THE TORONTO SUNDAY WORLD

MAY 24 1914

A SCENE IN THE COVENT GARDEN PRODUCTION OF "OEDIPUS REX" IN WHICH 300 TOOK PART

Epochal Revival of Oedipus Rex to Be Made in Toronto

SUNDAY MORNING

Martin Harvey Outlines His Future Plans to Sunday World —Has Enlisted Principal Hutton's Support in His Undertaking—Will Have Week of His Romantic Plays, Week of Shakspere Done in "The New Way," and a Week of the Greatest of Greek Tragedies.

By E. Y. Watson

Prior to sailing for England after his wonderfully successful transcontinental Canadian tour, Mr. Martin Harvey made a brief announcement of his future plans to The Sunday World. On his next visit to Canada, he will bring out his complete repertoire, including the romantic plays, in which he appeared here recently, his Shaksperian productions, to be done in the "new way," and in addition his gigantic production of Oedipus Rex.

The plan of presentation which he proposes to follow, will be a novel Naturally, on account of the magnitude of such an undertaking, the complete repertoire can only be given in the larger cities. Montreal and Toronto are practical certainties and to this end Mr. Harvey has enlisted the support and co-operation of Principal Hutton of Toronto University and Dr. Peterson of McGill University, Montreal.

Three Weeks' Engagement Here.

Whether or not the completed plan will bring Mr. Harvey to Canada again next season has not yet been announced, but it is safe to say that it will eventuate by 1916 at the latest. According to the present scheme, it is the intention to book three weeks' engagements in Montreal, Toronto and other Canadian cities where arrangements can be made. The first week in each city will be devoted to the romantic plays, "The Only Way," "The Cigaret Maker's Romance," and "The Breed of the Treshams"; the second week to Shakspere, including Mr. Harvey's "Hamlet," "The Taming of the Shrew," and others, and the final week to the "Oedipus Rex of Sophoiles, the greatest of the Greek tragedies.

The last mentioned production is on the order of the "stupendous" and employs 330 people in all.

Ever since he arrived in Canada, Mr. Harvey has been considering the possibility of giving "Oedipus Rex" here as originally done at Covent Garden, with the co-operation of Professor Reinhardt, the great German producer who sponsored the original production in Berlin. He realizes that it involves a very serious financial responsibility and he has hesitated to burden himself with it without being definitely assured of adequate support.

It is with this in mind that he has evolved the idea of giving first the romantic plays, which the people know and appreciate, as an introduction to the more serious and vitally interesting plays which are to follow.

Honorary Committee of Notables.

When it was done in London, Mr. Harvey was tendered the endorsement of an honorary committee, which included Mr. Asquith, Lord Curzon, Lord Rayleigh, Mr. Balfour, Lord Rosebery, Sir Oliver Lodge,

Society Also Adopts the Snake Species As Pets-Symbol of Good Luck.

SNAKES ON STAGE

By W. B. Thompson. LNDON, May 23.—The snake now plays an important part in making a British holiday. The coiling, sinuous serpent is now a familiar feature of the stage. He may be said to have made his debut in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's play. "The Speckled Band." The other night at the Globe Theatre, the Indian python that appears in "Kismet" cre-ated a consternation by attacking Mr. Selden, the actor, who appears as the "Snake Charmer" in "Kismet." Nimerous society ledias have adont ated a consternation by attacking Mr. Selden, the actor, who appears as the "Snake Charmer" in "Kismet." Numerous society ladies have adopt-ed pythons and boas as their pets, but the most extraordinary instance of the fascination of the snake is to be seen nightly at the Middlesex, where Voo Doo, a lady of singular charm and beauty, performs a mystical dance in a scene that represents an ancient temple with a great colling python as her partner. Few of the thousands who witness Voo Doo's weird dance realize its significance. It is sym-bolical of the Ancient Mysteries, which were all bound up with the primitive worship of the serpent, of which traces are to be found in all the religions of the world. same author.

-0-

the world. its fascination and fear are exempli-



A STRENUOUS LIFE

PREPARING PLAYS 'The Theatre Is No Playhouse,

It Is a Workshop," Says the Leading Member of Shea's Stock Company.

MANAGING DETAILS OF PLAY IS NOT EASY

formed in all the traditions of classical antiquity." "When we first meet with serpent-worship either in the wilderness of Sinal,"--where the brazen serpent was erected, students of the Old Testa-ment will remember--"the groves of Epidauros or in the Sarmatian huts, the serpent is always the bringer of health and good fortune," says the same author. "Many people erroneously think that the profession of an actress is an easy one. The theatre is not a playhouse.

