

Theatres and Entertainments.

THE Parish Priest, booked for the Academy next week, with Mr. Daniel Sully in the title role, is one of the theatrical surprises of the year. The title suggests everything that the play is not. It suggests, first, religion, yet there is no religion in the play. In the character of Father Whalen is a beautiful sentiment suggested by his calling, but in no act, situation or line, does he make any allusion to the creed which he represents. It is not an Irish play, the scene being laid in Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, and the action of the same revolves itself around characters that are thoroughly American. The play has been enthusiastically praised by the leading critics of the leading cities. The critic of The Albany Argus, who is noted for his wisdom in affairs theatrical, in a lengthy criticism sums the play up as follows:

"The Parish Priest is, without doubt, one of the strongest and prettiest plays ever penned by a playwright, and Mr. Hart is to be congratulated for giving it to the public. Albanians wept and laughed in turn at the pathos and original humor, which are ably blended and drawn out by a masterhand, and which lead up to situations that are beautifully enacted. What appeals to one is the naturalness of the play. It is everyday life depicted by an artist and observer of scenes that happen in the life of every community. It is original, and what is more, it does not depend on scenic effects to bring out any strong points, the author having attended to that in the lines. There is no heavy villain; there are no exciting climaxes that will cause the blood to curdle. Everything is simple

and true to life. It is a picture of simple life cleverly woven together and cleverly produced by a competent company.

On Monday evening, a benefit performance will be given in aid of the 'Theatrical Mechanics' Association.

ON Wednesday evening, Miss Blanche Walsh and Melbourne MacDowell opened a short engagement at the Academy with an elaborate presentation of Cleopatra. Last season the popular pair were seen here in the great historical play and this was just sufficient to make people wish to see them again. Miss Walsh is thoroughly suited to the style of acting called for in Sardou's productions, and, indeed, it is not overmuch praise to say that, although a very young woman, she has climbed beyond the notch of excellence carved by her model and predecessor, Fanny Davenport. In addition to her great histrionic talent, she is the possessor of a magnificent voice and a form of beauty that harmonizes with the roles she portrays. It would not be easy to pick any flaws in Miss Walsh's conception of Cleopatra. She invests the character with a subtle charm that fascinates the audience until they forget her personality. And in watching her they all mentally make excuses for Antony. Miss Walsh is an actress worthy of being termed great. She is thoroughly capable of interpreting Shakespearian heroines, and, as they are more acceptable in many ways than Sardou's, many of her admirers would like to see her turn her attention to them. Mr. MacDowell is the same as ever. His style of acting does not change with his increasing weight. The remainder of the company is well balanced, while the stage-setting is fair.

It was a matter of no little surprise and regret to the public at large when the announcement was made that Mr. and Mrs. Frank Murphy had been relieved of the management of Her Majesty's Theatre. Mrs. Murphy, in particular, has for so many years been identified with the theatres of this city, that it was hoped she would be able to make a success of Her Majesty's. But, while she certainly booked good attractions, they were altogether too few in number to yield a sufficient return to cover

ordinary expenses. Every week that the theatre was closed—and there were many such weeks—the balance on the wrong side accumulated. While regretting the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, it is a satisfaction to know that Her Majesty's has been leased by such a thorough man of business as Mr. John W. Grose, who entered upon his duties this week. Mr. Grose is well-known throughout the Dominion as possessing great ability and a wonderful fund of energy. It was he who founded the Dominion Burglary Guarantee Co., and in a very short time placed it on a good paying basis. No scheme is too great for him to undertake and accomplish. He announces that during the regular season—from September to June 1—he will keep Her Majesty's open, and that only first-class attractions will hold the boards. From this it is evident that he knows what is required. There is no reason why the beautiful west-end theatre should not be a success, and few there are who doubt Mr. Grose's ability to make it so.

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presents the season's great success

The Parish Priest

A PLAY OF MARVELOUS STRENGTH.

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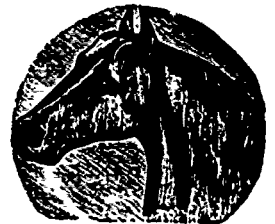


MR. DANIEL SULLY,

as Father Whalen, in the Parish Priest, at the Academy next week.

MONTREAL HORSE SHOW

(Under the patronage of the Montreal Hunt Club.)



THE "ARENA"MAY.....
3, 4 and 5

Matinees—Friday and Saturday.

PRICES: 50c., 75c and \$1; Badges, good for all performances, \$4. Holders of \$1 and \$4 seats and boxes ONLY will be admitted to Promenade. Seats on sale at Secretary's office, Room G, Board of Trade, and "Star" Branch Office.