



THE GRAND.
Tonight.....Erminie.
Monday.....George Grossmith.
Tuesday.....George Grossmith.
Wednesday.....George Grossmith.
Thursday.....George Grossmith.
All Week.....First-class Vaudeville.

Tonight the attraction at the Grand will be the old-time favorite opera, with one of the finest casts that ever honored London with a visit. The sale for Erminie has been a tremendous one, and at 6 o'clock Friday evening there was scarcely a seat left in the house. In the company is Signor Perugini, who is well-known to many Londoners as Johnnie Chatterton. He was many years ago a member of the Holman Opera Company, and indeed received his early stage training with that famous organization. According to the present bookings the Grand is to be dark three nights next week. Monday and Tuesday evenings Mr. George Grossmith will hold the boards. Grossmith will give a change of programme each evening. The programme for the first lecture will include: A dissertation on "Things You May Not Notice"; a musical illustration, "Haunted by Dolly Gray"; the new entertainment, entitled, "How to Succeed," and "How to Write a Modern Musical Comedy."

At the London Opera House next week the first-class vaudeville turns, which have so greatly pleased all those who have witnessed them during the week will be replaced by turns put on by other artists of ability, who have been secured by Manager Harvey. The class of entertainment being furnished at the London is well-worth of liberal patronage.

One of the most enjoyable concepts of the season in Toronto will be that given by Mr. Francis Firth, formerly of this city. Tuesday, Feb. 23. He has surrounded himself with some excellent artists, including Mr. S. H. Homer Eaton, of Boston; America's greatest impersonator, Miss Flora Higgins, contralto; Mr. Frank Blachford, violinist; the Fifth Male Quartet, including Mr. W. H. Rogers, Mr. H. Roddis, second tenor; Mr. W. Roddis, first bass; Mr. A. Dancy, second bass. Mrs. H. M. Blight, accompanist.

Mr. Firth will sing on this occasion, one of his own compositions, "O Father, Hear Me," with piano, organ, and accompaniment. There is some talk of the Mr. Firth and Mr. Thos. Mitchell giving a joint recital in London this season.

The remarkable success of "Erminie," which will be seen at the Grand, was a case of plucking victory from the nettle of defeat. For though "Erminie" was an absolute failure in London it proved a great success in production made at the New York Casino under Rudolph Aronson's management. This was due not only to the excellent play itself, but to the great impersonation of the part of Robert Macaire, but also because Aronson had mounted the piece beautifully, and had very clever comedians in the cast. "Erminie," at the Casino, has given 1,000 times, it had a first run there of 780 nights. The cast included Francis Wilson and William S. Daboll, as Harry. Pauline Hall was in the title role. Marie Jensen was the Javotte, and Marie Manola as Marie. During the very early success of the cast, but Francis Wilson, who was very nervous at first, gradually forged to the front. Before the 180 nights' run at the Casino had finished, a second company had been started at Chicago, but the country wanted the New York production or none, so when the piece had been played 780 times in New York it was taken out of the road, where it played in thirteen weeks in three cities to \$100,000, the gross receipts of the Academy of Music in Philadelphia for one week being \$15,000.

After those thirteen weeks it went back to the Casino and had another run of 300 performances, which returned the rights to four different companies, which traveled around the country. The performances which Mr. Aronson was interested in as manager and afterwards as lessor of the production numbered 4,300, and the gross receipts were slightly in excess of \$1,000,000. Francis Wilson has played about 300 times. Upon one occasion he went to Mr. Aronson and complained that he was tired of the part, but he was persuaded to go on with it. He had, of course, made previous successes, and was already popular, but "Erminie" was undoubtedly his greatest early hit. After he went starring, he produced "Erminie" again, and has played it about 1,000 times as a star.

Miss Daisy Deane (now Mrs. Jule Delmar) was the original Fencing Girl. It was she and not Miss Mabel Deane of the "Peggy From Paris" Company who posed for those extremely fetching pictures, and Mr. George Charlton, general passenger agent of the Chicago and Alton Railroad paid her handsomely for posing in costume for copyright pictures to be used on calendars for his road.

The trading stamp has reached St. Louis at the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday matinees at the Crawford Theater, trading stamps are supplied to purchasers of seats from 25 cents upward.

May Edouin and Fred Edwards in a musical comedy, "The Bachelor's Dream," begin an engagement in New York City, March 7. It will be their first appearance there since their return from London.

A big revival of "The Silver King" will be made by Manager J. W. Bachevalier next season, with Carl Haswin in the title role. Mr. Haswin has become identified with "The Silver King," having played it over 5,000 times.

The hat worn by Francis Wilson in the first act of the big revival of "Erminie" is the same top piece worn by him in the same opera when it was first produced at the Casino in New York in the early part of 1886. The umbrella which he carries in the same act is a companion to that hat.

Thomas Jefferson's seven weeks' tour in "Tip Van Winkle," ends Saturday.

day, Feb. 12, at Newburg, N. Y. It has been extremely successful, and has established him as a worthy successor to his famous father, Mr. Joseph Jefferson.

