

The Play's the Thing

Anything that Augustus Thomas writes is sure to possess considerable merit, and "The Meddler," produced at the Grand the first three night of this week, by Stuart Robson, is no exception to the rule.

The piece possesses the genuine Thomas touch and resembles in many ways the writer's "Alabama," although the latter play is surrounded with a Southern atmosphere, which lends additional charm to the story. But the same idea is at work in both pieces. Someone insinuates unkind things about someone else, thereby causing a series of unpleasant quarrels, which threaten at any moment in the play to burst in a public scandal. The theme is not a new one, and the lesson—that it is sometimes better to mind one's own business—has been taught many times before. But it is the artistic way in which the author handles the subject and the rapid transitions from the grave to the gay that give the play its charm.

Unlike "Alabama," "The Meddler" contains a distinctive type of character. This person is Frank Eli, an eccentric artist, who is a rattle-brained sort of a fellow and who is, through misdirected solicitude, constantly making blundering statements, which jeopardize the happiness of his friends. He imagines that his friend's wife, Mrs. Bancroft, has been fascinated by Mr. Chandler, a polished man of the world, whom he does not like. He determines to tell Chandler what he thinks about it, but upon meeting that gentleman his courage fails him and he hastens to charge Mrs. Bancroft with her flirtation with Chandler.

During this scene, Mr. Bancroft enters and overhears part of their conversation. He demands an explanation. Eli flusters, and instead of showing that he had the courage of his convictions, he says the first thing that comes into his mind, namely—that the lady whose name he associated with Mr. Chandler's was not Mrs. Bancroft but Mrs. Oliphant, another friend. This partially ends the trouble here but transfers it to another quarter. Then follow a series of complications which become more and more perplexing as Eli becomes more and more entangled by reason of his rash statements and persistent persecution of Mr. Chandler. The end of it all is that Mrs. Oliphant in order to restore peace, states that she was the one whom Eli meant in the statements he made regarding Mr. Chandler. This generosity on the part of Mrs. Oliphant brings the trouble to a happy ending.

As Frank Eli, Mr. Robson gives a character portrayal which is unique, charming and artistic. This is Mr. Robson's first appearance in Toronto in some years and the ovation he received at the end of the second act showed that he had still many admirers in this city. His felicitous speech between the second and third acts was not the least interesting feature of the performance.

The remaining parts in the casts are in the hands of artists. Miss Marie Burroughs, formerly with Willard, does some delightful light comedy in the role of Mrs. Bancroft. Her acting heretofore has been of a more serious nature, and it was quite a pleasant surprise to note the delicate tone of her lighter work.

Mr. Theodore Babcock made a very interesting and pleasing figure as Mr. Chandler. His role calls for a great deal of repose and smoothness, both of which he possesses in a high degree.

A Canadian, Mr. Harold Russell, seen here as the Prince of Wales in "The Royal Box," appears as Mr. Bancroft. Mr. Russell has sufficient opportunity to display his versatility, and he portrayed the quasi injured husband with an earnestness that was at all times pleasing.

Frank C. Bangs, an old member of the Booth-Barrett combination, makes a great deal out of Capt. Oliphant. Miss Gertrude Perry, as Eli's sister, is a charming little lady, and assists in making the quarrel scene with her brother one of the brightest little dialogues heard at the Grand in a long time.

In every detail the production is of the first-class order, and should be seen by all admirers of refined comedy.

One of Charles Frohman's excellent companies will present "The Little Minister," the great dramatization of Mr. J. M. Barrie's novel, at the Grand all next week, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. Miss Adelaide Thurston will play Miss Maude Adam's role.

"The Three Guardsmen" will be the attraction at the Princess next week.

Otis Skinner is playing "Rosemary" this season.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

Mr. N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., addressed the monthly meeting of the Gleaners Union in the chapel last Monday evening.

