

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



LIZZIE EVANS.
In "Turning the Tables," at Bennett's
Next Week.

AT THE GRAND NEXT WEEK.
Tuesday....."The Wolf"
Wednesday....."The Wolf"
Saturday, Matinee and Night.....
....."Babes in Toyland"

BENNETT'S.
Today, matinee and night.....
.....First-Class Vaudeville
All week.....Big Vaudeville

"THE WOLF."

Rich in attractiveness as the great forests of which it tells "The Wolf" will be displayed with the lavish scenic expenditure at the Grand Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. In presenting to the theater-going public his absorbing forest love play, "The Wolf," Mr. Walter has chosen an interesting locality in which to lay his scenes, and characters new to the stage. The hardy trappers of the great Northern woods, by the many rangers in daring the fierce wild things that roam therein and the violent storms and biting cold of its long winters, are fashioned in an heroic mold. Picturesque in attire, poetic in sentiment, with a deep tenderness for women and utter fearlessness of men opposing them, the story of their loves and passions makes a most interesting theme, of which Mr. Walter has taken full advantage.

Andrew McTavish, a rugged old Scotch settler, has been deserted by his Swedish wife, and driven to monomania by the blow, believes that all women and especially the pretty daughter she has left him, are filled with evil. He is very hard with the girl, but nevertheless guards her so jealousy that she reaches her 18th year without having even heard the word "love."

Jules Beaubine, a stalwart young French-Canadian, who spends his summers in the neighborhood, learns to love the innocent girl, but postpones his declaration because of her sweet childishness. He is attended by a faithful henchman, Battiste Le Grand, who was the fiance of Jules' sister Annette, dead by her own hand after desertion by the man with whom she had eloped.

William McDonald, a surveyor from the States, engaged in laying out a new line of railroad, applies himself assiduously to the winning of the Scotchman's daughter, Hilda. Jules discovers he is the man responsible for Annette's sad end.

McDonald and Beaubine declare their intentions to each other and the battle for the love of little Hilda is on. The American has told her many alluring stories of life in the open, but nothing of his wife and children in New York. She is undecided until, having won her father's co-operation through a clever lie which holds out the promise that the old Scotchman will realize the hope of a lifetime and return in wealth to his native land.

McDonald seizes her and reveals to her his true character. She repulses him with the strength of desperation and Beaubine arrives just in time to defend her from the mad old father, who threatens to "kill her with his bare hands."

Through the intervention of Battiste, they escape and with them goes George Huntley, McDonald's assistant, who declared for the true lovers rather than become a party to the character's evil plans.

Particularly realistic is the last scene. The lights are cleverly worked so that the sunset comes on gradually, and finally there is total darkness save for a smoldering camp fire. Beaubine has at last declared his love for Hilda, and she has at last "the great desire" as she calls the realization of affection. He has sent her away in the canoe with Huntley and Battiste and awaits the arrival of his enemy, whom he knows to be close on his trail.

Suddenly, without the slightest warning, save the crackle of a twig, plainly heard in the silence, comes the blaze and report of a shot from the darkness. Beaubine throws himself on the ground, and McDonald, believing him dead or at least wounded, creeps upon him and then follows the furious fight all over the stage, which cannot be clearly seen, but every movement and "muttered word of which is heard, and at last, after fully a minute of fighting, a knife flashes and a body drops. By the small glimmer of a match struck by the victor and held over the vanquished, the audience sees the two faces, that of Jules bending over the still features of McDonald.

The parts have been filled by actors of recognized standing and ability, of whom are mentioned Severin DeDeyn, Geo. O. Nichols, Henry Duggan, Frank Dee, J. T. Chailie and Miss Mabelle Estelle.

"BABES IN TOYLAND."

The production of the musical extravaganza, "Babes in Toyland," which will have two presentations at the Grand next Saturday, is the original and the only company presenting "Babes in Toyland" on the road. There are no first or second companies, and the praise which local theatregoers have heard bestowed on this musical extravaganza concerns the company which is to be seen here.

"Babes in Toyland" is a surprisingly brilliant operatic extravaganza in two acts. The book and lyrics are by Glen MacDonough, the music by Victor Herbert, and the production by Julian Mitchell, who staged "The Wizard of Oz" and "It Happened in Nordland," as well as many other phenomenal successes.