It is It is a workshop." Miss Adele Blood, the famous star of Miss Adele Blood, the famous star of H.W. Savage's great play "Every Wo-man." was just finishing a rehearsal of "The Marionettes" at Shea's The-atre, in preparation for the opening matinee on Monday, when the Sunday World called upon her. Her day had As time went on and primitive civi-lization increased, it became recog-nized that the best good fortune that could befall a man was a family. Amongst all primitive people, the childless married woman is looked up-on as being under the curse of the gods. To be childless is the worst misfor-tune that can happen to a wife It been a strenuous one. In the morning she had attended to a thousand and one details incidental to the opening Ited in the Bible in the familiar story tune that can happen to a wife. It of the season, for Miss Blood is not

the sake of argument. "just how does your life spell hard work? I know that a star has three hours of strenuous effort every evening, and a matimee twice a week, but once having worked out the conception of a part is it still difficult to perform?" The funny thing about the play of life is that we write it as we act it, and we never know the end of the play until it comes." Voice is the Greatest Thing. "What do you consider the first quali-fication for a successful actress?"

and we never know the end of the play until it comes." Voice is the Greatest Thing. "What do you consider the first quali-fication for a successful actress?" "A good voice, a clear low, reson-ant, well modulated. carrying voice, is the greatest asset an actress can possess. It outweighs in importance, beauty, temperament or personality. Moreover, I think the voice indicative beauty, temperament or personanty. Moreover, I think the voice indicative of character. You can almost name a man or woman's business or pro-fession, by listening attentively to his manner and tone of speech."

votion to one's art." Somewhere in the back of the in-terviewer's head the thought was buz-zing that he had heard Miss Blood had not had a vacation in the last four years. Surely this could not be true. "Yes, the story is true." Miss Blood replied to his question. "Four years ago I played the Orpheum Circuif in "The Picture of Dorlan Gray." The following summer I played leading parts in stock in Louisville. I left there on a Saturday and opened in Boston a week from the folowing Mon-day in "Leah Kleshna." While there Mr. Savage, who had seen me in Louand With Strong Com-

to play again in stock. By the mid-dle of October I was again in New York in rehearsal on last season's "Ev-

votion to one's art."

Miss Percy Haswell, supported by an exceptionally strong company of associate players, will open her sum-Mr. Savage, who had seen me in Loumer season at the Princess Theatre on Thursday, June 2. This is good news to many hundreds of Toronto playgoers to whom Miss Haswell has endeared herself thru the offering of Mr. Savage, who had seen me in Lou-isville, engaged me for "Everywoman." Two days after closing in Boston, I opened in Brooklyn without a re-hearsal. I played the part 200 times in Brooklyn and New York, and at the end of the season went to Columbus to play again in stock. By the midclean, bright plays for several



pany of Associates.

Miss Haswell has the distin

Hardly Stre cora

"In f most day i

The

Pre

difficult to perform?" Has Played 200 Leading Roles. "Do you know," she replied, "that the part of "Everywoman" which I have been playing for the last three years, is the very longest woman's part ever written? It is longer than the part of Hamlet. The portaryal also calls for much emotional acting. I am not thinking of this part alone, however. During the last six years I have played over 200 leading roles. If the novice were to realize that the average leading part is 20 times as long as "Thanatopsis," it will be ap-preciated what amount of work is in-volved in study. There is no place in our profession for the individual who has only a frivolous desire to be seen and heard. This is the test of de-votion to one's art." PERCY HASWEL

Sir William Collins, the Duchess of Rutland, the Marchioness of Ripon, the Earl of Crewe, the Earl and Countess of Lytton, Sir Herbert Tree, Sir George Frampton and Lady Cunard. It is to the above list that the names of Principal Hutton and Dr. Peterson have been added in view of the proposed tour of Canada.

May Be Staged in Chicago.

If the play is brought to Montreal and Toronto, it is possible that it may also be staged in Chicago. In last week's Chicago Record Herald, Mr. James O'Donnell Bennett, the noted dramatic critic published an article outlining the possibilities and making an appeal for support from the university authorities in that city. In concluding his request for voluntary public encouragement, he says:

"It is not necessary at this time to go into the nature and extent of the triumph achieved by Mr. Harvey and Professor Reinhardt in the Covent Garden staging of Gilbert Murray's translation of the "Oedipus Rez," but it is important that America should see that epochal revival. Much may be done toward bringing it before us if every reader of these lines will promptly write a letter conveying his assurances of interest to Mr. Martin Harvey, care of His Majesty's Theatre, Montreal."

It is likely that the British-Canadian Theatre Organization, which now seems to be well established thruout Canada, will take an active part in the new movement as far as it concerns our country.

There is another significant phase of the proposal, which if carried out, will give Canada the honor of introducing this epoch-making work

WITH THE BONSTELLE PLAYERS

to the whole of America.

of Eve being tempted by the serpent. All over the world the snake is associ-All over the world the snake is associ-ated with the "Forbidden Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge." It is the sym-bol of wisdom, of generation, of life. The dance that Voo Doo performs is symbolical in its origin. Into a dimly lighted temple she enters, prostrates herself in worship, and then, to propi-tiate the gods, dances, first sjowly, to rhythmical music, and then faster and faster. Her arms and body keep time in undulatory motions with her feet. The colored lights play upon her film-sy coverings; she shimmers like a jewelled reptile in the kaleidoscopic lights. At last her prayer is answered. The god is supposed to enter the body of the huge snake, and gradually ap-proaches her. She pauses in fear and dread, yet is impelled to approach by the fascination of its eye. Finally, in a transport, she throws

