

PLAYS PLAYERS

ATTRACTIONS AT THE GRAND.
Today—Matinee and Night, "St. Elmo."
Wednesday—Henrietta Crossman
Monday, April 18.—William Faversham

"St. Elmo" Today.

Few novels have been more widely read in the last forty years than "St. Elmo," a dramatization of which is to be presented at the Grand today, matinee and evening. When the author, Augusta Evans-Wilson, died a few months ago, she left an estate of \$600,000. Over 75 per cent of this, it is said, represented her royalties on "St. Elmo."

A Guaranteed Attraction.

Henrietta Crossman will appear at the Grand Opera House on Wednesday evening, April 13, in her new comedy triumph, "Sham," which captivated New York, and attracted large and fashionable audiences to Wallack's theatre for six months. "Sham" is a modern comedy, dealing with the follies, hypocrisy and insincerity of society, and has for a central figure a woman of extravagant tastes and sim bank account. This young woman, Katherine Van Riper, left by an indulgent and extravagant father, with a meagre income, does not hesitate to beg, borrow and sponge in order to maintain her position.

The original company will support this charming star during her local engagement. The seat sale will open on Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Some Facts About the Author of "Herod."

For a dramatist who has achieved the high distinction that has been accorded Stephen Phillips, the author of "Herod," which William Faversham will present at the Grand on Monday, April 18, for one performance only, but little is known. With singular success he has kept out of the public eye, and in the result that many curious and absurd stories have been told of his personality and early life.

A personal friend, who has taken the trouble to delve into the author's past, makes known the fact that Phillips was born in 1868, through his mother he descended from the poet, Wordsworth. He was sent to Cambridge, in 1885, and while there the first year attended a performance of Benson's troupe of Shakespearean players. He was so smitten with the stage that he joined the company on probation, proved a successful player, and remained a member of the organization for six years.

It is related that when Phillips impersonated the Ghost in "Hamlet" that "his dignity was so awful" that he was called before the curtain. This is the first time on record that an actor, playing this part, was ever so honored. It is said that he appeared in other roles with equal distinction. But in 1892 he left the Benson Company, and it became his fixed determination to "restore blank verse to its old dignity." And in this design he has achieved a truly remarkable success. But before attempting a play he brought out a poem, "Christ in Hades," which was acknowledged a great work of genius. Then followed a book of poems, "St. Two years later his first play, "Patria and Francesca," appeared and achieved an enormous success.

In making his translation of "Macbeth" into French, Maurice Maeterlinck was moved to this statement: "The humble translators, face to face with Shakespeare, are like painters seated in front of the same forest, the same seas, on the same mountain. Each of them will make a different picture. And a translation is almost as much an etat d'ame as a landscape."

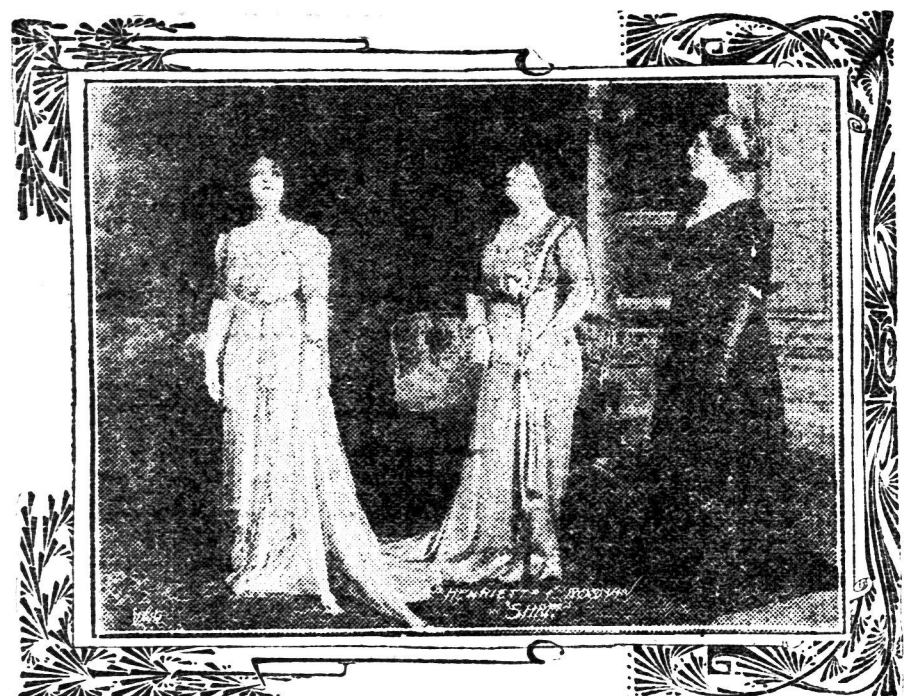
Henry Arthur Jones has been pleading before the Old Players' Club for serious drama in place of "legs and tomfoolery."