"Babes in Toyland" is exactly what it purports to be. It is musical, intensely, artistically, melodiously musical, and it is comedy—intensely, artistically comedy. It is first, last and all the time a triumph for Producer Mitchell. Such results as he has shown have never been surpassed on the American stage or probably any other stage. It is absolutely useless to attempt to describe the beauty of the costumes and of the stage pictures, the seductiveness of the dances and marches. At every point and in every detail Mr. Mitchell shows his artistic mastery. The word "magnificent" in its proper sense, is the only one which fits this gorgeous "production."

The music by Victor Herbert comes a close second to the work of Mr. Mitchell. It is always fittingly, tunefully descriptive, whether allied to Floretta, Barney O'Flynn, Castle in Spain, Beatrice Barfactors, I Can't Do the Sum, Jane, Slumber Deep, Before and After, He Won't Be Happy Till He Gets It, The Moon Will Help You Out, Be Peep, Song of the Poet, and Toyland, and numerous others giving abundant evidence of the great versatility of the composer. The "March of the Toys" is a particularly effective number, probably the best of all the dances, most picturesquely costumed and uniquely danced. With all due deference to the principals of

the company who have earned the praise of critics everywhere, those entitled to rank next in order of artistic endeavor are the great chorus of pretty girls, who are almost constantly in evidence and who do their work in admirable spirit and the many changes of sumptuous costuming make a tremendous sensation in the Terpsichorean revels. The production will be given complete in every detail and with the same careful attention that characterized its long runs in New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia.

A special children's matinee will be given, and all youngsters will be admitted to any part of the house, when accompanied by an adult, for 15 cents.

AL H. WILSON.

Al H. Wilson will bring his latest play, "When Old New York Was Dutch," to this city during the current season. It is his first play, and Sidney R. Ellis, and is said to be the best play so far provided for Mr. Wilson.

MISS ALICE KENNEDY COMING SOON.

Miss Alice Kennedy, supported by the Partelle Stock Company, will again be with us this season, in a repertoire of Broadway successes.

"OUR NEW MINISTER."

Victor Hugo's Jean Valjean, in "Le Misérables," released from prison galley after torturing years of punishment, is fiction that has stirred human tenderness and compassion more profoundly, perhaps, than any book written before or since of like character. In Dennan Thompson's and "George W. Ryer's" comedy, "Our New Minister," a convict released after the service of a sentence, attempts to start life anew, as does Jean Valjean. It is a moving tale, his efforts, and creates a lasting impression like the Hugo tale, even though every other minute of the drama there is a laugh at or with the fourteen country types in the play who help or hinder the convict's attempts at reformation. This big success will be seen here at the Grand early in November.

Eddie Redway of "Babes in Toyland" Company tells the following funny story of a recent visit to the south:

"I was sitting on the window sill of the corridor of a hotel in Jacksonville, Fla., one morning. A colored maid with mischievous merriment in her rolling eyes saluted me with a hearty 'Good mornin', sah.'"

"Say, Tidy, I called, 'wouldn't you like to go to the theatre tonight?'"

"What kin' o' theatre you all got down dah?"

"Oh, any kind you want. Do you like a minstrel show?"

"Minstrel show? What dem white men come out wit black stuff on da faces and make out da's cullud? No, indeed! Dem's frauds. Ah, doan like frauds."

"Well—er—a burlesque show?"

"A what?"

"A burlesque—something funny."

"What! What dem ordaishous things show dervesses in tights? Ah, guess not! Ah was brung up different."

"What kind of a theatre do you like?"

"Now, Ah tell you, man," dropping her duster and coming close to me, with her arms portentously akimbo, "Ah tell you, when Mistah Shapereah brings his plays to town mah parents got to chain me to do doah."

The "ponies" in this season's production of "Coming Thru" the Ring consists of eight exceedingly graceful girls, not one of whom is over five feet tall.

A BIG BILL.

