

The Chatham Daily Planet.

(MAGAZINE AND EDITORIAL SECTION.)

CHATHAM, ONT., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1903.

(PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN)

Maple City's Dramatic Talent

Celebrated Critic Informs The Planet of Much Local Talent in Theatrical Art—Many Embry Celebrities Admirably Adapted for Different Roles.

Resultant upon the enthusiastic reception given to the many local opera and minstrel productions and to the Macaulay Club last year in their presentation of the typical scene from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice, there has been an overwhelming impetus of dramatic ambition, not only among the members of these organizations but also among many of our leading citizens.

The Planet has noted this with much interest and satisfaction, and in order to encourage the study of dramatic art in the Maple City, wrote some time ago in a certain celebrated dramatic critic of New York, asking him to come to Chatham, look over the field of possibilities, and give his opinion as to the style of plays which are most adapted for the Maple City. This he has done and his report has just come to hand. The report makes some very startling revelations and from it, it is found that the talent in Chatham is very varied. Some of the suggestions made by this man in authority are herein contained:

John W. White and Dr. Musson are at last on an equal footing. Either one is perfectly qualified to play the stellar role in "Much Ado About Nothing."

Judging from Ald. Piggott's idea of how to procure a settlement of the telephone franchise, he would shine in "Fiddle-dee-dee."

Ald. Geo. G. Martin's actions in the city Council Chambers make him first choice in "The Darling of the Gods."

"Sidelacked" should be made a musical farce with accompaniment by the ex-Regimental Band.

The aldermen who took the trip to Windsor with the chairman of the Industrial committee in the stellar "roll," would present a realistic dramatization of "A Breezy Time."

"Was she to blame?" is described as a pathetic and soulful comedy-drama, in which the exceptional talents of Horace Davis qualify him to take a part.

"Topsy Turvy" is a popular piece and any resident of Queen street would be able to play the whole show.

"A Fool's Revenge"—We decline to give the name of the young and callow legal light who is suggested for this masterpiece.

The theatre goes would find new revelations in "David Harum," if Thomas Slater were given the part of David, supported by a strong company consisting of Geo. Lamphard, Ed. Snook, Col. Sam Holmes, and others.

"The Awakening," a dramatic study in black and white with fine vein of pathos. Moses Robinson and Ace Parker suggested for the leading parts.

"Tilby" is an alluring and dainty extravaganza when presented by those two deft artists, Messrs. Jasper Wilson and Roy Tobey.

In "Running for Office" there is a keen competition for the purchase of the copyright, from the four cohorts among J. W. White, Fred. Stone, John A. Walker and Geo. B. Douglas.

The critic met Count Alexis Lorenzo von Eberts and his diamonds on his way to Chatham and could not be persuaded thereafter to mention any other candidate for "The Billionaire."

"Two Gentlemen of Verona"—that California—will be represented in resplendent costume and scenic effects by J. M. Pike and Geo. W. Sullivan.

In "The Tempest"—a startling melodrama, by the way—David Grant, of Raleigh Township, was unanimously accorded the leading part, with R. I. L. Nicholl as his main support. The company also comprises such celebrities as Judge Houston, S. Stephenson, W. G. Richards, James Ames and neighborhood.

"By Proxy" is advertised as a musical production in three acts. Perhaps this is the reason that the name of Private H. C. Philp, bandmaster of the ex-Regimental Band, is attached thereto.

"Too Many Cooks" a farcical comedy or tragedy in three acts by the Silent Seven, late of Erieau. Time, two months. It is also understood that this company has an extensive and varied repertoire and produced with great success the continuous vaudeville performance, "Celebrating his Natal Day."

"At War with Women," is an attractive and spectacular drama in four acts, James Paul, the well-known North Chatham grocer, was selected to personate the hero, after a keen competition.

"Caught with the Goods" is a society tragedy, with somewhat startling and sensational scenic effects. The costuming of this production is very original. The cast is composed wholly of ladies and it was decided, for some unaccountable reason, to leave the selection of the performers to Mr. D. R. Farquharson.

The choice of cast is another production is also left over. "A Forced Apology," the well-known comedy-drama which had such a successful run this past season, will probably be reproduced. The selection of characters is likely to be again left with Lieut.-Col. J. B. Rankin.

Several large circus troupes are contemplating the addition of attractive vaudeville to their repertoires this season. If Chatham's circus by-law permits their presentation in this city, ex-Ald. John Waddell is suggested for "The Sleeping Beauty."

