

## "The Liars."

A Brilliant Presentation of a Brilliant Comedy.

Amateur dramatic art added last night another to its rapidly growing list of local triumphs, when Henry Jones' well known play "The Liars" was acted with professional excellence and staged in a manner which only those who know the limitations imposed can fully appreciate. The performance was a worthy successor to "Mistakes," and we trust, it will be the precursor of many others as enjoyable.

Comment must be almost entirely appreciative, since such criticism as appears obvious will be found in most cases to be applicable to the play itself rather than the players. There is no need to give a synopsis here of the story, which is slight and simple: those who have not made themselves familiar with it should avail of the two opportunities that remain to do so. It is concerned mostly with the questionable attachment of Edward Falkner (who, by the way, gives little proof of the heroic qualities with which the author carefully tags him) and Lady Jessica Nepean, who, ill-mated and craving sympathy, first encourages her lover and then creates the compromising situation that is the soul of the play by taking a decidedly wrong turning while on her way (in a decolete evening-gown) to the railway station, which leads her into the "Star and Garter" and the presence of Falkner. They are discovered by the jealous husband's brother and the fat is in the fire. It is Lady Jessica's efforts to pick it out again that give the play its title and involve all her friends. Matters growing worse and worse, and incidentally more and more amusing to the delighted audience, she is compelled to tell the truth to her enraged husband. It seems a pity to us that the author could not have ended the play somehow with this charming act and obviated the heavy fourth scene, in which both the persuasion of the erring pair into the straight path on the grounds of pure expediency and the sudden pacification of Gilbert Nepean for no apparent reason leave a rather unconvincing impression.

The applause that greeted the re-appearance of Mrs. Baxter, as Lady Jessica, was more than justified by the manner in which she maintained a fascinating and difficult part. Her absence from the stage seems to have added to rather than diminished the charm of her acting. Few professionals, we imagine, could so skilfully have reconciled the comedy and tragedy that often ran dangerously close together in the character she had to portray. Her acting was, in any case, the making of the play, as it was intended to be, and its lightness in effective contrast with the rather melodramatic performances of her husband and lover. Mrs. Grieve, as Lady Rosamund Tatton, was, as usual, so natural and at ease in her part that the art that underlay it was successfully concealed, as we are told it should be. The "leading lady" could not have had a better support. Miss Agnes Hayward, in the person of Dolly Coke, added to a fast-growing reputation: she was at her best in the third act, to which she contributed much of its amusement. Miss Emily Mare represented Mrs. Crepin, who was introduced apparently for the purpose of making acid remarks: the acidity with which they were made left nothing to be desired, unless for more of them. Other minor roles were taken by Miss Margaret Doyle, as

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a charming widow who rewards Sir Christopher Deering for his heavy part and altruistic efforts, and Miss Frances Gosling, who charmingly exhibits all the undesirable qualities indispensable to a lady's maid.

Among the men Commander MacDermott stood out conspicuously as Sir Christopher Deering, an Englishman of the best type, with a deep knowledge of the world but unspotted by it, peacemaker and the 'deus ex machina' who rights things in the end. He acted best, perhaps for no other reason than because he acted least. Perfectly natural throughout, he deserves especial praise for the way in which he carried through the almost oratorical effort of the last act. Captain O'Grady made an excellent Edward Falkner, though we think he made a mistake in trying to impart to that character heroic attributes which the author persistently denied to it. He provided, however, exactly the foil to Lady Jessica and 'society' that the play required. Mr. John Baxter, too, represented Gilbert Nepean with almost too masculine thoroughness and won for Lady Jessica a little more sympathy than she may have deserved. Mr. Bell took the part of his serious-minded brother and lieutenant with an admirable absence of humour. Mr. Angus Reid provided most of the comedy in the person of Freddie Tatton, painfully conscious of his inability to manage his wife, asking everyone's advice upon the way to overcome it, and falling dismally to take it. Mr. Reid has made himself so thoroughly at home with a character of this sort that we shall in future look for nothing else from him; the play would have been nothing without him. Mr. Warren, as Archibald Coke,

## A Soldier's Gallantry.

When the twilight sun was stealing and the shadows all had fled, In a humble thatched-roofed cottage knelt a mother with bowed head.

See, she's praying for her darling who is gone across the foam To fight the battles of the Empire and protect his native home.

