

THE MATINEE GIRL

By MARGARET BELL

Nobody's Widow

THE woman at present answering to the above title eyed me furtively, as she dabbed a bit of powder on her nose. She stood in the centre of the dressing-room, surrounded by mirrors above which gleamed and scintillated a score of lights. Truly she is an exacting widow, as far as dressing illuminations are concerned. She carries her own dressing table with her, a huge white one, with rows of lights up and down and all around. And in addition to this, she has the most comfortable looking chair you could ever wish to nestle in, after a strenuous matinee.

This is Blanche Bates, of "The Girl from the Golden West" fame. You have read of her, have seen her act perhaps, but did you ever know that she can cook, and uses garlic and onions to excess?

"What did you say? You don't like garlic? Well, child, just come to see me at my home and I'll wager that you will acquire a taste for it, before you leave. Won't she, Hannah?"

Hannah was the maid, a mulatto girl, who stood busily fingering one of Miss Bates' gowns. And by the way, she is the most intelligent maid I ever saw, in all my rounds of theatre dressing-rooms.

"Oh, of course we don't use a whole lot of the stuff, we just use a lick, as it were, and leave the gar out." Which is one of the Blanche Bates humourisms.

It happened to be the time when all the dogs around Toronto were wearing muzzles. Miss Bates had noticed this, and resented it accordingly.

"Please tell me," she continued, "why they don't muzzle the horses here. The worst bite I ever got in my life



BLANCHE BATES

And Katharine Kaelred, she who played the Vampire lady so effectively in "A Fool There Was," a couple of seasons ago, is not destined to play Vampire ladies all her life, for which she may be truly thankful. This season, New York saw her suddenly break into a new role, that of the heroine in "We Can't Be As Bad As All That," not the most convincing title the world, perhaps, but one of the few successes of the past season. Her effective handling of the part, her finished style, her originality, have all combined to make her a character on the stage worth considering, one for whom the realms of stardom will soon open their portals.

adorable" house built in 1797, with huge hand-hewn oak timbers for beams, and a large Colonial fireplace, an old clock dating back to Revolutionary days, and seventy-eight acres of land to hold it all.

And she has trinkets she has been collecting ever since the farm bee began a-buzzing around her ears. For she was ever ambitious, and knew that some day her wishes could be realized, and her dream farm would become a reality.

* * *

Some Future Stars.

THAT elusive hand of Fate keeps beckoning and beckoning, till one day, all who have watched it painstakingly and patient, see it waving steadily toward a conscientious plodder, who burned midnight gas and slept in a proverbial hall bedroom.

I am not conversant upon Frances Ring's style of living, any more than I am on Katharine Kaelred's or Crystal Herne's, but this I can say, they have steadily made good, until this last season brings them more of that earnestly-hoped-for fame which makes the theatrical life worth while.

Frances Ring, who need no longer be billed as a sister of Blanche, she of "YIP" fame, made a decided impression in "Get Rich Quick Wallingford," which is going to stand her in good stead the coming season.



KATHERINE KAELED

was from a horse, but I do love them, just the same. But the idea of having all the poor dogs with their mouths covered like that! I tell you, I'm dog crazy. Just guess how many I have on my farm. No, more than that. Sixteen, if you please. They wander around wherever they choose, and will never wear one of those horrid things, believe me."

This farm of Miss Bates is her especial pride. It is thirty-three miles from New York, and is where she hies every night after her performance in the city. She tours just every second season. She calls this home the farm of her dreams, since those dreams demanded a "perfect



FRANCES RING

And Crystal Herne is a player whose worth has been generally admitted for some time. The lack of suitable plays alone has kept her from scaling the ladder of success even before she did. She has a very charming personality, a quick discernment, a versatility, all of which should place her in the foremost ranks of our players. But there is something seriously the matter with the dramatists of to-day, for they do not seem able to produce the right kind of play, to bring out Miss Herne's acting qualities. She has been fishing around for some time now, and is still almost wasting her abilities on more or less inferior plays. She spent a brief few weeks with

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