THE WOMEN'S PAGE

PRIZE DRAMA DE LUXE ##
SHAKESPEARES HOME

The Honor That Has Come to an American Woman Through an English Jubilee

HERE are two country villages across the sea, one in England and one in Bavaria, which are proudly burdened with honors disproportioned to their inconspicuousness upon the map.

But in spite of their simplicity and rustic aspect, they have given the world a master spirit each, and are now resting upon their laurels, smiling genially upon the pilgrims who come to revel in the associations of their illustrious sens.

Bayreuth in Bavaria gave birth to Wagner, the spokesman for all that is stanch, stolid, rugged or sublime among the Teutons. But Stratford, upon the river Avon, brought forth the poet Shakespeare, interpreter and spokesman for all that is human in all races and peoples.

Stratford is to do as Bayreuth has done. Where Shakespeare played as a child, the creations of his maturity will be revived for his honor. All the literary world will burn incense at his shrine.

And America will add her tribute to the chorus of adulation, and a noble one, too, for an American woman's play is to appear on the same boards with the classics of Shakespeare himself.

Josephine Preston Pechody, American authoress and poet, was the fortunete one whose work, "The Piper," was chosen from 315 that were offered for presentation during a great dramatic jubilee that is to begin on April 22 and continue for four weeks.

So America comes in for a share of the honors that are to be distributed during the most pretentious jubilee of the dramatic year.

HREE hundred and forty-six years ago William Shakespeare was born in a very plain and unpretentious village on the Avon which had never made any claims to previous glory.

Probably the village fathers were quite proud enough if their butter and eggs were passable and their cattle presented a sleek, contented front to the casual visitor. It was one of those thatched medieval hamlets that grow up about a church, look so lazy and contented in the summer sun and so abominably dreary in winter fog.

Stratford probably turned out half a hundred babies grew up to be country louts, burly magistrates or



first ventures upon literature.

There is a tale that young William had more spirit and ingenuity than the countryside and its normal pursuits afforded opjortunity to eke out; so he went forth a-hunting and came into conflict with a certain squire who afterward tramped the L alon stage in burly guise as Sir John Falstaff. Potching was quite an offense in these days, and the embrye poet fled to London, leaving his wife behind, to seek fame and fortune among the literati of the metropolis.

As all the world knows, the country lad who fiel from his native village for shooting a deer, as the story has it, became the favorite of all classes and the one unimpeachable genius of English letters It is the scene of this carly rustic life, devoid of





blings in revered awe. Stakespeare and Raleigh, Beam at and Fletcher found and Webster, Feele and a store of other brilliant Effortherians crupping an invisible box somewhere in the memoral theater on April 20 would be more than appropriate. April 20 happens to be the date of Shakespeare's lirth and death anothis year, the first of Stratford fieldle seasons the "Two Certifemen of Veroral" will be greated and on this occasion the title prin will be awarded to Mrs. Marks for her play, "The Piper" When the first areas ments were read for the Shakespeare featival, the grathmen in charge offered. When the first areas ments were read for the Shakespeare featival, the grathmen in charge offered. The beautiful and the seventeen classis. Mrs. Marks chose the topic of the Pied Piper of Hame in, mode famous by Browning and threw a new runnin light upon inm by chasing the with the reministed some of distinctions. The laws applying to Shakespeare the man that has come to light is a document showing that Shakespeare of Fire laws the witness in a sixt concentaing dowry. He lived in the house of a French Haguenot named for Hamelin through the height the call the finitives.

conscience in the shadow of a roadside crucitis, and when remorse overtakes him, he returns the children of Hamelin to their parents and goes his way. After the examiners had considered 315 plays they took Mrs. Marks' "The Piper" and another and sent them to the duke of Argyll, who made the final decision in favor of Mrs. Marks.

Mrs. Marks herself was born in New York, though her family is part of the old Puritan stock of New

her family is part of the old Puritan stock of New England. She was raised in Boston, and has been an instructor in Welesley College. She was married, an 1985, to Lienel Marks, a professor in the mechanical engineering department of Marvard.

Severa of her earlier plays won recognition from critics and playwrights in England. "Marlowe." a tragedy, was favorably commented upon by Edmund Crises and Thomas Hardy. "The Cis ing Leaves." a collection of poems, prompted Swinburne to proplicay brilliant future for the authoress.

