

AT THE THEATRES

STRIKING PICTURE IS GIVEN

MARGARET ILLINGTON HAS ONE OF THE GREATEST AMERICAN PLAYS PRESENTED IN YEARS, WHICH PORTRAYS TENEMENT LIFE IN NEW YORK AND MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL REFORM.

Few plays of recent production have created so great an interest as Charles Kenyon's play, "Kindling," presented at the Royal Alexandra last night by Miss Margaret Illington, and none has caused so much discussion among critics of the modern drama. Altho a strikingly realistic picture of tenement life in New York and touching on various important points in the movement for social reform, which is largely commanded by public dramatic days, its production in that city disappointed the anticipations founded on its inherent quality. The play is an uncertain quantity not infrequently disapproving what the critics approve, and as a rule no effort is made to induce a reconsideration of the popular verdict. But in the case of "Kindling" quite a number of writers and playwrights—among them some of the best known in America—came to the rescue by publishing a respectable declaration and appeal. "We have," said its signatories, "severely seen the performance and we are of general opinion that it is one of the greatest American plays in years. Beyond the literary and dramatic quality of the piece, beyond the fine acting of Miss Illington, it has the merit of dealing adequately with a great and vital social theme. This week the Toronto public are being given the opportunity to judge for themselves and endorse or disallow that expert verdict. Two motives have been artistically reworked by Mr. Kenyon. The leading story concerns the tenement home of Heinrich Schultz, a stevedore, and his wife, Maggie. They are poor, but happy, altho living under such sanitary conditions that Schultz has told his wife it is worse than murder to bring children into the world and suffer like those he has seen. Maggie is looking forward to the joy of motherhood, but fears to disclose her secret to her husband, and is obsessed with the longing to go to Wyoming, where she has heard there are free homesteads and pure air and sunshine and flowers. At this point her hour of temptation comes. Here also the second motive becomes absorbed into the current of the main story. The tenement is the property of Mrs. Burke-Smith, a wealthy and kind woman, whose niece Alice is a settlement worker. In that way Alice meets Dr. Taylor, a young hospital doctor, but of very different social environment, and their interest in each other becomes love. Among the tenants is Mrs. Bates, who, having no water in her flat, is allowed by Schultz and Maggie to use the home. Mrs. Bates' son Steve, a parasite on the social scale, takes advantage of Maggie's trouble to induce her to assist him in robbing the Burke-Smith mansion. She refuses, but agrees to the plan after learning that Mr. Burke-Smith is the actual owner of the tenement and responsible for the conditions which have caused her sorrow. The robbery is committed, and Maggie, who has foolishly left the mansion on his happening, comes under suspicion and the detectives gradually bring her into the meshes of the law. Meantime, nervous and frightened, she urges a lie to her husband, who at once and tells him Alice has lent her the \$100 that is needed. Her slip in giving him more than she had, and the railway tickets arouses his suspicion, and he forces the truth from her. Then he discovers the source of the money, and she is forced to confess her crime. He is awed and reverent. Her broken words show him that his hard words had secured Maggie into silence and misery and he comforts her, later returning the money to Alice and promising to redeem the stolen brooch. He also tells her the story of Wyoming, but before she returns he and Maggie are subjected to a field cross-examination by the detectives. Alice relieves the situation, but the stolen silver hidden by Steve is discovered, and Maggie confesses everything to Alice. Her moving words melt Mrs. Burke-Smith, who withdraws her charge of theft and the curtain falls with a glimpse of the young couple on their way to the west and of hope and promise.

Looks Like Best Variety Bill Yet

Even the Worst Act at Shea's This Week is Above Par—Willis Holt and Waford Shines.

