

Gossip of The Footlights; News of Stage Interest; Players Known in St. John

Jessie Bonstelle and Berton Harrison in New Play—Paul Gilmore in Vaudeville—Sketch of Mabel Wilber—Cecil Drummond in Stock With His Wife—Local Players' Farewell—Patriotic Plays—General Budget of "Green Room" News

"In the Vanguard," the new drama of war and peace by Katrina Trask had an elaborate production last week in Rochester at the hands of an excellent company under the joint direction of Jessie Bonstelle and Berton Harrison, both well known here, the latter being a former resident of St. John. The play aims to expose the horrors of war and to preach the doctrine of universal peace and brotherhood. There is a awful lot of preaching and there are a few terrible scenes, one of them showing a battlefield at dawn after the conflict. "In the Vanguard" makes a powerful impression and is well acted.

Charles Klein has returned once more to London, to work upon plays that he has agreed to write for the American stage next season. Even a failure like that of "The Money-Makers" does not daunt him; nor yet have the managers lost their faith. Besides, they must get plays somewhere.

Concerning Paul Gilmore an actor well known in St. John "Variety" has the following: "This well known, high-class dramatic star, has taken to vaudeville for a rest. He has been producing, acting and managing his own plays for years. His 'A Friend in Need,' by H. Sheldon, has made him a big hit in vaudeville. It is 80 per cent comedy, with a strong dramatic foundation. Something entirely different from anything seen in vaudeville. Mr. Gilmore is personally appearing in this sketch, for which he carries a beautiful production of scenery and light effects. It is Mr. Gilmore's intention to produce sketches and appear in them himself in and about New York; after which he intends to put other stars in his parts and send them on tour over the different circuits. Mr. Gilmore is so well known all over the country that he should be a valuable asset to New York vaudeville in drawing out-of-town patronage."

War or no war, we are to have another fine crop of the plays for children which, during recent years have come so strenuously with the Christmas pantomime. For one thing, they do not involve a heavy outlay, either in the way of salaries or of production for the stock in hand. So, we are to have "Alice in Wonderland" at the Savoy; "Peter Pan" at the Duke of York's; "Where the Rainbow Ends" at the Hamlet; "The Cockle-shell Bird" at the Little Theatre, and doubtless others. Quite a number of London theatres may have had just now the same thing, but they are going cheaper—London letter in New York Clipper.

The return of W. C. McKay to St. John as manager of the Opera House has been heartily welcomed by many friends. He made himself most popular on his last stay here, and it is a pleasure to have him back again. Richard Walton, fully, author of "Omar, the Tentmaker," "The Bird of Paradise," and other plays, who recently divorced Eleanor Gates, basing his action upon desertion is shortly to marry Miss Gladys C. Hays, of Toronto. Miss Hanna is the daughter of a clergyman.

George Backus, who played here with Harkins has been engaged by May Irwin to play the role of Captain Pennington in "A Widow by Proxy." He made his first appearance in the part at the Standard Theatre on Monday night.

The Merry Widow
Those who recall her as the dashing vivacious "Sonja" in "The Merry Widow" some years ago in St. John will probably be interested in the following sketch from a New York publication concerning Miss Wilber:

"Mabel Wilber (Mrs. Madison Corey) who is now the prima donna of the stock company at the Park Theatre, St. Louis has won her way to the front on her merit, and of course, her beauty and pleasing personality have helped some. She was born in Lockport, N. Y., Aug. 14, 1882—she is not afraid to show her date—and was educated at the Sacred Heart Convent, Rochester. Her debut was made with Kivrin Opera and she sang in 1907-8 as Sonja in "The Merry Widow" in 1908. She was married to Madison Corey, general manager of Henry W. Savage at Spokane, Wash. Feb. 8, 1909. The Corey home is in New York City."

The ninth anniversary number of "Variety," a prominent New York theatrical weekly, has been received, and is worthy of special mention. It is a most attractive copy, handsomely illustrated and contains many articles of keen interest to stage-folk and the followers of the stage in general. The issue should be most popularly received and make new friends for "Variety."

The Abbey Theatre—or rather Lady Gregory and Mr. Yeats, as its managers and spokesmen, are in the full tide of a lively controversy with the authorities of Dublin Castle, over their right to produce in Ireland, Shaw's play, "Mrs. Warren's Profession," in spite of the fact that the censorship has forbidden it on the English stage. They carried the day with "The Showing-Up of Blanco Posnet" in a similar dispute. It was then agreed that the authority of the censor in London did not extend to Dublin but now the issue has been raised again.