A remarkably strong and realistic personation of the emotional comedy-drama, "The Infant Prodigy," is anticipated at the hands of T. D. Niven. This is promised as one of the features of the season.

In "My Wife's Husband" Mr. Blewett, of Blenheim, has been chosen for the leading part with a prominent ex-Mayor and local detective as his support.

"The Katzenjammer Kids" is a new and sparkling comedy full of fun and frolic and glittering with repartee and humor. Crown Attorney Herbert D. Smith and O. L. Lewis are billed for positions in the cast.

"Looking for a Wife" is a pathetic melodrama in a series of continuous acts. Stephen Backus is starred in this production.

"The power behind the Throne" is a play which requires a skilful conception and marked diplomatic ability. Dr. Geo. T. McKeough is the instantaneous choice for the heavy parts.

OUR PAVEMENTS

The following from the Chicago Inter-Ocean was evidently written by an ex-Chathamite:

They took a little gravel,
And they took a little tar,
With various ingredients
Imported from afar.
They hammered it and rolled it,
And when they went away
They said they had a pavement
That would last for many a day.

But they came with picks and smote it,

To lay a water main;
And then they called the workmen
To put it back again.
To run a railway cable
They took it up some more;
And then they put it back again
Just where it was before.

They took it up for conduits,
To run the telephone,
And then they had it back again
As hard as any stone.
They took it up for wires
To feed the electric light,
And then they put it back again,
Which was no more than right.

Oh, the pavement's full of furrows;
There are patches everywhere;
You'd like to ride upon it,
But it's seldom that you dare.

The Days of Auld Lang Syne

Interesting Events of Ye Olden Times Gathered from The Planet's Issues of Half a Century Ago.

From the files of The Planet from Oct. 22, 1856, to Dec. 10, 1856.

G. H. Reeve starts up in a new jewelry establishment.

Alfred Moore, Merchant, offers to exchange rags for books, paper, etc.

James Higgins, boot and shoe maker, advertises a special sale of shoes.

Bears are causing considerable excitement and annoyance in California.

Henry Myers Marsh, Esq., advertises an auction sale of 120 town lots in Wallaceburg.

Robert Gunne does business as dealer in dry goods, groceries, crockery, hardware, wines and liquors, issuer of marriage licenses and commissioner in court of common pleas.

The Mayor, A. D. McLean, Esq., has received an anonymous and threatening letter and the Council offers a reward of twenty-five pounds—\$100—for the detection of the writer.

The London & Port Stanley Railway is formally opened at London, Ont., the mayors of Toronto, London and Detroit being present. London is also formally christened "The Forest City."

Married—By the Rev. N. F. English, on the 16th inst., at this residence of Mr. Rob. B. Cum, Harwich, Mr. Charles James to Miss Suphia B. Cum, both of the Township of Harwich.

Francis Martin, merchant, next door to the post office, advertises for sale a farm of 50 acres of land, 25 acres cleared, with a log house, a shed and a young orchard, lot 9, concession 8, Raleigh.

General Sir William Eyre, K. C. B., commander of the forces of Canada, passed in review, the company of the Chatham Rifles, and was pleased to express himself very favorably of their movements and precision.

The assizes were held on this date with several "small cases" which were not generally of interest. The associate judges were W. B. Wells, Esq., judge of the County Court; Edwin Lawwill, M. P. P.; Thomas McCrae, Geo. Duck, Sr., and John Waddell, Esq.

The results of Col. Prince's election to parliament show that there are 299 votes in Chatham township, 244 in Camden and Zone, 180 in Dover, 345 in Harwich, 480 in Howard, 279 in Raleigh, 59 in Romney, 195 in Orford, and 118 in Tilbury East. In Windsor (then a village) there were 98 votes, and in the town of Chatham there were 274.

Dr. Douglas inserts a card in The Planet of Oct. 22, 1856, announcing that he "has fitted up an office in King St., Chatham, opposite McDowell's foundry, to practise the different branches of his profession, medical and surgical." It is also announced that "Dr. Douglas, degree as physician and diploma as surgeon are framed in his office."