Finally, in a transport, she throws herself upon the serpent, which en-twines itself about her heaving form. She feels impelled to rise to cast the monster from her, and eventually re-

is conster from her, and eventually re-sumes her dance, with the snake
is constant is rapidly undulating body covering her nudity,- until she finally falls prostrate in a swoon.
This is Voo Doo's admirably-acted impersonation of these ancient rites, which are as old as humanity liself, and which still flourish in Western Africa and among the negroes of the west Indies in all their primitive weitdness and superstitious sugges-tions.
From the earliest ages the serpent has been associated with life, probthis which meant certain death. All this added to the veneration of the snake. The women who were bit-ten were the accursed of the gods, those whom the reptiles entwined were marked with their favor. Science has eventually killed this belief in civil-ized lands, but it is still practised as of yore in countries where savagery the practice. They are learning the ance, practically a counterpart of one of the most sacred mysteries of olden times when women were allowed to be times when women were allowed to be
The safe with life, prob-

To be childless is the worst misfor-tune that can happen to a wife. It made her usually the subject of her husband's aversion, and generally meant that a rival would be introduced into her house. Hence it became cus-tomary for primitive woman to wor-ship the snake as being an emblem of good fortune and fecundity. As they imagined that the serpent worshipped the sun by imitating its circular ap-pearance, so did the woman votaries of the cult of the snake counterfeit the reptile's undulatory movements. They grovelled on the ground, writhing and contorting their bodies in imitation of their divinity. Then they sang croon-ing melodies which drew them from their haunts and danced before the reptiles, who by and by would sway the serpents, some of which would caress the soft bodies of their votaresses, whilst others would resent the ap-proach of some infatuated female with a bite which meant certain death. All this added to the veneration of the snake. The women who were bit-te mwere the accursed of the gods,

-0-

end of the season went to Columbus to play again in stock. By the middle of October I was again in New York in rehearsal on last season's "Experience of October I was again in New York in rehearsal on last season's "Experience of October I was again in New York in rehearsal on last season's "Experience of the sear son. a few weeks ago, I started right in to gather the company together for Toronto. Why, I didn't know that I to would not support a company of a fact—I have not in four years had a single week in which I was not acting, rehearsing, or working in preparation for coming engagements."
Despite all this work, however, Miss Blood squeezed in sufficient time to personally superintend the building of a home on Long Island, so that when a vacation does come her way, she will have somewhere to spend it.
T's true," remarked Miss Blood in a reminiscent mood, "'All the world's a stage.' Thus far I have played in two scenes. Little more than ten years ago I was a player with the toys and trinkets of childhood. The world's I lived in then was a school, where I lare d to congugate 'amo'; a church where I used to neem, and a club where I danced until mother took me home.

ATOP OF YONGE STREET THEATRE EVERY EVENING AT 8 P.M. ALL SEATS RESERVED. 25c-85c-50c

WEEK OF MAY 25

JOYCE & WEST

RHODA & CRAMPTON

In "BETWEEN THE REELS," Singing Novelty.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION The Distinguished Character Actor

In "THE COME-ON," by Grant Stewart. Downstairs Performance Continuous from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Seats on sale at King Edward and Walker House and Grand Union. Box Office open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Phone M.3600.

H. ST. JAMES & CO.

LEW WELLS

ANTHONY & ROSS

Premier Italian Comedians

WILLIAMS & WESTON

German Mirth Dispensers

AL. H. WESTON & YOUNG

Songs, Dancing and Comedy

HANLON & HANLON

Six Minutes of Acrobatic Speed

GLADYS VANCE Originator of Mirror Dress and Loose-Jointed Gesticulations.

From the o the sta-banged, i colness a doubless a distored adjustors of adjustors of adjustors of the state intages of the state while the arpsted. One of hanges in he pictur pertra pi dite trained while the rhile on seautiful e a pictur he pictur he pictur he set in the trained the trained the set of the pictur the pictur the pictur the pictur the set of the picture the boxes fill assist of the picture the boxes fill assist of the picture the set of the picture the boxes fill assist of the picture the set of the picture the set of the picture the boxes fill assist of the picture the set of the set LOEW'S INTER GARDEN **8-THE JACKSON FAMILY-8** Europe's Wonderful Cycling Spectacle—Four Beautiful and Daring Girl Riders and the Acrobatic Wheelman. Trampology and Saxophone Eccentricities. G Eminent New York Exponents of Society Dancos, Presenting Their Own Tango, Maxixe, and One-Step. BL TI



SUMMER STOCK COMPANY AT THE ALEXANDRA AND WHOSE SUMMER STOCK COMPANY AT THE ALEXANDRA AND WHOSE work is REING WATCHED WITH MUCH INTEREST AND ADMIR-in the world deaf, dumb and blind, she and Miss Crosman, being good friends, talk to one another by the

MISS ALICE DONOVAN, ONE OF THE POPULAR MEMBERS OF THE WORK IS BEING WATCHED WITH MUCH INTEREST AND ADMIR-

ATION IN THEATRICAL CIRCLES.