The Rev. Dyson Hague, M.A., conducted the chapel service last Friday evening, and also addressed the students upon the subject of "Consecration."

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Among the visitors in the college since the beginning of this term have been the following reverend gentlemen: J. H. Moorhouse, London; T. G. A. Wright, Millbank; J. E. Hand, Lloydstown; W. McLean, Elmvale, and W. J. Southam.

The Rev. G. A. Rex, who had been suffering from an attack of grippe, has again resumed his duties.

A series of debates is to be held this term between the seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen. A committee consisting of Messrs. Carpenter, Haslam and Perkins has been chosen to select the subjects for debate.

Mr. E. A. Langfeldt has taken charge of Christ Church, Omemece.

The hockey enthusiasts in the college are about to form themselves into a club.

Mr. W. Simpson read an excellent paper at the weekly meeting of the Student Volunteer Band on Wednesday evening last, on "Missions in North-West America."

The 28th public debate of the Literary and Theological Society of Wycliffe College will be given on Thursday evening, January 26th, 1899. Principal Parkin, LL.D., C.M.G., will act as chairman. A musical program will be given, in which Miss Marion Chapin, Miss Temple Dixon and Mr. W. W. Beardmore will take part. The subject of debate is: "Resolved,—That the present condition of the world's affairs warrants disarmament." Affirmative—G. H. Wilson, H. L. Roy, B.A. Negative—R. A. Hiltz, B.A., E. L. Huwe.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

The Hockey team is developing some very good material, two teams turning out regularly. Of the "finds" McAllister, of Coburg, is showing up. His skating is up to the mark, and though he is a little slow for the forward line in the opinion of the coach, he may be tried at cover. Young Miller plays a fast game, and very likely will be on the first team. The only difficulty with Harry at point is that he finds a 165 feet rink a little small for his lifts. The anti-hockey weather of last Saturday postponed our annual game with Knox until some time later. "Doc" Cassidy promises to bring up a fast team for a practice match this afternoon. "Doc" is training the T.R.C. seven, and thinks some need a little practice. They may not meet their Waterloo, but our boys are willing to risk the well-known cross-checking abilities of the T.R.C. heroes.

There is a general feeling of satisfaction among the boys at the announcement that the management have decided to enter a team in Jennings' Inter-Collegiate series.

Curtin's Xmas supply of tamarac has run out. Will receive fresh supply Easter.

Slightly acquaintance—"Are you he?" Dan—Mother, dear, put it in my valise, just for a change.

Mr. Geo. Doherty, of the Theological department, is at home suffering from a severe attack of la grippe.

The town of Grafton rubber-necked over the hill to greet the arrival of its modest members, but sank back almost into insignificance when Eddy flashed the tie.

Mac—Oh, how blue am I! Doc, consolingly—That's the fruits of your wearing a warm tie.

The American Students of the College held a meeting during the week for the purpose of making preliminary arrangements for a play to be given on the 22nd of February. Committees of Finance and arrangements were elected. This week the play will be selected and characters assigned. The former productions on this occasion have been very successful and entertaining. Under the present management we may anticipate a good production and equally up to any former one given on this occasion.

On Monday evening Mr. Scott delivered the first of his series of pedagogical lectures to the faculty. It proved to be an interesting literary treat, excelling anything in that line yet delivered here. The subject chosen was "The Art of Questioning," and Mr. Scott's dramatizing proved timely when he impressed upon his audience the fact that he might enter into his subject with so much spirit that they would think "The Art of Questioning" was everything in teaching, whereas it is only an important branch." He classified questions in three large divisions, tentative or preliminary, training or instructive and testing or recapitulatory. In summing up his remarks on the first class of questions the experienced trainer of our able teachers throughout the province thoroughly convinced his attentive hearers that the highest aim of teaching or questioning is to give people the "ability to use knowledge correctly." On the second class, he dwelt even more fully, leaving each wondering why he hadn't thought of that before. It would not be fair to pass on without first warning the boys that after Monday night the "dreamy boy with the far-away look" has no place of peace. The interest in the closing part of this lecture seemed to increase, and the hour and a quarter was pronounced by all as very well-spent. After once hearing him, no one can wonder at Mr. Scott's promotion to the important position of Principal of the Normal School. Too much credit cannot be given to Father Kelly, through whose endeavours this series has been instituted. The lectures will be continued every Monday night throughout the term. The subject for next Monday will be "Good Questioning."

