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DRAMATIC NOTES



Mr. William Gillette.

Who comes to the Princess Theatre, Toronto, next
week, in the new Bernstein Play, "Samson."

play in London by Mr. Arthur Bourchier. Rehearsals have been in progress at the Empire Theatre for the past month, under the personal direction of Mr. Charles Frohman and with Mr. Gillette's reputation as one of the best technicians on the stage Mr. Frohman expects that the production will be one of the most successful of the season. In support of the star will be seen as leading woman, Miss Constance Collier, one of the most distinguished actresses of England who made her first trip across the Atlantic to take a part in the new play. The rest of the cast and the staging will be in keeping with Mr. Frohman's reputation as the most careful student of stage production on the continent.

The story of "Samson" concerns the experiences of Jacques Brachard, a "copper king" who has risen from poverty to enormous wealth. In the rush of business, Brachard has neglected his wife, whose charms, however, have attracted the attention of another captain of finance, who is also Brachard's business rival. The latter, distrustful of domestic complications, determines to ruin his two-fold competitor. The dramatic unfolding of the plot for this financial destruction results in the wife's enlightenment as to the real nature of her position and the final restoration of her former regard.

The theme is not uncommon in these days of business absorption and ignoring of home ties but, in the hands of the French playwright it is handled with a psychic subtlety which yet never ignores the direct human interest. There have recently arisen the novel and the play, dealing with the magnificence of modern business enterprise and showing its reaction on the life of the home. The dramatised novel by Frank Norris, "The Pit," is the best American instance of this class of modern study. Mr. Bernstein's former play, "The Thief," has led us to expect from him only the most artistic work and this drama will no doubt prove one of the most striking features of the season.

THE Imperial Opera Company at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto, continues to entertain the public with well-presented musical comedy. "The Belle of New York" is this week's attraction, to be followed by "The Wizard of the Nile." Among the members of the company none is more popular than Mr. Hallen Mostyn, who delighted Torontonians last year by his finished acting.

IT is announced that Mr. Henry Miller is soon to produce another play by Mr. C. Rann Kennedy, author of "The Servant in the House." Its title is "The Winter Feast," and the scenes are laid in Iceland at the time of the heroic age, when Druidism still lingered there. The principal role is to be played by Tyrone Power. Mr. Miller will probably be in New York for the entire season.

THE play with a redskin hero, "Strongheart" has recently been received with much favour in Western Canada. This football play was taken to England last year where it was but a doubtful success. Mr. Robert Edeson made the part of the Indian student one of unusual vividness and "Strongheart" like Mr. Faversham's "Squaw Man," is a play which presents a race problem without excess of sentiment.

MR. JAMES M. BARRIE was born under a lucky star, say the critics. It is not given to many writers, even from industrious Scotland, to capture the public fancy, both as novelist and playwright. In Miss Adams, as interpreter of his whimsical, fantastic and altogether delightful heroines or fairy heroes, Mr. Barrie is equally fortunate. Mr. Barrie's latest play, "What Every Woman Knows," at Duke of York's Theatre in London has been greeted with enthusiasm and showed its popular qualities from the first performance. Mr. Gerald Du Maurier, who has now made an actor fame for himself which sometimes prevents a reference to his father's spectacular novel, played the part of hero and Miss Hilda Trevelyan made a charming heroine, with Miss Maude Adams applauding from the box. The audience on the first night, according to "Piccadilly" of the *Argonaut*, was all that the most hopeful playwright might desire.

"Prince Francis of Teck was there and Sir Edward Russell, and when Mr. Winston Churchill was discovered with his fiancée the great crowd, like the ranks of Tuscany, could 'scarce forbear to cheer.' Indeed, it did cheer and the lady smiled and blushed very becomingly. The profession itself was in full force to see Mr. Barrie's triumph. There was Miss Marion Terry, Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Comyns Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Lewisohn (Miss Edna May), Mr. Haddon Chambers, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. Zangwill, while Mr. George Bernard Shaw shed the light of his cynical presence upon the scene."

THE premier production of Mr. Henri Bernstein's new play, "Samson," in which Mr. Charles Frohman is presenting Mr. William Gillette this season, will be given at the Princess Theatre, Toronto, next week, instead of at the Criterion Theatre, New York, as originally intended. This change in Mr. Frohman's plans is necessitated by the success of that frivolous and merry affair, "Fluffy Ruffles," now holding its own at the Criterion in a fashion which makes it undesirable to introduce any other production until the interest in the attractive Miss Hattie Williams has been fairly satisfied. Wherefore, Mr. Gillette consented to forego his New York appearance and to go on tour for the month of October.

"Samson" has been adapted for the American stage by Mr. Gillette himself and his adaptation is being used for the production of the

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