The Young-Adams Stock Company is the next to visit St. John for an Opera House engagement. They will offer two plays a week, their opening bills being "The Great John Ganton" and "St. Elmo," beginning January 12th. Cecil Drummond and his wife, Elizabeth Delmore, who are well known here as members of the Thompson-Woods Stock's first season are with the B. F. Keith Stock in Portland, Me. They did particularly well last week in the premiere of "The Running Fight," a story of American finance and politics.

The Christmas number of the "Billboard," American theatrical weekly, attracted favorable comment. As usual it contains a splendid assortment of articles relating to the various branches of the stage, all of which are nicely illustrated. The issue is of the same fine standard established by the Billboard in former Christmas numbers.

A newcomer in the Bandbox Theatre (New York) Company is Janet Dunbar, who has been engaged to act the little role in the opening play, "The Poor Little Thing." Jerome K. Jerome's "The

act comedy which had its premiere this week. "An Animated Novel," is how one critic described it.

Before many months have elapsed Sir George Alexander, a celebrated English actor, will make his American appearance. What enhances interest in the event is the fact that his medium will be a new play by Hartley Manners.

Farewell Next Week.
There will be many in St. John among stage-followers who will hear with regret that next week is to see the farewell of the Thompson Musical Comedy Co. at the Opera House. They have been very popular during their stay here, particularly some of the principal members of the company, and have given some clever productions. A new piece will be offered next week, but three of the shows they have given during their stay, "The Traveling Man," "The Polka," and "Breaking Into Society" will be presented.

The company will not play on Saturday night of next week as they will leave for Waltham, Mass., to open on the following Monday. One of the fixtures arranged for the farewell week is a "Chorus Girl" Night on Thursday next, each member of the chorus being given an opportunity to display some special histrionic ability, with prizes to be awarded according to the judgment of the audience.

Success seems to have attended the revival of "The Flag Lieutenant" of Major W. P. Drury and Major Leo Trevor at the Haymarket Theatre, London. The patriotic note in it is well suited to the times. One critic writes: "The little play has caught the true spirit of the navy, spouts it with no unwholesome sentiment or empty melodrama, and indeed, in one particular, shows a remarkable presence of what the present war was so gloriously to bring into relief the indomitable cheerfulness, or making linguistic experiments on a captured enemy, and you might be reading extracts from those polly school-boy letters from our men in the trenches that we all feel to be as important evidences of the English spirit as any dispatch. And if there is a rather lessish allowance of petticoat in the play, if ladies in their drawing-rooms vie with the admirals on their quarterdecks in their interest in service affairs, well, that is a venial exaggeration, and, anyhow, a comforting reminder that, if our sailors there are their sweethearts and wives loving them all the time and longing for their safe return."

George M. Cohan writes in the Green Book Magazine: "Play-reading is really a game of looking for ideas. I call a good play a new idea with a happy ending. I am strong for the happy ending. All of us are just sympathetic enough to want everything to turn out well for ourselves and the next fellow. So why pound in the tragedies of life without a little of the silver lining?"

"If the manuscript hasn't a new idea in it, it isn't worth fooling with. Then there ought to be good characterization, and every play must have speed. When the audience starts to analyse, it's all off. You must keep them busy using their eyes and ears."

Not only is it preparing an up-to-date bulletin of good plays, but the Catholic Theatre Movement inaugurated last spring in New York under the sanction of Cardinal Farley is also threatening now to begin criminal prosecution of managers who present unclean dramas.

The oldest theatre in America is the Teatro Principal in the City of Mexico. It was erected by Spanish priests in 1721 to raise funds for the hospital. On the night of the opening performance, Jan. 19, 1722 it was burned to the ground and in 1738 it was rebuilt. In 1738 it was rebuilt. In 1738 it was rebuilt.

