

Plays, Players and Playgoers--The Week in London Theatres

COMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE GRAND.

Today, matinee and night.....
 "The Bonnie Brier Bush"
 Monday....."A Knight for a Day"
 Thursday....."The Gay Musician"

"THE DEVIL" A BAD ONE.

The much-discussed play, "The Devil" was the offering at the Grand for New Year's, and drew large audiences at both performances. In fact, the house was completely filled both matinee and evening.

Now, the play is not a good one. True it abounds in very clever epigrams, some delightful philosophy—for a cycle, and some extremely clever acting, but it is far from a wholesome play. In truth, it is very demoralizing, especially to young minds, and even its cleverness cannot justify such an insidious, sparkling piece of near-smut being presented to audiences, in which is a large sprinkling of young ladies.

The central idea of Molnar's drama is that the devil is the embodiment of one's own evil thoughts. The first suggestion comes from nowhere seemingly, and in come trooping other suggestions that end invariably in disaster, although the Molnar play fails to note the disasters, and hence one of its dangers.

The devil of Edwin Stevens is cunning, satirical, cruel, elusive, sarcastic, insinuating. He makes the most of his role, and it is really a wonderful performance.

He is an artist, and his splendid acting made a dangerous play really possible.

The cast was excellent, well-balanced, and every role in the hands of most capable people. Miss Frances Nordstrom, as the beautiful wife around whom the movement of the play centres, was very clever and beautiful. Paul McAllister, the artist in love with the woman, was good, and is a young man of much promise. The others were good, too.

The impressions it made on the audience were varied. A large section enjoyed the play, while many others were painfully ill at ease. At times, Molnar caused them to skate over a mighty thin ice at times, and many were extremely fearful that they would get a real cold douche.

"THE BONNIE BRIER BUSH."

"The Bonnie Brier Bush" will have two presentations at the Grand today. It is an acknowledged fact that no play that has ever been produced in this country has got so close to the hearts of the great reading public as this homely simple story. Among them are D. A. Paterson, Wm. G. Golvin, Mabel Lorrell, Marion Macdonald, Morgan Williams, Kathleen Howard, Robert Ireland, late pipe major of the Forty-Eighth Highlanders, of Toronto; J. T. Murray, Katherine Wallace and many others of note.

"A KNIGHT FOR A DAY."

"A Knight for a Day," one of the official comedy successes of recent seasons, is the attraction at the Grand on Monday. The cast of sixty, including Miss May Vokes, remains the same as the one that presented it at Wallack's Theatre, New York, for practically an entire season. Two years ago in Chicago at the Whitney Theatre it consummated a run of 607 nights. A score, too, said to be among the most musical of recent years, is another noticeable feature. Miss Vokes appears in one of her characteristic slave roles, the part, however, according to broad concession, surpassing the laugh qualities of each of her other "servant lady" types. Girly ensembles include the "Sweet Girl Graduates," the Merry Madcaps, the See-Saw Firts, the Corsican Belles, the Stage Door Coquettes, the Candle Light Girls and the Grand Opera Coryphees. Song hits include "The Little Girl in Blue," "Life Is a See-Saw," "The Garden of Dreams," "Hurray, Hurray and Hurroo for That," "Whistle As You Walk Out," "What Fools We Mortals Be," and "I'd Like Another Situation Just Like That."

"THE GAY MUSICIAN."

The new comic opera, "The Gay Musician," is one of the big features of the present theatrical season. Of the presentation of "The Gay Musician," which returns to the Grand Opera House next Thursday evening, the Boston Globe said: "If none of the comic operas of Julian Edwards entitle him to a niche in the hall of fame, he certainly deserves well of his countrymen for having composed considerable music that is to be commended for its musicality and melodious qualities. His palette contains a wide as-

sortment of pigments and he imparts a pleasing variety and coloring to his harmonies. In his orchestral preludes, accompaniments and interludes, he shows a knowledge of instrumentation that frequently enable him to create very pleasant and most charming effects. He never goes beyond his depth in striving for results, and he never resorts to resounding brass, crashing cymbals and thunderous drums, to which so many of his contemporaries writing for the musical comedy stage resort in order to conceal their lack of originality, invention and style by pretentious noise. He can be spirited as well as gentle and ingratiating."

