

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

To-night, Manager Berry's company closes a somewhat lengthy engagement at the Imperial. For two or three months this popular organization has held the boards at the above theatre, and while it can be said that they have done much excellent work, it cannot be asserted that they gave a really bad performance during their whole engagement. Mr. Berry's company is composed of people who will compare favorably with any travelling combination. In Miss Belle Inman, we have a leading lady capable of doing acceptably and in many instances cleverly the work which falls to her lot. Miss Inman is a hard worker, and during her whole engagement in this city it can be said of her, that she never came upon the stage without having studied her part in its minutest details. Mr. Berry, the leading man, seems to be imbued with but one desire in life, and that is to please everybody, and that he has succeeded the reception which he receives from his audiences affords the best proof. He has proved himself not only a capable actor, but also an honorable business man, during his connection with the Imperial. Mr. James Morton has made many friends during his stay in this city, who will watch his future career upward and onward. He is a thorough actor and deserves success. Mr. Fred Summerfield has been in this city for four or five months, and is popular not only on the stage, but in the little circle in which he moved. As a character man, Mr. Summerfield can fill an engagement with any company. Mr. Wm. Bennett has not been long upon the stage, but works hard, with the result that each succeeding week shows a marked improvement in his work. Mr. J. R. Bromson is clever, and can infuse life into any play, no matter how dull, and Mr. Lloyd does his best to please, with the result that he very often succeeds. Miss Kitty Berry, in characters, is, to use the somewhat expressive term, "away out of sight." Her Belinda, in *Our Boys*, will not be forgotten in this city for some time. Miss Raynetta Lewis, in soubrette parts, is pleasing and amusing. Her singing is a feature of every performance. Miss Annie E. Inman gives careful and accurate portrayals of the parts assigned to her. Last of all, Little Baby Inman will be greatly missed in this city. This little girl is without doubt a wonder. It is a matter of surprise how so young a child can be taught to read lines and act in the manner in which she does.

The repertoire of the company is an extensive one, and comprises the following standard plays: *Rosedale*, *The Golden Giant*, *Our Boys*, *Black Diamonds*, *Divorce*, *Planter's Wife*, *The Shaughraun*, *Under the Gaslight*, *My Partner*, *Lancashire Lass*, *Uncle Dan'l*, *The Private Secretary*, *Kathleen Mavourneen*, *Lady Audley's Secret* and *Rip Van Winkle*.

Mr. James Collins has gone in advance of the Imperial Comedy Company. This is the name Mr. Berry has christened his organization.

The Imperial has had a change of programme every night this week. The performances were of the usual high order of merit and fairly well patronized. The company open in Vancouver, Monday night, in *Rosedale*.

Ole Olsen at The Victoria, Tuesday night, completely filled the house. The performance was very good, and thoroughly amused all present. The specialties in the last act were equal, if not superior, to any ever seen in this city. Miss St. George Hussy has long had the reputation of being the best Irish character woman on the stage, and accepting her work with the Ole Olsen company as a basis, it is reasonable to predict that she need fear no rival

for some years to come at least. The Swedish quartette were deservedly encored, and added much to the pleasure of the performance.

Frederick Warde, in Henry Guy Carlton's play, *The Lion's Mouth*, opened a two nights' engagement at the Victoria, Thursday evening. The play is one which affords Mr. Warde great scope for his histrionic ability, and is superior to anything that has been written of late years. This gentleman has surrounded himself with an excellent company, and, as a result, he has done a larger business this season than ever before. *Damon and Pythias*, Friday night, drew out the full strength of the company.

The Kimball opera company in *Carmen Upto Date* will be the next attraction at The Victoria, April 19 and 20. The company is well spoken of.

The Spider and Fly company will hold the boards at The Victoria on the evenings of April 21 and 22. The company is a large one and has done a big business this season.

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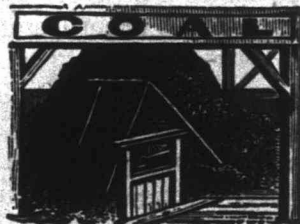
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