

# Magazine Section of The Toronto Sunday World

## "The Care for the Stage Child"

Harrison Fisher, the Famous Illustrator, Augustus Thomas, the Distinguished Dramatist. Picture the Real Life of the Little Actor and Actress—Well Fed, Well Cared For, Ambitious and Happy.



**By Augustus Thomas.**

**T**HE Child Labor Committee of the United States has instituted an active campaign looking to the enactment of laws in the several States of the Union for the protection of children by excluding them from factories and workshops. This is a work with which all good men and women are in sympathy. In their zeal the members of this committee have made the draft of the law which they are advocating somewhat too broad, and are including in one association the labor-burdened child of the factory and the mine with the rather pampered child of the theatre.

In the States of Illinois and Massachusetts such a blanket enactment has been passed, with the result that children under the age of sixteen are excluded from the theatres in those States, and consequently from their two principal cities, Chicago and Boston, which are most important on the theatrical map.

The effect of this exclusion of children from the theatre is

to shut out a large section of the drama, which includes such classics as "The Tempest," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "King John," "The Winter's Tale," "Macbeth," and such modern plays as "A Doll's House," "Rip Van Winkle," "Peter Pan," "The Blue Bird," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," "Alias Jimmy Valentine," "Mother," "A Bachelor's Baby," "Salvation Nell," "The Travelling Salesman," "A Man's World," "Shore Acres," "His House in Order" and many others. It practically says to the dramatist: "You shall not choose any dramatic theme to which the child value is essential." It says to the child of genius: "You shall not have this school of training, without which a full and proper development of your talent is not possible," and makes a lamentable confusion between the enforced and benumbing labor of the factory and the developing and educating exercise of the playhouse.

This menace to the drama and to the rights of the child has led to the organization of the National Alliance for the

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