

THE MASK AND LYRE.

Notes on the Plays and Their Players.
Gossip of the Stage and Platform.

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS.
Meritt the mighty Shakespeare wrote his thought.
"Tis here he shows his love for human kind.
It is the noblest work of all he wrought.
Tis here we see the sweetness of his mind.
For consolation in the hours of care,
For soothing words when grief doth dare,
When fortune's ill is more than we can bear,
We seek these pages where they so abound.
He knew the lowest depths and heights sublime,
He knew the miseries manifold of earth—
This poet born for every age and clime—
And fears that haunt us from our day of birth.
Oh, friend of mine, when disappointment keen
Gnaws at thy heart, read Shakespeare's word serene.
—William A. T. Stone, in Book News.

Judging by the result of Otis Skinner's engagement at the Grand this week, the people of this city have no use for the highest and best in dramatic production. The experience of Mr. Skinner has been, with one exception, that of the four or five most contemptible and talented artists who have visited this city during the season now nearing its close. First, Sarah Cowell Le Moyne in "The First Duchess of Marlborough," Kyrie Belle in "A Gentleman of France," H. Reeves-Smith in "The Tyranny of Tears" and "A Brace of Partridges," and Richard Golden (who in his line is as true an artist as those just mentioned), have all been subjected to the same cavalier treatment by the professedly cultured people of London. Only one of the high-class attractions of the season has met with the success it deserved, and that was J. H. Stoddard in "The Bonnie Brier Bush." Even this cannot be alleged in the defense of those who have been lacking in appreciation of other worthy offerings, for it is safe to say that the dramatization of a once popular book, and partly because it appealed to a large following through its locale and chief characters being Scottish. Evidently Londoners want only slack work, a "Tom" show, or the maudlin musical things which come dignified by the name of comic opera. Of course they have only themselves to blame if they get what they deserve, and that is a paucity of elevating, instructive, and ennobling dramatic work, and a superabundance of the cheap, useless and foolish things which clutter the stage. There can be little hope in the heart of the lover of what ever is good on the stage so long as sterling artists and their offerings are treated with the same indifference as the swine of Holy Writ extend to the precious stones cast before them.

Under the heading "Again Bacon vs. The Bard," the Baltimore Herald contains the following amusing piece of foolery:

After a long sojourn in the cheerless and desolate caves of oblivion, the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy is once more in the center of the stage, with the limelight shining upon it and a huge chorus of argumentative cranks in a double row behind it. Some of the latest theories promulgated are as follows:

- That Bacon and Shakespeare were one and the same man.
- That Bacon wrote the Shakespearean plays while in prison serving a sentence of one year for profanely cursing and swearing on the public highway.
- That the name Bacon was merely

Shakespeare's nom de plume, assumed because the Bard was a ham actor.
(d) That Shakespeare, being ashamed of his plays, blamed Bacon.
(e) That Shakespeare invented the Baconian theory in order to mislead his creditors.
(f) That the real author of the plays was Bacon's father-in-law, a saloon-keeper named George W. Ferguson.
(g) That Shakespeare sold out his play-writing business to Bacon after writing half of the plays.
(h) That Shakespeare and Bacon were partners.
(i) That they were not.
(j) That neither were they.
(k) That nobody knows whether they were or not.
(l) That nobody cares.

A New York paper says that Miss Lulu Glaser, the star of "Dolly Varlen," is an expert marksman. During the recent sportsman's show, she astonished the talent by her skill with the rifle, and came in a brilliant second in the target shooting for women. "I find," says she, "that my knowledge of shooting has afforded me peace of mind on a good many occasions. I feel more secure from burglars, because I always sleep within reach of my gun, and long ago I made up my mind that if a burglar got into my room and I could get the drop on him I would finish his career very quickly without any legal process, and I believe I would have the nerve to do it, too." Evidently Miss Glaser may now be appropriately described as a shooting star.

The departure of Mr. W. H. Hewlett from London can only be regarded as a distinct loss to the city. Mr. Hewlett, since his coming to London, has done much for the advancement here of his beloved art, and his twilight organ recitals have been the means of inculcating in many a love for the beautiful in music, while in other ways he has sought constantly to foster and satisfy the demand for good music. Mr. Hewlett will carry with him the best wishes of all, and leave behind him the hope that he may again become a citizen of the Forest City.

The following companies, seen here this season, have closed or are closing as follows: "Bonnie Brier Bush," Williamsport, Pa., April 12; "Man to Man," Buffalo, N. Y., May 2; "Mam'selle 'Awkins," Greensburg, Pa., April 13; H. Reeves-Smith, April 22.

THEATRICAL TITTLE-TATTLE.
George Bernard Shaw is writing a new drama which has for its subject the adventures of the gay Don Juan.

