

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 an awful lot of preaching and there are a few terrible scenes, but the play is well acted and the production is a masterpiece.

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 his critics lost their faith. Besides, they must get plays somewhere. 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 a big hit in vaudeville. It is 90 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 plays for children which, during recent years have competed 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 is 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 Hammer; "The Cockney" at the Little Theatre, and doubtless others. Quite a number of London theatres may run from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a week. 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 received 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, and who recently divorced Miss Gales, basing his action upon desertion is shortly to marry Miss Gladys C. Hanna, 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 "Sonia" 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. John 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 rebel, and was educated at the Sacred Heart Convent, Rochester. Her debut was made with the Kivrin Opera company in which she was the leading comedienne, and she sang prima donna roles in 1897-1899. In 1902-4 she sang in the "Sultan of Sulu," she appeared in the "Prince of Pilsen" in this country and in London in 1904-5; was prima donna in "The Tourists" in 1905-6, and with De Wolf Hopper in 1906-7. As Madame Yelba she was in the "Songbirds," a musical satire, in 1907-8; as Sonia 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, and is 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 "The Great John Ganton" and "St. Elmo," beginning January 18.

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," an American theatrical weekly, has 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 title role in the opening play, "The Poor Little Thing." Jerome K. Jerome's far-

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"MOVIE" HERO KNOWS WHEN TO HURRY



Marco Mac Dermott

Marco Mac Dermott, hero of many half-breath escapes in the "movies," had an adventure recently that made "movie" acting seem tame and "safe and sane." Mac Dermott 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. Mac Dermott rushed too, but the lion, which was one of the "actors" on the bill was quicker than he was. Before the guards could grab the beast he had Mac Dermott'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 Kathrine McGrath. 3. Miss Nellie Cochran. 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. 11. Dr. Percival Bonnell. 12. Accompanist—Mrs. A. McMullin, Miss Arline Lloyd and Mr. D. Arnold Fox.

Programme.

- Part I. National Anthem. Rossini. I. March—"Stabat Mater".....Rossini. II. Duet—"O Sponse Me".....Mrs. C. Morris and Mr. F. J. Joyce. III. Song—"I Come to Thee".....

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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 us inevitably associated.—From "The Progress of the World" in the American Review of Reviews for January.

"77" For Colds, Influenza, Coughs, Sore Throat, GRIP 25c and \$1.00, at all druggists or mail order. Humphreys' Homeo. Medicine Co., 156 William Street, New York.

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

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Family History Miss Curley kept a private school, and one morning was interviewing a new pupil. "What does your father do to earn his living?" the teacher asked one little girl. "Please, ma'am" was the prompt reply, "he doesn't live with us. My mother supports me."

"Why, then," asked the teacher, "how does your mother earn her living?" "Why," replied the little girl in an artless manner, "she gets paid for staying away from father."

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