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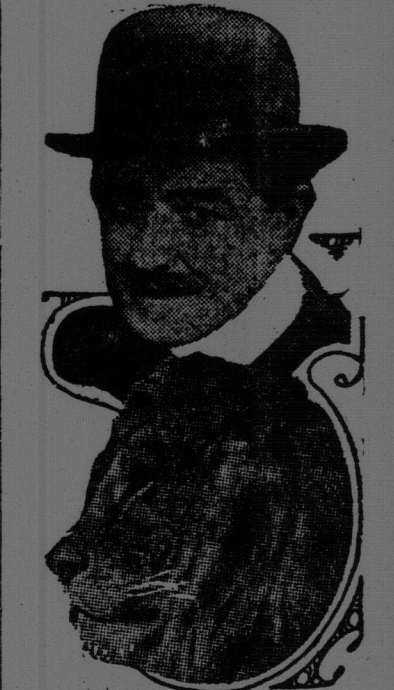
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WHEN TO HURRY



Marc McDermott.
Marc McDermott, hero of many half-breath escapes in the "movies," had an adventure recently that made "movie" acting seem tame and "safe" and sane.

McDermott was enjoying a matinee in a New York theatre. The shrill shrieks of a woman, the snarl of an enraged lion suddenly rent the air. Men and women rushed to the exits, McDermott could grab the beast he had McDermott's head in his claws, and the "movie" man spent the next few days in the hospital.

SACRED CONCERT.
On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 10, 1915, there will be a grand sacred concert at the Opera House in aid of the new infirmary, by the City Cornet Band, assisted by:

1. Miss Louise Knight.
2. Miss Katharine McGrath.
3. Miss Nellie Coholan.
4. Miss Arline Lloyd.
5. Mrs. C. Morris.
6. Prof. Silas Casson.
7. Mr. Herbert Mayes.
8. Mr. F. J. Joyce.
9. Mr. Steve Hurley.
10. Dr. Percival Bonnell.

Accompanists—Mrs. A. McMullin, Miss Arline Lloyd and Mr. D. Arnold Fox.

Programme.
Part I.
National Anthem.
I. March—"Statut Mater".....Rossini
Band.

II. Duet—"O Sponse Me".....
Mrs. C. Morris and Mr. F. J. Joyce.
III. Song—"I Come to Thee".....

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Coro Roma
Mr. H. S. Mayes.
IV. Song—"Let Us Have Peace".....Ball
Miss Arline Lloyd. (By request.)

V. Reading—Selected.....
Mr. Steve Hurley.

VI.—Selection—"Joy of the World".....
Barnhouse Band.

Part II.
I. Selection—"Kyrie and Gloria (12th Mass).....Mozart Band.

II. Aria—"I Will Extol Thee".....Costo
Miss Louise Knight.

III. Violin solo—"Priere de Moise".....Alard
Prof. Silas Casson.

IV. Song—"Voco di Dona".....Le Piconda
Miss K. McGrath.

V. Song—"Lord God of Abraham".....Zeyah
Dr. Percival Bonnell.

VI. Song—Selected.....
Miss Coholan

Selection—"Religious Aims".....Beyer Band.

"God Save the King."
Director—Frank Waddington.

A collection will be taken during intermission.
Committee—Miss Alice Dillon and Messrs. F. J. Joyce, S. Hurley, Dr. C. M. Kelly, Messrs. Jos. McGrath and J. Lloyd.

CANADA THE LAND OF
UNION BETWEEN U. S. AND
THE MOTHER COUNTRY

Canada is also in reality a great American republic, whose vital interests are not essentially different from those of the United States. Canada, according to

Dr. Macdonald, has solved a great problem in that she has found a way to be fully self-governing without separation from the mother country. She has yet, however, to ask and answer the question whether there is not an even higher duty and greater career before her.

The peace of Europe and the world will be furthered by every step that improves the harmony of the Western Hemisphere on a non-military basis. World Federation will necessitate some subordinate groupings. The Pan-American Union may well grow in influence and in functions, until it has led the way to a far more perfect assurance of peace and stability in the Western Hemisphere than has yet been attained.

Canada's destinies are here, in American attitudes and longitudes, and cannot be shifted. Her problems of the future, however, need not be considered in the light of any national rivalries or animosities. Canada is in a position to enjoy and benefit by the most perfect relations with Great Britain, the United States and France. No other country in the world is so favorably placed. It may prove, also, that she may be the means of still further binding together in bonds of perpetual friendship these three great countries, with each one of which her past, present and future are so inevitably associated.—From "The Progress of the World," in the American Review of Reviews for January.

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Bowels. Cascarets belong in every
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