The English have been scotting at American dramaind American letters from the time that the latter matten showed signs of rivaling the mother-country, and the victory of Mis. Marks is an occasion for the whole ration to rejoice in the glory that has falses upon the authories.

whole ration to rejoice in the gloss constant upon the authoress.

Bensen, the mainger, will probably play the part of the Piper himself. Among the other netables who will endeavor to 30 known to Shakespath are Miss Ellen Terry and Miss Vielet Vanbruch who will play lending stakes tearent roles, and six Herbert Beershelm Tee Mouth Harvey, Miss de silva Miss Generalese Wand Othe Stuntt, Arthur Boucher, Henry Andrew Wand Othe Stuntt, Arthur Boucher, Henry Andrew United Studies, Miss Whatted Enery and

A TEST OF VITALITY

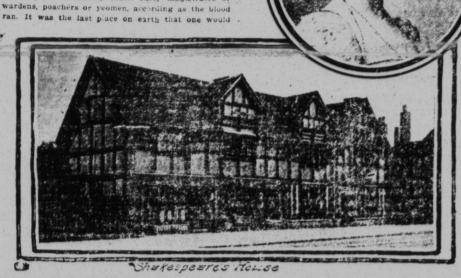
The ther or not this spirit of commemoration will

energy to keep alive a permanent menerial in the form of a theater is where "the rule" lies. Cortainly Stratford itself can neither use for support a theater, and if the pilgrims show a spirit of nonchalance England may not be able to rival Bayreut.

Wagner interpreted the spirit of a single race or reaches has been explained but Shak energed.

before hurling further ignominious epitnets at the country town.

One can easily imagine the merry crew from the Mermald Tavern trekking back across the Styx with William in the lead to get a glimpse of the modern



seck for a genius of unlimit d breath and an un- self-nonscious genius, that the world has seen fit to limited insight into the woes and Joys of humanity.

limited insight into the woes and Joys of humanity.

Nor would one have gone to such a place to seek out the artist who could pen immortal verse and shape a drama, handling his creations as tangible purpets on the stage of his imagination as though the science of stagecraft were a mere toy in his hands.

There is nothing to indicate that the renowned poet of later generations, the theatrical manager and promoter of a later period in his own life or the acknowledged prince of wits and bon vivants were latent in the youngster who attended the Stratford schools and absorbed, as Jonson tells us, little Latin and less Greek.

schools and absorbed, as Jonson tells us, little Latin and less Greek.

The peculiar feature about this mortal endowed with the divine spark was that the closer one looks into his life and personality, the more intimately one knows him through the few scraps and fragments of information that have come down to us, the more one sees of the mortal and the less divinity one finds upon the surface at least. It would seem that the most notable and pronounced index to the bard's character is his great humanity and apparent similarity to all is his great humanity and apparent similarity to all other men. It would seem, moreover, that if one is to account for so rare a product coming from so human a vessel, it is to be laid to his sympathetic comprehen-sion of what was most essentially human in the lives of his felibes.

sion of what was most essentially human in the lives of his fellows.

A any rate, he grew up in Stratford, and, like every agrarian lad from the time of Isaac to the most immediate present, he went calling on a maiden and sat before the open fire of Anne Hathaway's cottage on winter evenings, cooing with Anne in the approved fashion of young lovers in all ages.

Anne was 26 and William 18; so William was the very devoted rather than the lordly lover, and indited yeres to his love or about his love, these being his

adorn with a memorial tileater, and in the quiet vilage which has probally witnessed no other drama than the comedies and tragedies of country life and the antics of a traveling band of jugglers when it was still a medieval hamlet will be stirred by the greatest series of occations which a single mind has ever con-

Sixteen of Stokespeare's plays are to be put upon the boards, one of Beaumont and Fletcher's, "Knight of the Burning Pestle," and "The Piper," by Mrs. Lionel Marks, better known as Josephine Presion Peabody.

the Burning Pestle," and "The Piper," by Mrs. Lionel Marks, better known as Jossphine Preston Penhody, contributor to magazines, and dramatist as well.

The four weeks' entertainment will be under the management and control of F. R. Benson, theatrical manager, and the list of actors and actresses who are to take part in the various productions exhausts the calendar of leading lights in Great Britain.

The bard of Avon will lave nothing to be ashamed of. Indeed, he will probably be in foyous attendance just to see the ladies going through with his female parts. For in his own day, it must be remembered, there were no women on the stage. Boys took their parts, scenery was lacking, costumes were rudimentary, and as for rouge, footlights, calcium, artificial thunder, orchestral effects and the like, Shakespeare, with all his eye to stagecraft, never even dreamed of them, so far as we know.

