Plays, Players and Playgoers--The Week in London Theatres

MISS RUSSELL,
Of Norton & Russell, at Bennett's Next Week.

AT THE GRAND.

Tonight....."Rogers Bros. in Panama"
Monday ..... "The Gay Musician"

AT BENNETT'S.

Vaudeville (afternoon and evening)
..... All week

"Out in Idaho," a western drama, was put on at the Grand last night at popular prices, and once again it made good. The play is wild and breezy with about as bright a line of far west comedy as it is possible to imagine. The cast was not a very strong one, but it was far from being bad, and the different characters were duly noticed, especially by the galiery. The villian was fairly frapped with hisses, while the hero was coddled enthusiastically. The play is a wholesome one, and depends upon its situations and its lines rather than upon smut, which is only too often the case. "Out in Idaho" is all right.

The many friends of Mr. John R. Stewart, formerly manager of the Grand here, will be pleased to hear that he is successfully managing the Savoy Theatre in Hamilton. He is also the owner of Bennett's Unique Picture Theatre, in Hamilton, and in addition has a 10-cent vaudeville theatre in Ottawa. He is making money in both cities, and he deserves to make it. He's one of the whitest men that ever lived—a gentleman always, and a man of his word. May he yet be a Klaw or a Belasco.

London theatregoers can rely on this, The Rogers Brothers are amongst the world's best entertainers, and the name is a guarantee that the goods will be delivered. This is a straight tip on a good show.

"THE ROGERS BROS. IN PANAMA."

The Rogers Brothers will appear at the Grand tonight in their musical comedy sketch, "The Rogers Brothers in Panama," and are better fitted than they have been in any of their previous efforts. Their sayings and parodies will convulse you in laughter. The Rogers Brothers will not be the whole show in themselves. They have been most careful in the selection of their cast, and better artists are seldom seen together in musical comedy. Miss Marion Stanley has been re-engaged as leading woman, Josephine Barrows and Eileen Sheridan, considered two of the most beautiful girls on the English-speaking stage, and who have been in Europe for the past few years, have been specially engaged for this production; Avita Sanchez, a native of Panama, is provided with a part particularly suited to her. "The Rogers Brothers in Panama" should be a treat for all.

"THE GAY MUSICIAN."

Direct from its long summer run at Wallack's Theater in New York city, where it played to crowded houses during the hot weather, "The Gay Musician," the new comic opera by Julian Edwards, with book and lyrics by Edward Siedle and Charles J. Campbell, which is proving a sensation everywhere, will be presented in this city by the Amusement Producing Company, under the direction of John P. Slocum, at the Grand, Monday.

It has been many years since a new production of a comic opera made so unqualified a triumph as did "The Gay Musician," when it was given its premiere performance in New York city. Julian Edwards, who has a record of more than twenty comic operas to his name, was called for by the audience, time and again, while every member of the company and the authors of the book and libretto shared in the triumph awarded by the enthusiastic audience.

The critics of New York city were a unit in lavishing praise on "The Gay Musician," and its composer aud author. All dwelt on the fact that Julian Edwards had eclipsed his previous efforts.

Manager John P. Slocum, in presenting "The Gay Musician," has spared no expense to secure the best that money can command. His company numbers popular Broadway favorites, among whom may be mentioned Amelia Stone, Joseph C. Miron, Templar Saxe, Harry Short, Lottie Kendall, Martha George, Haydn P. Clifford, Carroll McComas, William S. Gill, L. R. Lefferson and others. The chorus is composed of young women, selected not only for their charms, but who are also endowed with marked talent as singers and dancers. With lavish surrounding, scenic display and gorgeous costuming, "The Gay Musician" is sure to score a success here.

"COMING THRO' THE RYE."

While "Coming Thro' the Rye" is not intended to be a satire on fashionable life in Newport, it is said to humorously reflect some of the foibles of the famous society leaders.

"OUR NEW MINISTER."

The man, middle-aged, who would like to believe all the things he was taught at Sunday school, but has backslid so far that he finds it hard to get back, is most amusingly depicted in Denman Thompson's and George W. Ryer's comedy-drama of life in Hardscrabble, N. H., called "Our New Minister," which comes to the Grand in October.

"THE GINGERBREAD MAN."

"The Gingerbread Man" is a fairy spectacle and musical extravaganza, well worth seeing. Book and lyrics of the play were written by Frederic Ranken, the music composed by A. Baldwin Sloane. The scenes of the story are laid in Fairyland. The first act in Santa Claus country; the second on the borderland between the realms of King Bunn and King Sugar Plum. Both realms are good enough to eat, and the difference is made of good, rich, strawberry short-cake.