Blanch Walsh now has her "home on wheels." Managers Waghenals and Kemper have purchased for their personally successful star the private "Roland" which she will occupy for the balance of the season. The car is not the largest, but is said to be one of the most luxurious ever turned out by the Pullman Company.

Many offers are being made to Henrietta Crossman to take her newest success, "Sweet Kitty Bellairs," to London after her American season. Miss Crossman will play "Kitty" in this country all of next season, going as far as San Francisco. Maurice Campbell's contract with David Belasco for Miss Crossman's appearances in "Kitty" terminates one year from this June. Miss Crossman will either then go to London or Mr. Campbell will produce a new play for her in New York.

Wright Lorimer, who is to make his first New York appearance in "The Shepherd King," at the New York Theater, on April 4, has engaged the following well-known players who will continue members of his company after the New York engagement: Miss Buckley, Dorothy Rosemore, Charles Kent, Edward Mackay, Edmund Grey, Harold Hartell, Florence Gerald, Margaret Hayward, Marian Ward, Eitelbert Hales, William Frederic Preston, Kent and possibly "When Edward Earle, William Balfour, Chas. H. Martin, John Wheeler, Frank Walsh, John O'Meara, Angela Ogden and Marion Frederic.

Mudge Lessing, the clever English southerner of "Erminie," is said to have run away from the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Battersea to go on the stage. Miss Lessing does not deny the fact, but she says that when asked how she came to miss the stage, she said: "I wanted to go on the stage, and I just went."

There was produced in London at the Savoy Theater last week a new musical play called "The Love Birds," written by George Grossmith, jun., and Raymond Rose, and it scored quite a hit.

Julia Marlow has returned from Europe in robust health and will shortly start a spring tour, playing in the "Maid" production on account of being too young and good-looking, has sued Fisher & Ryle for thirty weeks salary, alleging breach of contract. George Kaine is now playing Miss Lowrie's old part.

Jeannette Lowry, who claims she was forced out of "The Maid" and "The Love Birds" production on account of being too young and good-looking, has sued Fisher & Ryle for thirty weeks salary, alleging breach of contract. George Kaine is now playing Miss Lowrie's old part.

Millie James, whom many theatergoers have thought to be quite a young miss, is to be married in New York Sunday to a wealthy cigar manufacturer. Contracts to this effect were signed in New York during the week by Rich & Harris and J. C. Williamson, the Australian manager.

Maude Adams has fully regained her health, and her season may be extended to the end of the year in San Francisco. Miss Adams has never appeared on the coast as a star.

"How Old is Ann?" This much-advertised title has been the means of bringing the comedy star to the front. A musical comedy written around Ann and her age. Mr. Gerard has made Ann, the central figure, that of a mischievous little schoolgirl, and written a comedy that is modeled along original and up-to-date lines. The piece opened last Wednesday at White Plains.

Kate Claxton in "The Two Orphans" actually played last Monday night in Baltimore, and yet we call theatrical people superstitious.

The late Whitaker Wright was fond of private theatricals. In his big house, Lee Park, Surrey, there was a theater, the decorations of which cost \$75,000. The drop curtain alone cost nearly \$20,000.

"The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" did not greatly interest Parisians at the Odéon. The theme is hardly a new one there and the critics think Pinero is timid in his handling of it materially.

Ellaine Terriss will be the next of the foreign stars to visit the United States. Mr. Charles Frohman has announced that he would not bring to American any of the Seymour Hicks-Ellaine Terriss production which have been running in London for the last four years until the actress could visit this country herself.

The admirers of Shakespeare have been given cause for jubilation in the tour of this country by Forbes Robertson and Gertrude Elliott. This clever pair have been presenting "The Light That Failed" to only ordinary business up until two weeks ago, when "Hamlet" was substituted, with such good results that the chances are the Klingling piece will be shelved, and the great masterpiece will be insured for the remainder of the season. They were booked to play "The Light That Failed" in London shortly.

The Choral Society is in the midst of rehearsals of the "Messiah" and is singing the choruses unusually well. The members of the Society are greatly interested in the prospect afforded by the operation of the Washington Symphony Orchestra of appearing with an orchestra for the first time in several years, and thus assuring adequate presentation of this great work.

The engagement of Dan Daly for a series of appearances in vaudeville is regarded as a notable achievement, inasmuch as he declined numerous offers from various managers. The credit for securing Daly belongs to Miss H. Winifred DeWitt, who is one of the few

feminine managers in the country. Her recent journey to New York resulted in a notable series of negotiations, among her captives being Eddie Foy, with the possibility that other noted entertainers who have hitherto appeared in polite vaudeville programmes, will be secured for her.

Zangwill's play, "The Serio-Comic" on occasion of considerable importance, but when accompanying them, with so others of the ability and reputation of Madame Stowell Piper, Harold Jarvis, Cyril Dwyer-Edwards and Mrs. Shador, of Detroit, it gives a programme that is remarkable for strength and variety.

Miss Jane Gernon, at one time a very popular actress, playing with Booth, Forrest, and the elder Hackett, celebrated her eighty-third birthday in Baltimore last Monday.

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NEW YORK THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

(Special Letter to The London Advertiser.)

