

Plays, Players, Playgoers--The Week in London Theaters

THE GRAND.
Today, Matinee and Night
Tuesday "A Message From Mars"
Wednesday "Diplomacy"
Thursday "A Doll's House"
Friday "A Doll's House"
Saturday, Matinee and Night
Sunday "A Doll's House"

BENNETT'S
All Week Refined Vaudeville

That delightful comedy drama, "A Message From Mars," is the offering at the Grand tonight. The reputation this play has acquired in London and New York City by its long and phenomenal runs, together with its popularity in all of the cities where it has been seen, was sufficient to cause very general interest upon the part of theaters to see it when it came here. It is needless to say that local theatergoers were in no wise disappointed. The play "made good" in every particular, yet there were, of course, a great many who did not see it. It received high praise and general commendation from all sources after its presentation here. The play has many merits, and, strange to say, it appeals to all classes, the lower floor, the balcony and the gallery alike. It is clean-cut and beautiful in its simplicity. Its humor is of a refined quality, always pleasing, dignified, yet exuberantly funny. It is conceded to be logical in its conclusion, and at no point are either its characters or situations overdrawn. They are all in the line of becoming modesty, all tending to re-



WILHELMA FRANCIS,
Of Dunn-Francis Company, in "The Hold-Up," at Bennett's Next Week.

flect upon the genius, originality and cleverness of its author. Its scenic embellishments are remembered with distinct vividness. The introduction of an inhabitant from the planet Mars is conceded to be something out of the ordinary. It provides a subject for the most thoughtful consideration by those who see this play, touching upon conditions that we know exist on earth and what we believe may exist in Mars, although upon the latter subject nothing more than scientific deductions are forthcoming.

"The Mayor of Tokio," Richard Carl's latest and best effort, will be the attraction at the Grand soon. "The Mayor of Tokio," which was the hit last season at the New York Theater, has from its first presentation been accepted, it is said, as the best thing in a musical comedy line that has yet come out of Mr. Richard Carl's many successes, and it has been received with ardent enthusiasm wherever it has been presented. Mr. John L. Kearney is seen in a character which, it is said, has proven one of the greatest hits of his career, that of Marcus Orlando Kidder, brimful of opportunities for his unique humor and frolics. The chorus of "The Mayor of Tokio" and the Peanut Ballet is one of the striking features. The opera is rich in voice, clever in action, and wonderful fair in its pretty girls. The scenic production is most elaborate,



SCENE FROM "WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD," IN WHICH MR. FRANCIS WILSON WILL BE SEEN AT THE GRAND TUESDAY EVENING.

and its two scenes are most picturesque.

The coming of the Royal Alexandra Players, who will appear at the Grand Opera House next Thursday, is being looked forward to with great expectations by local theatergoers. The fame of this noted company has already preceded them, and those who take an interest in dramatic events are well aware that they will be given a rare treat when "Diplomacy" is produced by this excellent company. When Sardou wrote "Diplomacy" he chose a time when there was an international strain between the different diplomats in Europe, and evolved from the love of Captain Julien Beauchere for Dora, the daughter of a penniless Spanish marquis, a drama that has never lost its entertaining powers. Julien is beginning his diplomatic career as an attaché of the British embassy, Countess Zicka is a spy in the service of Baron Stein, who is secret agent of the Russian Government. She is also in love with Julien. At the baron's suggestion she steals from Julien an important plan, for which he is responsible for the safe delivery. She contrives to have the blame of the theft placed upon Dora. The plan is subsequently recovered by Henry, Julien's brother, who succeeds in placing the crime where it belongs. This is brought about by so much ingenuity that only a Sardou could have thought out.

Manager Efner announces that at each succeeding week at the popular playhouse, Bennett's, from now on, the bills will get better, and is prepared to stake his reputation on it. The theater offers a bill of such uniform excellence for next week that every patronage should be rewarded with big patronage from the public. In point of genuine, wholesome entertainment, Radford and Winchester take all the cake in sight.