AMELIA STONE, TEMPLAR SAXE AND LOTTIE KENDALL.
In a Scene From the New Comic Opera, "The Gay Musician," at the Grand Monday Evening Next.

AL. H. WILSON.

Sidney R. Ellis, who was commissioned by Al. H. Wilson's manager to provide a new play for this season, has completed his task. "When Old New York Was Dutch" is the title of this new offering, in which Mr. Wilson will be seen in the leading role, and the story tells of life on Manhattan Island in the early days, when it was first settled by the Dutch.

"BABES IN TOYLAND."

The great drawing power of "Babes in Toyland" seems to lie in its witty lines and excellent music. There is no denying the fact that the American play-going public like to laugh. In "Babes in Toyland" the librettist, Mr. MacDonough, has presented a piece that is full of healty laughs, not the laughter that is engendered by the indiscriminate use of slapsticks and stuffed clubs, but the legitimate merriment that is inspired by comedians who appeal to the intelligence of the audience.

BENNETT'S STRONG BILL.

Next week's bill at Bennett's will be composed of some of the very best material in vaudeville. The chief headliner, if one can be chosen from the entire bill of seven, will be Jack Wilson and company, a lively singing and dancing number, composed of three men and one woman. It is in this sketch that the famous sheath gown is worn, which cost in the neighborhood of $400, and is an importation from Paris. This gown Miss Lane wore while playing Ottawa this week. This act is composed of some very fine dancing and singing, and is considered one of the most pleasing acts in vaudeville.

THREE MEMBERS JACK WILSON COMPANY AT BENNETT'S NEXT WEEK.

Al Lawrence, who will be on the bill next week, is not unknown to Londoners, as he has played here twice, once when the present Bennett Theatre opened its doors as a first-class vaudeville institution, and again last season with the Grace Cameron Opera Company. He is a very entertaining man and his monologue is of the very highest class.

Bartholdi's bird act is this week playing the Temple Theatre, Detroit, Mich., as the headliner at that house. It is one of the most massive acts of its kind in vaudeville, and is a great drawing card for the children at the matinees. The act consists of trained birds, cockatoos, parroquettes, and in one portion of this act the entire dumb members ride through the house on bicycles. They are suspended on wires and ride all through the auditorium.

Norton and Russell do a very interesting transformation and quick-change act.

The following acts are booked for produced and told by one of the greatest woman stars on the American stage."

Bertische, a young man, does some very daring tricks with weights. He is considered one of the typical strong men of the stage. This man jumped from Johannesberg to London.

Bimm-Bomm-Brrr, like the name, is very different from the ordinary run of musical acts. It is composed of about a dozen different instruments, and it takes several people to work the act outside of the regular three musicians.

Lucy and Lucier offer a sketch entitled "The Fool's Errand," and it is said to be a scream from start to finish. This bill is guaranteed to be one of the best offerings ever in London, and should draw very large audiences throughout the week.

VAUDEVILLE NOTES.

Five of the large theatres in Chicago are now playing vaudeville. This is a revelation to Chicago, and goes to show the strength of vaudeville as compared to the regular dramatic performance.

Virginia Harned's new sketch, written by herself, entitled "The Idol of the Hour," is said to be one of the very finest sketches ever offered in vaudeville. A Philadelphia paper says of it: "It is a whole play in itself, and Bennett's for the coming season: The Majestic Musical Four, May Boley, Quinn and Mitchell, Ryan and Richfield, The Military Maids, La Sylphe, Thomas E. Shea & Co., The Musical Avolos, Leslie Leigh & Co., Billie Burk's Strawberry Girls, Rooney and Bent, Emmet Corrigan & Co., E. F. Hawley & Co., Blonde Typewriters, Rain Dears, Wheelock's Indian Band, The Patriot, and many other well-known attractions.

General Manager Bennett is at present travelling over his circuit inspecting the different theatres.

It is rumored that the Bennett Company are going after Toledo, Saginaw and Bay City, Mich., and that they will shortly build theatres in these cities.

Clark Brown, the New York booking representative, is out on his monthly tour of the different cities of the United States in search of new material.

The Montreal Theatre of the Bennett Enterprises broke all records of the house for attendance last week.

The show next week at Bennett's, in this city, is said to be the biggest aggregation of vaudeville talent ever offered in London.

It is reported from Montreal that the Bennett company are going to erect another theatre there for the purpose of playing cheap-priced vaudeville, 5 to 25 cents. The theatre, it is said, will cost in the neighborhood of $100,000 and will be a very spacy one.

