

The Actor's Summer.

THIS is the time of year, writes Alan Dale, the well-known New York dramatic critic, when I fretfully and enviously read the reports of the actor's summer. These reports are always gorgeously and artistically arranged. They are calculated to make any poor breadwinner reeve. At the close of his "season," after having led a glided buty life, with the plaudits of enthusiastic millions ringing in his ears, tired out with all this rapturous approval, and with just strength enough to gather in the colossal mound of shekels that have been showered at him—the actor goes to his "summer home" to live for three dreary, wistful, sweetly inactive months, until the hungry public calls him back again. They are all most anxious for us to know how they summer. If there were a commandment saying, "Thou shalt not covet thy actor's summer," I should break it hopelessly. I always regret my fate when these beautiful, rosy reports come in. Why should the actors alone possess the magician's wand that transforms a three-room flat in Harlem to a "mansion overlooking the Hudson," or a six-dollar-a-week boarding-house in Asbury Park to a "summer home by the Atlantic"? Why should the fairy gift of metamorphosing a Bloomsbury furnished room into a palatial hotel be exclusively confined to the actor?

Some of the profession are much better actors during their summer than they are during their thirty weeks of labor. How often I have watched the stalwart leading man on Broadway, hale, bronzed and picturequely attired in tennis clothes, who has just rushed in for a day to see his banker! The magic wand and a little brown grease paint have, perhaps, done it all. He has walked down from East One Hundred and Seventy-fifth street, where his wife and seven children are spending the summer and the winter. But I don't know it, at the time, and in the actor's column headed "In Summer Places" I have read that he was wooing inertia and recuperating after an ardent season.

They all act these press agent parts so efficiently. They summer only because it is absolutely necessary for their health. They are always on the verge of nervous prostration, owing to the strain of "one-night stands." If they have been in New York all season, it is owing to the strain of New York. Managers are after them to play all summer. No company on earth has ever been known to close for any other reason than weariness. The actors summer because they can't work any longer. It is because the actors summer that the public goes to the seaside and the mountains. If the actors did not get so awfully tired the season would go right on revolving, without beginning or end, like a circle. It is in desperation because the actors won't let us go to the theaters any more that we say, "The season is over. Let us go out of town until Romeo and Juliet have recuperated."

How different it is in other walks of life! We snatch a scanty two weeks from the interminable fifty-two—and we are never missed. Nobody cares a hang whether we come back or whether we do not. Our goose is never a swan. Lucky actors! Thrice fortunate summerers! He never discovers—as, alas! we do—that the beautiful retreat, with fruit and shade trees, is a hideous barn with the shade furnished by hanging out clothes; that the adorable farmhouse with fresh milk and unequalled eggs is a fraud, and that the only glimpse of the fresh milk and unequalled eggs is caught as they are sent to the city; that the exquisite summer hotel is ugly with the cackling, tiresome gossipers of adjacent cows. Lucky actors! Thrice fortunate summerers! I envy you.

The First Firecracker.

There lived in China, years ago, An old old mandarin, Whose temper was so peppery They called him Sin-ah-sin.

He wandered through the crowded streets In search of daily bread, And wore a garment long and straight, Which once was brightest red.

But worn in all the dust and rain, In a disgrace and in a shame, It stiffened slowly with the grime, And turned a dingy hue;

And like a cylinder became, So long, and straight and round, He wrapped Ah-sin from head to heels, And in it he seemed bound.

And out upon the collar high His yellow queue hung down, Till nothing of that mandarin Was seen, but just his crown.

This robe so heavy did become, That he could scarcely walk, And o'er the top of it he tried In vain, to talk.

The boys then, chaffed, and taunted him, And mistook him for a cat, And called him shabby Sin-ah-sin, As he went dragging past.

Though Ah-sin's blood did often boil At cruel jest and jeer, The while he wore that rigid coat, The lady had never a fear.

And so, one pleasant July day, The gamins round Ah-sin Said, "Let us have a little fun With this old mandarin."