In his latest work, "The Gay Musician," he has put another feather in his cap, adorned with those won by him in his "Dolly Varden," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" and other fruits of his artistic industry. The cast contains many notable names, including Amelia Stone, Templar Saxe, Joseph C. Miron, Lottie Kendall, Harry Short, Martha George, Carroll McComas, William S. Gill, L. R. Jefferson, Marie Baxter, Francis Robles, etc., and their individual work is so evenly divided that each one secures a large share of generous applause.

Paul Barnes, the author of "Dolly Gray," is back from Europe, where he was a hit.

Marcus Mayer, manager for Mrs. Leslie Carter, was for years associated with Booth.

Robert Dailey, a brother of the late Pete Dailey, is a member of George Cohan's musical success, "The American Idea."

Miss Julia Taylor, who in private life is Mrs. Wallace Worley, has left the cast of "The Man of the Hour" company.

Clyde Fitch's latest work, "A Happy Marriage," will be given its first production in this city the latter part of next month.

Channing Pollock's latest play, "Such a Little Queen," will be produced next fall by Henry B. Harris, with a star, yet unnamed, in the principal role.

Changes have been made in the construction of "The Right to Live," and the play will be sent on tour after the first of the year.

Little Arthur Dunn has become such a prime favorite in the west that his manager, Askin & Slinger, will star him after the New Year in "Algeria."

F. Marion Crawford's play, "The White Sister," will be produced in New York by Messrs. Lieber & Co., about Jan. 25, with Miss Viola Allen as the star.

Blanche Ring, the musical comedy star, is announced by Percy Williams as his latest acquisition to vaudeville. Miss Ring is at present on tour with Joe Webster's company.

The demise of "His Honor the Mayor," will take place in Alton, Ill., next Saturday night. Joseph M. Gates will officiate. Sam Chip and Mary Marble, the stars, will take a trip over the vaudeville circuit.

Maudie Adams opened her season in New York with the new Barrie play, "What Every Woman Knows." The comedy is in four acts, and another big success for the star and play is reported.

The company supporting James T. Powers in "Havana," now in rehearsal, includes Mlle. Courtenay, the singer from the Opera Comique in Paris, who assumes the leading prima donna role; Lotta Faust, William Prudette, Ernest Lambert, Harold Vizard, Thomas Richards, Joe Herbert, Jun. Max Sharpe, Nina Blake, Daisy Green, Mabel Weeks, Edith Kelly and Miss Hopkins.

Mary Mannering has an estate of over 400 acres in the Catskill Mountains close to the spot where Washington Irving put Rip Van Winkle to sleep. Miss Mannering has allowed over two-thirds of the property to remain in its wild state and spends much of her summer vacation climbing hills and boating on its creeks.

Charles Frohman announces Monday, May 4, as the date fixed for the opening night of Miss Billie Burke and her company in "Love Watches"

at the Duke of York's Theatre, London.

Miss Ethel Barrymore has received from Prof. Gilbert Murray of Oxford University the English version of the Greek tragedy "Elektra," which she is to act in the Greek Theatre of the University of California next June.

The players in May Irwin's company, which was compelled to disband on account of the serious illness of the star, have been distributed through the other Frohman companies so that very little if any hardship resulted.

Within a very short period "Pluffy Ruffles" will be no more, and Hattie Williams will be the star of a comedy entitled "The Marriage of a Star." "The Marriage of a Star" is by Alexander Bisson, author of "The Masked Ball."

A. H. Woods is engaging the cast of "Louise," which will be produced in New York early in February. Dallas Welford and Max Freeman have been placed under contract. Josephine Brown will be one of the company, and Vivian Blackburn is to have a speaking part.

The Herbert Withers Concert Company, including Herbert Withers, cellist; Madame Luisa Sobrino, prima

novelties to be offered at the Bennett Theatre in the course of a few weeks.

General Manager Bennett arrived in London from New York and Montreal on Thursday.

The new Bennett Theatre at Montreal is doing an enormous business, judging from reports from that city.