Al Lawrence's friends will be glad to see him back in the city next week, when he will be seen at Bennett's Theatre in his new act.

The Elinore Sisters are an early booking at Bennett's.

Fields and Hanson, the musical-comedy team at Bennett's, are so funny that the writer got mixed when he saw the act and called Fields, Hanson, and Hanson, Fields.

To put the people right it should be stated that Fields is thin and Hanson is fat, and that both are funnier than—well, than anything seen around here in some time. The Advertiser also apologizes to Mr. Field for calling him a toad. Its Mr. Hanson who resembles the batrachian.

Quigley Brothers at Bennett's this week are certainly a funny pair, and in addition they do a dancing turn which is a marvel. One of the brothers is the nattiest soft-shoe dancer since the days of George Primrose. Both men are witty, have a good line of talk, and a nice manner of delivering the goods. They are all to the merry, and can come back to London any old time.

Minard's Liniment Company, Limited:
Gentlemen,—A customer of ours cured a very bad case of distemper in a valuable horse by the use of MINARD'S LINIMENT.
Yours truly,
VILANDIE FRERES.

THE SHEFFIELD CHORUS.

The Sheffield Independent, speaking of "The Demons' Chorus," says: "When negt the chorus was heard it was to hugely different purpose. For the sake of those who do not know their Newman as they might, it may be as well to quote the lines from the chorus setting. Following lines, which tell of their being 'dispossessed, aside thrust, chucked down' by the sheer might of a despot, who has given their possessions 'to psalm droners and canting groaners' to slaves, pious cheats, and crawling knaves, the poem gives us:

The mind bold and independent,
The purpose free, so we are told,
Must not think to have the ascendant,
What's a saint?
One whose breath doth the air taint
Before his death;
A bundle of bones which fools adore,
Ha! Ha!
When life is o'er,
Virtue and vice, a knave's pretence,
'Tis all the same; Ha! Ha!
Dread of hell fire, of the venomous flame,
A coward's plea.
Give him his price, saint though he be.
Ha! Ha!
And does but aspire to the heaven above
With sordid aim, and not from love.
Ha! Ha!

These words, sung by the chorus as though it was composer, chorus master, conductor, and choralists, with jeer and snarl, and gibe and shriek, writhing and struggling, disappointed and damned, with piercing piccolo, glockenspiel, and bells in the orchestra adding to the picture of pandemonium, taken at varying tempo, mainly presto, caused a sensation indescribable but real. So truly diabolic in design was it that one might have thought poet, composer, chorus master, conductor, and choralists had got their correct color from Hades itself. There was not a syllable that was not demoniacally intense,and not a meaning in the text that was not just as intensely demoniac. Then a little later came that complete change, the transformation from demons to angelicals, in the setting of that glorious praise hymn, "Praise to the Hollest in the Height and in the Depth Be Praise." Dr. Elgar's treatment of this part of the poem as a semi-chorus and later as a double chorus, is highly effective. Climax is followed upon climax, the imposing grandeur being realized to the fullest, the close, attained through long holding notes, the soprano sustaining the G for eight bars (allegro molto), in the final cadence being stupendous."

Creston Clarke is appearing in vaudeville.

"The Patriot" is the title of a vaudeville opera, with music by Julian Edwards and lyrics by Stanislaus Stange.

Edgar Selwyn appeared in Pittston, Pa., in his new play, "Pierre of the Plains," adapted from Gilbert Parker's "Pierre and His People."

Irene Bentley, who is well known in this city, will retire from the cast of "The Mimic World" when it begins its road tour.

May Irwin returns to the stage, appearing in George Ade's "Mrs. Peckham's Carouse," as a curtain raiser to "The Mollusc."

Eddie Foy's new musical comedy, "Mr. Hamlet of Broadway," was produced in Philadelphia for the first time last Monday night.

Jack Norworth will go out with "The Follies of 1908" when it takes the road. Nora Bayes, Mrs. Norworth, is with the latter company, hence the change.

Julia Sanderson (Mrs. Tod Sloane) played the opposite part to George Huntly in the production of "The Hon. Phil," which opened in London Oct. 1.

Miss Louise Muldener, who is well cast in Zangwill's new production, "The Melting Pot," purchased her release from another company in order to accept the part.

A stock company in Richmond produced a play called "The Right to Live" with such success that it is to be given a New York hearing. It is by Jules Eckert Goodman.

Mark Sullivan, who is playing in "Lola from Berlin" the character of a retired actor, played a similar role in Henry W. Savage's original production of "Peggy from Paris."