Willis Holt Wakefield is the bright particular star on a brilliant bill at Shea's this week. Her story songs are as daintily presented and as humanly effective as ever. There are a few of the old favorites and some new ones worthy of their company. There is the story song of the dolly with "a pain in her sawdust" who dies of "appendicitis." Another tells of a little girl who was told by her mother that she must go upstairs and tell God of her naughtiness. Asked if she had told God, she replied, "No, but I told Mrs. Wakefield, and she said she would tell God for me." Only Miss Wakefield could do this with all the reverence left out and the only a quaint and childish sweetness of appeal remaining. She sings "My Heart is in the Mountains" and "The Old-Fashioned Way" and others of those which you would bear to miss from the list. Bert Levy is in his drawings cast upon canvas in the making. These, with his running comment and "chatting," provide the never-failing charm of his act.

Graham Moffat's company of Scottish players presents an oatmeal comedy, "The Concessed Bed." It is written by Mr. Moffat, who was responsible for "Bunty Pulls the Strings." It is just about as good as "Bunty" and that is mighty good.

Bert Melrose opens the show with pantomime comedy, "The Girl From Missouri" at the Star, is a Fine Production, With Eva Mull Starring.

Pretty girls in dainty costumes and the latest burlesque, "The Girl From Missouri." The chorus singing above the average, and the fun-makers, Leavelle, Russell, Kenney, and John Powers, "Our Irish friend" never failed to produce the hearty laugh. With the little leading lady, was splendid.

The management claim that the production is original, and some of the selections are bound to be whistled and hummed through Toronto streets for weeks to come. The stage setting is the best of the season, the colors are harmoniously blended and present an extremely pleasing appearance.

The star of the play is the silver-throated Eva Mull, who pleased the audience with the singing of some of the new pieces which the management have secured. Other members of this attractive aggregation are Jessie Powers, the shrewish, and Kenney, the clever character woman; Herbert Terry, a juvenile who has appeared in Broadway musical comedies, and J. Francis Reynolds, another musical comedy recruit.

Whirlwind Play By Geo. M. Cohan

"Get Rich Quick Wallingford" Attracted a Large Audience at the Grand Opera House.

"Get Rich Quick Wallingford," Geo. M. Cohan's whirlwind comedy, founded on George Randolph Chester's famous Wallingford stories, is the attraction at the Grand this week, and the company presents it as an especially able one. It is without doubt one of the greatest of comedies and the audience last night thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. J. Rufus Wallingford brings to Battersburg, a sleepy little town in the middle west, his genial and persuasive person, and loses no time in organizing a local corporation which he promises will make Battersburg a great manufacturing centre. So plausible are his promises that he succeeds in forming the corporation, but just as he is preparing to "clean up" and get away with a quarter of a million, Wallingford discovers that his private secretary has given him a higher view element and loses no time in determining to leave the town. The girl he loves unavailingly by his unscrupulous life, but at the last minute he finds that his intended swindle has proved a commercial success, and that he is an honest man and a public benefactor. The story of this formation of the Universal Covered Carpet Tack Company, how everyone in town is anxious to buy stock in it and how what was looked upon as a swindle by its promoters turns out a big financial success, is one that will appeal to the day by day by agents having stock to sell in "the greatest snap" on the market. The story is also well supplied with comedy elements and the various characters presented are all cleverly portrayed.

Lancelotti Plumer, who presents the character of "Wallingford," is especially gifted in the mannerisms of the promoter and much of the success of the production is due to his clever work. The company in its entirety is a good one and should attract capacity audience to the Grand all week, especially at the Grand all week, on Wednesday and Saturday.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. Dr. Cassell's. It falls to cure. E. W. GROVE'S. For sale at all drug stores.

Spring Maid Returns With Charming Music

Christie Macdonald With Excellent Supporting Company at Princess in Rollicking Comedy.