The men are expert jugglers, which ordinarily means a wearisome turn to vaudeville patrons. But Radford and Winchester are different, better, funnier, newer than any jugglers that have yet come to this theater. This act is a side-splitting comedy throughout. Besides unusual skill and agility in their work, they display a thorough knowledge of the better side of burlesque acting, giving to their turn a charm of entertainment that is seldom offered to the patrons of vaudeville.

The audience cannot help but display a generous appreciation of their work, and patrons of the theater will miss an exceptionally good act if they fail to attend the performances next week. What is more beautiful to hear than a well-conducted string quartet? The Miles-Stavordale Quintet have a very unique and original offering, which cannot but please the best musicians and lovers of everything musical and artistic. Every member is an artist who has studied under teachers of renown.

A contortion act that borders on the phenomenal is the performance given by Miss Latina. It is one of the most startling displays of suppleness ever shown.

The contortion work of Miss Latina is one of the most finished specialties of the kind ever presented. Some artistic posing and exercises in physical culture for women are included in her exhibition. Mr. John Dunn and Miss Wilhelma Francis will present a screaming one-act comedy, "The Hold-Up." This is the most exuberantly funny sketch ever appearing before the footlights at this theater. Built purely along comedy lines, it will make you laugh till you cry. Before they have been on the stage two minutes you will have an attack of that funny feeling which is diagnosed as rib-ticklers.

Quinn and Mitchell, whose services have been secured as an extra added attraction, area "Kouple of Komical Kidders," and will crowd more witticisms into fifteen minutes than seems possible to do. They are headline attractions everywhere they appear, and will, no doubt, please the large audiences which will surely turn out to witness next week's lengthy programme of good things. This team is capable of delivering the goods, and will.



SCENE FROM "A MESSAGE FROM MARS" AT THE GRAND TODAY, MATINEE AND NIGHT.

Mr. Gus Williams, who styles himself the prince of entertainers, will reign supreme next week in song, story and recitations. Mr. Williams is also an artist on the piano.

Miss Ruby Raymond, who has established for herself an enviable reputation as an acrobatic dancer, has added to her act two of the best boy dancers which was possible for her to obtain. Chester and Jones will appear with Miss Raymond all next week. It is necessary to see these boys to appreciate their capabilities.

The moving pictures on the Bennotograph, of usual excellence, will bring the entertainment to a pleasing close.

Manager Efner hopes that amateurs are not forgetting that one of the best amateur shows of the season will be held next Friday night.

Come along and register, he says, and let your friends see that you are able to stay with the best of them. The visit of the celebrated Sheffield Choir to this country in October next is one of those events in the history of Canada and of the United Kingdom which is worthy of more than passing interest. The idea of bringing to Canada this most celebrated of the celebrated choirs of England was inspired by a desire to draw still closer the bonds of musical unity which were cemented when Sir Alexander MacKenzie paid his now historic visit to the Dominion a few years ago. It has been taken up with tremendous enthusiasm by the musicians of the north of England, and already the promoter of the enterprise, Mr. C. A. E. Harris, of Ottawa, is in receipt of information that not only will the choir come in a body, 250 strong, but that it will be accompanied by numerous distinguished journalists representing both the Sheffield and the London press, lay as well as musical.

Inasmuch as the members of the choir are prominently identified with the industrial enterprises of Sheffield, the visit will be of economic importance, as well as of influence musically. It will be impossible for these captains of industry to come to Canada, see for themselves the industrial growth of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and other places and to grasp for themselves the enormous potentialities of Canada, without substantial advantage ensuing from a business standpoint. This view of the case has been grasped by the executive council of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which has sent a letter to the lord mayor of Sheffield, not only extending a hearty welcome to the choir, but also assuring him "that members of our association individually will do everything in their power to make your visit both profitable and enjoyable."

The municipal corporations of Ottawa and Toronto have also seized the imperial importance of the coming visit, and have forwarded resolutions to the lord mayor of Sheffield, extending cordial invitations to the Sheffield choir, and assuring them of the most hearty of welcomes. A similar letter will, it is understood, be sent forward in the course of a few days by the mayor of Montreal, while the boards of trade of all three cities have already begun preparations to share in the reception of this notable musical organization.