A real vaudeville show, in the true sense of the word, will be the real week's offering at Bennett's. A real vaudeville entertainment is a mixture of every conceivable kind of amusement, from music to comedy, and including every other branch of entertainment. The outstanding feature of this exceptional bill, will be Franco Piper. This gentleman has been in America but a few months, and has for the past ten years been one of Europe's music hall favorites. The only reason that Bennett's were able to secure this man was on account of his making a very big jump through to San Francisco, that General Manager Bennett secured him for next week, in order to break his jump. His act consists of banjo playing. Not the usual banjo act, but something altogether different. He carries some where in the neighborhood of 24 instruments, and has them so arranged on wires that the entire outfit are playing simultaneously. This act should create a great impression in London, as it will appeal to the musically inclined people, as well as others. The extra added feature of the bill is the Four Floods. The Bennett company this season placed a damper on all acrobatic acts unless they were a really good feature, and of the Four Floods it can be said that they are the most marvellous acrobats in the world today. Many of their tricks and feats are beyond imagination. This can be realized when it is said that they ran for three years at the London, England, Hippodrome. Lizzie Evans and Jefferson Lloyd will offer a very strong sketch entitled "Turning the Tables." Miss Evans was for years leading woman and co-star with Virginia Harned, and possibly will be remembered when she made such a terrific hit on Broadway in that good old drama of country life, the sweetest story ever told, "Foggy Ferry." It was in this beautiful play that Miss Evans was the talk of America, and never was "Foggy Ferry" mentioned or even thought of that Miss Evans was not linked with it. Now she has after three years of constant coaxing by the vaudeville magnates, agreed to give to the vaudeville public her life and efforts again. She was married happily, and could not be induced to again enter the theatrical life, but at last her husband agreed to allow her to give one season to the public, and this is the season, the one, and post-

tively the last one, that her hundreds of thousands of admirers will welcome her charming personality and smiling countenance on the stage again. Her co-star in this sketch is Jefferson Lloyd, who for years was leading man with Viola Allen, and who is at present under contract with Miss Allen, and it was only through the kindness of that lady that she agreed to allow her strong leading man to assist Miss Evans in her new vaudeville vehicle. Miss Allen and Miss Evans are as companions and friends inseparable, and it was on this account that Miss Allen was only too willing to allow Mr. Lloyd to associate himself with Miss Evans as her co-star in this sketch. The Arlington Comedy Four, are said to be the finest singing and comedy act in vaudeville. Three straight singing members and one comedian is the act, and judging from reports from other theatres in which they have played they will be a big hit here next week. Bessie Phillips will be remembered by London people by her clever work with Charles Grapewin, here some weeks ago. Miss Phillips played only four weeks with Mr. Grapewin, and owing to many vaude-

ids this season, building new theatres in each place.

It is said by all that the show at Bennett's this season have been away ahead of anything ever offered at this popular theatre.

"The Show is the Thing," has proved to be true, judging from the phenomenal business that Bennett's has been doing so far this season.

Viola Allen's Washington engagement will be in repertoire. "Irene Wyche-ly" will be included.

Anna Held's new comedy, "Miss Innocence Abroad," will be produced in Atlantic City, Oct. 26.

The Brothers Byrne are finding that vaudeville has given a new lease of life to their perennial "Eight Bells."

Charles Meakins, who plays Prince Danilo in the New York production of "The Merry Widow," is the husband of Edith Bradford, late prima donna contralto of the Aborn Opera Company here.



FOUR FLOODS AT BENNETT'S NEXT WEEK.

ville contracts was obliged to retire to carry them out with the different vaudeville houses. Reginald Malcomson and Harry Phibbs complete what will be one of the most sensational bills ever offered at this popular playhouse.

A SPLENDID ORCHESTRA.

Bennett's Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Ed Makins, of Toronto, with Maurice Poure, Messrs. Mullins, O'Rourke and McKenna, will offer George M. Cohan's "George Washington, Jun.," the finest up-to-date music written. It would pay the theatre-going public to be at the theatre by 8:15 to hear this splendid orchestra, which has made such a vast improvement in that theatre, and an orchestra that will hold its place in any theatre. The wonderful piano playing of Leader Makins, and the splendid work of Maurice Poure on the violin, and Mr. Mullins on the cornet, Mr. O'Rourke on the clarinet, and Mr. McKenna on the drums, is being commented upon by London people generally, and it is conceded to be one of the best orchestras ever heard in this city. The playing of this aggregation is well worth the price of admission, and certainly will go a long way to making Bennett's Theatre more popular and more successful than it ever was.