"God," she prays in accents broken, "Send my boy to me again, For I've given him as a token that I love my country's name;

And amidst the roaring cannon, 'midst the firing of the guns, Keep my boy protected, guarded, from the hands of cruel Huns."

There she kneels and prays with fervour while her boy in danger stands; He is fighting with the Germans in the far-off distant lands.

His comrades round are falling and a bullet whizzes past; He runs to grasp the soldier from the cannon's awful blast;

Bears him high upon his shoulder—'tis a time of life or death, Will he reach the place of safety? Seems impossible as yet.

But he's reached his comrade's dug-out; shells are bursting all around— There unstraps his heavy burden, falls insensible on the ground.

Across the water in her cottage his dear mother kneels to pray For the safety of her darling in the thickest of the fray.

Will her prayer remain unanswered? No, her boy slowly revives, On his coat is pinned the V. C., worn only for saving lives.

Ye who have not yet responded to the call of Motherland, Won't you now be up and doing? Be not in the slackers' band! **MAY BARTER,**  
Mundy Pond Road, City.

filled another comic niche most effectively, acting with the natural ease of an old hand. Mr. L. E. Emerson was a revelation as the French waiter at the "Star and Garter"; had the author seen and heard him he might have given us more of him. Nothing could have been better than the dinner scene and his apologies for the accident to the 'saucy arcaidienne'. Messrs. Jack Paterson and Arthur Hayward completed the caste of minor characters.

During one of the intervals each of the lady performers was presented with a handsome bouquet, the gift of the officers of the Newfoundland Highlanders. The performance was under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor, who, with Lady Davidson, Capt. Riley, M.C., Major Paterson and Hon. R. Watson was present. The orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Charles Hutton, added much to the enjoyment of the audience by its selections between the acts. The hall was filled almost to capacity, and we bespeak for the remaining performances the overflowing attendance which the cause and the excellence of the whole presentation unquestionably deserve.

## Quebec is to Abolish the Bar.

The Government Comes to This Decision After a Stormy Caucus.—A Demand for Drastic Restrictions.

Quebec, December 5.—The province of Quebec will abolish the bar after May 1st next. On that date Gettenburg, or cafe system, will be in vogue. Such was the decision arrived at today by the Liberal caucus after a somewhat stormy and continuous session. The matter was regarded from every angle and the various arguments of pros and cons regarding prohibition received full consideration. While it was pointed out that prohibition in certain other provinces was not the success that it was made out to be, and that it had not only resulted in decrease of necessary revenue, but had also proved costly in operation, and besides creating a number of evils and acting as an inducement to hypocrisy, had also been ineffective in certain instances, it was also adduced that there was a very great demand for drastic restrictions, and this especially during period of war. The decision of the Gouin government is largely along the lines advocated by the license commission in its report on the liquor situation in Quebec.

## SOME BEAUTIFUL PICTURES AT ROSSLEYS.

There was a very good house at Rossleys last night and all were highly delighted with the pictures just arrived from New York. Tonight there is another complete change of program, and some excellent pictures will be shown. On Friday night the last contest of the season will take place and a big night is promised. Competitors send in names early. The doors will be open earlier. The Christmas production, as seen by a few privileged persons during rehearsals, promises to eclipse anything ever attempted by Mrs. Rossley and that's saying something.

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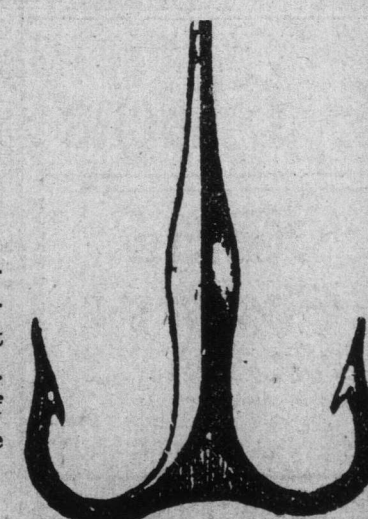
The New Premium Department will be open on Saturday next, Dec 16th, when our splendid stock of Premiums (all free in exchange for tags and coupons from our brands) will be on view to the general public.

We offer seasonable advice by suggesting that tag and coupon holders make our New Premium Department headquarters for Christmas Gifts.

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