

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1905

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Coming of The English Opera Singers Excites Much Interest.

THE FISKE STOCK CO.

Collier's Weekly on Irving's Retirement—Reuben Fax to Visit Australia—The Bonnie Brier Bush—Edward Terry's Visit.

Next week will close the engagement of the Fiske Stock Company at the Opera House, and an attractive repertoire has been arranged for the occasion. The Red River is the bill for the opening part of the week and the company promise a good production of it. Red River is a play that contains a strong element of heart interest and also holds a vein of delightful comedy. The Fiske Stock company has since the opening of the engagement made many friends here. The company is particularly strong in specialties and the performances generally have been much enjoyed. From St. John they go to Saskatoon, then to Halifax.

A Halifax correspondent writes to me in glowing terms of the merits of that English opera singers who appear at the York Theatre next week. The company numbers but five people, but they are all entertainers of a very high class. Frederick Dale, who is described as a second Grossmith, leads the quintette and his equal. The company's engagement here opens on Monday evening and is for three nights only. They have been looked forward to with much interest and will probably be an event to be remembered.

Twice completely across the American continent in one season is not now considered such a strenuous undertaking in theatrical travel as it was a few years ago, but in the case of "The Bonnie Brier Bush" company this feat is now being repeated for the third successive time in three years, and is remarkable. The fact that the veteran player, J. H. Stoddart, now in his eightieth year, has not missed a single performance in all this time. He has delighted audiences with his inimitable portrayal of the old shepherd, Leach Campbell, in every presentation of the play, apparently with the freedom of a youth of twenty.

Mr. Stoddart, in a recent letter to his manager, declares that the pleasure he derives from the enjoyment of this role has much to do with keeping him in good health and spirits.

Joseph Callahan, well known as a successful star in "Faust" in the popular-price houses, has returned to his original role of Honey Wiggin, one of the wildest and most roystering of the cowboys in "The Virginian." At the beginning of the present season he gave up the role to resume his starring operations, but Kirk La Shelle found difficulty in getting any other player with just the atmosphere for the role and so, with that strongest of arguments, dollars, he persuaded Callahan to cut out "Faust" and to rejoin the "Virginian" outfit.

Reuben Fax, who is universally known through his clever characterization of the bumbling later carrier in "The Bonnie Brier Bush," is considering a flattering offer from an Australian manager to tour that country the coming summer. Mr. Fax has secured the Australian rights to "A Message from Mars," the vehicle used to introduce Charles Hawtry to American audiences, and if he can persuade Kirk La Shelle to let him have "The Bonnie Brier Bush" as well, he will be seen in both countries. Mr. Fax counted a strong hold on the theatre patrons of the Antipodes by his performance of Swengie with the first American "Trinity" company sent to these British colonies.

Mr. Henry Irving is to retire from the stage. Already he has announced his retirement for this season. Collier's Weekly referring to his retirement has this to say:

"Mr. Henry Irving's retirement for the season may indicate an approaching end of his activity. The foremost actor on the English-speaking stage reached his sixtieth years ago—not so much in talent as in success.

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His powers have remained, but the London public tire of him. It grants dramatic leadership to such excellent men but very moderate artists as True and Alexander and forces the Lyceum to close its doors for lack of patronage. Sir Henry has sometimes wished that fate had made him an American. We have more great cities here; no one of them controls an actor's fate as London does in England. Partly, it must be confessed, Sir Henry's decline in favor is due to him. He took his position at the head, without a second because he was his country's greatest actor and also the first manager to use both the artistic and the business possibilities of modern lighting and machinery. He wanted partly because of Miss Terry's falling powers,



ENGLISH OPERA SINGERS.

public tickle, and the rise of other managers who could compete with him in scenery, but partly also because he lacked the instinct for current plays. He proved his talent first in melodrama, and he never did anything more wonderful than "The Lyons Mail." He added prestige with Shakespeare, backed with other literary adventures, as in direct or adapted expressions of Goethe, Goldsmith, Tennyson and Cervantes. He has never taken kindly to new plays expressive of our time, nor has he found it easy to work in harmony with successful dramatists. These are serious misfortunes, but in spite of them he took and has long held so large a place in England that the competitors for his leadership look abundantly inadequate to take his place. He is a big man, Sir Henry; one to whom, in these later times, we take off our hats in most profound respect."

A correspondent writes that Lew Fields was mistaken in asserting recently that the first chemical compound recorded in the Scriptures was when Lot's wife turned to rubber and then turned to salt. He says that long before that time the cattle on a thousand hills were turned into the fields.

DeWolf Hopper's little niece has sprung a new one. One day Mr. Hopper noticed her standing on the edge of a frozen pond, crying as if her heart were broken. A man of no mean proportions had just slipped and fallen on the ice over which the youngsters had been skating.

"Don't cry, little one; I don't think he is hurt very much," said the comedian.

"Hurt nothin'," replied the little girl. "Can't you see he has busted the ice?"

Referring to Charles Frohman's decision to produce English theatre goes for next season an English paper lately to hand says:

"Mr. Charles Frohman, the well-known American theatrical entrepreneur, arrived by the Oceanic yesterday afternoon. He gave a short interview in Riverside Station to a representative of the Post and Mercury."

"What, he was asked, are the arrangements for Miss Ellen Terry's appearance in the new play by Mr. J. M. Barrie?"

"I believe it will be produced some time in March, but so far the title has not been definitely fixed."