STAR THEATRE.

Manager Swanick, of the Star Theatre, Richmond street, will provide a fine line of moving pictures for next week. This pretty theatre is being well patronized, and along with Prof. Stevens' orchestra, the attendance will still further increase. The orchestra is proving a popular feature, as excellent programmes of music are rendered.

VAUDEVILLE NOTES.

General Manager Bennett of the Bennett Theatrical Enterprises, leaves Monday for an extended tour of his circuit and of many American cities, looking over different vaudeville features and investigating some new theatre sites.

Lizzie Evans, the famous star of "Foggy Ferry," who is to appear at Bennett's next week, has been in the city for the past few days getting the scenery, etc., in readiness for her opening in this city on Monday.

One of the best shows of the season is booked for Bennett's for the coming week.

Business at Bennett's has been phenomenal this week, and the show seems to have pleased the majority very much.

Franco Piper, who is to appear here at Bennett's next week with his banjo novelty, has played several times before his majesty King Edward.

Steven Horn, theatre contractor, is in the city discussing new plans with General Manager Bennett. In regard to several new theatres which they propose building.

It is said that the Bennett Company may enter Bay City and Grand Rap-

id in the company engaged to support Mme. Kalich are Frank Gilmore, Pilar Morin, Eda Bruna, Florine Arnold, George le Guere, Ernest Stallard, Fred Peters, C. J. Williams and Thomas R. Mills.

Joseph Brooks and A. W. Dingwall have bought the American rights to "The Sins of Society," the big London success, and will produce it later in the season with the complete English cast and scenery.

The Al. Wilson company was caught in a freight wreck recently, but the only damage resulted from their inability to reach Cumberland in time for the evening performance, and the contract had to be canceled.

May Vokes, principal comedienne in "A Knight for a Day," is one of the famous Vokes family of stage celebrities. Her last appearance in Washington was in imitations of Vesta Victoria, Harry Lauder and other English favorites.

Recently Jesse Lasky made four of his premier productions in one evening, although widely separated. They were "The Devil" in sketch form, "A Day at the Country Club," Wilson Franklin and company's "My Wife Won't Let Me," and "The Love Waltz."

"The Easiest Way," the latest Eugene Walter play, which Belasco is to produce with Charlotte Walker in the leading part, was originally offered as a one-act play in vaudeville under the title of "The Man From Denver." It failed to please then and was taken off after a week's trial.

Frederic Thompson has picked a remarkably strong company for his "Wireless" production. Here are just a few of the names: Edwin Arden, Maude Granger, Robert McWade, Georgia Drew Mendum, William B. Mack, Vera McCord, Francis McGinn and Crosby Little.

The original of the famous character of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," is still living hale and hearty in the original "tin-roofed house," in Louisville, Ky. Mrs. Mary Bass, the old lady in question, is nearly seventy years of age at this writing, and bids fair to round out her century mark.

When Eddie Foy gives his rendition of Hamlet in "Mr. Hamlet of Broadway" he plays the part "straight" and costumes the character in an exact duplication of the costume worn by Mr. E. H. Sothern. Ben M. Jerome, whose music is a part of the production, is accompanying the company on tour prior to its opening in New York and will conduct the orchestra during the engagement at the Belasco.

A novelty is offered in "The Prima Donna," the new play for Fritz Scheff, which Victor Herbert and Henry Blossom have written, in the fact that there will not be a pair of tights or an abbreviated skirt worn by any of the thirty girls who make up the chorus. Another novelty is in the fact that all the girls are tall, not one measuring less than 5 feet 10 1-2 inches.

The author of "Agnes," which Miss

Nance O'Neill is producing in New York, is Mrs. Sydney Drew, whose pen name is George Cameron. She wished to conceal her identity, but the secret leaked out. Mrs. Drew is the wife of John Drew's younger brother, and is the daughter of McKee Rankin, being before her marriage Gladys Rankin.