Fred Barr and Ed. O'Dare are extra vocalists at Bennett's Theatre.

The big labor benefit to be held under the auspices of the London Trades and Labor Council will take place on Monday evening, Jan. 11, and judging from the numerous inquiries at the theatre will be sold out entirely.

The Bennett Theatre did not open their doors Tuesday until after four o'clock, in order to get into working order their new iron and steel Benettonograph operators' room. This is claimed by the city officials and Chief Aikens to be the very finest thing in use that they have ever seen. The room, is all encased in steel and iron, and is practically placed outside of the theatre, so that the picture machine, while giving one of the most perfect pictures possible, does not come within hundreds of yards of the inside of the theatre, or where the seats are placed



GEORGE MACK AND MAY VOKES, IN "A KNIGHT FOR A DAY," AT THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MONDAY EVENING.

donna soprano of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Charles Bennett, baritone; and Madame Marguerite Elzy, P. R. A. M., solo pianiste, appear to have had rare good fortune in the inauguration of their "round-the-world" tour under the direction of the Canadian Impresario, C. H. Gibbons, who had the management of a similar tour for Madame Albani and her company last season. At Colombo, Ceylon, where the first concert were given, they were made part of the official programme for the celebration of the King's birthday—sandwiched in between the state levees and review and the annual ball at Government House. Great interest was taken in the concert and the company by the governor, Sir Henry, and Lady McCallum, who had the members of the company as their guests at the Queen's House. A few days later the company were in Madras—just in time to fit in concerts with the observance of the jubilee of British rule in India—where they were similarly made much of by the governor, Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley. Their next appearance was at Lucknow, two concerts forming part of the official programme in connection with the annual visit there of the Viceroy and Lady Minto. The company closes its Indian season with the present tour, passing on to Burmah, the Straits Settlements, Java, Manila, Bangkok (for a private concert at the Royal Palace), Indo-China, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Peking (where a special legation concert is arranged), and the cities of Japan, where the Oriental tour closes with a command concert for the Japanese Empress at the palace, Tokio. The company reaches Canada in April and will give fifteen or twenty concerts while crossing the Dominion en route home to London. The party and the individual artists are highly spoken of.

Mr. Wilton C. Vassar, accompanied by his stage director, J. Frank MacKay, and the Hummovo Company, leave after this evening's performance for New York City. They have been here now for five weeks, and in that time have established themselves with the people. A new company of clever artists will succeed them.

Miss Camille Stafford, the illustrated song singer at Bennett's, leaves tonight for New York, and will be succeeded by one of the best-known tenor singers in this country.

The Bennett Theatre engage now three illustrated song singers, each one being away above the average singer heard in a picture theatre.

Manager Driscoll is arranging some

in the balcony, or lower floor. Manager Driscoll and the staff worked installing this room all day, and at 4 o'clock they had the acknowledged ideal picture machine-room in Canada.

"The Raven," a play in four acts, dealing with the love romance and sorrow in the life of that erratic genius, Edgar Allan Poe, was given its first production on any stage at Annapolis last Wednesday night. In the audience were many friends of George Hazleton, the playwright, and also numerous admirers of Poe.

At Smith's Theatre, Hamilton, Ohio, Cohan & Harris produced for the first time in any stage "The Counsel for the Defense," a new play by Henry Irving Dodge, the author of several novels. The new play is of a complicated legal problem concerning a mysterious murder.

Early next month George Edwards will produce a new musical comedy at the London Gaiety. The title has not yet been fully decided upon, but the temporary label, "Garrod's Stores," indicates the import of the piece. The first scene opens in a second act the characters are transferred to the grounds of the



"POSTY," In "The Bonnie Brier Bush" at the Grand Opera House This Afternoon and Evening.

Franco-British exhibition. Of Mr. Edwards' old guard, Gerlie Miller, George Grossmith, Jr., and Edmund Payne will be prominent in the piece.

May de Sousa, the star of "Havana," has been given the principal feminine role of "A Waltz Dream."

Deputy-reeve S. F. Glass, of London Township, has on different occasions

shown his ability to face difficult issues, with business methods and practical ideas which successfully solve them.