New York, Feb. 20.—It is a remarkably strong cast that is being put together for the big spring revival of "The Two Orphans," in which A. M. Palmer, Klav & Erlanger, Daniel Frohman and William A. Brady are interested as backers and promoters.

Those already engaged for the play are Clara Morris for the old lady's part, Kyle Bellew for the Chevalier, James O'Neill for Pierre, the cripple, and Charles Warner for the role of Jacques, originally played in this country by McKee Rankin. As to who will have the character of Louise, the blind girl, to impersonate, nothing is as yet definitely known, although there is a chance that Grace George may be induced to play the part in this distinguished company. Negotiations for that and have been in progress for the past few days, and it wouldn't be surprising if they were to come to a favorable conclusion. James O'Neill, by the way, will in all likelihood make a new departure next season, presenting imposing revivals of classic plays like "Hamlet," "King Lear" and perhaps "Macbeth." He will be assisted by a woman star of recognized position, whose name has not yet been given out, and will retire from stage, Mrs. O'Neill, who were married about eight years ago, were divorced by the New York courts about a month ago.

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TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

"Ontario occupies a most creditable position with regard to the drink traffic. The sobriety of this Province is mainly due to the Liberal party. When the Mowat Government took office in 1871, the liquor traffic was under the control of the municipal councils of the Province, and licenses to sell liquor were issued by the municipalities. The inspectors of hotels were also appointed by the municipal councils. As a consequence, there was great abuse of the power to issue licenses, and the whole question as to the regulation of the traffic entered into municipal elections.

The first radical change in the license laws of this Province was made in 1878, being an act commonly known as the Crooks act, by which the licensing of hotels and other places for the sale of liquors was placed in the hands of the commissioners for each electoral district, and the inspection of hotels in the hands of an inspector appointed by the government. With these amendments and restrictions placed on the act, the number of licenses have been "skimmed" over the years, and since 1876 up to May, 1901, amounts to the sum of \$12,224,539; of this sum the municipalities have received over one-half, or \$6,112,269.

Even the Methodist Conference, in 1882, passed a resolution indorsing the Crooks Act, and it is a body that has agitated the temperance cause.

Another evidence of the Government's desire to lessen the evils of intemperance was the act of 1884, which gave the power to the municipalities to enforce the Scott Act, in the counties in which it had been adopted. Though the Scott Act was a Dominion law and would have been enforced by the federal authorities, yet for the sake of the interests involved, the Government of this Province passed an act for the appointment of special police magistrates in all such counties. In no province of the Dominion was the responsibility of enforcing the Scott Act assumed by a provincial government except in this Province, and that responsibility was assumed by the general Administration notwithstanding the refusal of the Dominion Government to provide the necessary legislation. Commissioners and inspectors appointed under the license act, who were not in sympathy with the Scott Act, were replaced by others who were in sympathy with the act, to insure the enforcement.

Temperance and hygiene are also taught in all the public and separate schools throughout the Province. It is also gratifying to know that under the license legislation, the character of the hotels has improved in comfort and equipment.

My opinion is that the present license system is a good one if properly enforced by the local authorities, and the machinery has been provided by the legislature for the enforcement of the law. Some objections were raised by the Opposition to the referendum, but in my opinion it is the proper course to pursue, and that all legislation affecting the liquor traffic, Sir John Macdonald and Sir Mackenzie Bowell have accepted the constitutional principle of referendum, and it has been used in the United States and Canada in municipal affairs and school matters.

The present license act gives representatives to parliament have just as good a right to give an expression as those they send to represent them.

The majority question. The Opposition tell us the majority on the Government side of the House is too small to conduct the affairs of this Province. So long as the majority remains three or four it is quite sufficient to carry out the will of the people and should have a tendency to keep every member on both sides of the House in his place to think and act for himself.

I have no doubt but that the leader of the Opposition would much rather have a majority of one or two in the House than what he calls a small majority of several thousand through-out the Province, made up by counting that vote polled for the Conservative and prohibition candidates. This so-called popular majority, as he calls it, can be accounted for in many ways, the dreadful struggle for the vote put up in the last general elections and bye-elections.

The long exclusion from office has made some of the Opposition desperate and hungry for the public chest and they will resort to any port in order to get it.

The majorities in many of the constituencies were small and had it not been for the \$500 to \$700 secured from without waiting for the Conservative Association, now defunct, the results might possibly have been different. But, Mr. Speaker, though the majority has never been very large, Ontario has under Liberal administration flourished as has no other province under British rule, and it is a fact that the loyalty of the Liberals to himself and his administration has not been shaken down by the campaign of slander and calumny which has been waged by the Conservative party and press, and such a campaign of slander, in my mind, will be a sting to the Conservative party that will take more than a medical man to heal.

In conclusion, I may say that our Premier, who is a man of high character and maintained the honor, credit and dignity of his party. He is a self-made man, a man who has shown his capacity as an administrator of the people. He is not only a provincial but a national statesman, and is capable of filling the uppermost seat in any government in the world.

Although the Opposition tell us he is tainted, with the poet we can say: "There none more pure in our fair land, none more worthy of our heart," and may he be long spared to guide the affairs of this banner Province.

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