Annie Russell, in "The Stronger Sex," will succeed "Paid in Full," at Webster's Theatre, New York.

Andrew Mack will present his new play, "Sergeant Devlin McCare," by Cecil DeMille, at Philadelphia Oct. 13.

Frank Daniels is appearing in the musical comedy "Miss Hook of Holland," now renamed "Hook of Holland."

The new play on which David Belasco is working for Frances Starr will be ready for production about the 1st of January.

The Shuberts have entered into a contract with Langdon Mitchell for the rights of a play which he has almost completed.

Alfred Sutro's new play, "The Builder of Bridges," to be produced at the St. James Theatre, London, Nov. 2, has been secured for this country by Charles Frohman.

May Irwin made such a hit in "Mrs. Peckham's Carouse," which has been used as a curtain-raiser to "The Mollusc," that Charles Frohman has signed her for a five-year contract and will star in her original comedies.

Allice Lloyd has gone into vaudeville for two weeks at \$2,000 per week to give F. Ziegfeld a chance to put on the Anna Held production before opening the Allice Lloyd company, under the management of Klaw & Erlanger, and F. Ziegfeld, Jr.

Richard Golden is so well satisfied with his reception in Old London that he has not only refused several flattering offers to return to the United States, but has given instructions for his American home to be disposed of. "The Old Firm," for the popularity of which Mr. Golden's Daniel Hake is mainly responsible, will shortly have to be withdrawn from the Queen's Theatre owing to that house being wanted for another play. Negotiations are proceeding for the transfer of Harry and Edward Paulson's piece to the Royalty Theatre.

A cablegram from London says that E. S. Willard has received a tempting offer to tour America this season for twenty weeks on a very large guarantee. He has been compelled to decline, however, as he has decided to make his next appearance on the London stage.

It is announced that Mary Manning has signed an agreement to tour England in a series of Shakespearean plays at the close of the present season.

A dispatch from Rome announces that Puccini, who is staying at Torre del Lago, is completing the last act of his new opera, "The Girl of the Golden West." It will be produced in New York next May.

George Cohan's latest play, "An American Idea," was given its first presentation in New York and is reported to be successful. George Beban, Bob Dailey, Trixie Friganza, and



JEFFERSON LLOYD,
Bennett's Next Week.

Stella Hammerstein are in the company.

Marie Doro will appear in "The Richest Girl" in Chicago and Philadelphia, then the play will be produced in New York. Its London production takes place in January.

Dustin Farnum is to be seen in a new play by Edward Peple, author of the "Prince Chap," called "The Splitfire." The leading part is reported to be very much to the liking of Mr. Farnum.

Edmund Breese is to have the principal role in Charles Klein's new play, "The Third Degree." Others to have prominent parts are Helen Ware and Wallace Edgington. The play deal with New York police methods.

William Gillette will have a notable company in his production of "Samson." It includes, among others, Frederic De Belleville, Arthur Byron, Constance Collier, Pauline Frederick, Marie Walnwright and George Probert.

An entire season in one of New York city's smaller theatres has been set aside, beginning Sept. 15, 1909, for Cyril Scott, who is to star under Brady & Grismer's management in a play written for him by George Broadhurst, author of "The Man of the Hour."

Sir Charles Wyndham produced last Tuesday night in London Roy Harrison's social extravaganza, "Bellamy the Magnificent," which he and his company have had in rehearsal for the past month. Sir Charles Wyndham, Robert Lorraine and Paul Arthur headed a strong company. The play had a mixed reception from a fair-sized audience.

"The Stock" was produced last week by a stock company in Los Angeles and is said to have scored a success. Blanche Walsh is to star in the piece under the management of A. H. Woods next May.

Henry Miller is offering special inducements to secure the services of R. D. MacLean for his production of "The Servant in the House" to play the role originally created by Tyrone Power—that of the Drain-man.



HILDA AND JEAN.

Characters in Eugene Walter's Great Play of the Canadian West, "The Wolf," at the Grand Opera House, Tuesday and Wednesday Next Week.



"CONTRARY MARY" AND "TOM TOM."

Two of the Characters in "Babes in Toyland," at the Grand Opera House, Matinee and Night, Saturday, Oct. 24.