"What about Miss Edna May's debut in London under your management, Mr. Frohman?"

"She will appear in the 'School Girl.' This play has been very successful in America; in fact, it has been one of the most successful musical pieces ever produced."

"And as to producing American plays in London and English plays in America?"

"A number of new plays will be produced between now and October in London, and English plays will shortly be staged in the States."

Edward Terry, who appears in the York Theatre on March 23, has turned his sixtieth year. He has been acting for forty. He has had a place of his own on the English stage for twenty, and a theatre in London for nearly as long. Yet this is his first visit to America. "I know," he said the other day, in his clear, crisp, dry voice, "I know I've been dangled from the end of a rope over a crevasse in the Alps. I have been picked up with sunstroke on the deserts of Morocco. I have been nearly wrecked off the Bosphorus. I've even been taken across the veldt in South Africa, by a chauffeur, who confessed that it was his first attempt at driving a car. I've had a stranger with a

glazy eye put a moist hand to mine in Johannesburg, and say, 'Th, mon, I used to shave you in Sauchlehall street in Glasgow. In Australia the custom house officers used to greet me with 'I used to see you act twenty-five years ago', and then chalk all my luggage without opening a single bag. But this is the first time that I have come to America."

"Perhaps it is because it is so near. You think you can go whenever you choose. Then the voyage is so short, and I like long voyages. I thought New York might be like the cities in our colonies—Melbourne for instance. And you may believe that I was surprised when I first saw it. In three days I've learned your climate. I don't go beginning to be used to your hot rooms and theatre."

MUNDAY KNIGHT.

GRAND FALLS NEWS.

Development in Grand Falls Water Power Will Have Great Effect on Town.

Grand Falls, March 10.—The Victoria Circuit Court opened at St. John on Tuesday at 11 a. m. His Honor, Judge McLeod presiding. There was no criminal business, and the Grand Jury after being complimented by the court on the absence of crime in the country, was discharged. One civil case—Morris versus Clifford, an action of trespass on lands, was tried, and resulted in a judgment for plaintiff for \$25 damages. Thomas Lawson was attorney and counsel for plaintiff and T. J. Carter attorney and counsel for defendant. On motion of W. Fred Kerton, a Bench Warrant was issued for the arrest of James Sirois on an indictment for an indecent assault found against him several years ago. A slender case, Cox vs. Adams, was made a remand. Court adjourned sine die at noon on Wednesday.

Fred Dixon and wife, who have been visiting relatives in St. John and Kings County for the past two months, returned home yesterday. C. C. Snowden, of Montreal, who has been ill with pneumonia at the Curless House for several months, departed yesterday afternoon for his home in Montreal.

Mrs. W. M. G. Desbriay, who has been seriously ill with la grippe, is now recovering.

Mrs. Louise Lyons is confined to her residence with a severe cold. It is expected that Grand Falls will experience a regular western boom next spring. Work will undoubtedly be commenced on the projected tunnel required to harness the falls, and it is said both the Bog One Mangrove Company and the pulp mill company will begin the erection of their plants. A part of the scheme is to supply St. John, Fredericton, Woodstock, Hartland, Campbellton, Newcastle and Chatham with electric power to run street railways, electric lights, and the power for all manufacturing and mills. The whole scheme will involve an expenditure of upwards of \$7,000,000 and within a few years, Grand Falls will be a city of 50,000 inhabitants. The boom is already experienced in the soaring of land values.

J. C. Butterfield, Boston, arrived here yesterday on a visit to his family in town.

Miss Nan Pickett, Houlton, Me., is visiting Miss Maggie Dixon.

Miss Lizzie Roberts, Red Rapids, is visiting her sister Mrs. Wm. Pirie at Hotel Mirto.

Miss M. I. Goodine, who has been visiting relatives at Rapid de Fumme, has returned home.

James Burgess, M. P. P., will go to Fredericton on Monday next to attend his legislative duties.

Miss Tiny Willett, after a visit to her parents in Hartland, has returned to visit her sister, Mrs. Geo. M. Taylor for the remainder of the winter.

W. Fred Kerton, Barrister, returned yesterday from a trip to Antwerp.

BLAME THE RAILWAY.

The jury in the Janssen inquest brought a verdict against N. B. Southern Railway management, last night.

The Janssen inquest was concluded before Coroner D. E. Berryman at the city hall, west end. One witness was examined; and the jury, after having been out an hour and a half returned with the following verdict:

"We the undersigned jurors empaneled to inquire into the death of Ernest Janssen, find that the said Ernest Janssen died at the General Public Hospital in the city of St. John on the 15th day of February in the year of our Lord 1905 from the effects of injuries received from a working train on the New Brunswick Southern Railway where deceased was working on above mentioned date, and we further say that the necessary precaution was not taken by the management to provide absolute safety for the men in such dangerous circumstances, more particularly that the men had not ample time to get out of the cut from the time the alarm was sounded."

The members of the jury donated their fees to the wife of the deceased.

Premier Tweedie, Surveyor-General Sweeney, and Speaker Robinson, arrived here last evening, from Fredericton, and went through to their homes. J. D. Eason, Robert Macwell, and D. J. Purdy, M. P. P.'s, John A. Bowers, and Dr. Colter arrived last night, also from Fredericton.

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No. 26—Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou 12.15

No. 134—Express for Sussex 17.10

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No. 7—Express from Sussex 9.00

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No. 26—Express from Halifax, Pictou, Point du Chene and Campbellton 17.40

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