"The Spring Maid" is back again with all the charming music, all the rollicking comedy, all the pretty scenery and costumes, and all the haunting beauty of an old love story in a new romantic dress. The heroine, Conqueror, is the theme, and the mythical Prince and Princess are as delightful as any lovers in modern musical farce. The company is much the same as on its visit last season and Miss Christie Macdonald is once more the special gem. She has gained in poise and ease, she is more exquisitely arch, and her acting is full of clever little bits of play and bravado and lively touches of mimicry and good-natured waver which betoken a wellspring of natural gaiety and talent. There is a quaint roguery about her smile, which fits the part of the masquerading Princess to perfection, and her singing and dancing are of the most excellent. Her new dances and the sweet strains of the new familiar airs from the augmented orchestra, as in this production of music and humor as any comic opera of recent years offers. Tom McNaughton, as the great English tragedian, Roland, is a darling of eccentricity, and in both acts was positively excruciating, while the audience shrieked over the fun. His experience with moths, the danger of his flint when he threatens to "slag it round at his hazard," the trial which after half a dozen encores he concludes with a turkey-trot with Wanda; and the rehearsal of the choking scene are the sort of things that men remember and laugh over after a generation of comedians. Edwin Clark as "Aunt" was broadly funny and there is plenty of humor along with the romance. The interlude, introducing the particularly charming rabbit, Miss Elgie Bowen, is a dainty device to introduce the beautiful festival of the Caribbees and the magnificent fountain. Encores were frequent and there was close rivalry between "Day Dreams" and "Two Little Love Birds" for popularity, but the music thereof is particularly tuneful and admirably rendered.

Otis Skinner in "Kismet." Edward Knoblauch's immensely popular and well-known drama, with Otis Skinner in the principal role of Hajj, the Beggar, will be the next week's attraction at the Princess Theatre. The production, which is a new and original work by Otis Skinner and Harrison Grey Fluke is considered one of the finest in point of scenery and accuracy of detail, that have ever been seen on the American stage. The play will be presented in Toronto precisely as it was during its run at the Knickerbocker Theatre, New York, last winter.

Something New in This Burlesque. "The Girl From Missouri" at the Star, is a Fine Production, With Eva Mull Starring.

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Dutchman Unloads Mirth at Gaiety

Billy W. Watson, Supported by a Splendid Chorus, Creates Amusement for Large Audience.

Billy W. Watson, that mirth-producing person, turns on the lights of Happyland at the Gaiety Theatre this week when he appears in the Flying Dutchman. Billy takes the part of one Otto and becomes the owner of a patent for a newly-invented aeroplane. The French government offer \$50,000 francs for the patent. In time he secures a position in the U.S.A. patent office, and the manner in which he discharges his duties proves a great source of amusement. The scenic effects are splendid. Watson is backed by a very competent cast.

Mayor Hocken Opened Toronto Zionists Bazaar

Mayor Hocken opened the Toronto Zionists Bazaar at Palace Hall, corner of Elm and Elizabeth streets, last night. The event, which continues all week, undertakes the presentation of an extensive array of work done by the city's Hebrew school children. The building was over 700 feet long and full of exhibits. All proceeds from the display will be applied to the charitable work of the Zionists' council, which not only supports a public school, but engages in various forms of philanthropic activity among the Jewish people.

Dr. Martel's Female Pills

Nineteen Years the Standard. Prescribed and recommended for women's ailments. A safe and effective remedy of proven worth. The result from its use is permanent. For sale at all drug stores.

Important Notice To Proverb Contestants

Valuable Points For Contestants to Keep in Mind in Filling Out Their Coupon Blanks.

AS The Toronto World's \$5,000 Proverb Contest nears the publishing of the last or seventy-fifth picture, the Contest Manager desires to impress upon contestants the necessity of strictly adhering to the rules and regulations of the contest, and so far as possible observe the following:

Time Limit For Mailing Answers Extended. On account of the Xmas holiday and outside-of-Toronto contestants who are unable to secure the current issues of The World promptly, the time limit for depositing and mailing answers has been extended till Tuesday, Dec. 11th.

Don't write more than one complete proverb upon a single blank. Extra coupon blanks must be used for additional answers.