The scribe of this column wishes us to correct the unintentional mistake in last week's issue, that Mr. Hopkins was made the recipient of a silver watch, and not a match-box, as stated.

MANY WELLINGTONS BUT NO WATERLOO

Varsity once more Victorious on the Ice

WAS A VERY SWIFT GAME

Some Star Playing Done by Men on Both Teams

On Friday night the Blue and White aggregation from old Varsity once more succeeded in turning down the Wellington youngsters. The game was a little late in starting, owing to some dispute as to who should be referee. Aleck Beaton sent up D'Arcy McGee, of Osgoode, but when he arrived, Bert Morrison, of Upper Canada, had already donned the blades, and possession being nine points in the law, D'Arcy had to admit the right, so Morrison refereed the game. At 8.50 the whistle blew and the teams lined up, both teams being confident of winning the game. The youngsters started up with great vim, and within three minutes zip-bang and Waldie heard a whizzing sound as a blue streak between the posts showed that the Wellingtons had scored the first goal. Varsity started off again with great vim, and Shepherd and Snell, followed by Broder, with the rear guard well protected by "Lexie" Isbester, succeeded in tallying 3 goals in 8, 10 and 44 minutes respectively. The Wellingtons did not lose heart, however, and while Chadwick hustled up the ice amid a crash of Varsity sticks, Dutchy Donaldson kept his stick twirling in the air, though it seldom touched the puck. He reminded one of Pat Johnston trying to hit a serpentine curve. In his mad career his stick encountered that of Aleck Mackenzie, the Varsity point, who returned the courtesy with "boom" interest. For six minutes more the teams struggled, and then half-time was called and the teams retired to their respective quarters for rub-downs and ginger ale, the score being 3 to 1 in favor of Varsity.

In the second half the students started off with great speed and in a half minute the puck was shot through the Wellington goal. Nothing daunted, the "kids," however, and Chadwick, who was playing a hustling game throughout, shot successfully on the Varsity flags in 44 minutes. Donaldson and Mackenzie again exchanged courtesies, and after a consultation with the referee, decided to argue out the matter outside the barriers.

Twice they thought the matter was settled, and started on the ice, but changed their minds and again rested a little longer. They finally agreed, however, and once more came on the ice. Varsity again scored in 6 minutes, then the Wellingtons rushed 2 through again. Again it was Varsity's turn and they scored another goal, followed by one more for the "kids" in one-half minute, when time was called, giving Varsity the game by 6-5 and the round by 17-8.

For Varsity, Shepherd, Snell and Darling did the heaviest work. "Shep" is in as good form as ever—always fast, always reliable and a lightning man to fall back, but I think a trifle selfish in his game. Snell is always fast and steady, and is the best man to pass that Varsity has. Darling lifts well, and with his weight makes an excellent defence man. Isbester is a sure player, and his weight is always a good protection to the tail end of the bunch. Broder is firm on his skates and a fairly fast skater, but is a little weak in shooting. For the Wellingtons, Chadwick was the star man. Time and again he carried the puck up the ice and seemed too fast for the company. He played a very gentlemanly and sportsmanlike game, never losing his temper, though several times he lost his feet. Smart, Morrison and Hill also showed up well, and Loudon especially showed himself a very apt youngster at warding off shots. Donaldson is not putting up the game this year which he did formerly, and seemed quite out of the bunch on Friday night. Varsity did not play the combination which was expected from a championship team, and it is to be hoped that constant practice will remedy this defect and enable them to play rings around Queen's in the finals. Their shooting also seemed very weak, except in the case of "Doc" Shepherd.