"I have always followed the principle of attending strictly to my own business," said A. L. Erlanger. "It's one of the secrets of success. Every minute you spend attending to somebody else's business is two minutes

lost from your own. Napoleon allowed the same man to sting him twice. I have been stung, but never twice by the same man."

Having once been a newspaper man and now being rich, Eugene Walter has a charitable feeling toward ambitious writers, and is quoted as saying, "he would advance out of his own personal funds a sufficient amount to support a promising playwright until he could complete his play. In fact, it is told of him that he would be willing to support a group of young writers if they could prove to him it would be worth while to put them to work at playwriting."

"I dare you," said Frances Starr, "to name me an actress, dead or alive, that has shown real versatility. Garlick may have played comedy one night and tragedy the next, and equally well. But where's the woman that has done it or can do it? Mrs. Siddons could play Lady Macbeth, but as



HENRIETTA CROSMAN, In Her New Comedy Success, "Sham," at the Grand Opera House, Next Wednesday.

Portia or Rosalind she was a failure. She couldn't be light. Duse, wonderful as she is, always is sad. I have never seen her joyous. I have never seen Sara Bernhardt at all."

A bronze statue of Barrie's Peter Pan is to be unveiled in a leafy corner of Kensington Garden, London.

Maeterlinck's latest play, "Mary Magdalene," which the censor in Berlin refused to pass, has been acted in Leipzig to mingled hisses and applause. There was objection even to the "voice of Jesus," heard off the stage, and almost equal resentment at the apparition of Lazarus come from the dead.

"You must not blame actors," said Henry Woodruff, "when they dish up something bordering on the risqué. Actors would not read the lines and playwrights would not produce the books, if the public did not stand for them."

The thesis of Somerset Maugham's new play, "The Tenth Man," is, in a nutshell, that though nine men out of every ten are fools or rogues, you will now and again run against the tenth man who is neither. The central figure in the play, a being whose theory of life it is that "every man has his price," encounters this tenth man, and, worsted by him, kills himself.

Paris has its new Jekyll and Hyde play, just as London has its new version of the old one. The French one is called "The Man With the Two Heads."

Earle Browne, of the "Alias Jimmy Valentine" company, has completed a play designed for the use of Wilton Lackaye next season. It deals with

the intrigues of the French court during the peace negotiations following the American Revolution and a love affair of one Benjamin Franklin's household which almost nullified the efforts of Franklin, John Jay, and Adams. The part intended for Mr. Lackaye is that of Dr. Franklin.

Ellen Terry appeared with Sir Herbert Tree in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" in London, England, last week. During the month of April the following plays will be staged: "Hamlet," "The Merchant of Venice," "Two Gentlemen of Verona," "Twelfth Night," "Julius Caesar," "King Lear," "Coriolanus," "The Taming of the Shrew," "Henry VIII," "Richard III." During the final week of the festival a special performance will be given, in which Arthur Boucher and Miss Violet Vanbrugh will appear in the last act of "Macbeth," Sir Herbert Tree and H. B. Irving in an act of "Othello" and Cyril Maude in an act of "The Clandestine Marriage."