In Bayreuth they have annual Wagner fests at which an effort is made to produce the operas of the great composer so that the material execution may as least be a proper setting for the original lofty conceptions and the superb music. To produce an opera so that it may be truly worthy of the Wagnerian genius is the sole aim. And then, of course, they are commemorative, just as the Shakespearean framas is Stratford will be; for Wagner, too, is the product of a



equal chance of not getting a satisfactory answer: What will a woman do for a thrill?

What wen't a woman do for a thrill?

As a matter of fact, for ledvelup in ell lands has been finding herself with such speed in the lands any matter of the speed in the speed

has been finding herself with such speed in the last generation that she shies at nothing any more. When automobiles mist came into, use a droman who would drive one with the speed of a dray was looked upon as daring.

Gradeelly the brikes came off, and a few years ago England looked in winder at a certain Miss Dorothy Levitt, a girl of wealth and family, who cut loose with the abandon of a Chevrolet.

Now Miss Levitt is, in truth, seeking higher fields for fresh thrills. Like many another woman, she has gone into the air. she has gone into the air.

HAT more thrilling could a woman wish than to be a bird? Haratofore many have thought they were, to jidge from surface indications. Hereafter they must all yield the palm to Miss Levitt and a few others, who are real birds and sail the air with the grace of the swallows.

Some months ago Miss Levitt contracted for an aeroplane, and immediately began to prepare herself for its management when it should be delivered to her.

To France she went and placed herself under the tutelage of A Littum she tried out the Antoinette monoplane with him, but found that somewhat difficult and unsatisfactory for an amateur, and so turned

to the bi; lane.
With that she became the pupil of M. Farman, and With that she became the pupil of M. Farman, and found her progress was much more rapid. She made quite a number of ascents with her teacher, and got along swimmingly—or flyingly, to be more exact.

For feminine use, according to Miss Levi't, the biplane is much to be preferred, as it is steadier an i casier to handle than the single plane. In speaking of her experiences she said:

"My experience is that, a biplane is better for learning, as the whole control of it is so much simpler than that of the monoplane. I made good progress under M. Farman's guidance. I ascended three or four times with him, and on the last occasion he was merely the passenger, while. I had charge of the levers and controlled the movements of the hiplane. "I expect to fly at one or two English meetings, if everything goes well."



If what Miss Levitt says is true, and there is no reason to doubt her word, she has but one rival in her sex in the matter of running a fiving muchine. The feminine element has been decidedly to the fore in ballooning, but in the heavier-than-air machine it is just beginning to make itself felt.

A few months ago Mrs. R. H. Van Deman, who, in her younger Chiffornia days earned the title of "Lady Jack," ran a Wright machine for a few moments. It was during the time Wilbur Wright was doing stunts near Washington that the faschating "Lady Jack," whose highem is an army captain, got her taste of aerial travel. She was delighted, and announced that she would own a machine as soon as she could buy one. Of her first four-minute ride, she said:

"Flying produced such a finny sensation. I couldn't keep my feet still, whether from the par of the engine or because I was shivering from the cold, I couldn't tell. But I was soon lost in the glorious feeling that I was flying, flying through the early morning air as a bird when it awakes and takes wing.

"You cannot inagine what a beautiful sight it was

morning air as a bird when it awakes and takes wing.

"You cannot imagine what a beautiful sight it was that stretched before us. Wilbur nudged me and said, Look down there.' I looked and I shall never forget the picture. As far as we could see the earth was covered with a mantle of frost. As it sparkled in the early smilght it seemed as if we were sailing over a field of diamonds. And as we sailed I understood why birds sing when they fly.

"Again Wilbur nudged me, and this time he

shouted to ask if I would like to take the levers. I replied by leaning forward and taking them. His hands remained mar in cace of emergency. As I took the levers I began to feel in myself the power of the mastery of the air. I never before experienced such a feeling of exultation."

This would indicate that there are chough thrills in fixing to said 'mest any woman, however llass. In America "Lady Jack" claims the call in priority for operating an aeroplane. In France there is some question about it.

Some time before Miss Levitt got off the earth it was announced that the Baroness de la Roche had

some time before Miss Levitt got off the earth it was announced that the Baroness de la Roche had rin a lipiane for four miles over a circular course. Not, long afterward, though, the report was chalcaged. No one really said that the baroness had go to be the course of the course o