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DRAMA AND MUSIC

THAT SPECIAL WIRE.

The special wire that was run into the Toronto Opera House last Wednesday, and over which the description of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight will be received on the 17th, was thoroughly tested yesterday afternoon, when Manager Small sent a long message to Mr. W. A. Brady, Corbett's manager, regarding the champion's engagement at the Toronto next season. During the afternoon several messages were received from Carson City, among them an application from Martin Julian for a week for Bob Fitzsimmons, who will be placed at the head of a big vaudeville company next season. According to advices from Carson, the contestants will enter the ring between 1 and 2 o'clock, Toronto time, and the fight will probably be over before the hour for beginning the performance of "A Railroad Ticket." The doors of the theatre will be opened at 12 o'clock, so as to give the earliest news of the event, and the double feature of describing the fight and giving a special matinee at "bargain prices should prove one of the strongest drawing cards of the season. The company presenting "A Railroad Ticket" is said to be an unusually good one, and includes Louis Wesser and Maude Stuart, both of whom have been specially engaged to play their original characters in this comedy. Louis Wesley will be remembered as one of the big cards with "Uncle Tom," the successful burlesque from the Garrick Theatre, New York. In the character of "Uncle," he is said to be mirth-provoking and keeps the audience in good humor. Miss Stuart is better known as the "American Fougere," and is said to have scored one of the biggest hits ever made by an American music hall singer on her first appearances in London, Paris and Berlin. Her style is peculiarly her own, and she is fascinating and pleasing to an audience. The balance of the company includes Arthur Moulton, comedian with Frank Daniels for four seasons; Charles A. Burke, as original Snaggs in "A Bunch of Keys"; Gus Pixley, late of Casino Theatre, New York; Edith Newton, Aggie Vars, Morget Hobart, Minnie Carlton, supported by 10 others just as clever. With a company of such artists as the above, a first-class entertainment is assured. It will be staged with special scenery, and is handsomely costumed. The prices at the special matinee will be the same as at the regular "bargain matinees" on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, namely, 15 cents for any seat in the balcony and 25 cents for any seat on the ground floor.

HUMANITY.

The attraction at the Grand Opera House next week, with matinees Wednesday and Saturday, will be "Humanity," an English military drama from the pen of Sutton Vane, with Mr. Joseph Grismer and Miss Phoebe Davies in the leading roles. "Humanity," or, as it is better known in London and Australia under the title of "For England," is said to be an out and out drama, and is Mr. Vane's strongest play. The story deals with the war of England against the Dutch Boers in South Africa. The play opens in Cranbourne Hall, England, the home of Lieutenant Bevis Cranbourne. Lezbia Penn, the daughter of Matthew Penn, the Quaker gardener, has been wronged in London by Major Fordyce Dangerfield, a war correspondent. Dangerfield follows the victim from place to place, seeking to plunge her still deeper into misery. War is declared; Lieutenant Cranbourne leaves with his command, followed by Lezbia Penn and her sister, Keziah, who, together with Alma Dunbar the lieutenant's fiancee, enlists in the hospital service. Dangerfield follows the party, and is later discovered to be a spy. He is compelled to see the Dunbar house, which has been beseiged, and furnishes the Boers with information which enables them to take the Dunbar house, which has been transformed into a fort. Lieutenant Cranbourne, in the meantime, attempts to pass the Boer lines to deliver important despatches to General Wolseley, and is captured, but not until he has sent a wounded drummer boy through the lines. Cranbourne is imprisoned in the Dunbar fortress, and after trial by court martial, is sentenced to be shot and the day set for the execution. General Wolseley arrives and attacks the fortress. The women of the hospital corps are compelled to assist the Boers in defending the place by loading the rifles. Cranbourne is lashed to a post below waiting for the time to arrive when he will be shot. The women, upon being handed the rifles, load them, turn on the detachment of Boers, and fire, killing all but Dangerfield, who rushes downstairs determined that Cranbourne shall meet the death penalty. He draws his revolver and fires, but every chamber is empty. Seizing a huge bomb, he places it on a box close to Cranbourne's head and lights it. The lieutenant's fiancee, Alma Dunbar, arrives in time to grab the bomb and hurl it out of the window. Cranbourne is released, just as the English troops rush in to seize the place. The party shortly returns to England, and matters are set to rights. Dangerfield's crime meeting with just punishment. It will be placed upon the stage here with all the original scenery, mechanical effects, horses, hounds, company etc. as used during its long run at the Academy of Music, New York City.

DAVIES—MILLS.

Mr. Ben Davies arrives in Boston about the 20th inst. to take the tenor solo parts at the Boston Festival. He will make his first and only appearance in Canada at Massey Hall with Mr. Watkin Mills on the night of the 30th, in a grand ballad concert. The subscription list is being rapidly filled up at Nordheimer's by our best society people, and local amateur and professional musical talent. The subscription list, according to advertisement, closes on the 18th inst. all those who have not already entered their names and are desirous of hearing these great artists, should do so at once. It may be remarked that the program will consist principally of ballads and selections from Moore's Irish melodies, which will be a musical treat seldom enjoyed here.

THE LADY SLAVEY.

The week after next at the Grand Messrs. Klaw & Erlanger will present Canary & Lederer's big Casino production entitled "The Lady Slavey." This piece ran for the major portion of last season at the Casino, New York. As seen in the Casino, however, it was to all intents and purposes an American production, both the music and the libretto being new, and it was spoken of as one of the biggest successes the Casino scored since the brilliant career of "Erminie." The cast as it will be presented here is very large including Marie Cahill, Marie Daly, Charles H. Danby, Charles Kirke, Richard Carle, La Petite Adelaide, Babette Rodney, Annie Buckley, Marie George; in fact, all of those who contributed so largely to the success of this enterprise.

SONG RECITAL.

A song recital will be given in the Normal School Theatre on Monday evening, March 22, by the popular baritone, Mr. J. Walsh, assisted by the well-known violoncellist, Miss Marguerite Dunn, who will give four of her newest readings. A silver collection will be taken in aid of the Children's Aid Society.

MR. SEABROOKE STILL ILL.

Mr. Seabrooke is still confined to his bed at the Queen's Hotel, and there was no performance at the Grand last night, nor will there be a matinee to-day. There is a possibility that Mr. Seabrooke will appear to-night, and the announcement will be made in the evening papers.

THE BIJOU THEATRE.

Monday commences the eighteenth week of unprecedented success at the Bijou Theatre, a week filled with special inducements to the many patrons of this house. The vaudeville program is an exceptionally strong bill. The company is headed by the six Reinhardt sisters, acrobatic singers and dancers, who, for the first time, will make their bow to a Toronto audience.

COUNTY AND SUBURBAN NEWS.

Big Budget Gathered by World Correspondents Over a Large Area Yesterday.

Toronto Junction, March 12.—(Special.)—The flag at the C.P.R. shops is to-day flying at half-mast out of respect for Sydney Adams, the C.P.R. brakeman, who died