Robert Edson in "Soldiers of Fortune," will finish the season at the Grand Theatre, New York. A brief spring tour will follow.

William Collier's play "The Diplomat," is to be produced in England before long. There it will be known under the title of "The End of the Story."

"Pete Beetroot, of Jigs, Jags and Jingles" is the title of a new drama that was allowed a copyright last week. It is the work of L. E. Cheno- with.

Last week ended the New York season of the Weber & Fields company. It now takes the road for a brief spring tour. All of the original company will be retained for this tour.

Olive Nethersole returns to the stage on May 1. She will appear as Sapho at the Adelphi Theatre, London, on the date mentioned. Next year she promises to spend in America.

Some of the European theatrical centers are experiencing a revival of the lesser known Shakespearean plays. In

Vienna "Triolus and Cressida" have proved unexpectedly successful.

Though Frances Hodgson Burnett, the author, is at a New York sanitarium suffering from nervousness, she is employing her leisure time upon a new novel and a new play.

"Way and Down East" will not go to Australia after all. The ravages of the bubonic plague in the countries of the South Seas frightened the managers, and they canceled the contracts made.

New York is reveling in a revival of French opera bouffe. This past week "La Fille de Madame Angot" and "La Grande Duchesse" were among the offerings at the Victoria by the French company.

David Warfield has finally decided upon a play for next year. It will be a dramatic arrangement of George V. Hobart's "Dinkelspiel" papers, which have been appearing in the newspapers for several years past.

Within another year two new theaters are promised in Chicago. It is also stated that Nixon & Zimmerman, owners of the Alvin Theater, have secured the lease of one of the most important houses in that city.

The revivals of "Hamlet" for next year, promised by Botham and Gillette, may reintroduce Shakespeare in America. Both of the actors named promise scenery of extraordinary splendor and specially selected casts.

Julia Marlow and Olga Nethersole have both taken up their pens to write new plays for their own use. Both declare they can find nothing by any of the playwrights that is suitable to their individual requirements.

In Chicago, the largest audience of the grand opera season was drawn by the performance of "The Magic Flute." It was said the receipts were \$10,000. With this exception the series of operas were poorly patronized.

Some New York dramatic critics are discussing the character of some of the actors seen upon the Broadway stage. It is generally agreed that some of the jokes heard quite frequently are very much in need of the censor's blue pencil.

Nance O'Neill is said to be scoring a great artistic success in Egypt. At a recent performance of "Magda," given at the Khedivial Theater, the audience included the Khedive, Lord and Lady Cromer and the entire diplomatic corps.

In London they say the divorce that Justin Huntley McCarthy and Cissie Loftus secured in America is not binding in England. It is an intense situation for the young author of "If I Were King," who is credited with a desire to marry Julie Opp.

Parisian friends of Jean de Reszke described 3,000,000 francs as a small opera house for his use in the neighborhood of the Arc de Etoile. There is little certainty that this great artist will ever again visit America in a professional capacity.

Anna Held declares she will not act in America next season. She intends to visit Paris in September, going thence to London in the spring and returning to the United States in time to produce the new comedy Clyde Fitch is said to be writing for her in the fall of 1903.

Lily Langtry's play, "Mlle. Mars," now performing in London, seems to have turned out something of a success after all. From the early reports it seemed fated for retirement within a week or two of its first production. It is still running, however, and the end is not definitely known.

Mrs. Rostand, who has made a local name for herself as a poet, has written a drama. She read it to an invited audience. It is a tragic-lyric of the Middle Ages. Mrs. Lebarry has bought it for France and Charles Frohman for America, where it is possible Annie Russell will play in it.

There are no parts for women in the miracle opera by Massenet, recently produced at Monte Carlo. It is called "Le Jongleur de Notre Dame." The libretto, by Maurice Lena, a professor at the Paris University, is poetical and effective, and the music, admirably adapted to the quaint legend, is throughout melodious and full of animation and color.

Giuseppe Verdi is the hero of a one-act drama recently played in Rome

with Ermete Lorelli as the famous composer. In the drama the composer has undertaken for the director of an opera theater to write an opera called "The False Santsias," and while his wife and child are starving in a garret he is compelled to write the gay music.

The singers engaged for the coronation festival at Manchester he saved Garden, London, include Misses. Nordica, Melba, Adams, Calve, Fremstad, Paccini, Garden, Norelli, Kratz, Friche and Deonnes and MM. Slezak, Van Dyck, Plancon, Van Rooy, Scotti, Bismpham, Blass, Journet, Gilbert, Hea, Dufurche, Klopfer, Caruse, Marechal, Colisau and Pennarline.