The choir will only be in Canada for a fortnight, owing to the impossibility of its members being absent from their homes for more than a month, but during that brief space they will be heard in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, London and other centers in Ontario, and will give their farewell concert in Quebec.

When Charles Frohman selected Charles Marlowe's merry farce, "When Knights Were Bold," for Francis Wilson's vehicle, the present season, he chose most wisely. For this laughing satire has proven the greatest laughing success of the season, and the central figure, Sir Guy De Vere, fits Mr. Wilson like the proverbial glove. In its laughter-producing qualities, "When Knights Were Bold" is reminiscent of "Charles's Aunt" of a decade ago, for from the time the curtain rises on the first act until it finally falls on the third, there is not a single dull moment. The author has utilized a drama in order to carry out the satire of his plot, which is the love of an-

cestry, and he has done this very cleverly. After hearing from his cousin, with whom he is very much in love, as well as from every other character in the play about the wonderful deeds of his progenitor Sir Guy, who is essentially modern in all of his ideas, falls asleep, and is transported back to her act two of the best boy dancers which was possible for her to obtain. Chester and Jones will appear with Miss Raymond all next week. It is necessary to see these boys to appreciate their capabilities.

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Sam Bernard is starring. Miss Lewis replaces Daisy Green.

Next season Grace Van Studdford will star in a light opera now being written for her by Harry B. Smith and Reginald De Koven. The scenes of the opera will be laid in Budapest and the principal characters will be Hungarian.

A special from New York says that Olga Nethersole and Henry Miller have met and determined definitely some of the details connected with the former's London production of "The Great Divide." It was decided that the piece should be produced in London next October. It was arranged also that the scenery should be built in this country.

The British Stage.

London, Feb. 22.—Forbes Robertson, who has been out of luck for many months, is getting ready to play a trump card. As readers possibly may have heard, a new piece has been written for him by Henry James, and today the actor gave the first details regarding it that he has allowed to be made public. The play, which is a modern comedy, will be given for the first time at Edinburgh on March 26, and if the reception there is favorable a London production will follow shortly. Later on Robertson hopes to take his new offering across the Atlantic.

To reach the metropolis, however, not to mention the United States, this piece (which is not named yet) will have to prove a much more full-blooded work than James' first dramatic effort, "Guy Domville." George Alexander produced the latter ten years or more ago, but, like the author's recent literary work, it was too elusive and analytic to appeal to any save the self-styled "elect," and died an early death. Robertson declared himself confident that there will be a different story to tell of the American novelist's new play.

"No," he said, "this is not an adaptation of any of Mr. James' novels, but an entirely original work, especially written for the stage. It is in three acts, deals with English life, and has a vein of romance running throughout the plot. The scenes are laid in a typical old English country house."

"My part is that of an ambitious young politician, who we call a radical, and, of course, a candidate for Parliamentary honors. As the play unfolds itself, he is found in a curiously embarrassing position, from which he is extricated by the intervention of a young American girl. She, in fact, is the heroine, and this character, which will be played by my wife, Miss Gertrude Elliott, has been most delightfully delineated by the author."

"We are both hoping for a big success," he added, "in which case we certainly shall pay an early return visit to the United States. Personally, I think that Mr. James' comedy, with its American heroine, is sure to appeal to his countrymen."

In electing to write an original play for Forbes Robertson rather than make an adaptation of one of his novels, Henry James is going dead against the present fashion on this side of the water. Perhaps never before, in fact, have so many dramatizations of works of fiction been promised for one theatrical season. Two will have seen the light before these lines appear in print—the versions of "Susannah and Some Other" and "Stingaree," which have been made by their respective authors, Mme. Albanesi and E. W. Hornung, the author of "Raffles." Both will be produced next week and will be swiftly followed by W. J. Locke's stage version of his novel, "The Beloved Vagabond," and a play by Max Pemberton called "Kronstadt," and based on his story of the same name.

In the latter, which will be produced at the Garrick, one of the chief parts will be taken by the American actress, Mrs. Russ Whyal.