And stepping up applied a torch To Ah-sin's precious queue, When flaming forth a brilliant light, They heard a noise, and whew!

They saw Ah-sin, from out their sight Go up in flame and smoke, While o'er their heads in tiny bits, Flew pieces of his cloak.

With pent-up wrath he did explode, That poor old mandarin, And far from coat and cap, and bow, Went grumpy Sin-ah-sin.

—M. M. Greenleaf in "Youth's Companion."

"Brethren and sisters," concluded the Rev. Washington Johnson, "I had demonstrated abstrusely that de Lord nates a thief—that he is not to be propagated by no offering, therof I bez de pouison of pussions who stole yo' pastor's hog to make no contribution at de circulation of de offertory platter."

Note—The collection beat all previous records—Princeton "Tiger."

Mrs. Sharpe (severely)—Norah, I can find only seven of these plates. Where are the other five? Cook (in surprise)—Sure, Mum, don't ye make no allowances for ordinary wear an' tear—Puck.

Sympathy

Is a good thing for the young husband to give the young wife. But sympathy will not alone do her nervousness or lift her to that plane of sound health where alone the wife and mother can find happiness.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription meets every womanly want and need. It tranquilizes the nerves, restores the appetite and induces refreshing sleep. Its use previous to maternity makes the baby's advent practically painless and gives the mother abundant nutrition for her child. "Favorite Prescription" is a woman's medicine and has no equal as a cure for womanly diseases. It establishes regularity, dries weakening drains, heals inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness.

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Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent free on receipt of 10 cent stamps, to pay expenses of customs and mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

KILLED HEROINE AT REHEARSAL

Stage Detective Was Jealous of Real Kisses Was Ejected by Company.

Returned With Revolver and Turned Melodrama into Tragedy With Two Bullets.

Omaha, Neb., Aug. 6.—Melodrama, in a rehearsal in a local theatre, became a tragedy yesterday, when Theodora Brooke, the stage hero, emptied a revolver into the breast of Mrs. Millie Lighthawk, the leading woman, killing her, and then turned the weapon on himself, with fatal effect.

The shooting grew out of the jealousy of Brooke, who objected to the real kisses used in rehearsal by Mrs. Adams, the second man. The drama under rehearsal was "The Arizona Female Bandit," written by Mrs. Lighthawk, who had had considerable stage experience under the name of Millie Allen. Mrs. Lighthawk herself took the title role, and purposed to present the piece in the smaller towns and in the cheaper theatres in the cities.

When the rehearsal was under way, disorder arose. Bert Adams, as the virtuous but misjudged suitor of the heroine, was evidently too sincere in the character, and Brooke, whose part as detective, gave him small scope for carousals, took affront. He envied Adams the opportunity offered by his lines, and finally entered a protest against the evident pleasure with which his rival entered into the details.

When Adams finally rushed into his sweetheart's embrace in the final act, out of that doesn't go in rehearsal," Adams insisted that all the "business" should stay in, and he was sustained by the heroine. When Brooke remonstrated further the actors present ejected him.

Brooke returned in a few minutes with a revolver, and without comment shot Mrs. Lighthawk. Brooke then shot himself in the forehead. He died instantly, and the woman a few hours later in Clarkson Hospital.

Running expenses are often hard to catch up with.

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Curious Bits of News.

The number of retail liquor dealers in the United States at the close of last year was 206,000. The total vote of the Prohibition party in the election of the same year was 320,000.

In the bottom of a strawberry-box opened at Hutchinson, Kan., the other day, the following note was found written on the smooth wood: "I am Cora Marsh, aged sixteen, of Logan, Mo. Never been kissed."

A man in Ray County, Mo., became convulsed recently that he had inept consumption. Every time he drew a full breath he heard a crackling sound. A doctor discovered that the crackling sound was made by a small buckle on his suspender.