The distinction that "there are theaters and there are actors," must have been in the mind of Sir Henry Irving during a recent visit he paid to Keith's Theater, Boston, for this is what he wrote in the visitors' book in which his name is preserved as a valued memento of the famous English actor: "What shall I say? Unique! It is certainly that. Beautiful! That hardly expresses it. Perfect! That is the word."

Sir Henry Irving's last visit to America seems to have impressed him as not other previous visits has done. In an interview at Manchester he said of the American love of the drama: "The first things every little township looks to have are a theater and a church. They appreciate the drama more than any other nation in the world. It will not be long before they have a great national drama of their own."

Beaucaire is the fifth French nobleman that Mansfield has created in the course of his career, yet each has been quite different from the last. His first creation was Baron Chevalier, an old Parisian lord. Next came Andre Rossini Mario de Jadot in "Monsieur." Only seven years ago he gave his masterly characterization of the Emperor Napoleon. Three years ago he presented Cyrano de Bergerac.

It is possible that E. H. Sothern may not continue in "If I Were King" next year. He counts on shelving this attractive drama for the time being and devote all his efforts to "Hamlet" and "Richard Lovelace." If this report be true, it indicates great faith in the future of the play. Sothern's recent failure there will be many folk who count upon Mr. Sothern's judgment being correct. The outcome will be watched with keen interest, and it is not often that such an effort is made to resuscitate a failure, more especially since Mr. Sothern has abundant material without it.

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The cereals (wheat, corn, oats, rye, and barley) raised in the United States during the past five years represent a value to the farmer of \$5,250,000,000, or an increase of nearly \$1,000,000,000 over the preceding five years.

The strength of the British fleet for the coronation review at Spithead is fixed provisionally at about 120 ships. And no wonder. He has fifteen years taken off his life; in a word, he wishes he had married earlier.

This latter feeling is very common amongst people who have grandchild-

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Early marriages, you will find, are not so common as they once were, and nowadays if a couple marry when quite young people deplore their indiscretion, and expect every kind of evil to follow on the unfortunate young couple's rashness.

But is it really rash to marry when young? Well, that, of course, depends; it is rash if the future is not adequately provided for, but if a comfortable future be assured, why is it a distinct advantage to marry young. For one thing, the couple would mold the more easily into each other's way. If they were up in years a bit this would not be so easy; but when young they are pliable.

Then, if children come, look at the matter from that point of view. Lots of folks dread the idea of being young grandparents, but taking it all in all there is something to recommend young grandparenthood. It is not a nice thing to know that you will still be practically in your prime when your grandchildren are grown up and about you? You can then take a deep and clear minded interest when your sons and daughters marry. If you were old and, to all intents and purposes, done with the world, you could not do this.

Then it is nice to have little grandchildren playing around you before your head is silvered over with the snows of Time. You are able to play with them, and in a measure, you can still enjoy their enjoyment. What a difference if you occupy the honorable, but helpless, chair of the aged grandparent or grandchild.

The writer has heard an old fellow say that he wished that he was a bit younger so that he could enter into the pleasures of his children's changes and no wonder. Why, it makes a man feel younger, it adds years to his life, the ability to join the bairns in their play. Whereas, if a man be too old and feeble to join them, he sits and sighs and wishes he had fifteen years taken off his life; in a word, he wishes he had married earlier.

This latter feeling is very common amongst people who have grandchild-

dren, and there is a moral in it which the reader will quickly perceive. Then, if a wife and husband have found life to be a complete success, is the knowledge that they wedded early not a satisfaction to them? Did the early marriage not give a longer time to journey that pleasant road together? Have you, reader, not heard a man say, "I wish I'd been with Mary at 20, instead of beginning at 30." In all likelihood you would have found it to the fact that without doubt there is often much to be gained by early marriage.

Of course, early marriages, as has been said, which are rashly entered into, very often turn out deplorable failures; but this is entirely owing, not to the early marriages in themselves, but to the parties being perhaps unsuited to each other, or to their not having provision made for the future.

Early marriages in these cases are not only foolish, but absolutely wrong, and are always to be deprecated, for these be the roads where misery lies.

BIRDS THAT PREFER SEA WATER TO FRESH

Cockatoos and Pigeons Pass By Fresh Water to Get the Brine.

[From Chamber's Journal.]
"In 1851, while resident on Gazelle Peninsula, the northern portion of the magnificent island of New Britain, in the South Pacific, I had many opportunities of witnessing both cockatoos and wild pigeons drinking salt water. I was stationed at a place called Kabaira, the then 'farthest out' trading station on the whole island; and as I had but little work to do, I found plenty of time to go to the bird life in the vicinity. Parrots of several varieties, all of beautiful plumage, were very plentiful; and great flocks of white cockatoos frequented the rolling grassy downs which lay between my home and the German head station in Blanche Bay, twenty miles distant, while the heavy forest of the littoral was the haunts of thousands of pigeons. These pigeons, though not so large as the Samoan or Eastern Polynesian bird, formed a very agreeable change of diet for us white traders; as by walking about fifty yards from one's door half a dozen or more could be shot in as many minutes.