Proverbs of the same meaning, with but slightly different wording, may be incorporated in one readable sentence and written upon a single coupon. See example below.

Don't change the numbers on the printed coupons. Don't write with pen and ink. Use a soft lead pencil or a typewriter. Don't erase your writing, as it will look very bad. Write your proverbs plainly and uniformly.

Where a set of answers is securely fastened together, contestants need only write their full name and address upon the first six and last six coupons—but where they are not securely fastened together the full name and address must be written upon every coupon.

Don't roll your set of answers. Keep them flat and straight and see that they are done up and mailed that way. All answers must be addressed to the Proverb Contest Department, The Toronto World, Toronto, Canada, and deposited at The World Office, or mailed so they will receive cancellation of postmark of not later than midnight Tuesday, December 31.

Here Are Instructions Regarding Proverbs of Same Meaning.

On account of similar proverbs with but slightly different wording, and which occur only in a few instances in The Toronto World's Book of Proverbs, it has been decided to permit contestants to submit such various constructions upon a single coupon blank, and similar to the following example:

"Time and tide wait (tarry) for no man." Or, for instance: "Make (Let us make) hay while the sun shines."

The above shows plainly how similar proverbs with but slightly different wording may be incorporated in one readable sentence, and submitted upon a single coupon blank. This allows each and every contestant an equal chance to include the correct solution of these similar but slightly different worded proverbs upon one blank.

Contestants are cautioned, however, not to overstep this privilege, as it applies only to proverbs of the same meaning, and great care should be exercised in properly incorporating the different wordings.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO ENTER

All of the back Proverbs from one to sixty-nine may be had at the office of The World, or they will be mailed to any address in Canada upon receipt of \$1.15.

IS YOUR HOME WARM? \$1,000 REWARD

If not, see us about it. Over ten thousand of Toronto's best homes warmed by the Novelty Hot Water and Hot Air Heaters. Twenty years a success behind them. Advice and estimates free.

TORONTO FURNACE & CREMATORY CO. Limited

Offices: 111 KING ST. E. Phone Main 1907, at 14 MORROW AVE. Phone Junction 2258.

Christmas Mail For Old Country

Last Parcels, Letters and Books Must Leave Toronto by End of Week.

The last parcel post mail for the United Kingdom and the continent (via England) will be closed at the Toronto General Postoffice on Thursday, December 12, at 8 p.m.; to be sent forward per steamer Empress of Britain sailing from Halifax on Saturday the 14th inst.

The letter mail and other matter than that sent by parcel post will close on Friday the 13th inst., at 11 a.m. To insure despatch, other articles than letters should be mailed at least one full hour earlier.

The mail for England and foreign countries (via England) will be made up at the General Postoffice for despatch by steamer Oceanic, sailing from New York on Saturday, December 14. The letter mail for despatch by this steamer will be closed at 11 a.m. on the 13th inst. For other classes of matter, at 10 a.m. same date.

Newspaper matter, books, and all other articles, not sent by letter post, for despatch by this steamer should be mailed in time to reach the general postoffice at least one hour earlier than the advertised closing of the mail steamer "Mauretania," scheduled to leave New York on Tuesday, December 17.