The death has occurred at Cedar Cottage, Scone, of Dr. A. M. Robertson, of Glasgow, in his 82nd year.

A River Water Scheme!

That Is What The Water Commissioners Ask The Ratepayers To Endorse

The Scheme Calls for the Installation of a 9,000,000 Gallon Pumping Plant in North End.

WHILE THERE ARE ONLY 800,000 GALLONS OF SPRING WATER IN THAT DISTRICT TO PUMP--THAT IN THE CRONYN AND WHITE SPRINGS

The ultimate object undoubtedly is to PUMP INTO THE MAINS WATER FROM THE POLLUTED NORTH BRANCH. There can be no other purpose for so great a pumping force.

THE PEOPLE OF LONDON DO NOT WANT RIVER WATER IN THEIR HOUSES, especially when WATER IN ABUNDANCE and of THE PUREST QUALITY may be had right in the city BY BORING FOR IT, at a FRACTION OF THE COST.

The well recently sunk by Hon. Adam Beck is now producing close on 200,000 gallons per 24 hours.

COMPARE THE COST of the commissioners' scheme with an artesian well system: The commissioners' scheme:

The Cronyn and White and Kilworth springs, producing, according to Engineer Moore's estimate, 1,300,000 gallons per 24 hours ..	\$211,000
Pumping plant, mains, etc.....	\$230,000
	\$441,000

An artesian well system:

Wells sufficient to produce 1,500,000 gallons per 24 hours, with air compressor, electrically driven pumps, of a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons..	\$65,000
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Can there be any question as to which is THE CHEAPER SYSTEM? The water commissioners would have the ratepayers believe that the scheme to be voted on Monday is a spring water scheme. They made the same claim in regard to the scheme submitted and rejected on June 22 last. Yet on Thursday night Chairman Darch bluntly told the audience in the city hall that that scheme was a filtration scheme, evidently meaning one of the Maury kind. Either the commissioners were misrepresenting their former scheme in June last, or Commissioner Darch is misrepresenting it now. There can be no doubt of that.

In an advertisement published by the commissioners on June 20 and paid for by the city occurs the following:

"It (the June scheme) guarantees an abundance of pure spring water for many years."
 "It provides a high-pressure system capable of 200 pounds pressure in the business and manufacturing centres of the city."
 "The filtration plant is to be used only in emergency."
 "Filtered river water would be used if a great fire in the business district exhausted the reserve of 5,000,000 gallons of spring water stored near the north end pumping station. And this river water would in that case be confined to the high-pressure mains and WOULD NOT MINGLE WITH THE SPRING WATER USED IN THE HOUSES."
 "The emphasis is the commissioners' "The high-pressure mains and the ordinary service pipes will be connected by a check valve. This valve will be closed in the event of a fire in the high-pressure area. At all other times the valve will be open and spring water will circulate in both systems."
 "Chairman Jones is of the opinion that if the bylaw carries there will be sufficient spring water, without taking in more springs, for a generation."

Yet in spite of this, Commissioner Darch has the effrontery to tell advocates of spring water and high pressure, who voted for the June scheme, that they voted for what they all abhor--filtration.

No doubt if this latest scheme, which the commissioners pretend is a spring water one, carries, Mr. Darch and his colleagues will tell the ratepayers, when it is too late to remedy the mistake, that it is A RIVER WATER SCHEME, as it unquestionably is.

RATEPAYERS--TAKE NO CHANCES, BUT VOTE DOWN THIS RIVER WATER SCHEME.

T. F. KINGSMILL	F. E. LEONARD	W. W. THOMSON
T. H. SMALLMAN	A. M. SMITH	ADAM BECK
C. B. HUNT	GEO. G. McCORMICK	JOHN LABATT
J. W. LITTLE	J. H. CHAPMAN	F. G. RUMBALL
W. M. GARTSHORE	R. J. YOUNG	THOS. BAKER
	C. R. SOMERVILLE	



AMELIA STONE, TEMPLAR SAXE AND LOTTIE KENDALL, IN "THE GAY MUSICIAN," AT THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, THURSDAY EVENING.