Locke's dramatization of the novel, which was so popular in the United States, was not expected so soon (it is due at His Majesty's within a fortnight), but its production is made necessary by the complete failure of Comyns Carr's "Mystery of Edwin Drood," the final performances of which are announced. Hailed with enthusiasm when produced by Theatricals in the provinces, this stage version of Dickens' unfinished novel has run less than three weeks at His Majesty's.

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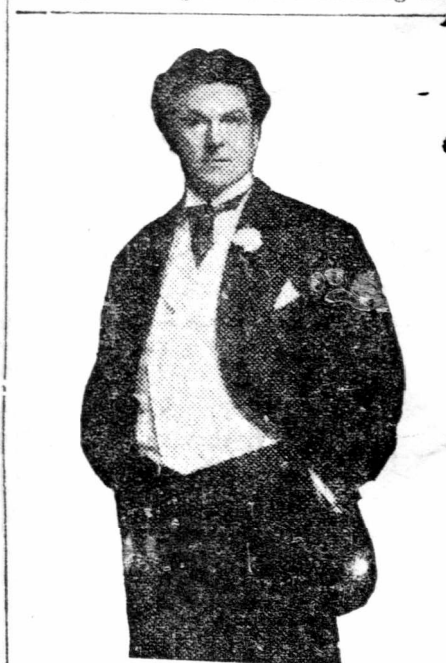
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novels, however, is by no means exhausted. Perhaps the most important is that which R. C. Carton, author of "Lord and Lady Algy," has made of J. C. Sneath's book, "Lady Barbary," and which will be played by Marie Tempest at the Comedy. There it will replace "Angela," the Anglified version of "In Minutes d'Arret," which has just managed to place fifty performances to its credit and thereby save the faces of all concerned. Meanwhile the London Stage Society announced productions of a play called "Cupid and Commensals," based by Arnold Bennett on his stories of the "Five Towns," and Charles Frohman promises "The Story of the Glorious," adapted by Cosmo Hamilton, while among the other dramatizations which London is to have in the near future is that which Somerset Maugham has made of his latest novel, "The Elopement."

Under the heading, "Americanizing the British Peerage," the Westminster Gazette, London's leading evening journal, prints the following:

"It is not the above process going on a little too fast," writes a correspondent. "In Mr. Edwin Milton Royle's 'Squaw Man' Capt. 'the Hon.' James Wynne, being next living heir to the Earl of Kerhill, must be son of the late earl, or brother, or possibly uncle or nephew, or the living earl. He could not be the earl's cousin. If he were he could not be 'the Hon.' If the 'Hon. James' were the next heir, but not the cousin, he could not marry the widow of the earl, for she would be either his brother's widow or else his aunt or his niece by marriage."

Mr. Royle will have to invest in a "Guide to the Peerage" before he writes another play about titled folk.



MR. JOHN DUNN,
Of Dunn-Francis & Co., in "The Hold-Up," at Bennett's Next Week.

ter that he would like to do if it were not so costly.

Esmond is in the same category. He too, has ideals and fancies and the qualifications for doing something of a high order, but doesn't find much profit in them. Hence "The O'Grindles," which is good of its kind, and the kind is amusing and amiable. The scene is Ireland of a century ago. Dear old Sir Harry O'Grindles' elder son, Jim, a "broth of a boy," is in love with the delightful daughter of Sir Harry's old crony. The girl reciprocates and the parents approve.

But Jim is a rollicking lad and has been seen flirting a harmless bit with a pretty, barefooted colleen, so it looks bad when her wretched father tries to blackmail the family. Jim's adorable sweetheart believes the story and off goes gallant Jim to "the divvy," as he says, well knowing that it was his smug younger brother who had trifled with the pretty colleen's affections.

But of course Jim didn't succeed in going to the divvy at all, at all, and everybody was awfully happy. Now a startling plot, but every character in the piece is entertaining and often uproarious, and each has a different degree of brogue from each of the others, so there is no lack of fun.



REDFORD AND WINCHESTER,
Who Are Touring the World, Will Stop Off at Bennett's Next Week.