"Bobby Burnit" is a dramatization by Winchell Smith from George Randolph Chester's novel, "The Making of Bobby Burnit." In the story of the play the young man's father dies, leaving him a large department store and \$250,000 in money. Wishing to do something smart in the very beginning

season's favorites, and Mr. Murphy is preparing many new after-pieces.

Frederic Thompson is to present a musical comedy at the Aerial Theatre, atop the New Amsterdam, New York.

Instead of playing the Hen Pheasant, Maude Adams has been cast for the title role of "Character" himself, or the part originated in Paris by M. Guity.

Richard Mansfield's home in New York will be sold at auction. After Mr. Mansfield's death, Mrs. Mansfield (Beatrice Cameron) decided not to go back to it.

The great Chinese imperial actor, Sin Foo Sun, is coming to America, to appear at the Chinese Theatre in New York.

Thomas Q. Seabrooke is to revive "The Isle of Champagne."

There was a convention of women's clubs at Evanston, Ill., recently, at which 40 clubs were represented by 165 delegates, who formed the National Drama League of America. Mrs. A. S. Best, one of the principal promoters of the league, said: "It is time the women of the nation rallied to the relief of the country's stage. We should appreciate the power for good which the drama possesses, but we should also be keenly alive to the danger inherent in the powerful influence of the stage over our public if that influence is not ennobling and uplifting."

Nora Baynes openly rebuked a party of men, said to be army officers, who hissed her mild parody on "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Broadway Theatre. She stopped her song and referred to the hissing as "inelegantly intoxicated."

At Atlanta, Ga., Marie Cahill's big picture hat, which she wore in a box during a performance of an unnamed melodrama on Thursday, led to protests, and she was confronted by brutal ushers with the alternative of removing her hat or leaving the theatre, and finally chose the latter course.

Billie Burke has donated a gold clock valued at \$500 to the Actors' Fund Fair.

The Japanese valet of Robert Mantell is to be married to Gertrude Hutton. Miss Hutton has been Mrs. Mantell's maid.

Henry Kolker's play, "The Moral Right," will be performed in Hartford in June.

A dramatization of Mrs. Southworth's "Ismael" was acted in Rockford, Ill.

Ermete Novelli, the Italian actor, has announced his intended retirement from the stage after his golden jubilee.

Beulah Poynter will close her fifth season in "Lena Rivers" this week.

"Trelawney of the Wells" is to be revived in London.

News comes from Budapest of the successful performance in Hungarian of "What Every Woman Knows."

Marguerite Clark will, it is said, play the principal role in Maeterlinck's "Blue Bird" at the New Theatre next season.

Edmund Breese is to replace William B. Mack in "Waste." In Rochester last week, "The Squaw Man" was presented for the 2,000th time in America.

Jacob Roberts has sold his first play to Margaret Anglin. She intends to produce it next season with a well-known comedienne in the leading female role. Mr. Roberts is professor of physics at the Philadelphia Southern High School.

If I believed in reincarnation I should be inclined to maintain that Abraham Lincoln Erlanger comes close to being a reincarnation of Napoleon Bonaparte. In the first place the Napoleon of the American drama looks remarkably like the Little Corporal. Then, being the boss of 500 theatres is cumulative evidence in itself. Mr. Erlanger has what is probably the greatest Napoleonic collection in the world. I knew he had been an usher, a street cleaner, a stage manager, an agent, a house manager, an advance agent, a manager back with the show and was now a producing manager and the owner of more theatres than any man in America. So I didn't ask him to tell about his early struggles. In fact, as he himself says, he never had any early struggles. His rivals had the struggles.

What three plays produced in recent years do you think the American people ought to like? I asked. "Assuming that you mean plays

Charles Frohman says that he is seriously considering loaning Marie Doro to Charles Hawtree for London performances covering a term of years.

Colonel Roosevelt has sent a bullet with which he killed a bull elephant as his contribution to the Actors' Fund Fair.

Sydney Rosenfeld has written the first act of a comedy for Elsie Ferguson, "The Rise of Polly Persegus."

Irene Franklin is to appear with Lew Fields in "The Summer Widowers."