A curious old custom was recently revived at Great Oakley, England, where parish lands were let by "pin in candle." The local clergyman presided. A pin is inserted in a burning candle, and so long as it remains in its tallow resting-place bids are taken. The last bidder before the pin drops is declared the tenant for the year.

A Paris schoolmaster has petitioned the French Chamber against kings still reigning on French playing cards. He suggests kings should be replaced by pictures of Thiers, MacMahon, Grevy and Carnot and queens by equally prominent women Republicans. The Parliamentary Commission sitting on the petition has replied that the change is impossible, since it would ruin quite a number of playing-card factories.

What is probably the most extraordinary plant ever discovered has now been found by E. A. Suverokrop, of Philadelphia, who, during trips to South America, has for some years been contributing to the botanical knowledge of the world. The plant, known as the Herbarium, Kew Gardens, London. The amazing plant which Mr. Suverokrop has now found is an orchid that takes its living down a tube into the water, the tube, when not in use, being coiled up on top of the plant.

Baltimore, Md., had a bulldog until recently, that made a practice of milking cows in the fields. Just how the dog formed the habit is not known, but it is thought he acquired it by following the example of calves. He had often been seen with the many cows in pasture about Mount Washington across a cow's back while she was lying down. His appetite for milk grew so strong that he was not satisfied with part of the supply, but wanted it all, and attacked a dairy-maid who went into her barnyard to milk. He was then dispatched by a policeman with a revolver.

The capital invested in electrical enterprises in the United States is estimated by "American Trade" at four billion dollars. We have the same authority for the assertion that those industries employ more than half a million persons. Almost half of the aggregate capital is represented by the electric railways, which, it would be safe to assume, employ a majority of the half-million persons. There were dismal predictions current ten or fifteen years ago of things that would befall certain classes of labor when electric cars came in; but the abolishment of the horse-car has probably thrown no one out of work—except the horse.

Coats of mail are now being manufactured from paper-mache that cannot be distinguished from real antique armor. According to the wishes of the customer, the armor can be turned out bright steel, silver and gold inlay, hammered brass, rusty iron or malachite. As described by the New York "Evening Post," the new armor is calculated to deceive the best critics, and to give all the satisfaction of the genuine coat of mail. They are warranted not to break easily or to cut any unfortunate guest upon whom they may be thrown in the fall. All descriptions of armor can be had. The new invention has aroused the anger of the dealers in antique armor, who declare that it is intended to ruin their trade.

A well-known English firm of tobaccoists are giving away in their packets of cigarettes a small map of the Klondike district. It is colored red, and the words "British Territory" are written in it in large letters. On the back is found the following little history of the gold fields: "There is no doubt that the Klondike district is the richest gold field yet discovered. It comprises some 192,000 square miles, mostly in British territory, and although mining has been going on steadily for the past ten years, it was only in August, 1896, that the extraordinary richness of the diggings was discovered." We have been accustomed to portraits of fat women and popular heroes for so long that the novelty is as pleasant as it is instructive.

Where He Failed.

The young man drew himself up to full height. "I have," he cried, "an unsullied character, an ardent heart, a versatile mind and strenuous biceps." The young girl yawned and seemed interested. He was quick to push his advantage. "I am the possessor of a town and a very large yacht, a stable of thoroughbred and a box at the opera." She hesitated, and a slight flush betrayed that she was listening. "I have got," he continued with a certain sarcasm, "thirty servants, forty pairs of trousers, fifty ancestors, three automobiles, six prize bull pups and an army commission."

"Ah! she had found her tongue at last," and how many gold medals? she hissed.

The young man shuddered. He felt that he had lost. He had played nervily and high, but he was above his limit—"Waverley Magazine."

Mrs. Fitz-Caudle—Ah, me! There was a time when you always called me "Daisy," now it's "Mrs. Fitz-Caudle," as if I were the merest stranger to you. Fitz-Caudle—Pound out my mistake, my dear. Daisies shut up at night. You don't—"Plick-Whack."

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