The Globe publishes an account of a representative's visit to Chatham. It speaks very highly of this thriving little town. The article says:—"King street is really a fine thoroughfare, now being paved in the most approved manner by the contractor, Geo. Young, Esq., at a cost of some 6,000 pounds. I am told that the city of Detroit had a population of 35,000 inhabitants before it had a square yard of pavement. So much for this Canadian town of 5,000. The public buildings—court house, market, churches and schools—are far before those of much larger places. The colored population of the place is much exaggerated, as I was assured it does not exceed 600."

BAD BOYS

P. C. Henry Durr and P. C. Peter Dezella have been looking for young James Burns for the past week. They succeeded in getting a clue about a week ago, and successfully followed it up. Mr. Durr reported to the Chief that Burns was staying at the home of a man named Somersfield, two miles from Chatham. P. C. Dezella and James McGregor went out last night and secured the lad. The boy is company with Edward Ellis, was arraigned yesterday morning on four charges—stealing keys from a Wabash coach, stealing shoes from a Wabash freight car, and burglarizing Dunlop and Peleto's grocery stores. He pleaded guilty to stealing the shoes and not guilty to the burglary, and elected to be tried by Jury. Ellis also pleaded not guilty and made a similar election. The boys were remanded till Monday for trial.

T. L. Pardo, M. P. P., and son, of Cedar Springs, were in town on Sunday on their way up to visit their friend, J. W. Smith, of Stewart. Mr. Pardo is keeping well, but his wife is as yet invalided and unable to assist herself.—Merlin Mirror.

The Board of Health met Saturday afternoon to discuss the threatened action of Dr. T. J. Park, against the township for smallpox account. It was decided to offer Dr. Park \$505 in full for services rendered and if the offer was not accepted to engage counsel to defend the suit.—Anderson news in Amherstburg Echo.



EVERY woman wants to have her frocks set with the fascinating French curve at the waist, and Sak & Co., Herald square, show many costumes especially made to wear with the Rosalind adjuster to attain this effect. In this illustration the gown of white Silienne shows a corsege with bolero and blouse effect, and the deep pointed belt outlines the French curve sharply, while showing the enamel shield of the Rosalind. The long skirt has a tucked flounce and a velvet binding at the foot.

It's a very handsome pavement,
A credit to the town;
They're always diggin' it up
Or puttin' it of down.

FORMER CHATHAMITE

Thomas Cross Edwards' picture appears in a three column article in last Sunday's Pittsburg Gazette, giving an account of "The Edwards Perfect Atmospheric Combustion process." Mr. Edwards was for many years a resident of this city, and is present engaged in forming a company in that city. By this system it is claimed all fuel is gasified and the gas is used as a continuous spark to combust the oxygen and hydrogen of the atmosphere.

A couple of Tilbury lads came to Merlin last Sunday and imbibed too much bug juice with the result that just the other side of the Hickey drain they landed in the ditch—horse, rig and driver in a promiscuous heap. They were a sorry looking plight.—Merlin Mirror.

"The Light that Failed" is a melodrama with many pathetic and soul-stirring situations. The civic property committee carry this play in its entirety.

"My Milliner's Bill," a dainty society extravaganza and a decided novelty, is recommended very highly. In this charming creation, beautifully set in corded tapestry and lace, Frank Phelps assumes the stellar role, with W. G. Coupland as his leading man.

In the "Country Chairman" Ald. Archie McCole is accorded the main part without further deliberation.

The exceptional talents of that eminent young Maple Cityite, Pete Cowan, seem to have entitled him to the honor of starring in "King Dodo."

Perhaps no production has met with greater success this season than the delightful comedy "Alphonse and Gaston." Doubtless this is the reason that Commodore W. W. Seane and Captain E. B. Stevens have been selected for the dual roles.

Several young ladies' names are mentioned as possible stars in "No wedding bells for her," and if they call at the office their names will be suppressed.

While the comedy-drama, "Told it himself" is advertised in three acts, James Fleming's friends feel uncertain as to whether he could bring out all of the stirring situations in that time.

In "An Honest Debtor," a thrilling drama of debt-stepping and legal quibbles and technicalities, the members of the City Council are entitled to play the role of defaulters.

"A Progressive People" is the title of a new standard production to be shortly dramatized in the English metropolis. All citizens of Chatham could furnish parts for this presentation.

Clerk A. E. Robinson, of Raleigh, although a very busy man, has found time to devote a couple of days to the church work. He left on Wednesday to attend the Provincial Y. P. S. C. E. convention at Stratford.—Merlin Mirror.