"I'll play Juliet," said Frances Starr, "even if I have to go to England and hire the leading lady of a provincial Shakespeare troupe to be ill. I'll play Juliet and pay for the privilege and, if necessary, put my name in the programme as Mary Jones. Mr. Belasco has promised me the part—but even if he can't see his way to keeping the promise, I'll play it anyway."

William A. Brady is to produce "The Balkan Princess," a musical piece, next season.

"The attitude of the older, established, American dramatists towards the new theatre," says Wm. A. Brady, "has been damnable and scandalous. For years these men have been complaining that there was no outlet for their great unwritten books, their highest efforts. Now, when such an opportunity is afforded them, have they submitted plays? Hardly; they have merely hooted and criticised; they have been unwilling to give a play to a repertory company when continuous runs would bring in greater royalties. Their commercialism is infinitely worse than that of the manager, for it is tainted with hypocrisy."

Jack Webster, who plays Biff Bates in Winchell Smith's new comedy, "Bobby Burnit," is the son of Nellie McHenry.

A reproduction of the courtroom of King Solomon is now being erected by the lawyers of New York for their contribution to the exhibits at the coming actors' fund fair.

Three votes for women plays written and acted by ardent fighters for franchise, a suffrage poem composed by Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman and recited by Miss Maxine Elliott, a suffrage speech by Forbes-Robertson and another by Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch, were the features of a matinee performance last week at Maxine Elliott's Theatre, New York, under the auspices of the Equality League of Self-Supporting Women.

The thirteenth season of minstrelsy at the Steel Pier, Atlantic City, will open May 28. Murphy's American Minstrels will include several of last

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The unlucky "blue Hope diamond," weighing 112½ carats originally, and 67½ as finally cut, has been lost. It was brought to Paris from the Orient in 1668, and sold to Louis XIV. After Louis XVI. it dropped out of sight, being next heard of in the possession of Daniel Eliason, a London jeweler, when it weighed only 49½ carats. Henry T. Hope bought it for \$5,000 in 1861, and gave it as a bride gift to his daughter. Then it passed to Lord Francis Hope, who gave it to his music hall wife, May Hope. Domestic troubles and divorce proceedings led to its sale for \$18,000 to Frankel & Sons, New York jewelers. The firm had bad luck, and in 1897 sold the gem to M. Selim Habib, agent of the late Sultan of Turkey. When ruin threatened him he sold it to have ordered Selim Habib to sell it, and when the French steamer Sayne was wrecked in Rhin Straits, 40 miles from Singapore, Selim Habib was on board. Since that time the Hope diamond has been lost sight of. Recently an expedition has been fitted out to recover the safe, which was supposed to contain the Hope stone and the rest of the stock of Selim Habib, who was a diamond dealer. The wreck was found in 26 fathoms of water, and the safe was recovered and taken to Rhin. When opened there it contained neither the Hope gem nor any others. Now there is renewed speculation as to what has become of a stone that has had a remarkable history and is believed by the superstitious to have brought ill-luck to everybody who has ever had an interest in it.

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THE BIRTHDAY OF FANNY CROSBY