My nearest neighbor was a German; and one day, when we were walking along the beach towards his station, I noticed some hundreds of pigeons flying down from the forest to the margin of the water, and drink with apparent enjoyment. The harbor at this point being almost landlocked, and the water as smooth as glass and without the faintest ripple, the birds were enabled to drink without wetting their plumage. My neighbor, who had lived many years in New Britain, told me that the drinking of sea water was common to both cockatoos and pigeons alike, and that on some occasions the beaches would be lined with them; the cockatoos not only drinking but bathing, and apparently enjoying themselves greatly. During the next six months, especially when the weather was calm and rainy, frequently nothing but pigeons and cockatoos came to the salt water to drink.

"At first I thought that, as fresh water in many places bubbled up through the sand, the birds were not really drinking the sea water; but by watching closely I distinctly saw them walk across these tiny runnels without making any attempt to drink. Then, too, the whole of the Gazelle Peninsula is cut up by countless streams of water, and rain falls throughout the year as a rule. What could be the unusual habit of drinking sea water? Another peculiarity of the New Britain and New Ireland pigeon is its fondness for the chill-pepper berry. During three months of the year, when these berries are ripe, the birds' crops are full of them, and very often their flesh is so pungent and smells so strong of the chill as to be quite unpalatable."

WHERE PIPES ARE COLORED TO ORDER

Houseful of Young Men Whose Only Toil is to "Smoke Up."

Coloring meerschaum is a long and delicate process, and unless a man likes to do a difficult feat there is no reason why he should seek himself the task of putting a beautiful shade on his costly pipe. That is a business in itself, and an experienced smoker knows, or can learn, the location of his pipe and have it smoked until the desired color is obtained. Such an enterprise exists in the outskirts of London, and makes a fine competence for its proprietor, an Austrian. It is a large house that used to be the country seat of an English gentleman. Hither come every day a score of young men who are the experienced employees of the house. They pass up the stairs to the business room in the rear of the house, and seat themselves in armchairs and forthwith begin their day's work of coloring meerschaum smoking steadily, neither too fast nor too slow. The tobacco they use is a special blend of the proprietor, for he knows it is only rarely that the right kind of tobacco is used for that purpose. The bowls of the pipes are covered with wash leather, so that they cannot by any chance be harmed or improperly stained.

The highly accomplished among these young fellows can get away with four ounces of tobacco a day. They are paid well, and have their regular holidays. Some of them have been with their employer for five years. But it isn't a business in which one can stay a lifetime, for though they appear to be able to smoke for years, night and day, without tiring, when they get to be old men their occupation has made them too nervous to be useful. The proprietor himself does not smoke at all, except when he is teaching a novice the practice how to go about it. The new hand receives a cheap pipe, and after being told to go ahead is left to himself to make the best of it. There are prize competitions, and these newly arrived young men, who are on an upper floor, when they become proficient are graduated to take their seats with the notables on the second floor back.

This kind of work, as a rule, takes all the time and attention of the men, but some of them go so far as to say that they can devote themselves to designing shapes and figures for new pipes, special attention being given to the possibility of producing quaint effects in the coloring.

The best meerschaums, it is said, come from Turkey, and the designs are worked out and cut upon the meerschaum in Vienna.

Gratitude

Always seeks to find some expression for itself, and womanly gratitude will not keep silence. Cynical people sometimes say: Why do women write these testimonials to the value of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription? The answer can be put in one word, Gratitude. When, after years of agony a woman is freed from pain, when the weak woman is made strong and the sick woman well, the natural impulse is to write a word of grateful thanks for the medicine which caused the cure.



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Dr. Chase's Nerve Food

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Mrs. R. H. Scott, 607 Queen St., Toronto, states:—
"For a long time I was a great sufferer from a run-down system and nervous dyspepsia, and as a consequence of the stomach trouble I was nervous and sometimes had severe headaches and dizzy spells. Since using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food I can say that my health is greatly improved, digestion is good, and I am entirely freed of the other troublesome symptoms. I think this an excellent treatment for nervous dyspepsia, as well as an invaluable system builder."

Mr. A. Jacobs, 186 Horton St., London, Ont., and who is a cigarmaker with Brenner Bros., states:—
"I was so very nervous that I could hardly get to sleep at night. I was also troubled considerably with pains in the small of the back. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food has proven wonderfully beneficial to me, and I am now pleased to say that my nerves are very much steadier, I sleep and rest well, and the pains in my back have entirely disappeared."

Mr. Harwood H. Waring, 43 Portland St., Galt, states:—
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