The Wellingtons were vanquished after a gamey fight, and considering that they were a junior team last year, they made a good showing. If Varsity could get Chadwick, he would be a great strength to their team, and give them a "cinch" on the cup.

LIFTS

Strictness in a referee is the safe side to be on.

"Shep" is equally dexterous with a scapel or a hockey stick.

Slow but sure—this is Issy's motto.

The effect of "Dutchy" coming down the ice on MacKenzie was like a "red" rag to a bull.

"Jo," the rink man, got enough kindling to last the rest of the winter.

O my "Darling" sang the girls as "Pussy" landed (not on his feet) but on his back.

Chadwick is the most promising puck chaser among the Wellingtons.

Loudon did not see the puck, but felt it.

Aleck Mackenzie is going to the Klondike after scalps.

Varsity put down a very "Smart" defence, says Flynn.

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SECOND TEAM LOSES

Parkdale Wins by 6-4—Varsity Men Need More Practice.

After an hour's hard struggle Varsity II, team, in their first game in the intermediate series, were unable to uphold the good record of the first.

The score, however, 6-4, was not one to discourage them, for with a little practice and "hardening up," they will no doubt be able to overcome the margin of two points.

The game greatly evinced that the team was sprung upon before they had an opportunity to get together to do combination work. This, along with their lack of staying power, was the cause of their defeat. The men individually were fast and gave prospects of a good team.

In the last half of the game Varsity were fagged out, while Parkdale were still in good form. The latter had good combination and staying power.

Their ability to endure was produced by the fact that they early in the season got down to work and had sufficient enthusiasts to keep them in training. Hockey is a game which requires such agility and endurance that it is impossible for one to successfully keep up in the game unless they comply with more or less rigidity to temperance, regular hours and care in diet.

The following Varsity men played: Goal, Boehmer; point, "Bob" Parry; cover-point, "Jack" Parry; forwards, Doc Wright, Artie Winters, Groves and Thorne; spare man, Jack Davidson.

The game started by Varsity taking the puck to the Parkdales' citadel, where, after some discussion, an entrance was made, and the score stood 1-0 in Varsity's favor.

The next game started by Varsity again waltzing the puck along, but were unable to score. On a long lift by Parkdale's point the puck was lost to sight by the goal keeper and goal umpire. However, the umpire's knowledge of acoustics counseled him that the puck passed through the goal. Both Boehmer and Jack Davidson endeavored to persuade him by Lord Kelvin's law of acoustics, he was mistaken regarding the sound, and also by Newton's law of gravitation the puck passed above the goal posts, but their eloquence was in vain.

This made the score equal. At half time the score was 3 all.

When the referee blew the whistle Varsity came on the ice determined to pile up their score. For encouragement Boehmer said Varsity first half at Mutual street was 10-1. This certainly was of use, for the team im-

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mediately notched another point. Now it was 3-2.

The whistle blew while Parry, "the med," made use of "Andy's" law of anelectrotonus respecting cramps. The others collected together, and in low mutterings spoke of seeking fortune-tellers, witches, etc., to see what the end would be. The game started, while Gillespie sent a message to Inspector Archibald for a legally proved witch, who would tell the result. Ere his return the referee blew his whistle and the score was 6-4 for Parkdale.

PUNTS

Boehmer was a brick wall. His goal-keeping was of the first-class order.

Art Wright, alias alias Fatty, alias Doc, was the shining light of the forwards. His shooting was good—every promise of a good player.

Art Winter, the fast man, was not as solid on his skates as last year, but his stick-handling is good.

Thorne is a good skater, stick-handler and but not heavy enough for intermediate.

Jack Parry's shooting was cannon-like, but his holidaying was still in evidence. Next game will show him in last year's form.