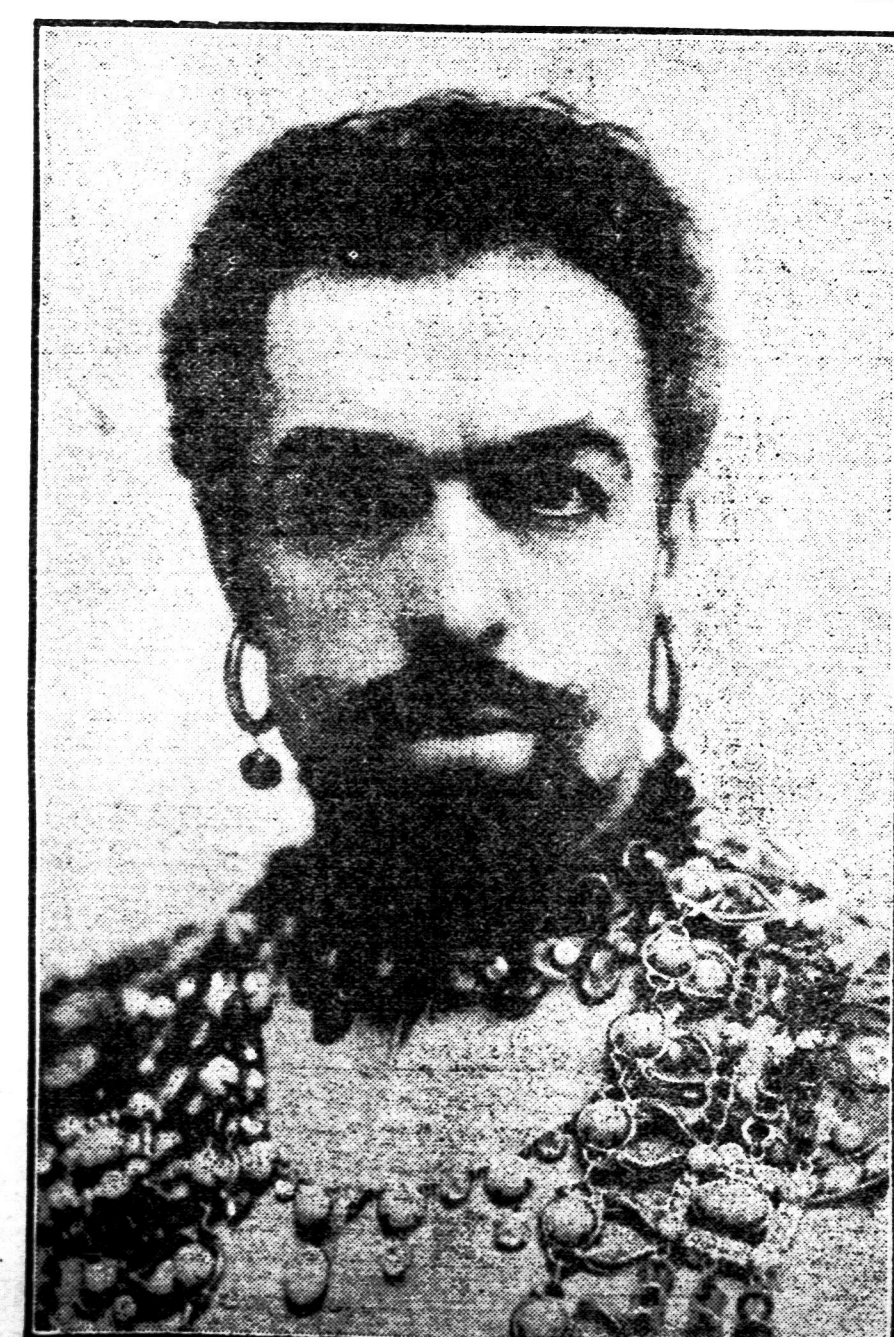
Famous Writer of Hymns Reaches Her Ninetieth Birthday.

Fanny Crosby, famous as the author of nearly 7,000 gospel hymns, celebrated her 90th birthday on March 15. She lives with a niece in Bridgeport, Conn., where her birthday anniversary was fittingly recognized by a gathering of the members of the Fanny Crosby Circle of King's Daughters.

The famous hymn writer, whose full name is Frances Jane Crosby Van Alstyne, has been blind ever since she was 6 weeks old. At the age of 15 she entered the Institute for the Blind in New York city, and for ten years she was a teacher there. She wrote and published her first hymn while she was still in her teens, and though now 90 years old, she has not yet laid aside her pen. When at the height of her activity she frequently produced twelve or fifteen hymns in a single week. At the suggestion of her publishers, who said they did not want to have the same name opposite ever

CEYLON RUBBER.

"The estimated value of Ceylon's rubber plantations is \$22,000,000, which is a third of the total value of the cultivated land of the island," said Chas. T. Harding, of Chicago, who has an interest in a rubber plantation in Ceylon, which he says is the rubber-producing country of the future. This industry has grown wonderfully within the last ten years. At that time



WILLIAM FAVERSHAM, AS HEROD, AT THE GRAND ON MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 12.

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