Louise Gunning and the company to support her opened in Providence last Thursday night in the new musical comedy, "Marcelle." The play and star were favorably received.

Under the management of Kaufman & Miller, who are the lessees of Forepaugh's and Girard theatres in Philadelphia, Eugenie Blair is to tour this season in "The Kreutzer Sonata."

A new play is shortly to be produced by Andrew Mack, which is said to be one of the most pretentious he has ever attempted. Rehearsals were in progress at the Columbia Theatre last week.

During Maude Adams' engagement in October she will give "The Jesters," "Peter Pan" and a new play from the pen of J. M. Barrie, the title of which is still unknown to the public.

Mr. Robert Edeson's new play, "The Offenders," which was to have been presented at the Hudson Theatre, New York, last Wednesday night, will be produced for the first time tomorrow night. Want of satisfactory rehearsals caused the postponement.

Valeska Surratt has been engaged to play a role in support of Miss Anna Held in her new musical comedy, "Miss Innocence Abroad." Others in the company will be Charley Bigelow and Lawrence D'Orsay.

MISS WILSON,
Of Jack Wilson Company, at Bennett's Next Week.

DOLLY LUCAS FROM THE MONTREAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
MISS LUCIER,
Of Lucy & Glacier, at Bennett's Next Week.

"The Wolf," was leading man for Richard Mansfield for five years, appearing in "Beaucaire," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Beau Brummel," "Parisian Romance," "Arms and the Man" and other Mansfield plays.

Mlle. Courtenay, from the Opera Comique, Paris, arrived in New York last Saturday to begin rehearsals for the American production of Planquette's "The Paradise of Mohammed." The piece is a comic opera and may receive its premiere here.

John Slavin is still with "Ma'mselle Sallie," notwithstanding the fact that it has had six different names since it was first produced. It has been known as "A Knight for a Day," for the past season, and has been highly successful under the new title.

MARION STANLEY
With "The Rogers Brothers in Pana-ma," at the Grand Tonight.

Mr. Henry Miller last Wednesday in New York bought Mr. Lee Shubert's share in the corporation of the Henry Miller Company, which included an interest in such plays as "The Great Divide" and "Brown of Harvard."

Frank Worthing is again appearing this season in the support of Grace George. London liked Grace George so well that she is again to appear in the English capital next spring under the management of Charles Frohman.

Mary Mannering will make a starring tour of England in Shakespearean plays. It will be Miss Mannering's first professional visit to her native land since she left there in 1896 to come to this country under Daniel Frohman's management.

Mr. Charles Dillingham's production of a new comedy by George Ade entitled "The Fair Co-Ed," with Miss Elsie Janis in the star role, was made in Detroit Monday night, when the male chorus was composed entirely of college men.

Al Reeves, well known in the burlesque ranks, and who has had a prominent part in George Cohan's latest play, "The American Ideal," has sent in his resignation and will be superseded by Robert L. Daley. Mr. Reeves returns to burlesque.

Mr. David Belasco's contract with the Shuberts for a Pittsburg theatre, expires next season, and he has given out the news that the ground has already been purchased and that he will have a playhouse of his own in the Smoky City in 1910.

Catherine Countiss, who was starring in stock at the Broadway Theatre in Denver all summer, has been engaged by Robert Edeson and will play a frivolous woman of fashion in Mr. Edeson's new play, "The Offenders."

Sheridan Block, who appears in Minnie Burke, while appearing at the Empire Theatre, Albany, as the jockey in Frank Finney's sketch, "Fifty-to-One Shot," had her leg broken during the performance last Wednesday night, when the horse which she rides stumbled and fell upon her. Miss Burke was removed to the hospital. The accident happened in full view of the audience.

The Messrs. Shubert announce that their next summer's "Mimic World" will have President Roosevelt's African hunt as a setting. Addison Hunt is to write the book and Melville Ellis will supply the music. "The Mimic World" is to be an annual production. Last summer's "Mimic World" will be seen at the Belasco this fall.

Prior to the completion of the new play which George V. Hobart is writing for Joe Weber for Blanche Ring's use Miss Ring will appear as the widow in "The Merry Widow and the Devil," this, the name of the new burlesque which Joe Weber's company will use on tour, opening in Pittsburg Oct. 12. About the middle of the season Miss Ring's starring tour under Weber's management will begin.

Wilton Lackaye opened his season in Duluth in "The Battle." The story of the piece tells of the endeavors of three men to turn a millionaire from his hard methods with tenement poor. The supporting company is very strong and includes E. M. Holland, H. B. Warner, Charles Abbe, Julia Dean and Grace Filkins.

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DR. CHASE'S OINTMENT.