted star's performances are attended nightly by the most critical audiences.

At Mrs. Osborne's "Fad and Folly" has demonstrated itself an easy winner. This has come to be the favorite resort for society women who like to see the glass held up to nature, and their own frailties made the butt of the player's satire and the public scorn.

"Ninety and Nine" continues more

than a ninety days' wonder at the Academy, where it is packing the house in a phenomenal way.

"Der Kuss" has been successfully produced by Manager Conried at the Irving Place theatre. The play ranks high in Hungarian literature. It is a romantic comedy, with an absorbing plot and poetic dialogue. It is handsomely presented by a strong cast.

The Circle theatre has opened with an excellent stock company, which will present a new bill each week. Miss Bijou Fernandez is the leading lady, and a succession of strong Broadway successes is to be produced.

Miss Elizabeth Tyree began rehearsals for "Gretna Green," the romantic comedy by Grace Livingston Furniss, in which Miss Tyree will make her first appearance as a star at the Madison Square theatre on January 5th. Miss Tyree's company includes Scott Craven, Frances Gaunt, Robert Hickman, Eva Vincent, Frank Matthieu, Georgie Lawrence, Robert Broderick, Harris Forbes and others.

At the American theatre the attraction for next week is "Slaves of Russia," a powerful melodrama.

E. H. Sothern's impending production of "Hamlet," to take place at the Garden theatre, New York, Dec. 29th, Sir Henry Irving has released Miss Celia Loftus,

who had been playing with him for a year in England. She will play the part of Ophelia. Miss Loftus, since she has appeared in vaudeville shows at \$1,000 a week, later in Daniel Frohman's company, at Daly's theatre, subsequently with E. H. Sothern, and last year with Sir Henry Irving in England, has developed into an actress of admirable qualities.

"My Friend From India," "As You Like It," and "Cleopatra" are among the forthcoming productions at the Columbia theatre, Brooklyn, where the new stock company is meeting with much success.

The headline act at Keith's for the coming week will be one of especial interest to the children. This is Techow's wonderful performing cats, who give a truly marvelous exhibition of feline intelligence. Cushman, Holcomb and Curtis present a very laughable singing sketch entitled "The New Teacher," which affords these three clever people ample opportunity for the display of their talents in the lines of both music and comedy. HERBERT E. CLAMP.

A friend of mine who was at dinner with me one evening, making his way homeward with some difficulty, came in contact with a tree, the only tree in the street. He fell backward a step,

then returned to the effort, and met the tree again. This time he sat upon the sidewalk and put both hands to his head and cried: "Lost! lost! lost! in an impenetrable forest."

Little Elsie—anxiously—Santa Claus does not go around in an automobile, does he, mamma?

Mamma—Why, certainly not, he still drives his reindeer.

Little Elsie, with a sigh of relief—Oh, I'm so glad. Tommy told me he used an automobile and I know there are no repair shops open at night.

"Oh, no," said the wise and worldly-minded husband to the friend of his bachelor days, "I never smoke the cigars my wife gives me on Christmas. You see I"—the lid of his left eye lay dead on his cheek for a brief fraction of time—"I know the ropes."

Mabel—Do you expect many Christmas presents this year, dear?

Maude—Not many; you see all the papers published an account of papa's failure last week.

"Does he claim to know much about women?" "No; he says they are beyond his comprehension." "Then he's married."—Chicago Evening Post.

VENEZUELAN SEAPORT BOMBARDED BY ALLIES



This is Puerto Cabello, the Venezuelan seaport, where the allies delivered their first blow against Venezuela. The shelling of the fortification of this place has provoked a great deal of adverse criticism in Washington and some of the European capitals. Even in London the general opinion holds that the step was unnecessarily harsh and severe. The citizens of Puerto Cabello are still in a state of howling indignation at the summary measure.