TORONTO WORLD'S Proverb Contest

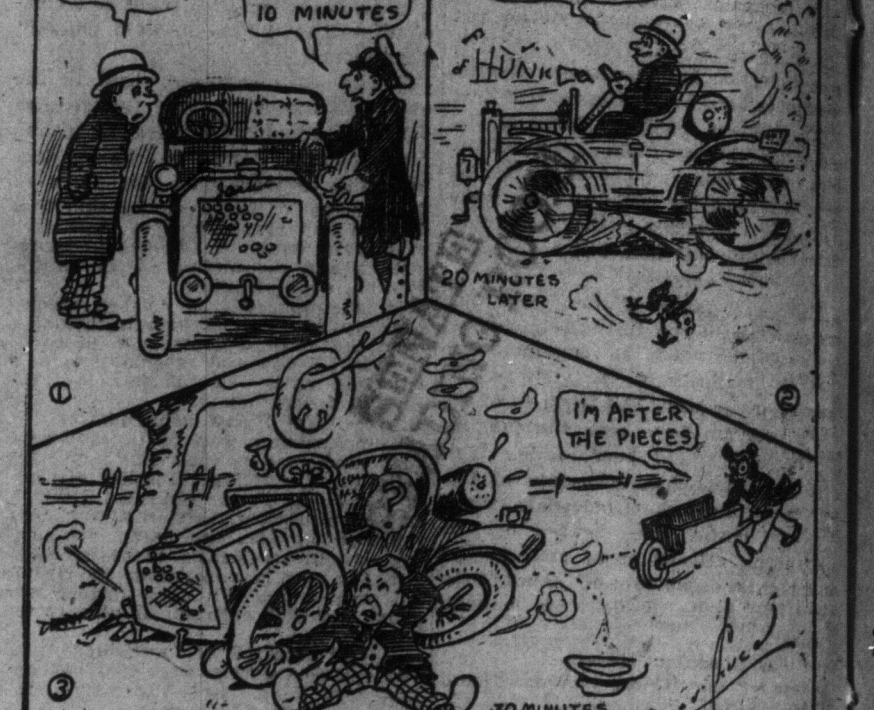
\$5,000 IN PRIZES Began Oct. 3rd. Last Picture Dec. 16th

NO. 69 PICTURE Represents the Following Proverb

Name ..... Street ..... City or Town .....

DO NOT SEND IN ANSWERS UNTIL AFTER LAST PICTURE IS PUBLISHED.

What Well-Known English Proverb Does This Picture Represent?



TORONTO WORLD'S PROVERB PICTURE NO. 69

The World's Book of English Proverbs Solves the Pictures Correctly

THE Toronto World's Book of English Proverbs will prove of great assistance to contestants in the Proverb Contest. It contains several thousand commonly used and well-known English Proverbs, including all of the correct ones to be selected to the series of proverb illustrations. The book is well printed and neatly bound, the Proverbs being alphabetically arranged and classified for quick reference. Its use to contestants in arriving at the correct Proverb answers, together with the proper spelling, wording and punctuation, will prove indispensable. The price of the book is Fifty Cents, at the office of The World. By mail, two cents extra.

MAIL ORDERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE CONTEST MANAGER THE TORONTO WORLD, TORONTO, CANADA

List of Prizes Aggregating More Than \$5,000 in Value

- 1ST PRIZE—\$2500 NEW OLIVE... 2ND PRIZE—\$1000... 3RD PRIZE—\$500... 4TH PRIZE—\$300... 5TH PRIZE—\$200... 6TH PRIZE—\$150... 7TH PRIZE—\$100... 8TH PRIZE—\$75... 9TH PRIZE—\$50... 10TH PRIZE—\$25... 11TH PRIZE—\$10... 12TH PRIZE—\$5... 13TH PRIZE—\$2.50... 14TH PRIZE—\$1.25... 15TH PRIZE—\$0.625... 16TH PRIZE—\$0.3125... 17TH PRIZE—\$0.15625... 18TH PRIZE—\$0.078125... 19TH PRIZE—\$0.0390625... 20TH PRIZE—\$0.01953125... ADDITIONAL PRIZES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

Entry to Contest May Be Made at Any Time

Have Your Newsletter Begin to Serve You With a Copy of The Daily and Sunday World Every Day From Now On.

Book numbers of the Proverb Pictures and their Coupon Blanks may be had at the office of The World, or by mail. The price is 1 cent for the mail and 5 cents for the Sunday. Where back numbers are ordered by mail, the back numbers from October 3rd to date will be mailed prepaid to any address in Canada upon receipt of \$1.15.